

Take Back Notes – October 2019



I bring greetings to you from the OAAS Board of Directors.
I have been asked to share the following information with you.

1. Vince Brennan our Manager has asked us to specifically start our presentation with the following information and direct it to the District Executive – Directors, Secretaries and Treasurers.
Districts MUST send notice to the OAAS Manager at least 30 days prior to ALL District events i.e. Judging Schools, any District meetings, Ambassador Events, etc.
There is now a form on the website that you can fill out, save and send to him or you can send the information via email or Canada Post.
 - a) **Insurance coverage** - If your District has not sent this information to the OAAS Manager and there is an accident at your event - the Insurance company would be within its rights to deny coverage – meaning that your District or Directors could be liable.
Take 5 mins and send the information and ensure that your District and participants are covered!!
 - b) **Promotion of Judging Schools and meetings.** We are always getting emails and phone calls wondering when and where there are Judging Schools in the Province. People are willing to travel to attend a Judging School. It is NOT possible for every District to hold enough Judging Schools to train our Judges – we need to ensure that people can travel to other Districts to attend Judging Schools.
We can not promote your Judging Schools or District AGMs on our website if you have not sent us the information.
Some Districts have been excellent with sending in their event information but there are still Districts not sending this information in a timely manner or not at all.
2. According to the “**OAAS Volunteer – Youth Policies and Procedures 7.2**” - Police Records Check must be completed by all District Executives (Directors, Secretary, Treasurer) at the start of their term and then a Police Name/Records Check every 3 years after the initial Police check. The OAAS Financial Policies & Procedures 6.1 also indicates that District Executive members must have a current Police Check on file with the OAAS or their District Travel expenses for Fair visits will not be reimbursed.
Currently approximately 50% of our District Executives have not submitted their Police Check.
IMPORTANT –we will be enforcing this policy starting in 2020 - therefore **All current or new District Executive who have not** submitted their Police Check to the OAAS Manager prior to the 2020 spring meetings **will not** have their 2020 District Travel expenses for Fair visits paid by the OAAS.
You can view these Policies on our website under the “**BOARDS**” tab - **OAAS Policies and Procedures.**
3. The Manager has recently received some inquiries from exhibitors about the OAAS District Level Competitions. The Districts and Fairs need to ensure that the winners at the local Fairs sending their items to the District Competitions are aware of the following information:
 - When your District Competition is
 - Where your District Competition is –
 - Arrangements for getting the items to the District Competition – is the exhibitor or someone from the Fair responsible to deliver the winning cookies, butter tarts, posters or Quilts to the District Competition?If you have not already had this discussion with the winners in your District – please contact them immediately. A reminder closer to the date of your District Competition would be a great idea.

The same applies to the winners at your District Competitions – make sure they have all the details in a timely manner!! .

4. The OAAS Board of Directors is extending an Invitation to all Convention attendees to the **OAAS Hospitality Reception** in the President’s Suite on the 10th floor of the Sheraton on Thursday and Friday nights.
5. Strategic Plan Priorities – progress as of October 2019

Priority Goal	Progress
Pillar 2 -Stability	
1. Link with OMAFRA	-verbal contacts have been made and written request for meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and staff has been sent
2. Implement a marketing plan	1. Ad hoc Sponsorship/Partnership Committee has been formed and will be seeking out additional funding for OAAS Programs, Services and Convention. 2. Provincial Directors are to promote media coverage of fairs, distribute the Gazette to all levels of government and regional farm organization. They will look at social media avenues to promote fairs and the OAAS.
3. Staff/Directors attend seminars, training in emerging technology	Ongoing
Pillar 3 – Collaboration and Dialogue	
1. Seek/develop additional Convention partnerships/ sponsorships	Ad hoc Sponsorship/Partnership Committee has been formed. It will be seeking out Convention Partnerships and Sponsorships.
2. Enforce chain of communications	Directive has been shared with Districts that they and Agricultural Societies are to determine if their District and/or Provincial Director could assist them prior to them contacting the OAAS Manager
Pillar 4 –Marketing Priorities	
1. Partnerships/ Sponsorships and Member Services	Ad hoc Sponsorship/Partnership Committee has been formed. It will be seeking out additional funding for OAAS Programs and Services
2. Revamp website	Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to review submissions to our “Request for Proposals” for a new OAAS website.

6. The Judging Program update is making progress. We are planning on having the updated Judging Standard Handbooks available for the Spring Judging Schools at no cost for the attendees. Numerous updated Documents and updated and new forms can be found on our Website under the “**Member Services**” tab under the “**Judges Lists, Judging Schools and other related Documents**” link.

The OAAS Judging Program is a Member Service that we provide to our Agricultural Societies and their exhibitors. It is the objective of our Judging Program to provide uniformly trained Judges for all our Fairs and exhibitors across the Province.

The information in the “new” “Requirements for Judges and Instructors documents are taken from current “A Guide to Organizing a Homecraft Judging School” manual aka “The Red Book”

7. The Federal Livestock Traceability Requirements have consumed most of our Manager’s time so far this year. This meant that several other initiatives including the Judging Program had to be placed on the back burner temporarily.

