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Oregon State Fair CEO to Retire after 40 Plus Years in Industry

Mike Paluszak moving into a new chapter; optimistic about fair's future

SALEM, Ore. – After more than 40 years in the fair industry, and five years as [Oregon State Fair](#) CEO, Mike Paluszak is retiring. Paluszak took over the reins in October 2014, during a pivotal moment in the Fair's history.

"Mike Paluszak has done an exceptional job during his time as CEO of the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center," said John Chandler, Oregon State Fair Council Chair. "We simply couldn't have found anyone better than Mike to provide leadership and guidance as the Fair transitioned from state control to semi-public status. He was the ideal choice to head up the new organization, and the numbers prove it."

Paluszak stepped into the role with an initial two-year contract and was tasked with reversing a sizeable annual loss at the state fairgrounds, made even more challenging by millions in deferred maintenance. His tenure resulted in significant changes along with a positive outlook for the [Oregon State Fair and Expo Center](#).

"We have been profitable, established financial stability, developed a great team and are poised to continue this trend for many years to come," said Mike Paluszak. "Our organization will receive funding for much-needed facility deferred maintenance throughout this state-owned property, including restoration of our two historic structures — the Horse Stadium and Poultry Building. "

Paluszak says he is proud of the work he's done, yet is looking forward to his next chapter with his wife, as they move into retirement in 2020.

“He will be missed greatly, of course, but one of his many legacies is a well-functioning and profitable enterprise to hand over to the new CEO, and the Council is confident that we have a solid foundation on which to build as we select the next leader of the OSFEC,” said Chandler.

Paluszak’s retirement is effective at the end of February 2020. The process for his replacement will begin soon.

About the Oregon State Fairgrounds and Exposition Center

The Oregon State Fairgrounds and Exposition Center in Salem, Oregon works with businesses, industries, government agencies and individuals to promote, develop and expand the activities and programs hosted at the fairgrounds. The venue is 185 acres with facilities and resources to support services for events ranging from business conventions to major concerts. More information on the Oregon State Fairgrounds and Expo Center can be found [here](#).

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