

Central Iowa NWA Meeting – January 28, 2010

6:30PM at the National Weather Service office, Johnston, IA

President Beerends presided over the meeting.

14th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

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

Email Mindy at melinda.beerends@noaa.gov if you want to be on a team.

Hotel update (Dave Flory)

After contacting the West Des Moines Sheraton about the upcoming conference, we learned that Brenda L. is no longer who we will be working with. The new catering manager begins work on Feb. 1, which is when we will contact the Sheraton again. Jenna F. is our contact that manages the room blocks, and we have decided that we will have the same arrangement as last year. We need to fill 80% of the rooms again. Anyone reserving a room using a government ID should call 515-457-2102. The rooms are \$109/night. This year, we can monitor the number of rooms online through an administration page.

Agenda Team update (Dr. Gallus)

We are still waiting to hear back about the availability of Jim Cantore at The Weather Channel. If he can't make it to the conference, we will ask if Mike Seidel is available. Dr. Gallus will contact TWC to look into the situation. We are still looking into finding someone who witnessed the archery event hail storm. We have two speakers from Grand Island: Dan Nietfeld and the previous sheriff.

We already have 4 abstracts from people interested in presenting at the conference, which is more than we usually have at this time. Other people have contacted the agenda team about presenting, so we are happy that there is so much interest. If we end up with too many oral presentations, we will ask if people can do posters instead.

Another possibility may be to have a poster session specifically for students, if that would work best, but we would need to consider when this poster session would take place. Posters could be at the back of the conference room so people could see them between presentations, and then the posters could be moved into another room later for discussion.

Vendor Team update (Chris Maiers)

Midland will be at the conference, and Baron will probably attend as well. We are still looking into WDS, Weather Central, and Gibson-Ridge. SkyWarn, unfortunately, will not be in attendance this year.

We are trying to get local dining establishments to buy advertisements for the agenda. McDonalds and Burger King will not be participating, but Jason's Deli and Jimmy Johns seemed interested. We are looking into a number of other places, including King Buffet, Bandana's Bar-B-Q, and Macaroni Grill. Carlos O'Kelley's, The Tavern, and Chilli's were especially interested.

Registration Team update (Chris Schaffer)

We have 2 registrations so far, and had 8 registrants as of this time last year. In early January, we emailed nearly 600 past attendees with a PDF advertising the conference, and we emailed the meteorology departments of past attendees in mid-January. Chris and Rachel will look into contacting other meteorology departments.

Instead of making postcards this year, we will make another PDF to email out, this time containing the updated invited speaker list. We now have a Facebook page for the conference, which has 300 friends.

Travel Team (Brenda Brock)

The NWS approved \$2000 for the conference, and we have been carefully considering how to best spend the funding. We currently have 7 invited presenters, and \$1500 of the funding will pay for their lodging. Any airline costs will be paid for by chapter instead.

Presenters will make their own reservations at the hotel, but Chris S. will enter their registrations into our system.

Scholarship Team update (Karl Jungbluth)

The announcements for the scholarship were sent out, and applications are due on Feb. 16. The application is on our web site. On March 12, we will announce a winner, so the team will be reviewing applications in late February and early March.

Electronics Team update (Willard Sharp)

We will bring as much electronic equipment as we possibly can, and rent the rest from the hotel. Like last year, we will bring projectors from ISU and one from the NWS. We agreed that we will continue to use one screen and one projector at the conference. Presentations will be tested on the laptop ahead of time. At the end of the conference, we will put the presentations on the website.

Upcoming conference locations

In 2011, the conference will either be from March 24 – March 26, or March 31 - April 2. In 2012, the conference will either be from March 22 - March 24, or March 29 – March 31.

Possible locations for the conference include the West Des Moines Marriott, the Hilton Garden Inn, the Courtyard by Marriott, the Stony Creek Inn in Clive, or the Gateway Conference Center in Ames.

The Hilton in Ames might not be done in time for the 2011 conference, so we will not list this as a possibility. The Holiday Inn at the airport may be another option because of its recent renovations, but we need to see the building for ourselves before considering it. This choice would also be farther from restaurants compared to other choices.

We need to consider parking costs at/around the hotels, because they can be quite steep (\$10-\$20 per day in some areas).

By mid to late February, we hope to have all the information on these hotels so that we can make a decision.

Finally, bringing the National NWA conference to Des Moines may be a possibility to think about. This conference would be 5 days long and occur in the fall.

Membership Qualifications Discussion

Scott, Chris M., and Logan have considered how we might extend membership to people outside of the state who would like to be involved with planning the conference. We discussed Article 3 of the Bylaws, and an amendment to the Bylaws which would create a new member classification. The amendment would allow for associate members of our chapter, who would be able to help plan for the conference and receive a reduced discount (compared to full members) to the cost of registration. They would also pay member dues, but would not have a vote in official chapter matters.

We also considered waiving bylaw restrictions for the founding members or past presidents. After much discussion, it was decided that we would table the discussion about amending the Bylaws until a future meeting.

In order to allow Kathy membership for her assistance with the agenda team, Dave motioned that Article 3 of the Bylaws be temporarily suspended to allow membership for Kathy for this year. James M. seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Fundraising update (Mindy Beerends)

Of the two recent events, one of the fundraising events didn't go so well, and may have been a net loss. On the other hand, the walking taco stand at Kansas game went very well. We receive 9% of the profits. We determined that the bigger stands didn't make that much more than the smaller ones at basketball games. The stands at football games, which would require many more volunteers and an extensive time commitment, would allow us to make about \$3500 per game. In the three games this year, we made about \$500. This is money that we could put towards the scholarship.

Treasurer's Report (Logan Karsten)

If any member has paid dues and is not on the email list, please let Logan know and he will add you. Dues need to be paid tonight in order for someone to receive the reduced member registration rate for the conference.

We currently have \$16,337.93.

Secretary's notes (Chris Schaffer)

The National NWA chapter would like to have material at our conference, including pamphlets for the conference folders, a display for a table, and a banner, all promoting national membership. There was a question as to whether they would need to pay vendor fees. Chris M. suggested that they should not need to pay vendor fees, because they weren't asking for us to be at the table. Scott L. motioned that we waive the vendor fee for the National NWA's use of a table for information about the organization. James M. seconded, and the motion passed.

We typically waive the registration fee for conference committee chairs, but we still needed to vote on the issue this year. James motioned that the registration fee for conference committee chairs be waived. Rachel H. seconded, and the motion passed.

Our conference committee chairs are Bill G. (agenda), Chris S. (registration), Brenda B. (travel), Willard S. (electronics), Chris M. (vendor), Adam D. (poster), and Karl J. (scholarship).

Other items

We will have about 40 ISU students registering for the conference through the Iowa State AMS.
We agreed that we will have an additional snack break instead of a promotional item again this year at the conference, because this went over well last year.
We will look into having a vendor sponsor a snack break.

There is interest in seeing the window test lab at Pella Corporation, but tours are only offered during the week. We decided that we will try to schedule a tour during the summer.
We also want to tour a wind farm. Dave F. and Adam D. said they will look into this possibility.

Email Dave F., Ryan L., or Liz S. if you see any problems with the web site.

The next Central Iowa NWA meeting will be held on Feb. 22 at 7:15pm in Ames. The cabinet will meet at the hotel the week before the conference in order to talk to the new management.
There will be a meeting in April after the conference, where Brian Kerrick will likely be a guest speaker.
This meeting will probably be held earlier than usual and will probably be somewhere in Des Moines.

*Any questions regarding meeting minutes from January 28, 2010 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>*