

## Central Iowa NWA Meeting – February 22, 2010

6:30PM at Valentino's, Ames, IA

*We began the meeting with a presentation from Mindy about the blizzard from January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We thank Mindy for the presentation.*

**President Beerends presided over the meeting.**

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### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference**

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

#### **Hotel Team update (Dave Flory)**

Our new hotel contact is Jess Jorganson, who the officers and conference chairs will probably be meeting with shortly before the conference. We have a single room for the conference presentations and banquet, and it will take 30 minutes to move around the tables to get the room ready for the banquet. The room setup should work well for the interactive weather workshop.

Artichoke chicken is available again this year, but there are other options as usual. If we don't buy 250 dinners, the hotel will work with us to give us food for breaks in exchange for the dinners we don't buy, which will help us save money.

The Thursday night room reservation problem has been fixed.

#### **Agenda Team update (Dr. Gallus)**

We have many oral presentations, but only five poster presentations. We will try to get some of the seniors at ISU to present their thesis results. In addition, we will see if the NWS can provide poster presentations. The agenda is mostly set, but there hasn't been any new information from The Weather Channel. They can't let us know until about a month ahead of time if they can have Jim Cantore available, and even if they tell us he will attend, they reserve the right to change his plans. We currently have Cantore scheduled Friday afternoon for a 30 minute presentation. We will keep him on the agenda, and we hope that they follow through and allow him to attend. We will need to find out if airfare will be too expensive if we have to find airfare at the last minute.

We discussed the new interactive workshop that Chris, Scott, and Daryl have been working on. We will skip the beginner workshop this year so we can still start the conference at 1pm. First, Dan Miller will give his dual-pol presentation, and then the interactive workshop will begin. Chris, Scott, and Daryl have tricked GR into pulling archived data, and it will speed up the case to run through events in a reasonable amount of time (1.5 hours). Daryl will provide statistics that we can use while forecasting. People will split into groups and use their computers to issue warnings. At the end of the event, the groups will

compare forecasts, including a control group made up of experts. We will then compare the groups' warnings to the warnings that were actually issued.

We need to determine where to get computers for the workshop and need to consider if GR can be installed on all these machines. We may need a few routers as well. In order to test out the new software and figure out how to connect all the computers, we will have a test radar workshop in the next two weeks at ISU.

#### **Vendor Team update (Mindy Beerends for Chris Maiers)**

Baron will be attending, but Weather Central will not be attending. We haven't heard back from anyone about advertising in the agenda, and March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for this.

#### **Registration Team update (Chris Schaffer)**

We currently have 31 registrants, compared to 39 from this time last year. Not counted in this number are the officers, chairs, and invited speakers who have been entered into the registration system. Chris will email the invited speakers to get their directory and meal preferences.

Rachel and Chris contacted more universities and AMS chapters. We will send out the new conference advertisement early next week, after it has been edited by the officers and chairs. We will want to mention the new interactive workshop within the announcement. The advertisements (and any other emails to past attendees) will probably need to be emailed out over two days, because Gmail has a spam guard now which is causing problems.

#### **Travel Team (Brenda Brock)**

We have 8 invited speakers without Cantore, and plane tickets will cost about \$2500 from the conference funds. Many people received the flight arrangements they preferred. Brenda will talk with Logan about the expenses.

#### **Scholarship Team update (Karl Jungbluth)**

We received 8 applications, and we are almost finished with reviewing the applications. From here, the applications will go to the judges outside of our chapter. A decision will be announced on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Electronics Team update (Willard Sharp)**

We will have as many presentations ready ahead of time as possible, but many people will bring their final presentations to the conference, so the rest of the presentations will be added at the conference. The same type of equipment as last year will be used this year, though we asked presenters if they will need anything extra. Willard will contact the rest of the Electronics team soon to coordinate responsibilities.

#### **Upcoming conference locations**

Trina provided packets to many of the locations we were interested in learning more about, and we are waiting to hear back on a few locations. The hotel team will meet soon to determine two or three

locations that look especially promising, and then they will begin contacting those locations for more details. Our goal is to announce next year's conference location at this year's conference.

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#### **Membership Qualifications Discussion**

Willard motioned that the membership qualifications discussion be tabled until the next meeting. JoBeth seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Johnny Mann Email Vote Results**

Johnny Mann can register for the conference at the reduced rate of \$95, and his grandmother's registration fee will be waived. This email vote passed unanimously, 24-0. Johnny and his grandmother will likely register at the conference.

#### **Fundraising update (Mindy Beerends)**

We have an event Saturday Feb. 27 at 7pm, and need at least 3 people to help out. We will need to be at Hilton by 5pm and the event will last until 9 or 9:30pm.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Logan Karsten)**

Our current balance is \$19,689.22. Logan will update the budget calculator, but there are still many unknown amounts that will not be decided until closer to the conference. In the last month, we paid for lanyards and folders.

#### **Secretary's notes (Chris Schaffer)**

There were no additional items that needed to be discussed from the previous meeting or the current meeting.

#### **Other items**

We plan to have our next meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. This meeting will be in Des Moines and we will likely have Bryan Kerrick as a speaker.

On Saturday, April 24, we will be programming weather radios in Ames with the ISU AMS chapter.

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*Any questions regarding meeting minutes from February 22, 2010 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Chris Schaffer ([schaffecj@gmail.com](mailto: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>*