



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours, and the Super Fair.

Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.

*A Nebraska non-profit corporation, designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS
and separate county-level political subdivision
created under Nebraska law in 1870 to promote agriculture & youth*

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 6:30 pm

Lancaster Room (enter Business Center in Pavilion 1)

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

Vice President Dowding called the Annual Public Meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was displayed in the room.

Board members present in person were Lynn Hagan, Ron Dowding, Ron Suing, Karen Rutt, John Cooper, and Bryce Doeschot. Board members not present were President Kendra Ronnau and Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson. Also present in person were LEC staff Amy Dickerson, Kim Bowen, Jason Rief, and Nate Dowding. Members of public included Laura Hardesty, LCAS board candidate. Attending via zoom were LEC staff Lois Harrison and UNL Extension Karen Wobig.

President's report - Vice President Dowding reported that overall fair attendance was down 11% and the carnival was down 12% in 2022 vs. a rebound high attendance in 2021 after the pandemic. Dowding also talked about the addition of the Hispanic festival on Sunday and its popularity with fairgoers. The popularity of the monster trucks held on 2 nights, was also discussed. VP Dowding shared that new events at the LEC Fairgrounds in 2023 so far include the Kiwanis Flea Market, Jurassic Quest, and the State Archery Tournament. Dowding reported that new gravel was put down in the LEC National Event Campground in 2022, which will improve national event camper experience such as NHSFR, FMCA. Dowding talked about preparations for upcoming December and January events to be held at the Lancaster Event Center including the General Dynamic Christmas Party on December 18th, an Arenacross event on January 6-7,

and the Nebraska Deer and Game Expo on January 20-22. Dowding said that interest has been shown by Special Olympics in holding competitions during the Lancaster County Super Fair and that an Outdoor music concert and holiday lights show were also in negotiations to use the new Grandstand and National Event Campground on the eastern side of the LEC fairgrounds.

Financial Report was presented by Rutt. It was explained that 2022 was the beginning of life after the pandemic. Rutt said that total income was down 12% due to National HS Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) hosted in 2021, which was the largest event in LEC history. Karen explained that shavings sales were down 5% as overall horse show attendance was down due to gas prices, and Cafe numbers were up 35% due to a full year of events closer to a “normal schedule”. Rutt reported that the cost of goods sold was flat, even with 7% inflation in 2022. Rutt said that net ordinary income is up 136.9% before adjustments versus 2021. Rutt reports that if expenses and revenues for the 2021 NHSFR had been paid in 2021, 2022 net ordinary income would have been \$370,000. Harrison reports that the auditors plan to complete the 2022 audit by end of May 2023. Harrison also reports that 2023 will include a QuickBooks upgrade that will allow electronic approvals for faster turnaround.

LCAS Annual Election Results were presented by Lancaster County Election Commissioner, Dave Shively’s staff. It was reported that Hardesty received 19 votes, Cooper received 18 votes, Dowding received 17 votes on the printed ballot and write-in candidates Krueger received 9 votes and Refior received 3 votes. Hardesty, Cooper, and Dowding will fill the three 3-year seats.

2022 Wall of Fame Inductees – Secretary Cooper announced the 2022 Wall of Fame inductees, Ken Majors and Deb Schorr.

Other Business - There was no other business presented.

Public Comments – No public comments were presented.

Adjournment – Suing made a motion to adjourn, Doeschot seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.