

*Updated 8/12/2026*

Good morning, everyone,

Although I am away on vacation, I wanted to take a few moments to provide an update regarding the upcoming New York State Grand Finals.

As some of you may have seen, our proposed new venue at the Arnot Mall was recently sold. Although we had been assured throughout the process that the sale would not impact our upcoming event, unfortunately, that has not proven to be the case. Immediately upon the sale being finalized, the new owners terminated the employees from the event center with whom we had been working and canceled all pending events. At this time, there does not appear to be a plan to reschedule those events, and we have been told that, should they choose to do so, the cost would be significantly higher than what we had been quoted.

A tremendous amount of time and energy has been invested in trying to find another venue in that area so that we could maintain the host hotel and banquet arrangements as planned. Unfortunately, at this time, a suitable alternative has not been found.

I am deeply disappointed by this outcome. I had been contacted by many exhibitors, not only from New York but also from neighboring states, who were very excited about our new location and the opportunities it offered. Unfortunately, it appears that it was simply not meant to be this year.

The other members of the Show Committee have contributed enormously and have been working tirelessly to find a solution. Show Committee Chairperson Deb Vecchio was able to work with the New York State Fair in Syracuse and secure the Center of Progress building at a reduced price for our show.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this message, I am currently away until this weekend. In my absence, the other Show Committee members have been doing a tremendous job of quickly working to cancel our existing commitments and, at the same time, secure new host hotel and banquet arrangements in the Syracuse area. I do not have all of the details at this time, but as soon as we have more information, another update will be provided.

I truly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we navigate this unexpected change.

I also want to remind everyone that this change was made in response to the concerns and requests of you—the members and delegates—not to return to the Poultry Barn. When the initial price for the Center of Progress was presented, it was understandably difficult to justify, which is why we worked so hard to find a more fiscally responsible solution elsewhere. Unfortunately, with the circumstances we are now facing, the Center of Progress remains a costly option, but it provides us with a viable location and allows us to move forward with the Grand Finals.

I remain optimistic for many of the same reasons I shared in my previous messages. With the convention being located on the West Coast this year, I believe there is a strong possibility that we will see good numbers and continued support for our state show.

As always, I ask that we approach this as a team effort and, most importantly, with a positive attitude. There are certainly many details to work through, but the committee is working hard to make this event successful.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Show Committee with questions or concerns.

Thank you all for your patience, your support, and your continued commitment to the New York State Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association.

NYRCBA President Ken Nesbitt