



December 1, 2022

Dear Friends,

On behalf of your Friends of the Fair (FOTF) board members, I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we enter the final month of 2022, we reflect on year 2022 look forward to 2023.

Accomplishments

Through your continued membership and other generous donations, we continue to help both the fairgrounds and the Merced County Fair be successful:

- New flooring in the Fair Offices
- Extensive planning for a new bathroom in the Hospitality Lounge and Sheep barn updates. One project leads to another and so research included plumbing and electrical work. There is a lot of leg work to research and meet with contractors and engineers for blueprints, etc.
- Planning and research on Kitchen ideas from which area is best suited to potential kitchen trailers.
- Administrative time in review of bylaws and standing rules and bringing on new board members.

2023 New Board Members Needed

After many years of service, we had three board members termed out. Special thanks to Lesanne Jacobsen, Marsha Seivert and Lloyd Pareira for their dedication, work and leadership to the FOTF over the years. This coming year we will have two more board members term out. Special thanks to Steve Moitozo and Denise Skidmore. We will miss their dedication and leadership and commitment to the efforts of our mission. We are looking for community-minded people who have a desire to roll up their sleeves to work, bring their good ideas, and provide strong leadership to run for an open position.

If you are interested in running for a position, then please email me at Ericauctioneer@yahoo.com with a short biography of yourself and why you would like to serve on the FOTF board by Tuesday, February 14, 2023. We will assemble a short bio for each candidate for the membership vote at our **Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party on Friday, February 24, 2023** (save the date).

Renewal Information

Enclosed is your 2023 FOTF membership renewal and benefit forms. Please note the changes that have been made. We hope that you find value in your membership and in our mission of maintaining and improving the Merced County Fair and Merced County Fairgrounds as a community, cultural and educational asset. Please renew today so you don't miss out on the Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party February 24, 2023.

Please contact me with any questions at (209) 769-9889 or Ericauctioneer@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Eric Bianchi

President Friends of the Fair



Please be a Friend! Sign-up today and/or Give the Gift of Membership!

2023 Friends of the Fair Membership Form

Name/s: _____

Business
(optional): _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide an email address to keep you informed of events

- Platinum (\$1,000) Diamond (\$500) Gold (\$250)
 Young Professional (\$100) Youth (\$20) (t-shirt size/s _____)
 Extra Donation always Welcome \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

We invite you to continue to support our efforts.

Our mission is to build on our Agricultural Heritage by helping to preserve and improve the Merced County Fairgrounds as an important cultural and educational asset for the community. Through charitable donations and pledges our organization implements improvements for the beautification and long-term development of the Merced County Fair, subject to approval of the Board of Directors of California's 35th District Agricultural Association. These vital projects enrich and preserve the invaluable heritage of the Merced County Fair, and further its mission to serve the growing needs of the entire community.

For more information please *visit*

<https://www.mercedcountyfair.com/friends-of-the-merced-county-fair>
and follow us on Facebook.

The Friends of the Merced County Fair is a 501(c)3 non-profit group tax identification 26-0742048. Contributions to our group are tax deductible but are limited to the excess of any money or property contributed over the fair market value of any goods or services received.

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Merced County Fair" and return to address below.

PO Box 2292, Merced CA 95340 * Tax ID 26-0742048



2023 FAIRTIME MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Besides bragging rights for being a Friend, your Friends of the Fair Membership benefits include:

Platinum Level \$1,000

- 10 – 1 Day passes to the Fair - \$100.00 value
 - 4 Membership Credentials for Lounge Access.
 - 4 Guest Passes good for Lounge-Good for TUESDAY ONLY – Guest Night
- Early Bird Renew by Feb. 14th includes the following:**
- 4 Tickets to the Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party Benefits Value: \$200
 - Preferred Fair Parking Pass (In order to receive the benefit of the “Preferred” parking permit, your membership must be renewed/received by February 14th before the passes go on sale to the public) - \$100.00 value
 - Benefits Value \$400+

Diamond Level \$500

- 1 Fair 5-Day Parking Pass - \$25.00 value
 - 5 – 1 Day passes to the Fair - \$50.00 value
 - 2 Membership Credentials for Lounge Access
 - 2 Guest Passes good for Lounge-Good for TUESDAY ONLY – Guest Night
- Early Bird Renew by Feb. 14th includes the following:**
- 2 Tickets to the Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party Benefits Value: \$175+

Gold Level \$250

- 2 – 1 Day passes to the Fair - \$20.00 value
 - 1 Membership Credential for Lounge Access
 - 1 Guest Passes -Good for TUESDAY ONLY – Guest Night
- Early Bird Renew by Feb. 14th includes the following:**
- 1 Ticket to the Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party Benefits Value: \$70+

Young Professional (under 25 years of age) \$100

- 1 – 1 Day pass to the Fair - \$10.00 value
 - 1 Membership Credential Ticket for Lounge Access
- Early Bird Renew by Feb. 14th includes the following:**
- 1 Ticket to the Annual Dinner/Fair Kick-Off Party Benefits Value: \$60+

Youth Membership for 4-H & FFA Members \$20

- Receives a Friends of the Fair Tee-shirt

The Board of Directors values your membership. As our membership grows, we find it necessary to restrict access to the Lounge to only those with Membership Credentials. This is to keep your membership exclusive and to maintain the Fire Marshal’s Regulations that restricts the room capacity of the facility. Your cooperation in this change is appreciated.

Please use your Guest Passes to bring your friends and potential new members to **Guest Night On Tuesday**.

Annual Fair – June 7-11, 2023

- ❖ **Tuesday GUEST NIGHT** – “All Members & Guests” Lounge Access, Sponsored by **F&M Bank**, Meal provided by Friends of the Fair and Bar hospitality sponsored by **VC1 Concrete and Construction** 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- ❖ **Wednesday** – “All Members” Lounge Access, sponsored by **Yosemite Farm Credit**, Meal provided by Friends of the Fair and Bar hospitality sponsored by **Stone Spreading** 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- ❖ **Thursday** – “All Members” Lounge Access, Sponsored by **American Ag Credit**, Meal provided by Friends of the Fair, Bar hospitality sponsored by **London Properties** 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- ❖ **Friday** – “All Members” Lounge Access, Sponsored by **Central Valley Community Bank**, Meal provided by Club Mercedes and Bar hospitality sponsored by **J-Law Trucking** 5:30 to 8:00 PM

Each night food and beverages will be served. All beverages must be consumed in the lounge and not carried outside due to the Merced County Fair’s Alcohol Management Policies and Procedures and will be strictly enforced.

We look forward to another great Fair and to seeing everyone at the Kick-Off Party!