



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION**  
COMMISSIONER CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
CHAIRMAN, MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Mississippi Fair Commission Selects New Executive Director**

The Mississippi Fair Commission Board and Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Cindy Hyde-Smith, announced today that Rick Reno will become the new Executive Director of the Mississippi Fair Commission.

Originally from Louisiana, Mr. Reno, who is a Certified Facilities Executive recognized by the International Association of Venue Managers, is an experienced arena and facility manager with over 40 years of experience. He joins the Fair Commission from VenuWorks located in Dodge City, Kansas, where he was the Executive Director. He has also managed at other venues around the country that include facilities in Oregon, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia.

Mr. Reno will be replacing long standing Fair Commission Executive Director, Billy Orr, who has successfully served the State of Mississippi for 27 years in that capacity until his recent retirement. Mr. Orr will work with Mr. Reno in the transition process and will remain on staff as the Public Relations Director for the Mississippi Fair Commission.

“We are excited that Mr. Reno is joining our excellent Fairgrounds staff to continue and expand upon our success at the State Fairgrounds. His vast experience and expertise in facility management will bring an added level of expertise to our agency and, in turn, help us build toward future success. We appreciate all the hard work and success that Billy Orr has provided to the Fairgrounds and look forward to him continuing to assist the Fair Commission in the many outreach activities for Mississippi’s citizens, agricultural organizations, and Fairgrounds patrons,” said Commissioner Hyde-Smith, who also serves as Chairman of the Mississippi Fair Commission.

The Mississippi Fair Commission oversees the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, a 105 acre facility in downtown Jackson that is home to the Mississippi Coliseum, the Mississippi Trade Mart, the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, the Mississippi State Fair, the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, and the State of Mississippi’s youth and livestock showing arenas.

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**Picture of Rick Reno, new Fair Commission Executive Director, is attached on the following page.**

