

IMPORTANT 2017 CONVENTION NOTICE

January 6, 2017



TO: All Agents, County and Local Presidents & Secretaries
FROM: Paul Jackson, Secretary & Convention Coordinator
RE: 2017 CONVENTION EVENTS & TICKET SALES

“The Power of Cooperation” is the theme of the three-day 112th AFR Convention scheduled February 17-19, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, 2501 Conference Drive in Norman. All activities will be in the conference center. Registration and voting will open on Friday morning with the first General Session at 1 p.m. The convention will adjourn at the end of the worship service Sunday morning. We welcome a new major top tier sponsor *Prime Advisors, Inc.* who join *Willis Re, Oklahoma Ag Credit, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoman and BancFirst* as major sponsors.

TICKETING:

Tickets for the Agent Lunch, Women’s Lunch, Reception and Convention Banquet will be pre-sold/reserved and may be charged to your County, Local or Agency, or paid by cash or check. Paying by credit card is not an option. Pre-registration is required for these events whether complimentary or not. Tickets will be packaged and available for pick-up in Boomer A after 9 a.m. February 17. AFR will serve only as a contact point on-site for unneeded purchased tickets and will not do ticket refunds as meal commitments to the hotel are final. Tickets will be collected at the door of each activity including the reception. Please provide an estimate of your attendees for the Milk & Cookies break and Sunday worship service.

Please RSVP the number of individuals attending these functions no later than Monday, February 6, 2017, by completing the attached form--preferably e-mailing to teresa.davis@afrmic.com; faxing to 405-218-5585, or by mailing to AFR-Tickets, Attn: Teresa Davis, P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124. You may also call Teresa Davis at 1-800-324-7771, extension 5577. Please confirm receipt of your faxed or mailed order by emailing Teresa to ensure we have received your order.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

REGISTRATION AND VOTING:

Registration and voting open Friday morning and will remain open until 9 p.m. Friday. The voting will re-open at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 18 and will close at 2 p.m. that afternoon. At registration, get your attractive name badge holders *sponsored by Custom Promotions.*

THE NEW VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE:

Are you ready for the Veterinary Feed Directive regulation? Discover information from the state’s top hand – Dr. Rod Hall, State Veterinarian, ODAFF – to keep you in compliance.

PAC AUCTION:

Following the reception will be agricultural advocacy remarks by advocacy expert Trent Loos (*sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit and Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma*) as a prelude to the annual PAC auction. Be sure and send us pictures and information about your donated item to be included in the PAC catalogue. The PAC Committee will provide a report on expenditures. Live Auction will be Friday evening and the silent auction begins Friday afternoon and concludes Saturday at 11:45 a.m. 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 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**YOUTH PROGRAM:**

Outstanding youth participants will be recognized Saturday morning and will feature partnership remarks from Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, along with past youth program participants Troy Marshall, Oklahoma Ag Statistician and Rep. Kyle Hilbert, R-Depew. The next step of involvement in AFR beyond youth programs will be explored by Bailey Kliewer, LEAD State Council Chair.

MORNING GENERAL SESSION:

Heather Buckmaster, Executive Director, Oklahoma Beef Council, provides an update of the Beef Check-Off Program. Dr. Thomas Coon, VP & Dean of OSU DASNR will provide remarks and reflect on budget challenges. Jay Hannah, Executive VP, BancFirst will explore "The Times – They are a Changin'" as he reviews the financial services regulatory environment and examine sign posts up ahead under a new administration. Washington lobbyists Daren Coppock, President & CEO, Agricultural Retailers Association and Rob Larew, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Communications, NFU will provide remarks on the impact of the change in the White House to policy issues in Washington, D.C. (*sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit and Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma*).

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE AWARDS LUNCH:

The Women's Cooperative will be hosting an award luncheon. Awards will be presented to the participants of the 2016 Drive Away Hunger with AFR campaign. New events are planned and a new initiative will be announced at the luncheon so don't miss the opportunity to network and learn. Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door.

GENERAL SESSION:

The State of the Agricultural Economy is the subject of panelists John Grunewald, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma; Dr. Kim Anderson, Professor, Ag Economics, OSU; and Dr. Darrell Peel, Professor, Agribusiness, OSU. They will address the impact of grain and cattle commodities on banking and what the future appears to hold for these commodities and rural Oklahoma.

NFU DELEGATES:

Contact the State Secretary for the Delegate Card/Biographical Form to be considered to represent OFU at the National Farmers Union Convention March 5-8 in San Diego, CA. Delegate Cards and Forms must be received by the Secretary no later than Noon, Saturday, Feb. 18. The NFU delegate election will occur following announcement of election results.