

Central Iowa NWA Meeting – Feb. 24, 2009

7:00 PM at Agronomy Hall, Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA

13th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference - April 2, 3, and 4

Agenda Team Update (President Flory for Dr. Gallus)

Frank Billingsley has been invited and will speak on the topic of Hurricane Ike near the Gulf Coast. His talk is scheduled to be an hour long, and we are excited to hear his presentation. The remaining presentation openings are filling up quickly, only 5-6 oral presentations are remaining while 5 poster presentation spots are also open.

Travel Team Update (Rod Donovan for Brenda Brock)

Chapter funds are being used for airfare, and the NWS donation is paying for the remainder of travel costs. We are on-budget compared to last year, and all of the travel arrangements have been made.

Vendor Team Update (Chris Maiers)

The vendors are wary this year, and the team is currently trying to sell ad space in the agenda. Negotiations are ongoing with Applebee's and Cheddars, both of which appear promising at the moment. The progress has been difficult, with many offers being declined. Weather Central also informed us that they are not attending this year, which comes as a disappointment.

Registration Team Update (Chris Schaffer)

Thanks to Rod, Ricky, Adam, and James for their help in preparing the postcards. The cards have been mailed, and there are leftovers. If you would like one of the extra postcards, please let Chris Schaffer know. Jeff Duda suggested that we try to recycle any badges, lanyards, etc. by having attendees return any of the unwanted items during the conference. This could be done in the same locations as the surveys are to be turned in.

There are currently 32 registrants, which is on pace with last year. There is also 34 ISU AMS members who will be registering soon.

Scholarship Team Update (Karl Jungbluth)

Seven applications were received this year and the team has been reviewing applications. The next step is to send the top applicants to an outside judging panel. March 12 is the notification deadline, so the applications will be sent to the outside judging panel very soon.

Hotel Team Update (President Dave Flory)

There was a discussion regarding government status/room rate. The hotel is essentially booked for these government rate rooms, with Friday and Saturday completely booked. Our block remains reserved, but the government rate is closed for those nights. Reimbursement for government employees is possible through the government, and we may need to notify the local NWS offices about this. The discount for regular registrants is only available through our block, thus may not be available for too much longer. We need 80% of the room nights need to be filled, but it should not be a problem meeting this requirement. We were also informed that we will have the same room as last year for the banquet this year.

Promotional Item Update (President Dave Flory)

We will try to have two morning snacks instead of promotional item this year. The estimated cost is around \$700-\$900. In future years, we should try to have a vendor sponsor a snack.

By-Laws Amendment Update (Ben Schwedler)

The first by-law amendment is regarding electronic voting, and the definition of a quorum. It was suggested that we consider forum voting in the future, and that we address the vote at the next meeting so it can be included in the minutes. E-mail votes should not be sent to the entire chapter, just to the sender and only the officer election votes need to be kept private.

Ben Schwedler moves to vote on the addition/amendment of the bylaw, Karl Jungbluth seconds, and the motion passes.

The second by-law amendment regards having policies, such as the conference alcohol policy, in separate documents. Jeff Duda and Mindy Albrecht suggested rewording parts of Article XI of the proposed amendment.

Jeff Duda motions that the amendment be added, Ben Schwedler seconds, and the motion passes.

Fundraising Options (Vice President Mindy Albrecht)

Thank you to the volunteers who helped staff the ice cream stand at Hilton Coliseum. Four people operated the stand, and there was much business. The event lasted about 4 hours, during which they learned about what the job entails. The stand made about \$1700, which means we earned about \$170 for our chapter. We could make close to \$500 a day at a larger stand. The next workday will be Saturday, March 7 at 7pm (we will need to be there by 5pm). Contact Mindy Albrecht if you would like to volunteer. Wear non-denim pants, a white shirt, and closed-toed shoes. Hats will be provided. A 2-hr training course could allow us to do larger venues, so this is another option to consider.

Weather Radio Programming

On April 25, from 9am-1pm, we will be programming weather radios at the West Ames Hy-Vee (and possibly the East Hy-Vee, as well). Rod Donovan and Mindy Albrecht can help train volunteers as needed.

Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Chris Karstens)

We currently have \$12,373.85 in our bank account, with another \$2,500 in the Paypal account. In order to break even for this years' conference, we will need approximately 190 registrants.

Secretaries Notes (Chris Schaffer for Secretary Jayson Prentice)

The policy on videotaping at the conference is still being reviewed.

Mindy Albrecht will be contacting Johnny Mann.

The priority list for hotel rooms will be decided through an email vote.

Other Items

The electronics team will be organizing soon to discuss details.

Advertising with Rookies in the conference agenda may also be a possibility.

The next Central Iowa NWA meeting will be shortly before conference at the hotel. This is typically a small meeting, as officers should be there, and chairs are encouraged to come as well.

*Any questions regarding meetings minutes from February 24, 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>*