

My name is Brock Ackerman and I currently hold the At-Large S seat as an Allen County Agricultural Society Board Member. This next term there is a vacant seat for Jackson Township. I feel compelled to run for the seat to best represent the area that I reside with my family. My wife, Shannon, our two daughters and I live just north of Lafayette in Jackson Township. Shannon and I have been married since December 2009 and are both graduates of Allen East Local Schools. I am employed at Cardinal Bus Sales in Lima, Ohio. I sell new bus parts and camera surveillances systems as well as serve as the Administrator for recalls and service bulletins covering the fleet of Blue Bird school buses across the State of Ohio. I have been with Cardinal Bus Sales since the summer of 2002.

I was elected to the Agricultural Society Board in November of 2019 and embraced this appointment with much excitement. I knew there was much to learn, and I was ready for the challenge.

The pandemic hit in 2020. This event allowed for the Board members new and old to evaluate, reset and quickly get on the same page. Maintaining a positive financial and business structure were my main concerns. Our role demanded that we, with all surety, keep the fairgrounds in the best position for the future.

We had many pinnacle events occur during my first term. The board worked through many hurdles and was able to hold a Jr. Fair during the summer of 2020. Allowing the youth to showcase their projects was very important to me and my fellow Board members; it was truly a huge win.

Since 2020, your Agricultural Society Board has made many improvements to the grounds and facilities. We worked diligently to add new events for the Allen County communities and beyond. Mercy Health Bright Nights is an amazing light display held over the Christmas season. This display attracts people from several counties to our fairgrounds during the winter as they celebrate the season. Our goal is to make this growing display a destination for families for years to come. Bright Nights was added to the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail in 2021.

A grant from the State of Ohio was secured to dispose of almost 200 tires that have been on the grounds for years. This grant alone saved the Agricultural Society around \$125,000. Additional funding from the state has been secured to facilitate the addition of a couple of new buildings. Replacing the sheep and goat show arena, a new maintenance shop and cold storage facility have been designated for these funds.

Updating the equipment our maintenance staff uses on a daily basis has also taken precedence. We held an auction and sold outdated equipment and in return used the proceeds to order a new Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck and a new Bobcat Skid Loader. We also replaced an additional truck and ordered a new Batwing mower.

With a substantial donation from Nutrien, we were able to replace the plaza stage with a new concrete stage as well as install air conditioning in the Ag and Fine Arts building. The pond in Rocshman Park was drained, dredged, and the rock was replaced making the pond safer and esthetically appealing. Improvements and updates to the grounds are continuous and I strive to keep the momentum going to keep our fairgrounds in top-notch condition and safe for year-round visitors.

I have had the privilege of residing on several committees during the last three years: including the executive committee for two years under two different presidents. I was also appointed the lead director of the sheep department, parade committee, and the concessions committee. While serving on the Entertainment Committee, we successfully returned the car show to the 2022 Allen County Fair. This event was held for many years in the past and I felt enough time had passed to resurrect the show. We set a goal for the number of cars/participants this year and exceeded that goal. Our goal is to continue the show and make it bigger & better in the years to come!

Taking on the role as a Board member of the Agricultural Society and committing 100% to the members and community has been a passion of mine. I made it a mission to attend every meeting and stay engaged in all activities before, during, and after the fair.

I want to thank each and everyone of the Allen County Agricultural Society Board Members. Without you, the Allen County Fairgrounds would not be the venue it is today. I am asking once again for your vote in November. There is still much to do for the future and I want to continue our mission.

I have proven that I am a dedicated, hardworking board member and will always hold true to my word. I am dependable and willing to assist any department that needs my help. I am truly excited for the accomplishments the Allen County Agricultural Society has made over the last three years and look forward to the future. There are many projects that I would love to see completed that will leave a lasting impact for generations to come!

Once again, thank you very much for your attention. I hope to continue with the momentum going forward for the youth and our community!

Sincerely,
Brock Ackerman

Allen County Fair Director
At-Large "B"

I am Dennis Fricke and I am running for Director At-Large "B". The Allen County Fair has been a family tradition for my family. My father, Bill Fricke is in the Allen County Fair Hall of Fame, he managed the Farm Bureau Food Stand for several years, and for 50+ years a Swine Superintendent. My mom, Doris Fricke was a Superintendent in the Fine Arts Department. All three of my boys exhibited swine and other projects at the fair. Bruce Fricke is currently Superintendent in Swine and Harness Departments. Some of my History at the Allen County Fair.

4-H and FFA Exhibitor for 11 years

Junior Fairboard 4 years & 2 years President

Allen County Fair King

Swine Superintendent 33 years

15+ Years 4-H Advisor

2 Terms on 4-H Council

1 year Superintendent for Harness Racing

25 Years Harness Racing Director

Vice-President Ohio Colt Racing Association

Former President Western Ohio Colt Racing Association

Served on every Standing Committee

I would appreciate your support on Wednesday, November 2nd to continue my work on the Allen County Fairboard. Thank You.

Elect Dennis Fricke Director At-Large "B"

Mark Goecke began serving as the Amanda Township Representative on the Allen County Fair Board in March of 2019. He was a 1984 graduate of Spencerville High School where he earned his State Farmers Degree and was active in FFA. He attended Miami University, Oxford for business. He worked for his family's Dairy and Grain Operation before founding, constructing, and managing his own large Dairy Beef Cattle and Grain Operation. He is a lifelong resident of Amanda Township and a member of the Allen County Agricultural Society, Farm Bureau, Midwest Electric Co-op, United Equity Co-op, and the Mercer Landmark Co-op. He served as a Director for United Equity, Inc, Delphos, Ohio from 1996 to 2000. He currently serves as Vice President of St. Patrick's Parish Church Council and is currently a Director of the Ohio Cattleman Association. He has also been involved with coaching youth sports. He has been heavily involved in helping youth with their Junior Fair Projects for the past 40 years.

