



IMPORTANT 2015 CONVENTION NOTICE

January 9, 2015

TO: All Agents, County and Local Presidents & Secretaries
FROM: Paul Jackson, Secretary & Convention Coordinator
RE: 2015 CONVENTION EVENTS & TICKET SALES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

"Rich Heritage, Bright Future" is the theme of the two-day 110th AFR Convention scheduled February 13-14, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, 2501 Conference Drive in Norman. All activities will be in the conference center.

The first activities on Friday, February 13 are the Delegate By-Laws Information Session & Lunch and Agent Recognition Lunch followed by the General Session, which is the business session that begins at 1:15 p.m. This year registration will open as usual on Friday morning **but voting will not commence until candidates have spoken Friday afternoon.** The convention will adjourn after the banquet on Saturday night.

TICKETING:

Tickets for the Delegate By-Laws Information Session & Lunch, Agent Recognition Lunch, Women's Luncheon and Convention Banquet will be pre-sold and may be charged to your County, Local or Agency. Pre-registration is required for these events whether complimentary or not. Tickets will be packaged and available for pick-up during registration in Boomer A after 9 a.m. February 13. AFR will serve only as a contact point on-site for unneeded tickets and will not do ticket refunds as meal commitments to the hotel will be final at this time.

Please RSVP the number of individuals attending these functions no later than Monday, February 2, 2015, by completing the attached form and preferably e-mailing to drogers@afirmic.com; faxing to 405-218-5589, or by mailing to AFR-Tickets, Attn: Danielle Rogers, P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124. You may also call Danielle Rogers at 1-800-324-7771, extension 5590. Please confirm receipt of your faxed or mailed order by emailing Danielle to ensure we have received your order.

EMBASSY ROOMS:

The Embassy is again currently completely sold out. More rooms may become available later as they are released. We can put you on a stand-by list to contact if and when rooms are available. If you do not plan to use rooms you have booked please release them ASAP, so that others may utilize the space at the convention rate and before the AFR room block discount is released. Each year rooms within the block go unfilled because of last minute cancellations. A list of additional hotels in the area is included below.

EMBASSY DIRECTIONS:

From I-35 heading south: Exit Tecumseh Rd, left on Tecumseh Rd to 24th St. Right on 24th St. and left onto Conference Dr.; From I-35 heading north: Exit Robinson and turn left on Robinson. Turn left at 24th St. and right onto Conference Dr.

Additional hotels within one mile of The Embassy include the Hilton Garden Inn, 700 Copperfield Dr., (405) 579-0100; the Courtyard by Marriott, 770 Copperfield Dr., (405) 701-8900; the Comfort Inn & Suites, 840 Copperfield Dr., (405) 701-5200. The Hilton, Courtyard and Comfort Inn are all newer properties and similar in price to the Embassy. AFR does not have a block of rooms reserved at these hotels. All of these hotels are located on the west side of I-35 at Robinson exit. The Holiday Inn Express across the street will not open until March 1.

MEMORIAL ROLL/RESOLUTIONS:

Remember to provide information needed for the "AFR Memorial Roll" electronically or by fax. Print or type the individuals' names so we can assure it is correct for the booklet and convention video scroll. The list of names should be returned to Marilyn Sanders ASAP. Final policy resolutions should be returned by local and county organizations to State Secretary Paul Jackson.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**DELEGATE BY-LAWS INFORMATION SESSION/LUNCH**

This session begins at 9:30 a.m. and is open to all delegates but ALL local and county officers should attend this session as non-profit tax attorney Jeri D. Towler will explain by-laws changes as well as necessary post-convention activities by the local leaders to ensure they limit their personal tax liability exposure and the organizations are covered as tax exempt and not pay taxes on dues revenue received. A complimentary lunch will be served at the end of the session.

Agents who are also officers participating in this event should sign up for the agent meal function and indicate attendance only at the by-laws session. Provide a count for only the names of local/county leaders and other delegates who will attend. Tickets will be taken.

AGENT'S RECOGNITION LUNCH:

The luncheon will be held in Oklahoma Ballroom H-J with doors opening at 11:15 a.m. Each agency will be given two (2) complimentary tickets with additional tickets available at \$40 each. Agents with multiple agencies will be limited to two (2) complimentary tickets. Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak will speak. The event is *sponsored by Willis Re*.