These Requirements have been in effect for several years – some of them since 2000 but it appears that CFIA has only been seriously enforcing them for the past couple of years. They affect any Agricultural Society that has dairy or beef cattle, sheep, pigs or bison on their Fairgrounds during the fair or at any other event during the year. This includes Livestock shows or sales, 4-H programs, petting zoos or educational livestock displays.

After much research and consultation, Vince produced several very detailed documents to distribute to our Agricultural Societies to assist them to be compliant with the Federal Livestock Traceability Requirements so that the Agricultural Society would not be issued violations from CFIA. These documents are located on our Website under the “**Member Services**” tab and the “**Livestock Traceability Information**” link.

The OAAS and its provincial and national counterparts will be working on their counter proposal to the current and proposed changes to the Livestock Traceability Requirements to be presented once the government posts these changes – possibly in the spring of 2020.

We will be requesting that tracking livestock movement and replacing missing ear tags be the responsibility of the owners and exhibitors of the livestock and not the Agricultural Societies. The Livestock Traceability Requirements documentation was sent out to all Agricultural Society secretaries just before the start of this fair season. If you did not receive a copy of the documentation or have any questions on your Agricultural Society’s responsibilities, please contact Vince Brennan, OAAS Manager.

8. The OAAS is looking to increase our Service Member numbers by at least 30 in 2020. Provincial Directors, District Directors and Agricultural Societies are encouraged to reach out to individuals, groups, organizations that might be interested in the benefits of being an OAAS Service Member. An increase in Service Members numbers helps the OAAS to fund our current and future services for your Agricultural Societies. Your Provincial Director should have copies of our brochure “Benefits of being an OAAS Service Member” to present to prospective Service Members.
9. The OAAS is continuing to work on the redesign of the OAAS website. The RFP is currently out for a 2nd round of tenders to ensure that we have the right fit for the organization.
10. The “**Roles and Responsibilities of a Provincial Director – Appendix D**” document has been updated to include several of the current responsibilities of the Provincial Directors . This will give current and potential Provincial Directors and the Districts a clearer picture of the Roles, Responsibilities and the Time Commitments of a Provincial Director.

There have been a couple of important changes to their responsibilities that we want to bring to your attention:

- a) **As of February 2020, any new Directors or re-elected Directors must have access to a computer and Internet to receive and view emails and to read and respond electronically to OAAS correspondence at least twice a week, preferably more often.**
- b) **The OAAS Manager will be sending a notification to the District Directors** if their Provincial Director misses 3 OAAS Board Meetings during the February to February term.

The “**Roles and Responsibilities of a Provincial Director – Appendix D**” document is on our Website under the “**BOARD**” tab

- 11. Any resolutions to the OAAS must be completed and sent to the OAAS attention Vince Brennan, Manager, **by November 30th**.
- 12. The “**Roles and Responsibilities of District Director**” document is being review. We will be contacting the District Directors for their input on their various Roles and Responsibilities.
- 13. We had a request for a “**District Checklist**” for timelines for submitting various information and forms. We will send it out to the District Secretaries once it is completed.
- 14. District 7 is hosting a Mini Convention and Fairs Expo at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 121 (Galt) 4 Veterans Way, Cambridge on November 16th 9am to 3 pm. Their flyer is posted on the OAAS Facebook page and website. .
- 15. The OAAS would like to advocate with the Provincial and Municipal governments on the benefits that our Fairs bring to their communities and the province. However it would be easier to lobby on your behalf if we had more information on the financial benefits that your Agricultural Society and Fair brings to your community.

The Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model (TREIM)

Program will help provide your Agricultural Society with information on the Financial benefits your Fair brings to the community. If your Agricultural Society would like to take advantage of TREIM Program, contact Cheryl Muir at Paris Fair cheryl@parisfairgrounds.com to start the process.

- 16. The OAAS Convention is approaching quickly. The room bookings at the Sheraton/Best Western opened on May 1 and were sold out on May 2. We have additional rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn Express – located just north of the Sheraton. The contact information is on our website. Registration is now online and live now.
We have over 40 speakers and seminars booked. Our opening speaker this year will be “Farmer Tim” – Tim will share his tales through a humourous delivery, expressing the importance of agriculture advocacy and public ag education and awareness. His very successful Facebook page helps to educate others on the joys and the trials and tribulations of farming in a way that is insightful, engaging and entertaining for his farmer and city audience.
Saturday morning speaker with be Jen Puente from Wisconsin State Fair speaking on struggling with negativity and figuring how to get rid of it!
Hope to see you at Convention – there were lots of positive comments on the new location! Free Parking, easy to drive to and all of their elevators have been upgraded!

NOTE: If your Fairs have any questions about the Transfer Payment Ontario TPON registration process, please call Sagar Nawariya at 647-760-4357, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or email sagar.nawariya@ontario.ca

Note: Grants Ontario is now called Transfer Payment Ontario.

Sagar Nawariya

Senior Advisor, **Transfer Payment Ontario Branch**

Enterprise Financial Services and Systems | Ontario Shared Services

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

5775 Yonge Street, 3rd floor, Toronto M2M 4J1

Phone number : 647-760-4357

Please let everyone know this information is post on our website click on Board tab then click on OAAS Board take back notes <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/board/oaas-board-take-back-notes>

Wishing everyone a great meeting

Vince