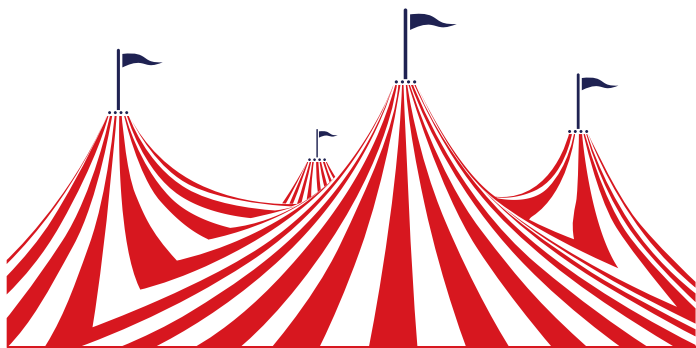


CELEBRATE THE RED, WHITE & BLUE IN 2022



★ **AUGUST 16 - 21** ★

VOL. 29 | NO. 1 | March 2022



★ UPCOMING EVENTS ★

- May 1, 2022 Blessing of the Bikes
- May 14, 2022 Rabbit Show
- May 15, 2022 Rodeo sponsored by Plaza Morena
- June 1, 2022 Alternative Learning Center Graduation
- June 3-5, 2022 Smokin in Steele
- June 24-26, 2022 National Cutting Horse Association Big Sky Circuit Championship

★ Grandstand Lineup Announced for 2022! ★

Exciting news is surely hard to keep secret, isn't it?

We are pleased to announce the following grandstand entertainment for the 2022 Steele County Free Fair with more announcements coming on April 6, 2022:

- Tuesday, August 16: Classic Antique Tractor Pull
- Wednesday, August 17: Announcement to be made on April 6!
- Thursday, August 18: Hairball Concert
- Friday, August 19: Announcement to be made on April 6!
- Saturday, August 20: Bulls N Barrels
- Sunday, August 21: Demolition Derby

Tickets for all grandstand events go on sale at 9:00 AM on Friday, April 8, 2022 at www.tickets.scff.org

★ SCFF Office Information ★

PO Box 650
www.scff.org | (507) 451-5305
steelecountyfreefair@scff.org

If you would like to receive your Barker Newsletter by e-mail, please contact us and we will be happy to add you to the list.

Steele County Free Fair Barker

★ Congratulations to... ★



★ **Scott Kozelka**, Steele County Free Fair Manager, for his recent election as Zone 4 Director of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). Scott was elected at the IAFE Annual Convention held November 28 – December 1, 2021 in San Antonio, TX. The IAFE is governed by a board of directors consisting of 18 elected members, the president and CEO. A director is elected from each of the eight zones in the United States and Canada, along with a representative of the Federation of State and Provincial Association of Fairs, a representative of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, a chair, two immediate past chairs, two vice chairs and a treasurer. Zone 4 includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Manitoba and a portion of Ontario. Scott recently attended his first Zone 4 Meeting as the director March 20 – 22, 2022 in LaCrosse, WI.

★ **The Steele County VFW Color Guard** for receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the 2022 Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Annual Convention. We are proud of and thankful for your annual participation in the opening ceremonies of the state convention.



★ **Tim Lueck**, fair photographer. Two of the many amazing photos Tim captured of the 2021 fair were award winners in the 2022 Communication Contest at the 2022 Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Annual Convention held January 13 – 16, 2022 in Bloomington, MN. 1st place honors were earned in the categories of Enlarged Photo: Nighttime at the Fair and Enlarged Photo: Competitive Exhibit Display. *Congratulations Tim!*



★ Community Campaign Leader ★

The Steele County Free Fair was honored to be recognized as the 2021 Community Campaign Leader at the United Way Celebration Luncheon held on March 17, 2022. Thank you to the United Way SCFF Committee, Mike Hamilton, Sandy Jirele, Scott Kozelka, and Glen Meger.



Pictured here receiving the award are Annette Duncan, United Way, Scott Kozelka, Dan Deml, and Glen Meger, Steele County Free Fair.



Fair Fun Facts



★ When you call, email or text the Steele County Free Fair, Vickie Deml or Rhonda Bennett are here to answer and serve you. Vickie has worked in the SCFF Office since 2000, is the wife of SCFF Board President, Dan Deml, has two sons, Scott and Matt (Missy), and is loved by her grandchildren Jacob and Brooklynn.

Rhonda has worked in the fair office since 1997. She is married to Bruce who is Co-Superintendent of Shuttle Services for the fair. Bruce and Rhonda enjoy traveling and spending time with their many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

★ The fairgrounds were bustling with traffic during Owatonna's Bold and Cold Winter Festival the end of January. The Bold and Cold Medallion was hid on the grounds and the below zero temperatures did not keep the medallion hunters away as they sought to find the medallion and claim the prize of \$500 in Owatonna Chamber Bucks! The search took all 5 clues and hunters looked all 5 days before the David Rau family of Owatonna found the Bold and Cold Medallion outside the Kubicek Cattle Haven on the north end of the fairgrounds.

