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IAFE To Hold Annual Convention in Las Vegas

SPRINGFIELD, MO – December 4, 2013 – The International Association of Fairs and Expositions' (IAFE) 123rd Annual Convention will begin Sunday, Dec. 8, and will run through Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

The theme for this year's Convention is "Dream Big." As part of the year-long theme, the IAFE and 2013 IAFE Chair Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe, general manager of the State Fair of West Virginia, Lewisburg, encouraged fairs and associates to hold food drives to help with their local food pantries. So far, the fair industry has collected 5,585,350 of food in the effort. After a last big push in Las Vegas, the grand total reveal will be held at the Convention's Wednesday General Session. Also part of the Dream Big celebration, Ryan Shupe and the Rubber Band will perform their song, "Dream Big" prior to the Wednesday General Session.

This year's Convention will feature keynote addresses from FFA Leader Seth Pratt, Original Freedom Writer Manny Scott, and Professional Speaker Juliet Funt. Singer Andre Williams will entertain at the Opening Session of the Convention and the funky Here Come the Mummies will perform at the IAFE Awards Reception.

The Annual IAFE Trade Show will open at 2:30 p.m. on Monday and run through Wednesday. "The Trade Show will feature organizations providing the latest and greatest in products, services, and entertainment for fairs," stated Steve Siever, IAFE director of membership, sponsorship, and trade shows. The IAFE Chair's Reception will be held on Monday in the Trade Show.

Workshops held Sunday through Wednesday will offer attendees numerous opportunities to learn invaluable information. Topics will include Emergency Planning, Powerful Presentations, Hell or High Water — How the Calgary Stampede Overcame the Flood of 2013, and a variety of workshops designed to help fairs Dream Big on a Small Budget.

Numerous awards will be presented during the Convention. The IAFE Heritage Awards sponsored by Haas & Wilkerson Insurance will be presented to five deserving individuals and the Federation of Fairs Executive of the Year Award will be presented on Monday. Scholarships for the IAFE Institute of Fair Management will also be presented. The IAFE Agricultural Awards Breakfast, sponsored by John Deere will be held Tuesday morning. A reception will be held on Wednesday evening to honor the North American Midway Entertainment Competitive Exhibits Awards, the K&K Insurance Communications Awards, and Saffire Events Innovation in Sponsorship Awards.

Attendees will get opportunities to win many prizes. A John Deere Gator™ XUV 4x4 sponsored by John Deere will be given away. Ray Cammack Shows is sponsoring a drawing for cash for three lucky winners at values of \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,500. There will also be drawings held for a set of golf clubs sponsored by Populous, a big screen television sponsored by Zambelli Fireworks, and a 30-foot flag pole provided by Uncommon USA.

See the IAFE web site at www.fairsandexpos.com for the full IAFE Convention Program.

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