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IMPORTANT 2018 CONVENTION NOTICE

January 10, 2018

TO: All Agents, County and Local Presidents & Secretaries
FROM: Paul Jackson, Secretary & Convention Coordinator
RE: 2018 CONVENTION EVENTS & TICKET SALES

“Together.” is the theme of the three-day 113th AFR Convention scheduled February 16-18, 2018 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 are grateful for returning top tier sponsors *Willis Re, Oklahoma Ag Credit, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and BancFirst.*

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 16. 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 Friday evening. 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 5, 2018, 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 e-mailing Teresa to ensure we have received it.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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 17 and will close at 2 p.m. that afternoon. At registration, get your attractive name badge holders *sponsored by Custom Promotions*.

VIDEO EDUCATION BREAKOUTS:

Choose one of two video option breakouts continuously running throughout the convention highlighting Farmers for America and America's Farm & Food Bill produced in association with the National Farmers Union.

INSURANCE EDUCATION SESSION:

AFR Agents get an opportunity or continued education on Earthquake Coverage and "The Importance of Insurance to Value, and an Overview of the e2Value Residential Tools" with the latter topic with Todd Rissell, the CEO & Co-Founder of the company along with the director of field services. A separate notification will be sent to RSVP for both sessions and must be done in advance to receive CE credit.

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 \$42 each. Agents with multiple agencies will be limited to two (2) complimentary tickets. The event is *sponsored by Willis Re*.

TRADE SHOW:

The trade show will be located in Oklahoma Ballrooms B-E with a variety of 50+ booths. They will include items for purchase, organizations, educational, insurance, tours, etc. Be sure and stop by to get your boots/shoes shined (*sponsored by DIFEE Ford Lincoln*), pick up some bread pudding from the *Oklahoma Wheat Commission*, enter the *BancFirst* drawing for tickets to see the OKC Thunder team, and sign up for the fall Ag & Historic Conference membership tour. And, drop your entry for the Grand Door Prizes – (*sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit/Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and P&K Equipment*). Visit the AFR information booth in the entry way and bring your empty Ralgro wheels to drop (each one equal \$1 in contribution for our OCA partners). Show hours are Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

DOOR PRIZES:

Be there early to win beef certificates *sponsored by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association* totaling \$500 and door prizes *sponsored by MIDCon, Legal Shield, Oklahoma Cotton Council, and Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association and trade show vendors*.

BUSINESS SESSION:

This session includes general and financial reports overview of the company and organization by company and convention officers, candidate speeches, by-laws consideration, and policy consideration and adoption.

MILK & COOKIES BREAKS: Take advantage of the refreshments Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and afternoon *sponsored by DairyMAX, COX Business and Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.*

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Two youth activities geared to ages 5-12 will be Friday at 6 p.m. for Pizza and a Movie and Saturday at 1:30 p.m. for an arts and crafts hands-on session. Please RSVP for each so we know how many to plan for food and activities.

GENERAL RECEPTION:

Enjoy the returning A Bar Bunkhouse Band at 6:00 p.m. *sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit and Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma* as a background to the heavy hors d'Oeuvres reception *sponsored by BancFirst, Oklahoma Beef Council, and The Poultry Federation.* It's free, but be sure to RSVP on the ticket form. Tickets required and will be collected!

PAC AUCTION:

Following the reception will be the annual PAC auction. Be sure and send us pictures and information about your donated item. 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. NEW this year is a BUY IT NOW table. 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 16. A PAC letter has been sent separately.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

OPENING SESSION:

Get charged up for Agricultural and Rural Advocacy at the Saturday opening session with the entertaining Peterson Farm Brothers presenting "I'm Farming and I Grow It: An AgVocating Success Story" with farm video and musical parodies. Do not miss the best opening session yet and we start just a little later on Saturday morning.

YOUTH PROGRAM:

Catch up on AFR Youth activities and hear from a representative of St. Jude and the project that AFR Youth chose this summer where they wished to invest. Two special people retiring from Oklahoma FFA involvement will be recognized. A special Youth Development Leadership Breakout workshop with state youth motivators Marty Jones and Trevor Lucas will follow. Other youth program activities are planned and continue to be developed for those in attendance throughout the convention.