Bio for Kreg Rex at Large S

My name is Kreg Rex, and I would like you to consider me for your vote for the Allen Co Sr. Fair Board. I am a lifelong member of Auglaize Township and grew up as a member of 4-H and FFA showing livestock at the Allen Co Fair in the 70's and 80's. The fair has always been an important part of my life and where my family has spent their vacation every summer. I have been happily married for 29 years to my wife, Joanne. We are blessed with two children. Our daughter Maddison was a 4-H member, Jr. Fair Board member, 4-H advisor, and poultry superintendent. She is currently close to graduating from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa. Our son Zane was a 4-H member, Allen East FFA member, and Jr. Fair Board member. He is currently enrolled at Miami University. With both of my children out of 4-H, I am looking to devote my time and energy into being a Sr. Fair Board Member and to increase my involvement in the Allen County Fair.

I have always been devoted to and involved with the fair, having spent the last 15 years volunteering. I have been a 4-H advisor for 14 years, Open Class Poultry Superintendent for 15 years, Jr. Fair Poultry Superintendent for 14 years, Jr. Fair Board Advisor for 5 years, and 4-H Council member for 3 years. Over the years, I have volunteered and helped at many levels and capacities and understand the workings of the fair, the value of our volunteers and superintendents. As an advisor for Harrod Lively 4-H Club and Junior Fair Board, I enjoy working with the youth of Allen County and watching them grow and mature into responsible adults due directly to 4-H and FFA. I have seen this through my own kids and the kids that I am fortunate enough to get to work with the Junior Fair Board. I feel that the youth and our youth organizations are at the heart and the future of the Allen County Fair.

Having over 25 years of experience in management, I also understand the importance of the financial and business side of running the fair. For the past 8 years I have been the parts manager at S&S Volvo. I have continuously grown the parts department to record sales. I have achieved this through a strong work ethic, promotions, and customer service. I understand the importance of these same aspects as they relate to running the fair and being financially responsible.

I would appreciate your vote on November 2nd for Allen Co Sr. Fair Board. I will strive to listen to the membership and continue the youth and agricultural traditions of the Allen Co Fair. My hope is to help the fair become the best it can be for generations to come; as I learned in 4-H "To **Make** the Best *Better*" Thank you for your vote.

Kreg Rex

Please allow me to take a few moments of your time to introduce myself. My name is DJ Smith, and I am seeking re-election for At Large on the Allen County Fair Board.

I have been a resident of Allen County for 37 years. I attended the local school of Allen East High School and graduated in 2003. During school, I worked summer jobs that kept me out in the community where I have met many people who respect Allen County. I have been employed at Buckeye Pipeline for the last 15 years.

My wife Ashley and I are raising our daughter Logan alongside many of your kids in our community. When I was in school, I was a member of 4-H and I raised rabbits. Ashley was a member of 4-H as well and she showed pigs. Once I was introduced to pigs, I then showed pigs with Ashley my last year of 4-H. Our daughter Logan is now showing and raising pigs. We think it is very important for our daughter to be a part of 4-H due to it teaches her responsibility and offers her the chance to meet other kids from local schools. We explained to her that being a part of a 4-H club is a privilege and she is to take it seriously but have lots of fun. She absolutely loves showing pigs.

I am committed to the growth and vitality of this county and the Allen County Fair. At the heart of this I believe that we must all work to keep Allen County Fair strong. Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to coach our next generation in youth softball/basketball and High School Softball at Bath.

My family loves the Allen County Fair and everything it stands for, such as the youth of this community to learn to grow and prosper as they take on each project they do. Allen County Fair provides several opportunities in areas such as leadership, career development, livestock, and Community Service. I stand strong for Allen County Fair and with this commitment. In closing I would like to thank you for the last three years and hope with your continued support to be back for another three.

Thank you,

DJ Smith

Hi, my name is **Jake** Clum,

I'm a resident of Auglaize township. I must thank my wife Joie and kids Sondra, Stuart, Shanie, Skyla for the sacrifices they've made for me to serve this fair board. I've served the kids and people of Allen County for the past 3 years to the best of my abilities with the correspondence that I collected from you all. I feel one of our greatest accomplishments was having a fair for the kids during COVID even though it might not have been suggested by the "experts". I am a firm believer that we should do whatever possible during the 9 days of the fair to give the kids the best opportunities possible and during the rest of the year be as financially responsible as we can, while improving what we have. I have enjoyed the responsibility of serving the Allen County Ag Society the last 3 years and if given the opportunity to continue.

Thank you,
Jake Clum

My name is Ian Langhals, I grew up and currently live in Columbus Grove, Ohio. I was involved in 4H for 9 years in which I showed hogs, chickens, lambs, and cattle, and had experience with the Jr. Fairboard. This personal experience has made me aware of the operations of the Jr. Fair, which I believe is the most vital part of the fair itself. Growing up in such an environment, I have had great role models in the fair, and I am running so that I can be one myself for the exhibitors, community, and all fairgoers. During the week of the fair, I **assisted** the Sr. Fairboard with any tasks they needed such as running equipment on the track, helping with shows, and anything else they needed assistance with. In doing so, I have seen the sacrifices required of the Sr. Fairboard and am prepared to make those myself.