

Meeting minutes from January 21, 2004 NWA Central Iowa Chapter

President Mitch Keegan called the meeting to order at 5:15 in the Pine Room of the food court in the Memorial Union on the Iowa State campus. There were 20 members in attendance.

On Friday, January 9th, the Executive Committee met at the Embassy Suites to make sure everybody was up to speed on the up coming conference. The conference promotional item was chosen, a vinyl portfolio and pen, both of which will be imprinted with the NWA logo, and chapter information. Mitch pointed out that he wants to order the items locally to save money. Willard is putting together an FTP site for presentation submission. We might also put presentation on CD's to distribute, in the presenter is okay with this. Invitational postcards and letters to television broadcasters have been sent out.

Conference Team reports:

AGENDA: Key note speakers have all been lined up. Mike Foster, Rick Mitchell, Steve Reynolds, David Compton, Erik Rasmussen, Steve Weiss, Bob Davis, John McLaughlin, Tim Samaras, a KC NWS person, Katie Horner and Brian Busby. A few abstracts have been submitted to Dr. Gallus. We should easily fill the rest of the agenda. Dr. Gallus also discussed a poster session as well.

HOTEL: We will have a stage this year. Also, we are getting a little more room for video night. A lunch buffet would cost \$17/person, while a dinner buffet would cost \$25 to \$28/person. The Embassy is offering us a lunch buffet at dinner time at a cost of \$20/person. We voted on the menu of meatless lasagna and roast pork loin. The buffet comes with salads, vegetables, desserts and beverages. Mitch has submitted a request for proposals to the Des Moines Convention Bureau and has received 5 so far. Andy will contact the Ames Convention Bureau to see about getting a bid from Ames hotels.

PROMOTIONS: Postcards and letters sent out. Gift item has been selected. Mark Bruggom from KICD radio in Spencer has interviewed Andy about the conference and will interview Mitch in February. Steve Guimond will speak to ISU meteorology classes about the conference. Everyone was encouraged to spread the word.

REGISTRATION: Penny talked about governmental employee reservation of hotel rooms. Elise is now the team leader for registration. Name tags and attendee list duties have been divided up. The registration pages are up. We have had 2 colleges and 1 vendor express interest in attending. Penny also discussed other registration methods other than via pay pal.

Momentarily broke from conference to talk about Iowa Games—

Andy talked about a sponsorship of the Iowa Games. He proposed sponsoring 2 sports at \$1000 each. We would get our name on promotional information, etc etc. Our logo will be on the website, we will get media exposure, and a banner. We would also be able to staff a booth with general weather safety information. It was suggested that we could have an interactive game for people to participate in.

Penny pointed out that our funds are more than adequate to support this. A Motion was made by Penny and seconded by Mike Holts. The motion carried unanimously. Mitch asked Andy to be the Iowa Games chair to coordinate events and to gather volunteers. Andy will also send out information on the sports that we can sponsor.

Back to the conference—

TRANSPORTATION: All invited speakers will have transportation paid for. The central region NWS HQ has given us \$2000 to help pay for transportation expenses. Brenda talked about the different options for government personnel transportation. We should end up with in the budget set for transportation of \$5000.

OTHER: Possibility of offering a scholarship for student presenters was tabled until the February meeting. Penny compared conference costs from the 2003 conference to this year. We will end up spending about \$2000 more this year. We also talked about setting up a budget for the annual conference. It was decided to table this until after the 2004 conference and start a budget from ground up for the 2005 conference.

APRIL MEETING: Mitch talked about holding the April meeting on a Saturday and having a chapter BBQ/Potluck. The chapter would buy meat and everyone would bring a dish to share. The BBQ would be at a park somewhere in the area. Watch for further details on this.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 23rd at 6pm at the NWS office in Johnston. Karl Jungbluth will be presenting a talk on the Jordan, IA F5 tornado. The meeting will begin at 6pm.

Mitch adjourned the meeting at 6:25.

Minutes taken by Justin Gehrts.