Clue #5

Our time is up
So let's make this fast
Find the medallion today
And get you some cash

You've checked near the rides
And all of the stages
You've searched near food
You've been looking for ages

But don't you forget
It's not all about spending
This week is for kids
and the animals they've been tending

If you still feel confused
Stop by and see Scott
He'll remind you of the reason
Steele County is the spot

There's something for everyone
This we can vow
Now find the medallion
Check the haven for cows

★ When he isn't busy managing Minnesota's Largest County Fair, Scott Kozelka is assisting Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna and Medford and is attending Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Events as a Chamber Ambassador. Scott was the recipient of the Wayne Starman Ambassador of the Year Award in 2020 and 2021.

★ 16,779 people followed the 2021 Steele County Free Fair on social media: 14,977 thru Facebook; 1046 through Instagram; 611 on Twitter and 145 on TikTok.



Memorials and Donations



Donations Received:

Estate of Richard "Dick" Reinhardt
Joe & Ev Stransky
Doug & Jeanne Pichner
G & G Concessions-Gary & Cheryl Shepard
Fresh Fries-John & Sharon Heron
Jensen Tree Moving-Dwight Jensen
George and Karen VonRuden
Jack and Darlene Noble
LuVerne Wanous
Mike and Karen Klein
Barb and Rusty Paulson

Memorials Received:

In Memory of Dylan Lattery
Wayne and Janet Starman

In Memory of Mary Peterson-Sister-in-law of Vickie Deml
Bruce & Rhonda Bennett
Grant & Denise Duffy
Jim & Sharon Klein

In Memory of Jeanette Anderson
Jan Abell
Brian Anderson

In Memory of Elmer Reseland
Alice Reseland

In Memory of Dick Reinhardt
Larry & Peggy Haberman
Schroder Concessions

In Memory of Ann Glynn-Mother of Wayne Steele
Bruce & BJ Busho
Dan & Vickie Deml

In Memory of Joe Sweere
Bruce & BJ Busho

In Memory of Dennis "Hank" Roemhildt-Former Campground Superintendent
Paul Arnfelt

In Memory of Monica Kruschke-Former Culinary Arts Superintendent
Bruce & Rhonda Bennett
Grant & Denise Duffy

In Memory of Marian Anderson-Culinary Arts Judge
Grant & Denise Duffy

In Memory of Mary Jane Wishy-Stepmother of Todd Wishy
Grant & Denise Duffy

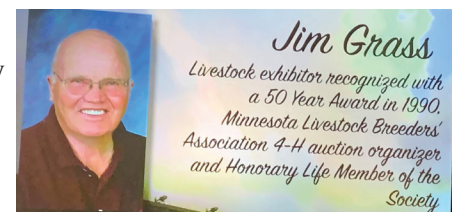


In Memorium



Dick Reinhardt, SCFF Director Emeritus and Jim Grass, former SCFF Board Member, were remembered at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota State Fair for their dedication and involvement at the county and state fair levels.

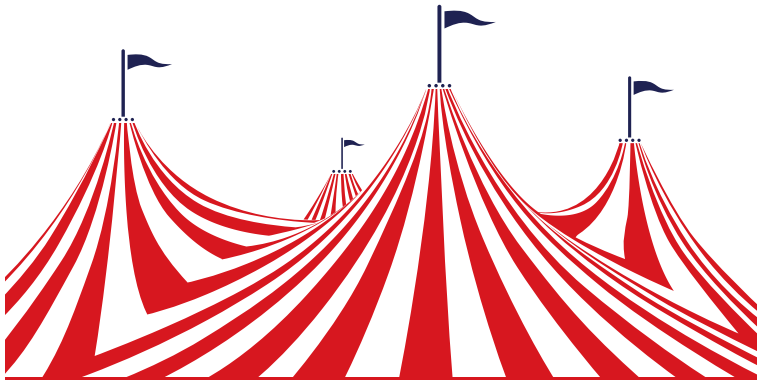
Well done, good and faithful servants.





Steele County Free Fair
PO Box 650
Owatonna, MN 55060

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWATONNA MN
PERMIT NO 111



Join Us This Year
August 16-21, 2022

★ scff.org ★

★ In Search of Steely and Stella! ★



Steely and Stella are awfully busy throughout the year... so much so that additional help is needed!

Please contact the fair office at 451-5305 or steelecountyfreefair@scff.org if you are interested in helping out.

Must love the fair, not be claustrophobic and enjoy putting smiles on people's faces. Times needed vary throughout the year.

Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue,
the Steele County Free Fair
Has Something For You!

As you can see, we need your help! Please share your ideas for the 2023 Steele County Free Fair Slogan by calling or emailing the fair office. The 2023 fair is August 15 – 20.

★ Spotlight on Sponsors ★

We are so thankful for our amazing sponsors! Without each of them, we would not have a fair!
In this edition of the Barker we highlight:

**Robinson Carving
Company Sponsor:**



Alexander Lumber

419 N. Cedar Ave. • Owatonna, MN 55060

<https://www.alexanderlumber.biz>

**A-to-Z Exotic
Petting Zoo Sponsors:**



Community Bank Owatonna
640 Bridge Street
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060
<https://cbowatonna.com>



3445 Hoffman Drive NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
<http://www.rkelectricmn.com>

We appreciate Alexander Lumber, Community Bank Owatonna and R & K Electric for their sponsorship in bringing these family friendly entertainment acts to our fair. Their years of sponsorship are truly appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor in 2022, please contact us at 507-451-5305 or steelecountyfreefair@scff.org
Please remember to support our sponsors as you are out and about in our Steele County communities.