

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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\$9 Million In Maintenance and Improvements Approved at Annual Meeting

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MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS – Nearly \$9 million in improvements and maintenance projects for the Minnesota State Fairgrounds were approved by the fair’s board of managers during the annual meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society – governing body of the fair. The meeting was held Jan. 18-20 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel as part of a joint convention of the Society, Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and Midwest Showmen’s Association.

Improvements and maintenance projects approved for 2008 include completion of the new International Bazaar, a new restroom complex, renovations inside the Warner Coliseum, a new roof for the Cattle Barn and hundreds of painting, maintenance and landscape jobs throughout the historic 320-acre State Fairgrounds. All projects are funded through State Fair operating income and grants from the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. The fair is financially self-sufficient and receives no government aid of any kind.

In other State Fair business conducted during the meeting, Bob Lake of Aitkin was elected to a one-year term as president of the State Fair. Lake is a high school agriculture instructor who has served on the State Fair board since 1995. D.J. Leary of Minneapolis was re-elected to a two-year term on the board as fifth district vice president. Jim Foss of Kenyon and Sharon Wessel of Hamel were re-elected to three-year terms on the board, representing the Society’s first and third districts, respectively. New member Gene Gerth of Princeton was elected to a three-year term, representing the sixth district. Lyle Steltz of Rush City, immediate past-president of the State Fair board of managers, was elected to honorary life membership in the Society. Kent Harbison, an attorney with Fredrickson & Byron, P.A., was honored with the Minnesota State Fair’s Distinguished Service Award.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best attended expositions in the world, attracting more than 1.6 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit www.mnstatefair.org for more information.

The 2008 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 21 - Labor Day, Sept. 1.

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