



## PRESS RELEASE

**Louisville, KY (August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018)** - The Kentucky Florists' Association (KFA) held their sixty-first annual convention, Floral Wonderland, August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Louisville East - Hurstbourne in Louisville, Kentucky. Each year during the convention several floral design competitions are held. One floral design competition is to determine the Kentucky Florists' Association's Designer of the Year. This year the competition was sponsored by KD & Company and Floriology Institute. The 2018 Designer of the Year is Dave Campbell KMF of David's Floral in Lexington, Kentucky. This year's runner-up was Randall Powell of Berea, Kentucky.

The Designer of the Year contest consists of two parts. In the first part, the competing designers enter an arrangement in each of three categories. This year, for the wedding category, "Fairy Tale Wedding" the designers were tasked with creating a bridal bouquet, head piece, and boutonniere. In the sympathy category, designers created an arrangement fitting the theme "She was the HEART of the Family." Finally, in the designer's choice category contestants created an arrangement with the theme "Tropical Wonderland." All arrangements were then anonymously judged by a panel of evaluators. The results were as follows:

### Wedding: Fairy Tale Wedding

First Place: Randall Powell CFD, Berea, KY

Second Place: Chase Mosko, Chase Mosko Design, London, KY

Third Place: Dave Campbell KMF, David's Floral, Lexington, KY

Honorable Mention: Kaitlin Farlee, Kentucky Department of Facilities, Frankfort, KY

Honorable Mention: Lane Flynn, Kroger Floral, Lexington, KY

### Sympathy: She was the HEART of the Family

First Place: Beth Sebastian KMF, Kentucky Department of Facilities, Frankfort, KY

Second Place: Kaitlin Farlee, Kentucky Department of Facilities, Frankfort, KY

Third Place: Jamie Hayre, The Craft Nook, Winchester, KY

Honorable Mention: Keith Bauer, Huntingburg Greenhouse in Huntingburg, IN

Honorable Mention: Dave Campbell KMF, David's Floral, Lexington, KY

### Designer's Choice: Tropical Wonderland

First Place: Sherry Brides KMF, Claire Marie Boutique & Floral, Seymour, IN

Second Place: Randall Powell CFD, Berea, KY

Third Place: Dave Campbell KMF, David's Floral, Lexington, KY

Honorable Mention: Flora Ducatez, Bel-Air Florist, Versailles, KY

Honorable Mention: Chase Mosko, Chase Mosko Design, London, KY

In the second part of the competition, the four designers with the highest total combined scores must compete in a live, on-stage surprise design challenge. Each designer is given the same flowers, foliage, supplies, and containers. The designers then have twenty minutes to complete a design of their choice. The arrangements are again anonymously judged by a panel of evaluators. The scores from the live competition are doubled and added to the designers'

total score. The designer with the highest score earns the title Designer of the Year. The final four designers were:

Dave Campbell, David's Floral in Lexington, KY  
Randall Powell, Foley's Florist & Gift Shop in Berea, KY  
Chase Mosko, Chase Mosko Design, London, KY  
Kaitlin Farlee, Kentucky Department of Facilities, Frankfort, KY

This year's Designer of the Year will go on to compete in the 2019 Mid-America Cup design competition during the Arkansas Florists Association annual convention. The Designer of the Year also received a \$1000 scholarship to the Floriology Institute and will be featured as a main stage designer at the 2019 KFA convention.

Now in its second year, a Tabletop Competition was held during the opening night of the convention in conjunction with a wedding show. Contestants created table designs that were then voted on by the Friday night attendees. This year's winner of the tabletop competition was Keith Bauer of Huntingburg Greenhouse, Huntingburg, IN.

The Kentucky Florist's Association also supports the annual Hats for Hope Silent Auction benefiting Kosair Charities held Louisville, Kentucky. Floral designers create Derby hats and fascinators which are then judged by a panel of evaluators. All hats are donated to Hats for Hope to use in its next silent auction. This year's winner of the Hats for Hope Design Contest was Randall Powell CFD, Berea, Kentucky.

The Novice Design contest is an opportunity to recognize the talents of an emerging floral designers that has not yet participated in a KFA contest. This year the designers needed to create an arrangement fitting the category "Mad Hatter's Tea Party." This year's winner of the Noice Design contest was Ted Brown KMF of Kroger Floral, Lexington, KY.

The Kentucky Cup contest is open to all past Designers of the Year. This year's competition was held as a live, on-stage design challenge inspired by Food Network's "Chopped." This year's winner of the the Kentucky Cup was Paul Latham AIFD, CFD, KMF of Fleur de Lis Events & Design, Louisville, KY.

The sixty-second annual convention will be held July 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Louisville East - Hurstbourne in Louisville, Kentucky. More information when available will be posted at [www.kyflorists.com](http://www.kyflorists.com).

### **About Kentucky Florists' Association**

The Kentucky Florists' Association was established to promote excellence in the Kentucky floral industry through educational opportunities, networking and socializing with members of the industry, and advocating for Kentucky floral professionals. For more information on KFA please visit [www.kyflorists.com](http://www.kyflorists.com). There you will also find a list of all past Designers of the Year as well as all members of the KFA Hall of Fame. For weekly updates, design trends, floristry tips, and industry news be sure to like and follow KFA on Facebook, @KYFlorist.

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