

**OAAS Fall Board Meeting October 2020**  
**Take back notes - UPDATED**



I bring greetings on behalf of the OAAS Board and I have been asked to share the following information with you.

**1. OAAS Provincial Competition Rules and Regulations**

OAAS Provincial Competition Rules and Regulations for the 2021 Fairs/ 2022 Convention will be posted on the OAAS website in the next while. There are no changes in classes – any changes were to standardize the format of the documents.

**2. Updated District and District Director Roles and Responsibilities / Provincial Director Roles and Responsibilities documents**

These documents are posted on our website under the **'Board'** tab and **"Information for Directors"**. Both documents were updated in regard to requirements for Board members.

- **This is the intent of the updated policies** – see the website for the actual wording:-  
*All members of Boards (District or Provincial) must be a current member in good standing of an Agricultural Society in their District which is a current member of the Ontario Association Agricultural Societies.* – i.e. you must be an OAAS member to be on an OAAS Board.

This policy has been an understanding in the past – but was not in writing.

- **This was added to the District document**

*District must keep their guidelines and policies up to date and send copies to the OAAS Office.*

**3. REMINDER – Any resolutions to the OAAS must be completed and received by the OAAS by November 30, 2020 - to be sent to Vince Brennan, Manager.**

**4. 2021 Convention going virtual and decreased fees**

Last year, the OAAS Board had approved increasing 2021 Convention Registration Fees by \$25 to \$150 due increasing costs and no recent fee increases.

- However, at the April meeting, the Board approved that the 2021 Convention Registration **fees would remain at the 2020 level** of \$125 due to the expected financial impact of the pandemic.

However, with the safety and health of our members and volunteers in mind, **the Board made the decision at last weekend's meeting to proceed with a virtual experience convention for February 2021.**

**IMPORTANT:** Information was sent to all Agricultural Societies regarding the 2021 Convention on Friday October 23 and further information and links will be posted on our website.

The Board approved **reducing** the registration fee for the **2021 virtual experience convention** to \$100. This is good value for the money – CAFE is \$199 and IAFE is \$200 US for their virtual conventions

- We hope to encourage participation from agricultural societies as a result of decrease in costs( no travel, hotel rooms or meals); no requirement to take time off work to attend; the opportunity to take in more seminars
  - Normally you have the opportunity to attend up to 5 live seminars from approximately 30 to 40 at convention.
  - Registrants for our '**OAAS Convention 2021: Gone Virtual**' can choose from 32 seminars and participate in up **to 2 live seminars each evening for a total of 8** as well as view the Family and Entertainment Showcases and the Tradeshow from February 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18th.
  - Registered participants also have access to view all 32 seminars, the Family and Entertainment showcases and the virtual Tradeshow online for a month after Convention
  - The virtual AGM is open to all members free of charge.
  - NOTE: As in previous years, we will post the written material from the presentations on our website; however, the actual videos and live feeds will only be available to registered participants.

#### 5. **2020 Agricultural Society membership (Affiliation) fees**

The OAAS Board has approved a decrease in 2020 Agricultural Society membership fees due to the financial hardship our Agricultural Societies are experiencing this year. The OAAS Board has approved that **the 2020 fee will be 75% of the 2019 membership(affiliation) fees that each Agricultural Society paid - if the 2020 membership fees are paid by December 31, 2020.**

#### **What the OAAS has done for you this year**

We recognize that it has been a difficult year for fairs and the OAAS has worked hard to help agricultural societies cope and survive this year.

- We have provided them with COVID related emails, website posts and weekly webinars
- We have been advocating with governments at all levels, particularly provincial, for financial relief for agricultural societies.
- We lobbied the government to waive the requirements for the OMAFRA grant and they have agreed to provide the same "*Agricultural Exhibition Grant*" for 2021 that your Agricultural Society received in February 2020. You should be receiving this grant shortly to help cover some of your ongoing expenses rather than waiting until February 2021 for the payment.
- We have also asked the government to provide extra funding to help cover the \$12.2 million shortfall that Ontario Agricultural Societies are experiencing this year due to cancellation of their fairs, events, and rentals. We have not received any response but at least we haven't been told 'no' yet !
- We have also asked that the province ensure that provincial health requirements are consistent across the province as we emerge from the lockdown and prepare for next years' events
- The OAAS supplemented the cost for district Zoom accounts to enable continued support and communication within districts.
- Your membership fees go towards keeping the OAAS operating and providing programs for the Agricultural Societies – fees cover 60% of our operating revenue with the remainder from the Convention.

We have requested funding from the government similar to what was given to the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario(TIAO) to cover membership fees for this year. If the OAAS does receive funding, we will refund all or part of your membership fees based upon the amount of funding we receive.

**IMPORTANT:** For more information see the '*Manager's Fall Report*'. It was sent to all Agricultural Societies on Friday Oct 23 and a link to it is posted on our website.

**6. Convention Auction**

We are working on an online auction for this convention, so we will be looking for your support.

- The Auction Committee is still working on the actual format of the auction so we expect that there may be some significant changes to the type of auction items that we can accept this year.
- There will be some direction coming out shortly as to how the districts can best support this activity.

**7. Provincial 175<sup>th</sup> photo and video competitions**

We are asking the Agricultural Societies and Districts to support the Provincial 175<sup>th</sup> photo and video competitions <https://ontarioagsocieties.com/convention/175th-anniversary-competitions>

Watch for more details – there could be a possible change in format for submission of photos from print to digital since the Convention has gone virtual

**8. Strategic Planning program being offered.**

If your Agricultural Society has not already registered and is interested in the program, please contact Leonard Riopel at [leonard@oaasfairs.com](mailto:leonard@oaasfairs.com)