



### The BUZZ: Exclusively for Blue Ribbon Foundation Volunteers

Welcome to "The Buzz" – the inaugural Blue Ribbon Foundation Volunteer eNewsletter!

YOU – our valued volunteers – are central to the success of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation's mission, so we decided it's time to stay connected to you year-round! Look for issues to be emailed three times a year: January, June and September.

In each issue, expect to relive some of the best Iowa State Fair volunteer moments, learn about non-Fairtime volunteer opportunities, test your Fair knowledge, look back at some of the Fairgrounds' improvements that have materialized over the decades, learn about new ways to engage with the Blue Ribbon Foundation, and so much more.



#### Successful 2022 Iowa State Fair

Nearly 600 fabulous volunteers joined us throughout the 11 days of the 2022 Iowa State Fair to sell bottled water and merchandise, shuttle 1854 Society members, host 1854 Society members in the new Jake's Club hospitality suite, and run the BINGO tent.

THANK YOU! We can't do what we do, raise the funds we raise, or provide the exceptional Fair experience we provide without your help!



#### 2023 Iowa State Fair Sign-Up

In five short months it will be time to sign up for volunteer shifts for the 2023 Fair. The June 2023 issue of The Buzz will be the main communication tool to kick-off the volunteer sign up process (using the same sign-up portal again this year).

Since this communication tool is new for the 2023 Fair, we promise you will have detailed sign-up information well before the June issue is released. But never hesitate to reach out to Meg by phone (515-262-3111 Ext. 370) or email (Meg@BlueRibbonFoundation.org) with questions as you consider your availability to volunteer this year.

# Volunteer Spotlight



**Tracy Forbes** - Tracy was raised coming to the Iowa State Fair every year with her entire family. One fond early memory involved eating picnic lunches that her mom and grandmother made because there were very few food stands back then.

Her family has entered numerous competition categories over the years, including vegetables, flowers, food, needle work, and horses, to name a few. Her mom was the ring secretary of the Society Horse Show for 27 years.

So it was a natural fit when in 1994 Tracy began volunteering for the Blue Ribbon Foundation to organize the volunteers that staff the bottled water booth in front of the John Deere Agriculture Building, which Tracy continues to do to this day. Throughout these many years, she has broadened her knowledge of all things Blue Ribbon Foundation. Since April 2021, she's even been coming in to help us at the office several days a week!

She recently shared, "the icing on the cake is working with a great group in the BRF office, plus the ability to give back brings me joy."

**Debbie Stewart** - Debbie's love for the Fair started when she was nearing the empty nester stage in her life. She chose the Blue Ribbon Foundation because of her love for what the organization stands for, to meet new people, and to talk with Fairgoers about their shared love for the Fair.

She knows the commitment it takes to put on a successful event, so Debbie would take vacation during the full 11-day run and is on the Fairgrounds every single day either volunteering for the Foundation or enjoying it as a Fairgoer! She has been known to work a shift or two (or more) for The Rib Shack concession stand as well.

Debbie has made several lifelong friendships while volunteering for the BRF that continue to this day. She believes, "volunteering is good for the mind and soul!"

**A sincere thank you to both Tracy and Debbie!**

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### Spring Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have time this spring to help the Fair's grounds crew tidy up landscaping? Are you willing to share your gardening talents to help clean out flower beds, pull weeds, trim trees, and make the Fairgrounds ready for the busy summer season?

If yes, then [email Meg](#) and we will connect with you this spring with date options and details.



### Did You Know?

You can contribute to the Blue Ribbon Foundation's preservation and capital improvement efforts by donating on your Iowa 1040 tax filing.

### Corndog Checkoff Information



### Let's Stay Connected

Do you want to stay in-the-know with all things Blue Ribbon Foundation? Then check out the links below:

[Fall 2022 Newsletter](#)

### Read the Blog



### Where on the Fairgrounds?

Can you identify where this old structure was located on the Fairgrounds? Do you remember what it was called? [Email Meg](#) your answer!



### Save-The-Dates

Corndog Kickoff – Saturday, July 8

Volunteer Reception - Wednesday, July 19 (Tentative)

Iowa State Fair – August 10-20

### Corndog Kickoff Information



### Fair Project in the Works

During the 2022 Iowa State Fair, the Blue Ribbon Foundation announced a \$25 million renovation project for the livestock barns.

The Cattle, Horse, Sheep and Swine barns will receive upgrades specific to each barn's needs, such as roofing, flooring, offices, restrooms, etc.

The Sheep Barn will be the first to receive updates.



**Blue Ribbon Foundation Staff and Contact Information:**

Peter Cownie, Executive Director | 515-262-3111, ext. 371

Robin Taylor, Assistant Director | 515-262-3111, ext. 373 | [Email Robin](#)

Julianna Curtis, Sponsorship Director | 515-262-3111, ext. 376 | [Email Julianna](#)

Drew Sniezek, Communications Manager | 515-262-3111, ext. 375 | [Email Drew](#)

Meg Courter, Development Manager | 515-262-3111, ext. 370 | [Email Meg](#)

