

Edward “Ed” W. Rock

(1939 –)

Born March 27, 1939, in Hillsboro, W.Va., Edward “Ed” W. Rock holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Glenville State College and a Master of Arts from West Virginia University. For more than 30 years, he has provided leadership to the State Fair of West Virginia.

As pressures developed to steer the Fair away from its agricultural roots, Mr. Rock always resisted. As a result, the Fair remains one of the few of its kind with a true agricultural focus.

Mr. Rock has overseen the expansion of the State Fair of West Virginia. Some developments include the establishment of the West Virginia Farm Museum, construction of the Cecil H. Underwood Youth Center highlighting 4-H and FFA exhibits, and construction of the Gus R. Douglass Annex to the West Virginia Building to highlight and expand exhibits from agricultural organizations.



The Poultry Industry Center highlights the importance of the poultry industry to West Virginia for fairgoers. The Fair has a state-of-the-art milking parlor, built to allow fairgoers to gain a better understanding of rural life.

Mr. Rock encourages use of the fairgrounds for agricultural events during the Fair and throughout the year. One recent activity was use of the Douglass Annex as a kitchen incubator, allowing small food processing businesses access to a health department approved kitchen. This enables these businesses to develop their product lines before making major facility investments.

The State Fair of West Virginia has grown exponentially under Mr. Rock’s leadership. More importantly the Fair has maintained its agricultural flavor during a time when many events were focusing on other areas of entertainment.

His leadership is demonstrated in the active role he takes in every organization with which he is associated. Some of these include the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Rotary International, Eastern Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce, and Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau.