

**The California Mid-State Fair
Heritage Foundation, Inc.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Annual Membership Meeting**

November 12, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Torgerson.

BODs Present: Susan Beebe, Dave Belmont, Mike Coon, Joanne Cummings, Debbie Dusi, Daren Friedle, Kaci Marcotte, Deana Nelson, Justin Perino, John Peschong, Ross Tenhaeff, Michael Torgerson

BODs Absent: Daren Friedle, Brenda Fletcher,

Members/Guests: Clara Baker, Steve Baker, David Baldwin, Cindy Belmont, Colleen Bojorquez, Deprise Brescia, Steve Chambers, Deb Cipriano, Michael Cipriano, Bob Cummings, Kim Daily, James Eade, Lora Eade, Jeff Gallagher, Anna Hahn, Denise Hale, Ed Hale, Thomas Humphrey, Axel Kuntz, Patricia Lawrence, Randy Lawrence, Denise Lemmons, Dennis Lemons, Lori Marquez, Scott Monroe, Jimmy Nichols, Nancy Nichols, Renee Petroff, John Piearcy, Michael Silvas, Yolanda Silvas, Rob Swift, Susie Torgerson, Tisha Tucker, Dena Whitaker, Codie Wilshusen, Cynthia Wilshusen, Jim Wilshusen

Approval of Agenda: Joanne Cummings made a motion to approve the agenda. Susan Beebe made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcement/Introductions/Member Comments:

Chairman Torgerson welcomed the members and noted it was nice to have so many in attendance.

New Business:

A. Overview of Board Committee by Committee Chairs

1. Executive Committee – Michael Torgerson indicated the committee includes the Heritage Foundation Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer. The committee meets to discuss Board business, set agenda items, and discuss additional pertinent Board matters.
2. Budget/Audit/Endowment – no report.
3. Bylaws – Debbie Dusi explained that the bylaws are usually updated in the years there are no elections to keep the Foundation up to date on governmental and Foundation requirements.
4. Concessions – Dave Belmont reported that the Heritage Foundation has many concessions. He and the committee work closely with fair staff and Brett Butterfield to ensure that concessions operate smoothly during the Fair and comply with all regulations.
5. Elections – Deana Nelson reported that the elections committee oversees all matters voted on by the membership.
6. Facilities – Ross Tenhaeff stated the committee primarily manages setup, take-down, and capital improvements for the Heritage lounge.

7. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe reported that the committee is responsible for presenting a professional image, along with informing the public of Heritage Foundation events. Susan stated that this is done primarily on social media platforms.
 8. Membership—Michael Torgerson indicated that Brenda Fletcher was currently ill, and stated the Board sends their thoughts to the family. Michael reported that Joanne Cummings would serve as acting Chair at this time. The committee manages all membership-related items: invoices, pickup packets, hospitality, and the membership waitlist.
 9. Balcony – Mike Coon stated all 203 balcony seats are sold out. The committee maintains the waitlist for members interested in purchasing balcony seats when they become available.
 10. Scholarships – Joanne Cummings explained that scholarships started with the Farm Bureau crab feed. Any student who has exhibited at the fairgrounds can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship.
 11. Strategic Plan – Justin Perino indicated the purpose of the committee is to look ahead 5-10 years and bring forward to the Board priorities that meet the goals of the Foundation and ways to achieve them.
- A. Special Committee Reports:
1. Hugh Pitts Memorial Fund Capital Project – Dave Belmont stated that this committee was formed after Hugh Pitts, a longtime board member, passed away. A fundraiser generated \$238,500, and the committee has presented many project ideas to the family. Upon approval, this project will be completed with the family’s consent.
 2. Legal Task Force – Michael Torgerson stated that this committee deals with legal issues facing the Board and works closely with the Fair to mitigate them.
 3. Capital Improvements – Deana Nelson reported that the committee reviews any request from the fair administration, applies for grants, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding these improvements.
 4. Barn – Michael Torgerson indicated this is a new committee and is just in its infancy, working on recommendations for replacing the beef barn.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dusi
Secretary

*The next Annual Membership Meeting:
Wednesday, November 11, 2026*