

The Annual meeting of the Calumet County Agricultural Association was called to order at 1:04 pm by President Jeff Wunrow on December 9, 2023. The meeting location is Hickory Hill Country Club.

Don Schmidt moved to accept the minutes as read. Dean Gebhart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jeff Wunrow gave the President's address: Thank you to the community, board of directors, Chuck and Connie Leonard, Gary Juckem, Barry Burkow, Wayne Kees, Steve Pipenburg, and Russell Boll.

Electrical in the campground was updated. Issues came in with additional air conditioners being plugged in.

The work on the Merchants building has been completed.

Dean Gebhart and Michael Wunrow remodeled the fair office.

New projects for next year will include major repairs on the Arena that was built in 1957 and remodeling the Sybold building for the goats.

Clara Hedrich gave the secretary's report. A big Thank You to all the volunteers, community, exhibitors, and everyone who helped with the fair. A handout was given with information regarding the number of entries per department and premiums given out. We have changed our program from Showworks to Fair Entry. Scanners were used to enter data. Additional upgrades will be made for next year.

Sharon Ott gave the Treasurer's report. As sincere thank you to everyone that helped at the gate.

A thank you to Karen Gries and Cory Wittman for helping with the Grandstand.

Thanks to those who helped with parking.

The Annual Report was handed out and discussion was held.

Lanetta Mahlberg gave the 1st Vice President's report.

Thanks to all. We are a team. So many things to thank everyone for. Great job Sarah Gebhart for Sponsorship. I said the sales from the bar were the highest yet last year and the sales this year exceeded last year. We had the same groups as last year working the bar area.

The Merchants building was full of vendors and we had a bit of room in the Stanelle building. A big thank you to the Holstein Breeders, Market Animal Committee, and Horse Promotors for all their work at the fair and contributions to the fair. As of Monday, Lori Koenings will retire from doing the fair website for us. Carrie Kost, who specializes in non-profit websites, will take over. Thanks to our Fairest for all the work they have done in promoting the fair.

Sarah Gebhart gave the 2nd Vice President's report.

Thanks to all of our family members, thanks to everyone that helps out, and to the executive board for the many hours behind the scenes. Over 20 businesses sold tickets for the Joe Nichols concert. The top sellers were Cheers Chilton, State Bank, and Marsh Inn. Ken Sprangers puts up the banner on his building. He picks up the banner and puts it up. Thanks to those who helped with the big band. Getting more and more people talking about the Calumet County Fair. A lot of new sponsors. Some of our sponsors have moved from giving \$500 to giving \$1000. Thanks to Randy Pingel for running the Rural Mutual Golf Outing.

Deb Stebane gave the Fairest of the Fair report.

Crystal Thiel – Fairest of the Fair 2023, daughter of Doug and Janice Thiel, commented that she nurtured her public speaking skills and is looking forward to the convention the second week of January. She will compete for Fairest of the Fair.

Abby Meyer – Jr. Fairest daughter of Larry and Jennifer Meyer gave thanks to the fair board and volunteers. It was fun to promote the Glam Band and give the introduction. Thanks for the opportunity of promoting the fair.

The fairest of the fair participated in 9 parades, presented at day cares, and libraries, plus other events. 11 billboards were put up out of 12 4-H clubs promoting the fair.

Bob Kesler gave the market animal report. A Thank you to the fair family. \$240,873 was raised for our kids. Great support. Numbers are going up again. We are working on the penning for animals in the Sybold building.

John Petrie gave the Horse Promoters report. New projects include wash racks and sand for the arena. Numbers are up a bit. The Horse pull had about the same and drew a good crowd. There is a long list of people to thank to run events. The Horse Promoters did start up with clinics. Todd Draheim has started to do clinics. This is a huge boost to our program. We were able to sponsor the Budweiser team for an overnight stay during the summer.

Cory Ott gave the Dairy Superintendent's report. The numbers for Dairy are down. The Futurity went well.

Dean Gebhart gave his report. The Birthing barn went well. We struggled a bit with the heat and did not bring in any animal in for birthing on Monday. The bands went well.

Mike Wunrow gave his report. Regarding the Tractor Pulls. There was an issue with the sled on Friday night. Thus may go to two sleds. They will also put down more clay on the track. Saturday night went well. The Demo Derby on Monday will not be back.

Shawn Lamers gave a report on the Poultry and Rabbits. Rabbit numbers are down. Poultry numbers were down a bit. Mike Price will be back for the Corn Hole Tournament.

Larry Hedrich gave the camping report. The electrical system was replaced in the camping area. Campers have grown in size. Basically worn out equipment was replaced. \$10,000 was put into this project. Additional work will be done in the future.

Gloria Regan reported on Dairyland. A thank you to Kayla Krahn, Ashley Pagel and Jessi Jansen. They started a skill-a-thon. Over 100 people came in to do the skill-a-thon on Saturday. Farm Bureau sponsored some of the prizes. They did a dog project on Monday.

Judy McGlin gave the Veterans Day program report. The program went over well and was well attended.

Unfinished business- New Business

We will need to start a fundraiser for the Arena Building as it will need to be repaired before the fair.

Any comments from the floor.

The nominating committee was made up of Sarah Gebhart, Chuck Petrie, and Mike Wunrow. Ballot clerks were Bob Kesler, Gary Juckem, and Lyle Ott.

On the ballot Karen Gries, Clara Hedrich, Larry Hedrich, Shawn Lamers, Lanetta Mahlberg, Judy McGlin, Mike Wunrow, Todd Roehrig, Ted Petrie, and Melody Thiel.

A call for nominations from the floor was made three times.

Paul Juckem moved to close nominations. Bob Kesler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The 2025 dates of the Calumet County Fair are August 29, 30, 31 and Sept. 1, 2025.

The temperature outside today is 43 degrees Fahrenheit.

Lanetta Mahlberg nominated Jeff Wunrow for the State Hall of Fame award.

Re- enrollment for 4-H is Dec. 31

Elected to the board for a three-year term are Karen Gries, Clara Hedrich, Larry Hedrich, Judy McGlin, Jeff Wunrow, Mike Wunrow, and Shawn Lamers.

Cory Ott moved to adjourn the meeting. Dean Gebhart seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Clara Hedrich, Secretary