

Paul Harris to Represent Fairs at State Level



Geauga's own Paul Harris now represents all Northeast Ohio fairs as a newly elected representative to the Ohio Fair Managers Association.

Harris won the election for the seat representing District 9 during the Ohio Fair Managers Association Convention held January 7 through January 10 in Columbus.

Ten northeast Ohio fairs comprise District 9, including the Great Geauga County Fair.

"I'm focused on the bigger issues, such as attendance and the cost of doing business," Harris said from his home turf, the Great Geauga County Fair Board office. "The key to success within District 9 is communications, with all the fairs working together. It only makes sense that we work together and help each other since we are all in the same business."

Harris knows a bit about working together for a common cause. He spearheaded the current Roundtable Meetings, a District 9 event bringing fair managers together for an information-sharing session.

This shouldn't come as a surprise to those familiar with Harris and his ability to bring people together. As Mary Canfield, assistant secretary for the Great Geauga County Fair Board, points out,

"Paul brought unity and camaraderie to this fair during his 6-year tenure as vice president and then president of the Fair Board."

Under Harris' direction, the Great Geauga County Fair celebrated the construction of the Schools Building and the Bicentennial Bell Tower building. Numerous other improvements to the grounds were made, including the addition of electric service for campers using the campgrounds area, and continual additions and improvements to the Natural Resources area.

Harris has 15 years of fair board service under his belt as a director, vice president and president. The 41-year-old Bainbridge Township resident operates a small farm and a produce stand with his wife Pam at his side. He graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Dairy Science.

As a representative of District 9, Harris will represent all 10 fairs currently operating in Northeast Ohio. It is a 3-year term, with board members meeting in Columbus six times each year.

Harris was elected by vote. Each fair within District 9 has one vote to cast during the election process.