



IMPORTANT 2014 CONVENTION NOTICE

January 10, 2014

TO: All Agents, County and Local Presidents & Secretaries

FROM: Paul Jackson, Secretary & Convention Coordinator

RE: 2014 CONVENTION EVENTS & TICKET SALES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

“Go, Gather, Grow” is the theme of the two-day 109th AFR Convention scheduled February 21-22, 2014 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 21 are the County Officer Leadership Session & Lunch and Agent Recognition Lunch followed by the General Session, which is the business session and begins at 1:15 p.m. The convention will adjourn after the banquet on Saturday night.

TICKETING:

Tickets for the County Officer Leadership 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. Tickets will be packaged and available for pick-up during registration in Boomer A after 9 a.m. February 21. 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 10, 2014, by completing the attached form and preferably faxing to 405-218-5589, e-mailing to drogers@afrmic.com 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 e-mailing 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 before February 6, 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. Please be aware of hotel cancellation policies relative to cancellations.

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 HOTEL ROOMS:

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; and the Holiday Inn Express, 1000 North Interstate Dr. (405) 364-2882. 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.

MEMORIAL ROLL/RESOLUTIONS:

Remember to provide information needed for the “AFR Memorial Roll”. Print or type the individuals’ names so we can assure it is correct in the booklet and the convention video scroll. The list of names should be returned to Marilyn Sanders no later than January 20. Final policy resolutions should be returned by local and county organizations to State Secretary Paul Jackson.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

COUNTY OFFICERS LEADERSHIP SESSION/LUNCH

The county officer leadership session begins at 9:30 a.m. with motivational speaker Sean Abbananto, “Chasing Cows: How to Get Your Shout Back, Make a Difference and Avoid the Cow Patties”, followed by OFU member Rep. Scott Biggs talking about his bill “Right to Farm”. Staff presentations are also planned. Everyone who attends gets a FREE original OFU Belt Buckle collectors item. 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 leadership session.

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. Agents stop by the AFRMIC booth to get your FREE commemorative license plate for office display.

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.

VOTING:

Voting booths will stay open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday. The voting booths will re-open at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 22 and will close at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

YOUTH “PIZZA AND A MOVIE”

An added activity this year is free pizza, drinks and a movie at a meeting space at the Embassy for our youngest convention participants. Contact Youth Director Nikki Slagell at 405-218-5561 in advance, at the convention by cell phone 405-202-4307, 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 outside the convention hall on Friday or Saturday. This is a new activity *sponsored by Knipplemeir Chevrolet* in Blanchard!

PAC AUCTION EVENING

A pre-session concert with AFR agent Melodie Schaffer kicks-off the evening followed by OFU member “Coach” Doug Sauter with entertaining remarks. A special OFU Foundation presentation will occur as well. The PAC live auction will follow. 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 21. Please complete and return the donation form by February 14. The Sammy Mitchell Band will close out the evening with a concert and dance. The Northwest Area meeting is also scheduled for Friday evening.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

AFR/OFU UNIVERSITY:

A veterans tribute begins the morning, followed by “Conservation – Why It’s More Important Than Ever” with Gary O’Neill, NRCS-USDA, State Conservationist; “The Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association” presented by Russell Stevens, association Executive Director and The Noble Foundation employee; “Consumer and Activist Challenges for the Food System” by author and Oklahoma State University Ag Economics Professor Jayson Lusk; Remarks by Tim Starks, Livestock Marketing Association National President; Remarks by Claudia Svarstad, NFU Vice President; “National Policy Perspective” by Brittany Jablonsky, NFU Director of Advocacy Communications and a “State Issues Perspective” by Tommy Thomas, AFR/OFU Lobbyist.

MILK & COOKIES BREAK: Take advantage of the refreshments on Saturday morning and afternoon *sponsored by Dairy MAX.*

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON:

The Women's Luncheon will be held in the Oklahoma Ballroom H-J at noon, Saturday, February 22. The speaker will be Tami Didlot, businesswoman and past president, American National CattleWomen and an Oklahoman. A beef cash certificate will be awarded. Tickets are \$25. All ladies in attendance receive a FREE OFU Centennial cookbook!

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A video tribute will honor members who passed last year with special recognition to former convention chaplain Braunell Richey.

YOUTH PROGRAM:

Outstanding AFR/OFU youth participants will be recognized and past youth participant and Oklahoma Deputy Secretary of Environment Tyler Powell will speak on the impact of the youth program on his life.

BREAKOUTS:

"Where's the Beef": Capitalizing on Market Opportunities Ahead" with OSU Ag Economist Derrell Peel will be the Saturday afternoon breakout. Attend and be eligible to win valuable beef cash certificates! Michael Kelsey, Executive Vice President, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association will have remarks as well. A special drawing will be held for those who bring their used RALGRO wheels to the breakout. The wheels equate to \$1 each for the OCA Scholarship and Leadership Programs paid by the manufacturer. The annual agent's association meeting is scheduled that afternoon as well.

BANQUET:

The Banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 22, in the Oklahoma Ballroom. Pre-seating is available at 6:30 p.m. Banquet tickets are only \$30 (thanks to the *Oklahoma Pork Council 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. Pre-banquet entertainment is with Lane Pilkington and Courtney Toliver; dinner entertainment with Jenna Crisp and after dinner fun as we "Laugh with Lyndy Phillips".

GRAND DOOR PRIZE:

The grand prize is the all-new 2014 John Deere X300 Lawn Tractor with a 42" Edge Deck, 18.5 hp V-Twin iTorque Power System, TwinTouch Hydrostatic Transmission and 15" Open-Back Seat... AND a 25-Gallon Tow-Behind Sprayer with 90"-Wide Boom for Quick Broadcast Spraying, Easy Towing, Easy-Emptying Tank with SHURFlo Pump, Stainless Steel Spraying Tips and Adjustable Handgun with Valve, Wand Extension and 18' Hose that allows you to spray up to 30'! **The package is valued at \$3,500.** 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.

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.

AFR/OFU YOUNG LEADERS SOCIAL:

AFR 2.0: Next Generation Networking is a social gathering for OFU members 21-50 interested in connecting and advancing the organization. Pre-sign up with Steve Thompson, at 405-218-5563; by cell at the event at 405-630-5644; or at sign-up in Boomer A for an off-site time of food and fellowship following the banquet.