



**Warren County A&L Fair board members taking part in the recent Tennessee Association of Fairs 2018 Convention are, front row, from left, Marla Cantrell, Jenny Kelsey, Jewel Medlen, Nedra Davenport, Chrystal Patton, Haile Adams, Becky Clark, Tracey Scott holding Hattie Scott, Carol Grandey, Beckee Bell, and Susan Burks. Back row, Steven Helton, Brian Scott, Joey Clark, Nate Harris, Wayne Davenport, Kevin Wilson, Jeff Carter, Kenneth Medlen, Steve Grandey, Steve Helton, Jeff Matheny, Justin Rich, Dustin Chisam and Mike Pelham.**



The Warren County A&L Fair started in 1954 after the County Court purchased a site and built facilities in 1953 for a new nonprofit fair. This started a new phase in county fairs in our county, only after traveling down a rocky road beginning in 1859.

According to historical documents, the McMinnville and Warren County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was organized in April, 1859, serving as a prelude to our current fair system. Several fairs were presented during the years of varying sizes. The fair was halted in 1861 due to the Civil War, but rebounded slightly in 1867. The year of 1868 saw the renewal of a true county fair, and was presented Oct. 4-5 with assorted contests and classes for exhibitors.

Between the 35-year period of 1880 and 1915, Warren County had no fair. Finally in 1915, a group of citizens determined to have a fair started making plans. The fair featured largely local content, offered no carnival, and had few out-of-county exhibits. It was well received and continued in the same format through 1921.

The Roaring Twenties brought a better economy, with the 1922 Warren County Fair Association chartered including prominent merchants and farmers in the county.

Even through The Depression in the 1930s, the 1933 fair flourished with several free acts and fireworks featured each night. The fair prospered until the war years of 1942-45, but continued to operate with limited attendance and participation.

The 1953 fair was held at the old fairgrounds on Red Road, and was the last produced by the Warren County Fair Association. This ended the third phase of county fairs in our county, with the opening of the new fair on the New Smithville Highway in September of 1954, the fourth era of fairs in our county began.

The Warren County Agriculture and Livestock Fair has continued to grow and is an award-winning fair, just receiving the State Championship Award in the AA Division at the Tennessee Association of Fairs 2018 Convention.

By virtue of winning the state AA award, Warren County will compete against the A Division winner and AAA Division winner in the Champion of Champions competition in January.

A highlight of the fair for many visitors is Fairfield Village, a complete town of buildings filled with various working museums. The Warren County A&L Fair was the first in the state to start this type of project with the blacksmith shop being built in 1987, followed by Harrison Cabin, and the hardware and mill in 1988.

Since its inception fair presidents include Clifford McClain, 1954-1957; Bernard Henegar, 1958; Phillip Grandey, 1959; T.R. (Tom) Woods, 1960-1973; Wilson Womack, 1974-1978; Clifford McClain 1979-1993; Steve Grandey, 1994-2006; Kevin Lawrence, and current president Kenneth Medlen.