

Central Iowa NWA Meeting – November 19, 2009

6:30PM at Iowa State University, Agronomy Hall 3140, Ames, IA

We began the meeting with pizza provided by the chapter, and a presentation by Kenneth Podrazik, our Vice President, entitled “The Differences and Similarities between Three Heavy Banded Snow Events in Iowa.” Thank you for the presentation.

President Beerends presided over the meeting.

If you would like to join any of the conference teams, please let President Beerends know (Melinda.Albrecht@noaa.gov).

14th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

March 25-27, 2010 at the West Des Moines Sheraton

Agenda Team Update (Dr. Gallus)

Many speakers have been chosen and contacted, but we’ve only received a few responses so far. Roger Hill will be our banquet speaker, which is very good news. Yvette Richardson will be in attendance to speak about VORTEX 2, and she will also give a seminar at ISU. The Graduate Meteorology Club is helping with her travel expenses.

Greg Carbin may be available to attend, but we are waiting to hear back from him. We are also waiting to hear back from Davis Nolan, a broadcast meteorologist from Nashville Channel 2, but Chris Maiers will contact someone else at the station for more information on whether someone from their station can attend. We need to wait a month or two to hear back from Jim Cantore and The Weather Channel. It was decided that we will invite Tim Samaras to see if he can talk about Twistex and show video from this summer.

In past years, we’ve had great feedback about the presenters who have experienced tornadoes firsthand. This year, we would like to have someone speak about the hailstorm in Eldora, in which many people were outside at an archery event when the storm occurred. We considered also bringing in someone who experienced the floods of 2008 who could talk about the progress that has been made and any lasting consequences of the flood. We talked about the possibility of having presentations on international events and the weak severe weather season. Presentations about the Woodward tornado from 2005 or the 25th anniversary of the Ohio tornadoes may also be of interest.

Vendor Team update (Chris Maiers)

Weather Central might attend this year, and Mike Gibson will probably be back. We are going to work hard to sell advertising space in the agenda, because this could be a good source of revenue. Local restaurants may be interested in advertising, because we have very reasonable rates.

Registration team update (Chris Schaffer)

We will want to open registration in late December or (very) early January, so Chris will talk with the web team about this. After looking at the registration supplies that we have from last year, we appear to have enough name badges and lanyards remaining for this year's conference. We need to order more folders, though, and Chris Maiers will look into possibly working with office supply stores that may also want to advertise with us. The registration team will do an official count of name badges in January, while getting the name badges and lanyards packaged properly.

Travel team (Brenda Brock)

We talked about the NWS funding, which will be finalized in coming months.

Scholarship team update (Karl Jungbluth)

The call for applications will likely go out in December this year, though we are open to discussing changes in the scholarship amount or presentation. Some members suggested that we talk about the scholarship ourselves, though in past years we have had Dan Miller introduce the award. There was much discussion as to whether it would be better to do something new (for attendees who have been here in past years) or to have Dan Miller present the award again (to inform attendees who haven't been to the conference in the past). Regardless, if we want to do something new, we could also give the student receiving the scholarship more time to talk about their career aspirations and have them give a short presentation.

We currently have a student attendance requirement, and there was discussion about dropping this requirement, which we will discuss further at a future meeting. Dr. Gallus mentioned how we originally expected to give the scholarship to a student presenter, so this was the main reason for the attendance requirement.

Finally, we considered increasing the scholarship amount, possibly up to \$1500 from \$1000. If we don't increase the amount offered, we could consider paying for part of the student's travel costs.

Registration Post Cards

Last year, we paid about \$70 to make and send postcards to about 200 people. Many of these were returned. This year, we may want to send postcards to the more static locations (NWS, universities, etc), while contacting individuals electronically. We have sent emails and PDF flyers in past years, but we could do more electronically, such as through Facebook or other types of invites. At this year's conference, we should include a multiple choice question on the feedback form asking how effective the postcards are.

Conference Registration fees

Regular registration rates were currently \$140 for non-students and \$70 for students. Due to inflation and rising hotel costs, we discussed increasing our rates across the board by \$5. Our rates are still reasonable compared to other conferences, so this modest increase would not have been a problem. Rod motioned for a \$5 increase across the board, raising the non-member rates to \$145 and

\$75, and the member rates to \$95 and \$55 for non-student members and student members, respectively. Scott seconded this motion. The motion passed.

Fundraising update (Mindy Beerends)

At the fundraising event last weekend, we made about \$110. At our next event on December 1st, we need 4-5 people. The game starts at 7pm, and we need to be there by 5pm. We had members volunteer for the event at the meeting. We also have an event on Saturday, January 23rd, which Mindy will send an email about.

Treasurer's Report (Logan Karsten)

We currently have \$15,868.03. Please remember that dues are \$10. New members needed to pay at this meeting, and all other members need to pay before the January meeting.

Future Conference Locations

Please send Mindy an email (Melinda.Albrecht@noaa.gov) if you want to be on the hotel team, which will plan where we will hold the conference after this year. The team will work to get a contract set for at least the next two years. We could stay at the West Des Moines Sheraton, but we should also consider having the conference in Ames or elsewhere in Des Moines.

Secretary's notes (Chris Schaffer)

All previous meeting matters were discussed, thus no additional discussion was needed.

Other items

It was suggested that we have some sort of icebreaker at the conference this year, possibly with door prizes.

The next Central Iowa NWA meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28th, 2010.

Any questions regarding meeting minutes from November 19, 2009 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Chris Schaffer (schaffecj@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>