



P.O. Box 8718  
Springfield, IL 62791  
217-415-4408

Your generosity will ensure the Fair is an Illinois tradition for another 154 years.

## Illinois State Fair: Past, Present and Future

Take a few seconds and put yourself back in time. The Illinois population is growing exponentially and land is being cleared to make room for the creation of new railroads. Agriculture is at the center of the state's economy and the majority of Illinois' population earns their livelihood from it. Abraham Lincoln is elected the 16<sup>th</sup> United States President in 1860.

This small segment of mid-1800 history can help you envision how rapidly our state was evolving. Through that era of transformation, John A. Kennicott recognized a need for an event that would allow Illinois farmers, manufacturers, homemakers, and educators an opportunity to gather and exhibit the latest inventions and techniques. The Illinois State Agricultural Society was created on January 5, 1853 and offered for consideration an event known as the Illinois State Fair on October 11-14<sup>th</sup>, 1853 in Springfield. The fair was held to promote agricultural and mechanical arts as well as home products.

Now, over 154 years later, plans are underway for the next Illinois State Fair. The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation, will play a significant role in commemorating Illinois citizens, agriculture, education and business.

*The MISSION of the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation is: to promote an awareness and understanding of the history of the Illinois State Fair as it relates to its role in the history of Illinois and the United States, while serving to improve the historic Illinois State Fair buildings & grounds as well as support State Fair agricultural, scientific and educational programs. We are aggressively seeking funds toward the goal of building a museum on the Illinois State Fair Grounds to educate and preserve the rich history of the Illinois State Fair.*

## **Meet the Foundation Board Members**

Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation Board members are excited about their positions and are geared up for an exciting opportunity to work on projects that will ensure a beautiful and top-notch fair grounds and museum for future generations. Board chairperson and board members are volunteers.

**Board Chairperson  
Pam Gray**

**Board Member  
Sam Madonia**

**Board Member  
Suzanne Moss**

**Board Member  
Lynette Nelson**

**Board Member  
Ron Cooley**

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## **HISTORY IN THE MAKING**

**The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation** was created to promote an awareness and understanding of the history of the Illinois State Fair, while serving to improve the historic Illinois State Fair buildings & grounds. The Foundation was created on October 11, 2006, *exactly 153 years from the first day of the first Illinois State fair held in Springfield.* The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, and is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors.

**We are aggressively pursuing** plans to build a Museum that will be a lasting legacy for future generations. The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation is offering several gifting programs, including an annual membership for \$50.00. We invite you to join our Foundation as a donor member.

**The Foundation is an independent,** not for profit 501(c)3 entity dedicated to preserving the rich heritage and traditions of the Illinois State Fair . The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation is spearheading a campaign to build a museum and to renovate and restore the historic Illinois State Fairgrounds. Help preserve the rich history of the Illinois State Fair by contributing to the Foundation. Each tax-deductible donation is a step closer to securing the Illinois State Fair for Illinois' future generations.

The Foundation is a simple way for Illinoisans to show they care for the Illinois State Fair and preserve this great tradition for another 154 years. Working together, we can ensure the legacy and tradition continues for future generations.

## **Thank you!**

The Illinois State Museum Foundation would like to extend special thanks to **Steve Montgomery** for his support. Steve grew up in Springfield and loves the Illinois State Fair. Steve and his wife live in Indiana where he is a graphic artist. The Foundation is grateful for all the work put into designing our new logo. Steve's talent and creativity show in his excellent work and design of our logo.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

Newsletters are written by Foundation volunteers and will provide updates on progress towards the building of a museum. We will also be printing the list of our supporters. This first newsletter will include a list of dedicated volunteers from the 2007 state fair. Future newsletters will list supporters who have given at least \$25.00 to the Foundation. We will also inform you of upcoming events held by the Foundation and provide updates on improvements as we progress towards common goals.



## Volunteers help make the Illinois State Fair a huge success.

Thank you to the volunteers for their assistance during the 2007 Illinois State Fair. Record breaking heat helped sales of bottled water. Volunteer help is an integral part of the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation's efforts. Thank you for your gift of time.

