

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD

The Kentucky State Fair Board Special meeting began at 10:00 A.M. EDT, Thursday, July 23, 2026. Chairman Ray Perry presided over the meeting at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Members present: Mr. Ray Perry, Mr. Rocky Adkins, Mr. Cleo Battle, Mr. John Cox, Mr. Jimmy England; Secretary Holly Johnson, Mr. Jeremiah Jury, Mr. Greg Pope, Mr. Hans Poppe, Ms. Sadiqa Reynolds; Mr. Dorsey Ridley, Mr. Lee Robey, Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Dr. Laura Stephenson; Mr. Jay Brent Tolle; Mr. Garrett Zimmerman

Absent:

Also present: Mr. Mike Berry, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Ellen Benzing, Kentucky Venues; Mr. Mark Bowling, KDA; Mr. Nick Carter, UK College of Ag; Mr. Ian Cox, Kentucky Venues; Mr. Jeremy Cox, Prestige; Ms. Sarah Cronan, TAH Cabinet; Ms. Faith Cummings, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Jessica Dunkelberger, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Corinne Fetter, Kentucky Venues; Mr. Shawn Hensler, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Althea Jackson, Mayor Greenberg's Office; Mr. Matthew Johnson, Kentucky Venues; Mr. Brad Kempf, Kentucky Venues; Mr. Sebastian Kitchen, TAH Cabinet; Mr. Travis Mayo, Office of the Governor; Mr. Kevin McCoy, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Christina Montanaro, OVG; Mr. Tim Postlethwait, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Sierra Rojas, Kentucky Venues; Ms. Donna Schneiter, TAH Cabinet; Ms. Laura Whitehead, Kentucky Venues

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. on July 23, 2026, by Chairman Ray Perry. He thanked everyone for their attendance.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Perry called on Ms. Faith Cummings to administer the Oath of Office to the new Kentucky State Fair Board members. Those members included:

- Mr. Jimmy England
- Ms. Sadiqa Reynolds
- Mr. Jay Brent Tolle

All accepted and were welcomed to the board.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Perry called on Ms. Jessica Dunkelberger to call roll. A quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Perry called for consideration of the minutes from the July 1, 2026, Special called KSFB meeting.

Mr. Dorsey Ridley moved, and Mr. John Cox seconded to:
"Approve the minutes as presented." The motion carried.

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT, Mr. Mike Berry, Interim President & CEO, Kentucky Venues

Chairman Perry introduced Mr. Mike Berry who began serving in the interim President & CEO role on July 21. Mr. Berry thanked the board for its confidence and remarked that resigning from the Board was bittersweet, but he is excited to serve in this new role and is committed to supporting both the organization and Commonwealth during the interim period.

Mr. Berry explained that he has taken in a lot of information in his first two days of the job. He commended the executive leadership team and staff on the complexity of operating the Kentucky Exposition Center and staff's ability to repeatedly build, operate, dismantle and rebuild large-scale event operations with remarkable efficiency. He commented that board members will hear departmental reports in future meetings.

His schedule is rapidly filling up with meetings with staff, partners and clients, and he is looking forward to learning every aspect of the Kentucky State Fair operations. KEC just wrapped up a successful The Basketball Tournament and had great attendance and participation with Tucker Neal's basketball events. Another tournament is getting ready to begin. These events are a great draw for tourism.

Mr. Berry has participated in interviews with local media, including Business First. Topics included proposed hotel development in Louisville and the importance of additional hotel rooms for attracting conventions and major events and how it will also serve the three pillars that define the Kentucky Exposition Center's mission statement: agriculture, economic development and tourism. Mr. Berry invited board members to schedule individual meetings with him.

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD BYLAWS

Chairman Perry introduced draft bylaws that were distributed in advance of the meeting. He explained that the bylaws are consistent with ones that were previously adopted by the constitutional board in 2021 and include only minor revisions to comply with current state open meetings laws, reorganize committee structures based on staff recommendations and reiterate the importance of agriculture within the Kentucky State Fair Board's mission.

Mr. Lee Robey moved, and Mr. Greg Pope seconded to:

"Approve the Kentucky State Fair Board bylaws as presented." Mr. John Cox asked if the new bylaws are essentially a return to the 2021 version? Chairman Perry confirmed that they are substantially the same with limited updates. The motion carried.

Mr. Hans Poppe identified drafting issues:

- Section 4.2 – inconsistently refers to both the NAILE Executive and Events Committee as well as In-House Events Committee. Mr. Berry explained that the In-House Events Committee existed under the previous bylaws but has been eliminated, with its responsibilities now incorporated into the NAILE Executive and Events Committee.
- Article 2, section 2.10 regarding language requiring the Board to "meet monthly" while also requiring meetings a minimum of ten months each year. Mr. Matt Johnson explained that historically the Board does not meet in December meeting during the holiday season and the bylaws establish a minimum meeting requirement rather than limiting the board to ten

meetings annually. The Board typically meets eleven times each year. This allows the board to meet at their discretion, with a minimum of 10 times per year.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Perry reviewed the responsibilities of the newly organized standing committees established by the bylaws.

