South Lake County Agricultural Historical Society

Post Show Meeting 7/28/2025

The post show meeting of the South Lake County Agricultural Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Wiater. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to go over the show moments that need to be discussed, both good and bad.

Dave Fritz said that he was contacted by the Gary Air Show, and they would like us to bring our people movers to the Gary Air Show on August 9-10. They would provide tow vehicles and drivers, and we would just need to get them there and be riders on the wagons. They would agree to $500 per mover per day and it was suggested that we ask for $250 each to move them to the airport for the show. Sandy Stropky said she would be a rider on Saturday and Paul Horst would be a rider on Sunday, Dave Fritz will be there both days and haul them. Perry McLemore made the motion to approve doing the airshow with the monetary stipulations as above, seconded by Dave Martens and passed. We also will be doing the Senior Day at the Fair on August 4. Dave Fritz will check with Barb Kraft about whether they need one or two. Perry McLemore will help; Dave Fritz will drive one of them. He will contact Sean Dixon and Chuck Kopas to do the other people mover.

Lori Zemaitis gave the treasurer's report as follows.

Perry McLemore said there were no complaints in his area with announcing and things went well in the steam area. He asked that we investigate first aid kits and felt that the 2 we had there were inadequate. He suggested that we contact the fire departments and ask for their old or unused equipment and get 3 first aid kits together. He said we should consider giving Dale Crawley a donation for the use of his sound equipment. We need to work on regulating the sound system. He also reported that the volunteer dinner went well, and they would like to do it again next year. They did ~300 hot dogs. Jerry McGarr said that we should investigate a big truck and tractor pull for next year. The tractor pull in the grandstands was discussed and it was felt it was a success that we had lots of people in the grandstands. The raffles were discussed, it was nice that all the raffle stuff was together in one place. It was suggested that we keep the raffle tickets for each draw separately. There were times when there wasn't a person riding the people mover, we need to have someone from the club riding it or they don't move. It was suggested that the exhibitors have something to show that they are exhibitors. We did away with the ribbons this year and it was confusing at the gates. Dave Fritz said thank you to the steamer area and Will and Bill Peterson for helping on Monday cleaning up the fairgrounds. There were no complaints from the Fairboard, and we were done on Tuesday afternoon and checked out. The tarps that were

placed under the equipment made a huge difference and did a great job. The music was too loud and not always appropriate. It was suggested that people should attend other tractor shows to see how they run things. The music doesn't allow people to buy some pie from the pie booth and just sit and chat. Ron Leighty said he was disappointed there wasn't more Fords for our feature tractor. Dave Kleine said that our feature tractor next year is Allis Chalmers and Will County's show will also feature that. He said that they had spectators at the threshing and corn area. Gloria Miller said the kiddie tractor pull went well and had 78 kids this year. Sandy Monroe said she had more flea market vendors this year and felt that the music was too loud. The Kiddie barrel ride liked being back by the petting zoo. Dave Martens reported that the wood carvers did well in the Annex building, the garden train went well but everyone else in the Annex was unhappy and they felt that the people movers didn't stop by the Annex, they tried to put up balloons to attract people. There needs to be more signage. It was suggested that we make up a listing for announcements. Bob Kester said we need to better display our equipment raffle better and need to promote it better. The Momence FFA did well and had tractor games that turned out to be fun. Bob Kester made a motion to make a $250 donation to the Momence FFA, seconded by Dave Martens and passed unanimously. George Kester suggested that we look at Will County's kids' area, they have lots of different things for the kids to do. Jim Burk said that the Semi Truck display was very nice but felt the Hit and Miss Engine was a mess. Some said they liked the spot, but some guys didn't come. He said there were plenty of volunteers to help set up the pie booth. We need to get more things for kids to do. In the planning stage next year, we need to get a list to be announced every half an hour. Perry McLemore said he cooked some sweet corn with his steam engine. He said that he did about 8 dozen for the steam crew but gave a lot away. He said that Herr Farms would donate more if we would like to cook it and serve it next year. There was no tractor parade on Sunday, it was announced multiple times, but no one really showed up for it. It was suggested that we do the parade earlier on Sunday next year. Will Peterson said the threshing machine ran well and needs some belts. The binder needs to be fixed as the bundles are better. It was suggested that we get started on the canvases now for next year and belts rather than in June. Sandy Stropky said the kids' area went well and they had lots of kids. Anne Marie said the Pie booth went well, Niki Leighty and Lori Zemaitis helped when she couldn't be there. Biscuits and Gravy were a hit. She suggested that it was inappropriate for club members to be arguing in front of families and kids. It didn't look good or what we wanted to project. It was suggested that we give the sponsorship raffle area more room and move the shirts and salables back a little bit. Lori Zemaitis said that food vendors were happy and will come back. They need to be announced. The biscuits and gravy went very well. She said the bounce houses pulled out at the last minute due to the weather forecasting rain. The face painter went very well, and the pony rides really liked their new area by the pony barns. Bingo was at the wrong time on

Saturday, and we should have bingo in the Fall. She suggested having Bingo at 10 am on Saturday. Dave Fritz said we need donation boxes on the new people movers, and he will end up making them. Julie Fritz discussed the Indiana Festival Guide that had a representative at our show. He suggested that we improve our signage from I-65 to the fairgrounds for people that aren't familiar with the fairgrounds. He really liked our petting zoo and said it was one of the best with multiple types of animals and he was impressed with the steam area having multiple engines doing things and running. She then spoke about the raffles. It was suggested that we use a double ticket that can't be folded or crumpled. Each raffle should be done using the raffle tumbler that is registered with the state. Each raffle should have the tickets saved so we know how many tickets there were in each raffle item. She also said that Pam does a great job with how it is organized and set up. Julie Fritz also said that the gate fee should not and cannot be $8 again next year. There is too much change to make at the gates. She gave the gate report that we had a total attendance of 554 people through gate 6 and 2405 through gate 4 for a total of 2959 people. She spoke about the equipment raffle, saying that next year we need one person that oversees it. We had one person getting tickets, a different person getting the equipment and then the sellers of the equipment were not paid because we didn't get an invoice. It would make it better if one person oversaw seeing that everything was taken care of. She also said that there were only 13 people helping out on Monday to clean up the show and we had 30+ people helping to set it up. Julie also said that next year, she would no longer oversee the gate, porta potties, Advertising, website and email, gambling permits, social media or arranging of the tables and chairs. A thank you card from Deb Schiesser was read for letting them do pictures by the covered bridge during the show and they sent us a donation of $30. Bill Wiater said that he has been president for 5 years and has found that his personal life has become much more complicated than it was when he started as president and is stepping down as president in September. The motion to adjourn was made by Ron Leighty and seconded by Dave Martens and passed.

Respectively submitted, Julie Fritz Secretary