

# Washington Area Museum Foundation / D.A. Varnado Store Museum

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Open Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM,

Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00 PM,

Other times by Appointment

## Newsletter

### October - December 2017

**Letter from the President:  
Beth Bankston**

#### **At Last! It's time for the FAIR!**

Aren't you glad you live in Washington Parish?  
Not only is the Fair the Biggest and BEST but it's  
ours, and it's FREE!

In theory, a family can spend their whole day being  
entertained without spending any money. (Assuming  
they bring their own food and drink to the fair.)

You forgot to pack your picnic basket? Have no  
worry, the fair has hundreds of eating choices, from  
caramel apples to chocolate covered bananas, from  
hamburgers and hot dogs to gumbo and chicken,  
from pork skins to dippin dots and don't forget the  
alligator picante sauce!

After you've stuffed yourself like it was Thanksgiving,  
take a walk and enjoy all the things our fair  
has to offer. The fair has Old McDonald's Farm  
complete with a petting area, dairy cattle, flower  
arranging, crop judging, local musicians, professional  
entertainers, school musicians and choirs, crafts,  
paintings, original photography, lots of pretty girls  
(Rodeo queen, Fair Queen, visiting Queens), an  
authentic pioneer village ( Mile Branch) where you  
can watch lye soap making, cane syrup making, corn  
meal grinding, visit a blacksmith shop, and enjoy  
fresh roasted peanuts or cheese, home-baked bread,  
and lemonade from the Bankston store.



The FIRST FAIR was held in a livery stable in 1911.

The first building was the original homemakers  
building, destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and  
since rebuilt.

The fair has only been canceled a few times since it  
started, once during the influenza epidemic in 1918  
and from 1942-1944 due to WW2.

Grab yourself a lemonade and cookies from the  
Bankston store, find a shady spot to sit and watch the  
crowds while you listen to music. Remember so  
people have to pay hundreds of dollars for  
entertainment that is not half as good as what is right  
here in our own back yard.

#### **Note from the Director: Terry Seal**

The annual Membership meeting held in  
September at the Annex was enjoyed by those in  
attendance. However, the number of members  
attending was disappointing.

Board President, Beth Bankston was pleased to  
welcome special guest Senator Beth Mizell.

Yearly reports were given by officers.

Members rotating off the board and eligible for  
reelection were voted in unanimously. The three  
openings on the Board were NOT filled.

A special recognition was given to Judy Simmons as  
Outstanding Volunteer Host for the year. She  
received a gift and award from the museum.



Delicious refreshments were served and all enjoyed  
visiting after adjournment. Thanks to the Board for  
hosting this event.

### EXHIBIT NEWS

**Sep - Oct** The current exhibit on display is " The  
History of the Washington Parish Fair".

It features a complete collection of Fair posters, Many  
Fair catalogs dating back to as early as 1934, original  
design posters by Joe Greenburg for Fair catalog  
covers, displays representing all the various exhibit  
areas of the Fair, as well as the parade, stage,  
Thomas Carnival, etc.

There is a copy of the article from the Era-Leader  
newspaper from 1911 describing the first fair and  
many photos and documents from early Fairs.  
Thanks to **Bonnie Dier** for the DVD showing photos,  
catalog covers and newspaper articles in  
chronological order from 1911 to 2016. This is playing  
continuously during the exhibit.

