



CONTACT:

800/516-0313

Rebekah Lee, Director of Communications
rebekahl@fairsandexpos.com

Five Honored with Heritage Awards

LAS VEGAS, NV — November 30, 2015 — Today at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) 125th Annual Convention, Heritage Awards sponsored by Haas & Wilkerson Insurance were presented to five exceptional individuals in the field of fair management, according to IAFE President and CEO Jim Tucker. The convention is taking place Nov. 29-Dec. 2, at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

Carol Porter of Haas & Wilkerson Insurance announced and presented the awards to the recipients, who were nominated by their fairs' staffs. The awards recognize the achievements of outstanding volunteer fair managers. Each winner received a plaque and \$1,000, and each fair nominating the winners received \$500. The nominees were required to have at least 10 years of fair management experience and could receive no more than \$2,500 remuneration annually for serving in the position. The nominees' fairs were also required to be current members of IAFE.

The 2015 IAFE Heritage Award winners are R. Harry Booth of the Washington County Fair in Greenwich, N.Y.; Dale Christiansen of the Lincoln County Fair in Merrill, Wis.; Clark Converse of the Pasco County Fair in Dade City, Fla.; Dan Grunhovd of the Polk County Fair in Fertile, Minn.; and Jana Kruger of the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island.

Booth has been a fair director at the Washington County since 1986 and has served as president of the fair for the past 15 years. His involvement with the fair includes serving as youth vegetable superintendent since 1963 and participating as an exhibitor for 63 years.

Booth has attended each New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs convention since 2001 and the Vermont/New Hampshire Agricultural Fairs Associations meetings in 2013 and 2014. He served as president of the New York association in 2014 and was named the director of public policy in 2015. Booth is an active member of the IAFE, attending each IAFE Annual Convention since 2003.

Along with his service at the fair, Booth is active in his community. He is a member of the Greenwich Lions Club and served as the organizations president for three years. He is also a member of the Ashlar Lodge 584 Free & Accepted Masons, the Adirondack Community College Board of Trustees, and the Washington County Board of Supervisors, among others.

Christiansen has served the Lincoln County Fair for 21 years including the past 12 years as manager. Through his leadership, the Lincoln County Fair has seen changes that will keep the event and grounds maintained for years to come. He has a monthly radio talk show that discusses vital information about the fair and has been instrumental in getting the fair's grandstand rebuilt after it was damaged in 2012.

Christiansen is actively involved with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs and served as president of the association in 2014. He has served as a district director since 2009. He has completed the IAFE Consumer Protection Program training and attended his first IAFE Convention in 2014.

In addition to the service to his fair, Christiansen is a registered 4-H leader, a member of the Wisconsin Holstein Association, the National Holstein Association, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Converse has served as a board member of the Pasco County Fair for 32 years, including 13 years as volunteer general manager. During his tenure as general manager, Converse has seen attendance and midway gross rise and has brought the fairgrounds up to ADA standards.

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He has attended nearly every IAFE Annual Convention since 1995 and each IAFE Zone 2 meeting since 2003. He has served in a number of capacities with the Florida Federation of Fairs since 1985, including as secretary in 2003, vice president in 2004, and president in 2005.

When not serving the fair, Converse operates a tree trimming business. He donates his services as a tree trimmer to the Pasco County Fair, which saves the fair thousands each year. In addition, he has served as chair of the Pasco County Coastal Cleanup for three years, as chair of Pasco Child Watch for seven years, as treasurer of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce for two years, and as a board member of United Way of Pasco for two years.

Grunhovd is a 44-year veteran of the fair industry. He has served as the president of the Polk County Fair since 2006. Prior to that, Grunhovd served as treasurer of the fair for 13 years.

He has been a member of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs since 1985 and served as the organization's president in 2011 and 2012. As a representative of the federation, Grunhovd has visited nearly every fair in the state of Minnesota and has become a visible and dependable leader. He has attended nearly every IAFE Zone 4 meeting since 2006.

Grunhovd and his wife Nancy are dairy farmers and have shown their cattle at the fair for many years. He served as president of the Norman County American Dairy Association from 2005 to 2013 and currently serves as vice president of the Midwest Dairy Association — Minnesota Division. In addition, Grunhovd is a member of the Fertile Conservation Club and the Faaberg Lutheran Church.

Ms. Kruger has served as president of the Nebraska State Fair since 2011 and is currently in her ninth year on the board. She has also served the Washington County Fair in Arlington, Neb., including as superintendent of horticulture and a board member. In all, Ms. Kruger has served the fair industry for 26 years. She helped with the state fair's transition to Grand Island.

Ms. Kruger served as IAFE Zone 5 director from 2012 to 2014 and has attended each IAFE Annual Convention since 2006. She has served the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers Auxiliary for a number of years, including five years as secretary, two years as vice president, and two years as president.

In addition to her service at the fair, Ms. Kruger has served as secretary of the Ak-Sar-Ben Rodeo Queen Committee and as a member of the Washington County 4-H Council and her church's Fellowship Committee.

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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.