- Executive Committee responsible for:
 - o reviewing policy matters, legislative matters and other matters as required.
 - o making recommendations to the full board and Interim President & CEO that supports the mission, values and strategic goals of the Kentucky State Fair Board.
 - o The executive committee shall have all the authority of the full board not expressly delegated elsewhere by these bylaws. The president and CEO, which will streamline the work of the committee in time when it's not possible or practical to call a special meeting of the full board.
- Finance & Budget Committee responsible for:
 - o recommending financial policies
 - o Providing advice with respect to annual operating budget, reviewing biennial budget and overseeing annual audits, audit long term material contracts, leases, personnel and payroll matters, significant legal matters, insurance matters that support the mission values and goals of the Kentucky State Fair Board.
- NAILE Executive & Events Committee responsible for:
 - o overseeing operations and activities and recommended policies for the board's signature events including:
 - Kentucky State Fair, North American International Livestock Exposition, World's Championship Horse Show, National Farm Machinery Show that supports the mission, values and strategic goals of the Kentucky State Fair Board.

Chairman Perry instructed board members to email Mr. Berry by Friday, July 31, indicating which committee(s) they wish to serve on.

Chairman Perry addressed rumors that agriculture had been removed from the Kentucky Venues mission statement following recent leadership changes and the Kentucky Supreme Court decision. He firmly stated that the organizations mission has not changed and that the official Kentucky Venues website has never removed agriculture from its mission. He reported that staff investigated the issue with assistance from the Commonwealth Office of Technology and discovered that an outdated 2011 archived/defunct website was still accessible and that the mission statement displayed was obsolete, creating confusion. He emphasized that agriculture remains central to Kentucky Venues mission alongside events and tourism and reassured the Board that this commitment will not change.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Perry announced that the formal agenda had concluded. Commissioner Johnathan Shell asked if an update could be given on the Kentucky State Fair before adjournment. He asked Ms. Corinne Fetter to give an update.

Below are the highlights of Ms. Fetter's reports:

- The Fair is 28 days away
- Temporary tents and flags around the property have begun being installed
- Fair will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence
- She thanked the multiple partners of the KSF: KY Association of Fairs and Horse Shows, KY Department of Agriculture, University of Kentucky and Cooperative Extension, agriculture educators and advisors, amusement, entertainment and event partners. The fair requires extensive statewide collaboration.
- Will have increased programming in Lot A including smaller children amusement rides
- Texas Roadhouse Concert Series will feature nightly entertainment, great partnership with Triangle Talent
- Have a record number of entries for the World's Championship Horse Show which remains a premier event of the Saddlebred industry.
- She commented the event would not be possible without the staff.
- Commissioner Shell asked if there was anything that the board could do to help. Ms. Fetter invited them to participate in livestock move-in. Last year members of the team, board and some partners helped families move small animals and tack into the barn quickly before the heat became dangerous. The exhibitors greatly appreciated it, things moved faster and it boosted morale.
- Commissioner Shell invited everyone to attend the Commissioner's Dinner on Wednesday, August 19 – an event that benefits Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) children in foster care. The funds provide transportation, meals, ride tickets, fair admission to the Fair for those children.
- He also highlighted Sensory Day, scheduled for August 26. The midway will be open earlier and will provide opportunities for children and adults with sensory sensitivities to ride rides without the sounds and lights on.
- He also highlighted the Sunshine Class – an event that pairs youth livestock exhibitors with individuals who have special needs so they can show small animals together.
- Commissioner Shell and Ms. Fetter reviewed some of the important events during the Fair and encouraged the board members to attend. Dr. Laura Stephenson and Mr. Jeremiah Jury, Kentucky 4-H President, invited members to attend the 4-H Ham Auction. Members will receive a list of events and RSVP deadlines.
- Commissioner Shell encouraged members to attend the special events, walk the grounds and meet with exhibitors, participants and guests. He offered to meet and tour any board members who are interested.

Mr. Perry commented that in his short time in his new role as Chairman, he has seen some of the incredible work that the staff at Kentucky Venues does and he is very appreciative of what they do.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry confirmed that the typographical errors identified in the bylaws would be corrected and the record will reflect the boards approval of the corrected version.

The next KSFB meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19 at 2:00 P.M. with the Fair opening at 10:00 A.M. the next morning. Mr. Berry encouraged board members to take part in a tour of the new construction during the August meeting.

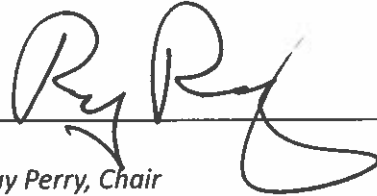
Chairman Perry called for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Sadiqa Reynolds moved, seconded by Ms. Holly Johnson, to:
"Adjourn the meeting." The motion carried.

Dated: August 19, 2026



Jessica Dunkelbeger, Secretary



Ray Perry, Chair