

Meeting minutes from February 13th, 2003

NWA Central Iowa Chapter

8 members were in attendance at the meeting at Chip's in Ankeny.

The meeting kicked off with Bryan giving an update on some old business. The Iowa Dance Theater Company and the Downtown Partnership want us to be involved in some manner with a weather themed parade on July 1st. Bryan will look into getting some more information about this.

Bryan then gave an update on his meeting with Sally Dix from the Science Center. They are interested in a partnership that would make both our group and theirs stronger. Our April meeting is at the Science Center. We'll be able to see the Eyes on the Earth exhibit. We will also see about link each others websites.

With no other business to discuss at this time, we turned to discussion of the upcoming conference. Here is a summery from each of the teams:

Agenda: We have a full and great line-up. Check the website. Karl or Andy might possibly provide the 2 daily weather briefings. The agenda team will also look into session chairs.

Hotel: So far we have 68 non-government rate rooms reserved. 108 rooms remain in our block. 34 rooms for the government rate have been reserved. Willard will look into the possibilities of the outcome of not filling the remaining 108 rooms. He will also look into a menu for Friday's lunch and the rules on providing our own candy on the tables.

Transportation: Arrangements have been made. Brenda is going to bring us in under budget!!!

Promotion: We're going to get the lunch bags from one of Bryan's friends. She is going to beat the price we got from A&R Marketing in Ames, and offer more colors. Bryan and Mitch will finalize some colors for the bags.

Registration: Numbers are slightly lower than last year. As of today, we have 33 credit cards and 25 checks registered. So far, no vendors.

Electronics: Everything is in good shape. Might need to get wireless mics and an internet connection from the hotel.

Other: The Convention and Visitors Bureau says they can't provide free shuttles. They will once again provide information for our attendees about Des Moines. We'll see about the possibility of getting pins that promote Des Moines and getting volunteers from the CVB to help out.

We moved onto new business. We discussed the future direction of the chapter and conference. Attendance is a major issue. Should be do the conference every year, every other year or not at all?? Jason said that many people have a misconception about the Embassy. We were able to make a small profit last year, not including the big loss on the hotel rooms we had to pay for. Other questions raised were should we move somewhere else? Raise the rates or keep them the same? Other conferences are drawing attendees away from us.

After much discussion, we decided to keep doing the conference each year. We'll look at the possibility of raising student fees by \$5 and the regular by \$10. We'll vote on dates for the 2004 conference online. (As I write this, I had already looked them out and sent them to the yahoo group address.) Bryan has the CVB looking for other venues for our conference. Once we pick a date, they can get to work for us.

The meeting was adjourned. The meeting was very successful. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 12th, at the Embassy. This one is a "must attend."

Mitch Keegan

Central IA NWA Secretary