MORNING GENERAL SESSION:

Find out about the "winners and losers" of Washington tax actions with an inside the beltway perspective. A Capitol Roundtable with industry representatives – all AFR members -- explore the ins and outs of the Oklahoma Legislature and what a cash-strapped state promises this legislative session. Hear from AFR member Scott Biggs – newly appointed state Farm Service Agency Director.

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE AWARDS LUNCH:

The Women's Cooperative will be hosting an award luncheon. Awards will be presented to the participants of the 2017 AFR Blood Drive Campaign. Don't miss the opportunity to network and learn. Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door.

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE BLOOD DRIVE:

The Women's Cooperative Council will be hosting an on-site blood drive as part of their statewide campaign. Early sign-up to give blood begins Friday at 9 a.m. in Boomer A. The actual blood drive will be 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the East parking lot outside the Southeast conference center entryway.

GENERAL SESSION:

Hear from a top Washington Policy Panel comprised of industry representatives – Roger Johnson, President, National Farmers Union; Chandler Goule, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Wheat Growers and Kellie Bray, Senior Director, Government Affairs, CropLife America explore the farm bill rewrite and other issues (*sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit and Farm Credit of Western 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 4-6 in Kansas City, MO. Biographical sketches must be 175 words or less and can be sent in advance of the convention. Delegate Cards and Forms must be received by the Secretary no later than Noon, Saturday, Feb. 17. The NFU delegate election will occur following announcement of election results.

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE COUNCIL BREAKOUT:

A speaker selection is pending as of the date of this letter after a cancellation.

BANQUET:

The Banquet begins at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 17, in the Oklahoma Ballroom. Pre-seating is available at 6:45 p.m. Entertainment is by AFR's own Melody Schaffer. AFR member and Senior AFR/OFU State Speech Contest winner Kabrin Martin, Harrah FFA delivers a message of "Stand for Something". Banquet tickets are only \$31.50 (thanks to the *Oklahoma Pork Council entrée sponsorship*) and must be purchased in advance. There will be limited reserve seating for a few guests and VIPs with open seating for all other ticket holders and guests. BancFirst Board Chairman H.E. "Gene" Rainbolt and his team bring remarks and even a bit of entertainment along with a drawing for Thunder tickets. The banquet is being shortened this time without a hired entertainer for the event but instead provide for a relaxing evening.

2018 COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Outstanding County Organizations will be recognized at the banquet on Saturday evening. County Leadership Awards are based on four key areas: A) Involvement of Local and County Leadership in activities B) Promotion and Support of AFR Policy Positions C) Participation in the AFR Youth and Adult Education Programs and D) Implementation of new ways to support AFR improving Rural and Community Life in Oklahoma. The goal is to award local and county organizations for creating initiatives for members to become more involved. A formal

application will not be used. Participants are asked to describe county activities and provide photos of activities during the year. Please direct applications to the State President's office – Attention: Terry Detrick. The deadline is Feb. 1.

GRAND DOOR PRIZES:

Yes, again this year more people have a chance to win one of three grand door prizes. Two winners will be drawn at the banquet -- a John Deere X350 Select Series Mower retailing at \$3,350, and a Honda Self Propelled Walk Behind Mower with bagger retailing at \$500. The winner must be present to win! Only one entry allowed per person. Employees and/or their families are not eligible.

Convention attendees also have a second chance with a bonus Grand Door Prize at the conclusion of the convention Sunday morning following the Worship Service where a backyard package with a John Deere fire pit/ring, chair set, mugs, and John Deere Genesis E-310 Gas Grill (valued at \$800) and accessories will be awarded. Tickets will be distributed for this package to only those in attendance that morning. Must be present to win! All door prizes are sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and P&K Equipment).

WORSHIP & MEMORIAL SERVICE:

The Worship & Memorial service is back on Sunday morning to close out the convention with a video tribute honoring members who passed away in 2017, congregational singing participation, special music and a message by AFR Chaplain Lendell Birdsong. Enjoy the southern gospel piano playing of Gathan Graham who has played ten times at the White House Christmas's during four U.S. President's time in office – the latest in December. Comprised of almost all AFR members, enjoy the sounds of the Concharty Mt. Boys Quartet from the Haskell area.