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Becky Brashear Named 2017 Chair of IAFE

LAS VEGAS, NV — November 30, 2016 — Becky Brashear, assistant general manager of the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, was elected the 2017 chair of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) today during the final business session of the 126th IAFE Annual Convention. The convention began Nov. 27 and continues through today at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

Ms. Brashear, a veteran fair professional for 27 years, previously served as manager of The Great Frederick Fair in Frederick, Md. and executive director of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg, Md. In 1998, she earned her Certified Fair Executive designation and in 2014 graduated from the IAFE’s Institute of Fair Management.

She is past Zone 2 director of the IAFE, and in 2013 served as IAFE convention program chair. She is past chair of the IAFE’s Concessions Committee, and sat on the IAFE’s National Consumer Protection Task Force for Fairs, Shows and Petting Zoos. Ms. Brashear served twice as the IAFE’s Zone 2 Membership Chair, as well as the national organization’s membership chair. She served on the IAFE’s initial advisory board of what is now the Institute of Fair Management, as well as numerous other committees.

Ms. Brashear has given numerous presentations and workshops across the country and at the IAFE Convention. She has also written numerous articles for the IAFE’s Fairs & Expos magazine. She continues to judge many county, state, regional and national 4-H and FFA youth competitions ranging from proficiency awards to public speaking, as well as the IAFE’s agriculture awards, competitive exhibits, and advertising and promotions.

Ms. Brashear is past president of the Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows. In November 2009, she was named the Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows Fair Person of the Year.

Prior to becoming involved in the fair industry, Ms. Brashear was the “Agriculture” and “Greenhouse” sections editor of the daily published Frederick News-Post for 12 years. In 1989, she was recognized for the Best Coverage of Agricultural News by the National Newspaper Association’s Better Newspaper Contest.

She also serves on the Maryland Agriculture Council, and was appointed by the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners to sit on the Frederick County AgriBusiness Council. She is a governor appointment to the Maryland Ride and Safety Advisory Board and the Maryland Emergency Management Board. She also sat on the Board of Directors for LEAD Maryland.

She has served in advisory capacities for the Frederick County 4-H royalty and the Farm Family of the Year program. Ms. Brashear has served on several Boards of Directors including the Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center. In her community, Ms. Brashear is involved with the
Chamber of Commerce, was listed as one of Frederick’s Mostly Likely To Succeed by Diversions Publication’s Frederick Magazine, and sits on the Strategic Planning Team at her church.

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The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), based in Springfield, Mo., is a voluntary, nonprofit corporation, serving state, provincial, regional, and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions, and expositions. Its associate members include state and provincial associations of fairs, non-agricultural expositions and festivals, associations, corporations, and individuals engaged in providing products and services to its members, all of whom are interested in the improvement of fairs, shows, expositions, and allied fields.