TRADE SHOW:

Once more a trade show will be located in Oklahoma Ballrooms B-E with a variety of booths. They will include things for purchase, organizations, educational, insurance, tours, etc. ALL Delegates are encouraged to stop by the COOP booth to get a FREE gift. Be sure and stop by the DairyMAX booth and contribute to the "Great American Milk Drive, bring your empty Ralgro wheels to drop (everyone equals \$1 in contribution), pick up a packet of peanuts from the Oklahoma Peanut Commission and a cinnamon roll or slice of bread from the Oklahoma Wheat Commission. Drop your entry in for the Grand Door Prize – John Deere Lawnmower and accessories. The Ag & Historic fall tour will be rolled out for sign-up to Ireland.

BUSINESS SESSION:

This session includes general and financial reports overview of the company and organization by company and convention officers, candidate speeches, by-laws and articles consideration, and policy consideration and adoption. The "Great American Milk Drive" will be introduced by Oklahoma Dairy Princess Maddie Cook.

VOTING:

Voting booths will open mid-afternoon Friday following candidate speeches and will remain open until 9 p.m. Friday. The voting booths will re-open at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 14 and will close at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

KIDS CORRAL & PIZZA ADVENTURE

This activity returns for our youngest convention participants with free pizza, drinks and other activities. Contact Youth Director Blaire Boyer at 405-218-5561 in advance, or at the convention by cell phone 765-437-9400, or in Boomer A to sign up.

"SHINE TO GO"

Be sure to stop by and get a FREE shoe/boot shine at the "Shine to Go" stand. This activity is again *sponsored by Knipplemeir Chevrolet* in Blanchard!

YOUTH PROGRAM/PAC AUCTION

Outstanding AFR/OFU youth participants will be recognized and past youth participant Amber Moser McNeil, Program Manager, Covias Military Living, Fort Sill, will speak on the impact of the youth program on her life. The PAC live auction will follow. A **half-side of beef** has been donated for the Auction. The silent auction will continue through noon on Saturday. Local and county funds cannot be used to donate or purchase PAC items. Contributed items must be individually contributed. Individually donated items should be brought to Boomer A prior to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13. Please complete and return the donation form by February 6. The Northwest Area meeting is also scheduled for Friday evening.

MILK & COOKIES BREAK: Take advantage of the refreshments Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and afternoon *sponsored by DairyMAX, Clean Line Energy and COX.*

AGENT RESOURCE ROOM:

The resource room returns for agents to "test drive" system changes through the new agency portal and for agents to update photos and learn about the Assistance in Marketing program.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

MORNING GENERAL SESSION:

An update on the Clean Line Energy project by Danna Fowble kicks off the morning followed by a session on “Cutting Edge Technologies & Agriculture Application” panel including Al Sutherland, Oklahoma Mesonet; Kevin Thedford, PinPoint Integrated Specialist, P&K Equipment. To round out the panel two additional speakers have been invited from the seed and chemical input areas and the livestock drugs industry. NFU President Roger Johnson provides remarks.

WOMEN’S LUNCHEON:

Women’s Luncheon will be in the Oklahoma Ballroom H-J at noon, Saturday, February 14. Speaker is Whitney Danker, State Advocacy & Public Policy Director, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Tickets are \$25. Recognition will be given to top Food Drive contributors.

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

New chaplain Lendell Birdsong will lead memorial activities including a video tribute to honor members who passed with special recognition to former convention chaplain Randel Thrasher.

GENERAL SESSION:

This session: “Communicating Agriculture: How to Talk the Talk” with Ron Hays, Radio Ok. Network; Mike Dain, Ok. AgriNet; and Kirby Smith, Ok. Depart. of Agriculture. Dr. Thomas Coon, OSU Vice President-Dean-Director, Division of Agriculture brings remarks.

BREAKOUTS:

“Succession Planning: Are You Ready” with OSU’s Shannon Ferrell and Oklahoma Ag Mediation’s Mike Mayberry will be the Saturday afternoon breakout.

DRAWINGS:

Be sure and get to sessions early this year as drawings are being sponsored by Custom Promotional Products, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and the Oklahoma Cotton Council. Approximately \$500 in beef certificates will be given away!

BANQUET:

The Banquet begins at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 14, in the Oklahoma Ballroom. Pre-seating available at 6:30 p.m. Banquet tickets are \$30 (thanks to the *Oklahoma Pork Council entrée sponsorship*) and should be purchased in advance. There will be limited reserve seating for a few guests and VIP’s with open seating for all other ticket holders and guests. Tribute will be paid to James McManus with the Meritorious Service Award. Dinner entertainment is provided by Kyle Dillingham & Horseshoe Road followed by Branson Comedian Jarrett Dougherty.

COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

The top county will be recognized at the banquet on Saturday evening. County Leadership Awards are based on leadership, community involvement, and AFR program participation. If you wish to participate, contact Steve Thompson, Policy/Membership Development, at 405-218-5563 for an application.

GRAND DOOR PRIZE:

The grand prize is the all-new 2015 John Deere S240 Sport Lawn Tractor model with a 42" EDGE Cutting System, High Back Seat, 18.5 hp Hydrostatic Automatic Transmission... AND a John Deere Lawn Sweeper...AND a Stihl FS56 RC-E Straight Shaft String Trimmer...AND a Stihl BG55 Handheld Blower. **The package is valued at \$3,300.** It is *sponsored by Farm Credit Services of Eastern Oklahoma, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, Chisholm Trail Farm Credit and P&K Equipment.* It will be awarded at the banquet and the winner must be present to win! Only one entry allowed per person. Employees or their families are not eligible.



CONVENTION TICKET ORDER FORM

*****Important*****

Please indicate how many of each ticket you would like to purchase.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS MUST BE REQUESTED WITH THIS FORM AND IN ADVANCE.

If you want less than the number of complimentary tickets that are offered, please indicate by striking through the number and writing the number you will need in the appropriate section.

Please be sure that all information is complete and legible.

Agency Name _____ Agency Number _____

County Number _____ Local Number _____

Contact Person _____ Contact Phone# _____

Contact Email _____ Cell Phone# _____
(for day of the event)

Delegate By-Laws Information Session/Lunch - Comp - Friday, February 13, 2015 - 9:30 AM

Speaker : Jeri D. Towler, Attorney at Law

NOTE Officers who are also agents may attend training but should sign up for the Agent's Lunch for the meal

Agents - Presentation Only _____

Non-Agent Delegates from your local/county planning to attend the Presentation & Meal _____

Agent's Lunch - \$40.00 - Friday, February 13, 2015 - 11:15 AM

Comp tickets _____ 2 _____ Additional tickets _____ Total Tickets _____

Total Due for Agents Luncheon \$ _____

Women's Luncheon - \$25.00 - Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 12:00 PM

Special Guest: Whitney Danker, State Advocacy & Public Policy Director, Oklahoma Regional Food Bank

Number of Tickets _____ Total Due for Women's Luncheon \$ _____

Banquet - \$30.00 - Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 7:00 PM

Featuring: Jarrett Dougherty: Live From Branson

Number of Tickets _____ Total Due for Banquet \$ _____

Method of Payment:		Total Check Enclosed: _____	
Charge to:	Agency# _____	County# _____	Local # _____
	Total _____	Total _____	Total _____
Authorized Signature for Charges (Required) _____			
<i>PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2, 2015 TO ENSURE YOUR PLACE AT OUR 110TH AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS CONVENTION!!!</i>			

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF YOUR ORDER AFTER MAILING OR FAXING BY EMAILING

drogers@afmic.com

OR BY CALLING 1.800.324.7771, EXT. 5590

FAX: 405-218-5589



To: All Agents, County and Local Officers

From: Terry Detrick, President, American Farmers & Ranchers;
Paul Jackson, State Secretary

Subject: PAC Contributions and Auction Items

Date: January 2, 2015

The 110th AFR State Convention is scheduled for February 13th and 14th. A very important part of our convention deals with AFR's legislative work at the state and national level. The PAC is our only way to provide contributions to candidates and legislators that support AFR's efforts and ideas. This support does not consider which side of the aisle the representative or senator sets on, but how they help and support AFR policy.

The contribution laws require all items offered to the PAC must be by individuals. We encourage each of you to bring an item that can be auctioned for the PAC. The auction always provides some great entertainment for all who attend.

Your donated auction items or cash contribution should be brought to Boomer A Room across from the registration area.

As we see more new faces at the State Capitol and those that have supported AFR's efforts over the years, it is very important that we show our support to them in a bipartisan way.

Please complete and return your PAC donation form no later than Friday, February 6, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Rogers at 405.218.5590 or drogers@afrmic.com



**2015 AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS
ASSOCIATION PAC DONATED ITEM
INFORMATION REQUEST**
Pre-Auction Information

Name of Individual Donor _____

Address _____

Donor Contact/Phone Number _____

Description of Item _____

Made By _____

Estimated Value of Item _____

On-Site Auction Information

Purchaser _____

Address _____

Purchaser Contact/Phone Number _____

Price _____

Paid by cash/check

Please return form to Danielle Rogers no later than Friday, February 6, 2015.