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Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc. (LCAS)

*A Nebraska non-profit corporation, designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS
created under Nebraska law in 1870 to promote agriculture & youth
which manages Lancaster's county fairgrounds to maximize community and economic impact.*

PUBLIC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – draft for board approval

Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 6:45 pm

Lancaster Room

(enter Meeting Center Entrance on north side of Currency Pavilion)

Sandhills Global Event Center

(formerly Lancaster Event Center)

4100 N 84th Street | Lincoln NE 68507

President Ronnau called the Public Annual Meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society to order at 6:45pm.

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 Kendra Ronnau, Lynn Hagan, Ron Dowding, Ron Suing, Karen Rutt, John Cooper, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, Laura Hardesty, and Mitch Sump. Also present in person were Event Center staff Amy Dickerson, Kim Bowen, Chas Skillett and Jason Rief. Attending via online were Lois Harrison and Nate Dowding.

President's report - President Ronnau talked about the many successes that occurred for Lancaster's county fairgrounds over the 2023 year. Ronnau discussed the number of hours that Event Center staff and the Ag Society Board members put in to supporting the events that are held at the SGEN facility, including the annual Lancaster County Super Fair organized by the Ag Society & staff and events renting the fairgrounds year-round such as the second largest indoor farm show in the country and the world's largest rodeo. Ronnau stated that number of youth that are served and exposed to ag knowledge and potential careers through all this work is impressive. Ronnau talked about the original purpose of the Event Center as a place for the Lancaster County Fair and the success of the Lancaster County Fair as it has become the largest county fair in Nebraska. Ronnau discussed the use of the Event Center as an emergency facility for Lancaster County and its importance to the residents of Lancaster County for many local non-profit, government and business events. Ronnau talked about the recent 15-year naming rights partnership with Sandhills Global and the years of work by so many people that has gone into making this long-term advertising partnership happen. Ronnau ended by stating that 2023 has been a great year and she looks forward to another great year in 2024.

Financial Report - The financial report was presented by Rutt. Rutt shared information comparing 2022 audited balance sheet figures to 2023 (unaudited) for the fiscal year just ended in November 2023. Rutt reported that the total assets for 2023 are up 8.6% and the current liabilities have decreased 52%. Rutt also said that the long-term liabilities have decreased 48% and the equity has improved by 48%. Rutt shared the changes from fiscal year 2022 audited to 2023 (unaudited) from the profit and loss statement included an increase in income by 16.7%, total expenses are up 7.8%, and net ordinary income is up 59.9%. Rutt shared that auditor, Ryan Burger with Gabriel, Burger, and Else, commented that the Lancaster County Ag Society is, "the most efficient Ag Society in the state with the lowest amount of public funding per county citizen." Rutt shared that this is why the board works so hard to create ways to self-fund the Lancaster County Fairgrounds through year-round event bookings and public and private funding sources.

2023 Hall of Fame Inductees - Secretary Cooper announced the 2023 Wall of Fame inductees Roma Amundson and Jerry and Marty Minchow recently announced at the November 30, 2023 Blue Jean Gala. Cooper stated that these inductees were chosen for their long-time support and dedication to 4-H and the youth of Lancaster County including through many activities conducted on Lancaster's county fairgrounds.

2023 LCAS Board Annual Election Results were not yet available for presentation. President Ronnau said the results would be announced in the Monthly Meeting to follow if

available and in any case would be posted on the SGEC website under Public Notices tomorrow.

Other Business - There was no other business presented.

Public Comments - Member of the public, Dan Buhrdorf, spoke regarding the Ag Society Board election and the new SGEC website. Member of the public and former Ag Society Board member, Charles Willnerd, spoke about the support for the officers and staff of SGEC shown through the interest in the election and that he applauded the candidates' willingness to volunteer for the hard work and long hours spent as a member of the Ag Society board to organize the annual county fair and run the fairgrounds year-round. Member of the public, Alan Kaiser shared his thoughts on the new SGEC website.

Adjournment - Cusick-Rawlinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sump seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

Next Annual Meeting

Tentatively set for Thursday, December 12, 2024

Room TBA at Sandhills Global Event Center

See final date and agenda at SandhillsGlobalEventCenter.org

(click on **Public Notices** at bottom of any page or under **News** on top menu)

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 18 day of April, 2023 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper



