

Central Iowa NWA Meeting -- December 11, 2008

7:00 PM at Valentino's in Ames, IA

13th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

April 2, 3, and 4th, 2009 at the Sheraton of West Des Moines

Sign up for conference teams by emailing Dave Flory (flory@iastate.edu)

Agenda Team Update (Dr. Gallus)

Speakers for the banquet; Pilcher, OK tornado; Windsor, Co tornado; Hurricane Ike in the Midwest; and the Parkersburg, IA tornado have all been confirmed. The only topic that is yet to be finalized is a speaker for the Houston area for Hurricane Ike, with the two options of speakers being Frank Billingsly and Tim Heller. There is the option of scrapping this topic and speaker in order to save money to do the financial situation; continued discussion by the agenda team will occur in the upcoming weeks will talk about options.

Vendor Team Update (Chris Maiers)

Mike Gibson and Rob Dale are both confirmed as vendors, WxCentral is likely also attending. Both Baron and WSI are also possibilities, but nothing is confirmed at this point. Last year there was a total of 5 vendors, and this year the team is hopeful to have at least if not more than those numbers. Help for selling advertisements for the agenda is needed, if you wish to please email Chris Maiers (cmaiers@gmail.com).

Registration Team Update (Chris Schaffer)

Thanks for the emails from those who are willing to help out both before and during the conference. A new registration system is in the works by Ben Schwedler, and will hopefully be operational this year (more information in webmaster section). Registration will likely open during the first half of January. A pdf file to be sent out to everyone that has attended in the past is also in the works and will hopefully be sent out shortly after the registration is open.

Travel Team Update (Chris Karstens)

No update is available at this time.

Scholarship Team Update (Dr. Gallus)

Emails to the schools of interest for the scholarship will be sent out shortly in the upcoming year. A chair for this team should be decided before the next meeting in January.

Webmaster

A new registration system is in the works and is fairly well completed. The new system will incorporate payments through Google, PayPal, and personal check; it will also try to establish information based on the attendees job background. This new system will keep the manual work to a minimum to help the registration chair. This system will be hosted on the Freese-Notis system, thus allow for longevity of the information rather than excel sheets, etc being handed from person to person each year. If there is any information that you believe should be incorporated to the system or wish to help out in any way, please let Ben Schwedler (bschwedl@iastate.edu) know.

Videotaping of the Conference

A policy document must be established, and a draft has been created by Chris Maiers. This document outlines how to obtain permission to videotape, and the consequences for doing so without permission. The document could likely be included with the alcohol policy to be read by all attendees.

Complementary Rooms

A motion was passed to allow the complimentary rooms be given to members based upon a priority list. Current thoughts that the president shall be at the top of this list, however, a dilemma between the registration chair and electronics chair among others for the second spot on this list is yet to be determined. This priority list should be established in the upcoming meetings before the conference.

Amendments of the By-Laws (Jeff Duda)

Suggestions were made to come up with proposed changes that could be made to the current by-laws, along with any additional by-laws that should be included (i.e. the room priority list). More discussion between those wishing to help will take place in the upcoming month. If you wish to be a part of the process please contact Jeff Duda (jdduda@iastate.edu) or Karl Jungbluth (karl.jungbluth@noaa.gov).

Fund Raising Opportunities

Concession stands at Hilton Coliseum are/were available for a few women's basketball games (listed on the agenda). While these games don't receive a lot of attendance they should still be sufficient fundraisers and likely be a good way to begin. Of the games listed, it was felt that the two weekend games are the best and a good response was heard from people willing to help during those games.

Honorary Membership/Registration (Chris Karstens & Jayson Prentice)

The October meeting discussed the ideas of honoring an attendee of the conference. Discussion during this meeting included the thoughts that an honorary membership or registration was a good idea. Several questions were raised about the magnitude of the gift, whether an honorary member and thus members' registration rate was sufficient or to waive registration altogether. Also, would this be continued in the following years or simply be given during this years' conference. It was felt that it would also be wise to contact the recipient beforehand to ask if this honor is appreciated, as we don't want to put someone in the 'spotlight' if they do not wish to be there. It was felt that there is a very fine line that the chapter is touching on with the honoring of this member, as to whether it was viewed as only due to *conditions* or for other reasons.

A straw poll with the meeting attendees believed that this honor would be best as a private chapter gift rather than a public honoring. Future meetings can determine the magnitude of this gift.

Treasurer's Report (Chris Karstens)

Account balance is currently at \$13,684.75.

Dues should be received by Chris Karstens by the end of the January meeting.

Other Items (Dave Flory)

Mark Rodney was a new member in attendance at this meeting; he is now living in the Des Moines area. He was previously employed in the field of hydrology in the Twin Cities area, and is glad to be a part of this chapter.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 13th at a location to be determined.

*Any questions regarding meetings minutes from December 11, 2008 can be directed at the
Central Iowa NWA Secretary Jayson Prentice (jaysonprentice@gmail.com)
Previous meeting minutes along with a copy of the agenda for this meeting can be found on the
Iowa NWA web page at the following address: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/minutes.php>*