

NICK NIGOSIAN

In 1955 my family purchased a date ranch here in the Coachella Valley. For the next several years, I divided my time between the ranch and Los Angeles, where I lived until I finished my years of school at Black-Foxe Military Academy and Pepperdine University. I made the desert my permanent home in 1975, when I married my wife, Carolon. We raised two children in the desert. Our daughter is living in Los Angeles after graduating from UCLA and is presently attending graduate school and our son is a senior at Palm Desert High School.

Supervisor Roy Wilson appointed me to the Fair Board in 1997 to represent the date industry here in Riverside County. In 2003 I was elected and served as President of the Fair Board. I have been growing dates in the Coachella Valley for over 35 years. My involvement with the Date Festival goes back many years, as an exhibitor of dates and later helping out with the management of the Taj Mahal building during the Fair. Each year, my family and I look forward to enjoying and experiencing the many exhibits, carnival rides, nightly Pageant, and, of course, the food.

As a Fair Board member, I am an ambassador for the fair. It is my job to make sure that the vendors and exhibitors are happy and that everyone who comes to enjoy the fair has the best time possible. You will usually find me judging karaoke, calling raffle tickets at the rodeo, supporting the FFA and 4H students in the barn, testing all the gadgets in the Fullenwider building and eating at Charlie's Chicken. Also, the entire Fair Board is on stage every night before the Festival Pageant to greet you.

During my years as a Fair Board member, there have been many improvements. We have helped to oversee the addition of asphalt in the ride areas, barn improvements, repainting of the pageant stage and the repaving backstage. We bring in top name entertainment and local talent each year, for your enjoyment. The board of directors meets regularly throughout the year to discuss the necessary improvements to help make each year more successful than the last.

The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival is unique as it showcases the history, culture and agriculture of our valley. I am proud to serve on the Date Festival Fair Board as we celebrate our 63rd year.