

IFEA FOUNDATION BOARD



I remember in Boy Scouts I used to build a fire with my friends and sit around and talk and tell stories late into night, or at least until our Scoutmaster shooed us into our tents. So it was with that in mind as I sat on the patio at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa a few weeks ago during the IFEA's 61st Annual Convention, Expo & Retreat some 25 years later, doing much the same with a new set of friends and different stories to tell. The fire pits and view on that patio, along with the conversations I shared and connections I made, are permanent memory kind of stuff. Those kind of memories are only produced with people you really like with whom you share a common bond. That's what I found last week in Tucson at the IFEA convention and I hope you did as well.

As we wrap up IFEA's 61st Annual Convention, Expo & Retreat, I'm pleased to share that the IFEA Foundation made \$36,635 at the "Foundation Fiesta" Auction! This being an event, it required us to adapt to the weather a bit by moving things inside, but the feel and look were fantastic, and the food was some of the best we've ever had at the event! The Auction is the only fundraiser of the year for the Foundation and the dollars raised for it goes to some important causes within our industry. First, we provided scholarships to over 20 people to attend the Convention who could not otherwise afford to do so. These are students, volunteers and staff members from small festivals who truly benefit from the knowledge and contacts gained at the Convention. In many ways, they represent the future of our industry and investing in that is never a bad thing. The money is also used to enhance

the programming at the Convention without raising your registration fees. New and innovative speakers, along with enhanced entertainment, are just part of what is funded and provided.

To raise this kind of money, it takes a collective team effort to make it happen. A special thanks to all of the IFEA Foundation Board Members, IFEA staff members, especially Leslie McFarlane, Kaye Campbell and Steve Schmader, along with my crew from the Kentucky Derby Festival including Bridget Sherrill, Anna Miller, Lisa Stevenson, and our emcee and auctioneer for the event, Mike Berry, for their help and hard work putting together this year's Auction. Also, thank you to everyone who donated an item, purchased an item, bought a 50/50 or Fiesta Raffle ticket, or just supported us by being there.

It's been an absolute pleasure and honor to serve as your IFEA Foundation

Chair for the past year. Our continued mission to grow the festival and event industry through facilitated education and spirited networking was enhanced and grown because of your belief in what we do. Thank you again for your support and I look forward to seeing everyone at IFEA's 62nd Annual Convention & Expo next fall!

JEFF ENGLISH, CFEI
2016 IFEA Foundation
Board Chair
Vice President of
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