

Media and Public Relations Committee

Mort Gamble, Chair

Report submitted by Mort Gamble

June 23, 2015

Although this committee has not met formally for some time, the public-relations efforts of CFA have been active through the work of Mort Gamble, Chair.

In addition to maintaining news, events, and photo postings on the CFA website, I have worked closely with Cindy Pagel and Jim Cole on transitioning to new formats for the main CFA site and the Circus4Youth site. I have contributed a regular column to the *White Tops* and provided information and materials to media outlets about CFA and circus-industry concerns. A new Florida publication based in St. Petersburg will publish an article I submitted about CFA activities and the circus heritage of Florida, in July.

Most notably, I have kept abreast of animal issues, working with our Animal Welfare Committee, OABA, Feld Entertainment, and others, and have posted regular updates and alerts about pending legislation and actions by government. Although the CFA is not a registered lobbying organization, it is supportive of efforts to roll back potentially harmful legislation, ordinances, and other initiatives aimed at circus animals and those who manage or present them. We have provided almost instantaneous alerts and news bulletins regarding such actions through Facebook and the main CFA website in an effort to keep the CFA membership informed.

I wish to thank Sarah Conley and the members of her animal-welfare committee; Gary Payne; Cindy Pagel and Jim Cole; Edward Limbach; photography contributors Paul Gutheil and Dr. Don Curtis; David and Sharon Orr; Pat Pagel; Cheryl Deptula; Mary Lou Kelly and Feld Entertainment; Dan McGinnis; Ken Sopelak; Pete Adams; Peter Wagner; Katie Harmke; Pat Stevenson; Bob Johnson of OABA, and many others too numerous to mention who have kept me informed, contributed materials and updates for usage by the PR committee, and provided general support for the public-information functions of CFA.