



Summary of 2023 Accomplishments – Embarrass Region Fair Association

Association Structure update - Many internal association improvements were made in 2023, including adopting a perpetual governance structure, revised the bylaws and policies and rebranding as the Timber Hall event Center. We also developed committees for Strategic Planning, Finance, Nominating and Governance, Marketing, Fair, Events, and Arena. In June we launched a new web page, Facebook page, and a robust digital marketing and advertising campaign and diversified our newspaper and hard copy announcements. To track and organize our valuable volunteers, we adopted POINT as our volunteer management software and recorded over 4800 volunteer hours for 2023. We also hired a bookkeeper, implemented QuickBooks and automated some of our financial processes. Guiding our efforts is our revised Strategic Plan and our current and future goals.

Facility updates – New doors and trim were installed in June and were funded through a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant, the Basic Energy and Retrofit grant from AEOA, community donations, and association funds. A water filtration system was improved upon, and Friends of the Babbit Library provided us a Little Library which was installed in September.

In 2023, Timber Hall & ERFA property was utilized over 110 days throughout the year for events such as private party events (weddings/reunions/funerals/fundraisers), community events, Association events, livestock/horse events in the arena, and camping in addition to seasonal cold storage.

Funding/awards received by:

In January we received the Touchstone Energy Community Award from Lake Country Power which we won for demonstrating outstanding dedication to the local community. Throughout the year and through various grants and funding opportunities we received funds totaling over \$1.6M from; the State of Minnesota, a cash capitol project bill (\$1.5M), the Iron Range Regional Rehabilitation Board (\$60K), Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (\$20K), Lake Country Power, Arrowhead Arts Council, Natural Food Coop, and Embarrass, Breitung, Kugler, Waasa, and White Townships. In November we launched a GiveMN fundraising campaign and we raised almost \$2,000 to fund the Winter Festival and Easter Egg-stravgaza.

Pancake breakfasts – over 2400 meals were served to our community in the 8 events held in 2023. In addition, we honored law enforcement, firefighters, and military veterans. We also partnered with Memorial Blood Center and collected 107 pints of blood over 3 separate drives; partnered with DAV to collect clothing and partnered with the *Timberjay* to collect toys for area children for Christmas. He Timber Hall also hosted a tack swap, craft fairs, Girl Scout cookie sale, held a book swap placing 1,000 books into readers hands, and more. Thank you to all who



came out and all who volunteered for these events. Many smiles were shared, connections were made with old and new friends!

84th Annual Embarrass Region Fair – Implemented new marketing strategies and digital campaigns. Over 6,000 people attended the fair in August, an increase of nearly 2,000 from 2022. Lots of great memories were made. New this year were puppet and magic shows and Little Miss Embarrass. There was music, food trucks, machinery, crafts for sale, exhibit barn, K-9 demonstration, Horse Show, Dog Show, Mud Run, Demo Derby, Softball tournament, and much more. 2023 fair sponsorship campaign brought in over \$8,500 with 26 sponsors. Something for everyone!

Team Penning and Ranch Sorting – held the 15th annual event August 18, 19 & 20. Team penning had 108 runs on Friday and Saturday. Ranch Sorting had 84 runs on Sunday.

New programs offered – In November, Tae Kwon Do and Indoor Walking started 2 times a week.