Don Augspurger  
Pat Augspurger  
Wanda Beck  
Lin Beeley  
Marla Blair  
Lorna Blount  
Mary Blumle  
Fran Bolitto  
Ann Boucher  
Kim Boughan  
Jean Brickey  
Cindy Busby  
Charles Canaday  
Jennie Canaday  
Mike Carey  
Christine Cary  
Kenneth Catt  
Gloria Clausen  
Edna Cravens  
Micki Cravens  
Aaron Dever-Curtis  
Larry Dolvig  
Mary Dopp  
Knededa Dorsey  
Darlene Edwards  
Larry Embury  
Gail Fetterman  
Lisa Fines  
Scott Fisher  
Juanita Formea  
Darlene Franklin  
Nancy Govert  
Sara Graue

Hap Gullidge  
Martha Hampton  
Erica Hanson  
James Hanson  
Jim Hanson  
Katie Hinds  
Bill Hinrichs  
Penny Hinrichs  
Linda Hittmeier  
Bill Holtcamp  
Dorothy Holtcamp  
Bev Irving  
Randy Jackson  
Ben Johnson  
Cathy Johnson  
Christine Johnson  
Crystal Jurgens  
Glenn Jurgens  
Carolyn Kaiser  
Rita Kamnick  
Arley Keebler  
Laura Kelley  
Carol Kemp  
Bob Knight  
Mary Ladson  
Erika Lannon  
Robert Lee  
Doris Leonard  
Dan Likar  
Lynn Likar  
Sue Lipcaman  
Dixie Little  
Dixie Little

Jennifer Lommler  
Karen Lommler  
Susie Lonzerotti  
Colleen Mahan  
Kat Maloney  
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Mike McCue  
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Nancy McNeely  
Donna Meyer  
Laura Meyer  
Jonathan Mies  
Alva Miller  
Jeanne Miller  
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Ashley Mitchell  
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Sandra Shearer  
Pat Slack  
Jaye Spears  
Kit Sponsler  
Tom Sponsler  
Shelby Staber  
Dixie Steele  
Linda Sult  
Tim Sutherd  
John Sweeney  
Patricia Taft  
Tom Teburgge  
Jay Thompson  
Randy Tomlin  
Paula Trello  
Don Umphryes  
Linda Umphryes  
Lesly Urnikis  
Minnie Van  
Nancy Van Cleve  
Sandy VanPelt  
Rich Vehovc  
Ardina Voelker  
Ashley Voss  
Krista Walsh  
Sarah Watson  
Bob Weller  
Joyce Wells  
Rita Woods  
Ken Whitehurst  
Nadine Wright  
Marlene Zimmerman



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*"I wanted to express to you, how much I appreciate our family time at the Illinois State Fair. My family and I were very impressed with the exhibits, entertainment, and of course the food. Going to the state fair as a family is a tradition, I hope to pass along to my children someday."*

Robert Kristin, Pleasant Hill, Illinois

Send your Illinois State Fair feedback to:  
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## Donor Profile

### Penny Henrichs

Penny Hinrichs and her husband live in Rochester Illinois. Penny is a schoolteacher and enjoys her summers by vacationing and spending time with her husband.

*"I'm involved with the Illinois State Fair so that future generations can enjoy the fun that I have always looked forward to each year."*

Penny has volunteered for the past nine years and has been a lifelong Fair fan. Penny and her husband Bill first started going to the Fair regularly when their sons were little. They wanted them to see all the farm animals and to enjoy the petting zoo and milking a cow. Some year's later Penny's friend Judy would join her on the first Friday of the Fair. They would start with a cinnamon roll and coffee or donut holes, and then head to the animal barns.

Sometimes they would have to hustle from a show at Conservation World to a show at Lincoln Stage, trying to see as many shows as they could. Penny and her friend Judy first volunteered to work at the Information Booths because they wanted people to have a great time at the Fair! They wanted fairgoers to have as much fun as they did, enjoying a variety of exhibits and shows...and to realize that they didn't have to spend lots of money. There is a lot to see and to enjoy that's free--from art exhibits to animal shows to music to food, flower, and animal competitions!

*Q. What are your favorite things at the Fair? There are so many "must see" things: cows, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and turkeys and ducks at the Orr Building, piglets on parade, 4-H animals to pet on Grandstand Avenue; the butter cow; shows: horses at the Coliseum, any competition in any of the barns, the entire Hobbies, Arts, and Crafts Building, animal shows at Happy Hollow and Conservation World, and lots of music from the Ethnic Village to Lincoln Stage, etc., etc.*

*Q. What is your favorite Fair food? Cinnamon roll, carton of Prairie Farms chocolate milk, pork sandwich, and ice cream from the Dairy Barn. (I've replaced the corn dog recently with the Pork Patio pork sandwich!)*

*Q. What are your favorite Fair memories? Some of my memories from the past....the area filled with tractors and combines and big machinery, the Barn Tours by college students with lots of interesting facts about animals.*

**Thank you, Penny, for your gift of time!**