

Candidates Bios

Mike Allen, Alma

Mike's time with GCFFY started at the age of 9 and over the years as an exhibitor he showed beef and swine. As time has gone on, he has switched his hat from a showman to a fair parent and mentor as his daughters have been exhibiting at GCFFY. North of Alma Mike has a beef cattle farm with 80 head of beef cows, calves and steers. In his spare time, him and his wife Katie like to travel to see the country side in Michigan. Mike would like to be on the board of directors to bring another set of eyes to the board. As a livestock farmer, he believes he could provide valuable information that could help improve the future of the GCFFY.

Mackenzie Crumbaugh, St. Louis

Mackenzie grew up in a farming family and is married to Kyle, a cash crop farmer, located in St. Louis. Together they have two daughters that will both be Peewees at the 2026 fair. The fair has always been a highlight of Mackenzie's summer and she hopes her girls will feel the same way about it. Mackenzie would like to be on the board to be kept in the loop on fair information, help make decisions for the fair to continue to be successful, be a voice to help our youth and to be in the know for future years.

Jennifer Dickman, Alma

Jennifer Dickman has been a dedicated leader and supporter of youth in our community for many years. She started at a young 4-Her herself, later turning into a 4-H Leader and establishing a club. She strives to impact young exhibitors to learn, grow and lead. Her lifelong commitment to agriculture education and leadership development are passions that she holds dearly. She strives to help make an impact, educate and be the voice for the younger generation. Her passion for leadership has been running deep for over thirty years for the Youth of Gratiot County.

Currently a teacher at Saint Marys Catholic School she combines her passion for education and community service for our next generation. In her free time, she helps her family operate a beef cattle operation, while holding on to the strong ties of hard work and stewardship of the land. As her four children have surpassed the 4-H age, she now holds truth of her family's dedication to the next generation with her grandchildren. She strives to help them understand the commitment, value, truth, and hard work being involved in agriculture. You can either catch Jennifer being involved in a community event some way or form, at her lake house up north, or visiting her favorite travel destination in Utah.

She hopes to take her experience as an exhibitor, 4-H leader, parent of past exhibitors, and a community member to help establish the voices of the upcoming generations to come. Her understanding that as time changes, values change, traditions change, and community changes. Jennifer believes that you have to adapt and adjust with these changes to help keep organizations striving to the best of their ability. Being on the Fair's board of Directors she can leave an impact by being the voice of change and stability.

Jennifer is interested in being involved on the fair's board of directors as a way for her to show, impact, and exhibit her passion for our community, our exhibitors, and our families of the GCFFY.

She cares deeply about the generations to come and find it so important to listen, learn and be the voice to keep the best week of the summer alive. Jennifer would like to be the voice to promote, educate and serve the GCFFY as a fair board director that leads in helping shape the future of the GCFFY.

Leann Grace, Sumner

As a youth, Leann was an active participant in the Montcalm County 4H fair. During this time, she also raised and showed Highland Cattle all over the country. When Leann moved to Gratiot County several years ago, she connected with Becky Hirschman. Soon after, she started volunteering with the Horse Program, including Horse Camp, the GCFFY State Qualifying Show, and the GCFFY. She joined Kountry Kids 4H club in 2021, and then became a Gold Level Administrator in 2022. Leann continued to invest in the Horse Program, and became the Vice President of the Horse Developmental Committee in 2024. She and her husband Tony have three children and live in Sumner on their small hobby farm. Tony oversees Alma Tire Companies, a locally-owned family business. While an RN by trade, Leann currently spends most of her time homeschooling their three children, and managing the farm.

Leann is interested in joining the Fair Board to further invest in the GCFFY and the opportunities it presents for all local youth. Since hearing of the need for new Directors in December of 2024, she has attended the monthly meetings to learn more about what it means to be an active board member.

Becky Hirschman, Ithaca

The first time Becky came to GCFFY, it was to watch a certain beef exhibitor named Matt—who would later become her husband. Together they have two children. Over the years their kids brought many different projects to the fair and grew up in the fair. Becky has watched many other kids grow up at this fair and some are now back as parents, leaders and board members. She has gotten to know and work with some great people because of the GCFFY. Becky believes the fair should be a place for our youth to learn skills, life lessons, spend time with family and friends and have fun. She feels the fair is a great place to educate the community about the youth projects.

Seeking another term, Becky is interested in continuing on the board of directors to provide a great event for our exhibitors, their families, our sponsors and the community. She understands how a board works and feels it's our job to look at all sides of an issue and then try to make the best decision for all. Becky will show up and contribute at meetings and she will put in the work before, during and after fair as well for all of the other events. After many years of being on the board and serving as the horse superintendent, Becky still loves the GCFFY and thinks it's the best week of the summer!

Kent Humm, Breckenridge

Kent, his wife Erika, along with their two sons Keegan and Karson have all been a part of the fair since Keegan started showing in 2011. Though the boys have aged out Kent and his family continue to come help the fair run as smooth as it can, they're here to help with whatever is needed and stay until the end. From behind-the-scenes Kent helps ensure everything is properly packed up and put away once fair week wraps up.

Throughout the week, Kent listens closely to feedback from exhibitors, volunteers, and visitors, making notes on suggested changes. He believes that any decisions by the fair board should balance the needs of everyone involved—the youth, fair coordinator, community, sponsors and the carnival—so that improvements benefit the fair as a whole without placing unfair burden on any one group. Seeking another term on the board, Kent would like to continue to be involved in helping out with all aspects of the fair. Not growing up at the fair, he has enjoyed coming and being part of what many consider the best week of the summer.

Matt Jorae, Elwell

Raised locally in Gratiot County, Matt participated in the GCFFY when he was young. He grew up on a family farm and has enjoyed being involved in agriculture his whole life. His son is now involved in the GCFFY where he shows steers and other still exhibits. Matt would enjoy having an influence on keeping GCFFY a fun and rewarding week for the kids.

Having a young son that is involved in 4-H and participates at the fair with a lot of years left in 4-H and Matt would like to get another term on the board to be involved more with the fair and help make continuous improvements for the fair. He enjoyed showing at this fair when he was young and would like to take a more active role in the fair.

Larry Richards, Alma

Larry actively supports GCFFY in many ways throughout the year. As a past board member seeking to get back on the board Larry is very involved. He is active in playing a sizable part of organizing the fair's winter storage to be able to best utilize our space and helping with getting everything set up. Larry is always willing to bring help along for anything that's needed around the fairgrounds, including his daughter Kaylee. During the fair and throughout the year, Larry helps in countless ways throughout the week without seeking recognition. Larry is the owner of ASAP Sales and Service and ASAP Towing in Alma and always has the best interest of the fair at heart.