



## Lehigh County Agricultural Society Unveils Plaques Honoring Leon Peters and Raymond Hoffman

### For Immediate Release

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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**Allentown, PA** – Lehigh County Agricultural Society proudly held a plaque unveiling ceremony on April 27 at the Fairgrounds, honoring the remarkable lives and lasting contributions of two distinguished leaders, Leon Peters and Raymond Hoffman. Both men dedicated more than four decades of service to the Society and played significant roles in shaping the success and legacy of The Great Allentown Fair.

Leon Peters served the Society with unwavering commitment for more than 42 years. He joined the Board of Directors in 1978, encouraged by former Fair President William Harris Jr., and quickly became a trusted leader known for his financial expertise and steady guidance. Over the years, Mr. Peters served in numerous roles, including as a member of the Executive Committee, Treasurer beginning in 2012, and ultimately as President of the Society in 2021.

Among his many contributions, Mr. Peters was instrumental in strengthening the Society's financial foundation and was a driving force behind the establishment of The Great Allentown Fair Foundation in 2019. He also played a key role in the inaugural capital campaign to renovate and illuminate the cupola atop the Martin F. Ritter Grandstand Building. In recognition of his leadership, the structure was named the Leon S. Peters Cupola, a lasting symbol of his impact on the Fairgrounds and the Allentown skyline.

In addition to his work with the Society, Mr. Peters had a distinguished career in the brokerage industry, retiring from Morgan Stanley in 2010, and served for 18 years on the Lehigh County Assessment Appeals Board. He is remembered for his dedication, humility, and willingness to serve in any capacity.

Raymond Hoffman also devoted more than 40 years of service to the Society, beginning his tenure on the Board of Directors in 1980. A respected and visionary leader, Mr. Hoffman held numerous leadership roles, including serving as Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer starting in 2012. His tenure was marked by a strong commitment to growth, improvement, and long-term sustainability.

Mr. Hoffman played a pivotal role in advancing capital improvements across the Fairgrounds. One of his most notable achievements was completing the installation of the wrought iron fencing surrounding the Fairgrounds' 46 acres, an enhancement that elevated both the beauty and security of the property while preserving its welcoming atmosphere for generations of Fairgoers.

He is remembered for his strong work ethic, pride in the Fairgrounds, and dedication to both family and community. His leadership and vision helped shape the Fair into what it is today.

Permanently installed on the Grandstand, the plaques stand as lasting tributes to both men. Their legacies of leadership, service, and commitment will continue to inspire future generations of Lehigh County Agricultural Society and The Great Allentown Fair.

### **About Lehigh County Agricultural Society**

Lehigh County Agricultural Society is the nonprofit owner and operator of The Allentown Fairgrounds and The Great Allentown Fair. The fair is the fulfillment of the Society's mission as stated in its bylaws. The object of the Society is and shall remain the improvement and advancement of Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Domestic and Mechanical Arts and the entertainment of its membership and patrons.

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