

# Central Iowa NWA Meeting

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Iowa State University – Ames, IA

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

March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny, IA

For conference team sign-ups, email President Chris Maiers ([cmaiers@gmail.com](mailto:cmaiers@gmail.com))

## **Conference Updates**

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

It seems that we will not be getting as much funding from NOAA/NWS Central Region Headquarters. The usual \$2000 will not be included in our funding this year due to budget decisions still taking place, so we decided not to include any more invited speakers. The featured speakers include Dr. Chris Weiss, Dr. Harold Brooks, Rick Mitchell and Scott McKellep.

We have 3 abstracts submitted thus far. We will expect to have more incoming soon.

### *Registration Team (Jeff Duda)*

Registration prices for the conference are the same as they were last year: student non-members \$75, student members \$55; regular registration non-members \$145, members \$125.

Registration fees for conference chairs and officers have been waived in previous years. It would be ideal to vote on this matter to make it a lifetime policy, but our conference policy document needs to be drafted too. A motion was made by Logan Karsten, and seconded by Jeff Duda to waive conference fees for conference chairs and officers for the 2011 conference. The motion was voted on, and passed unanimously.

Registration team will need to get started preparing for the conference that Thursday around 8 am to set up the folders and name tags. Folders and nametag holders will be ordered in the next week or so.

We had our first registrant about a month ago. We have 7 registrants currently. Registration team should check emails in the next few weeks for starting to schedule the shifts.

Dave Flory will assist with printing the nametags about a week prior to the conference. We need a printer for during the conference for printing receipts and new name tags. The last couple years, we used the old registration chair's printer. It was decided that the chapter will purchase a

printer for this cause. Adam Deppe volunteered to select a few printers for us to vote on purchasing. We are aiming to keep the cost under \$200. A motion to purchase a printer under \$200 for the conference was made by Karl Jungbluth, and seconded by JoBeth Minnear. The vote passed unanimously.

Jeff Duda sent out a mass email conference flyer to all previous attendees.

We still need to order the laser pointer. Adam Deppe will take care of purchasing it.

### ***Travel Team (Aubry Wilkins)***

The NWS \$2000 will no longer be available. Aubry has contacted all of the invited speakers that are government employees and has started the paperwork.

The travel team is dealing with issues deciding what kind of plane ticket to purchase for Rick Mitchell since he is not confirmed yet. The options up for discussion are a \$1,400 for a refundable ticket or \$400 for a non-refundable one.

### ***Vendor Team (Chris Maiers)***

Jeff Patrowski with Baron is interested, but not confirmed yet. Midland (Bruce Jones) is not confirmed yet either. StormPulse is registered for the conference. Cellular companies are a no-go at this point. McDonalds in Ankeny is not likely at this point either. No updates on restaurants yet from Ken.

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

Willard is in the process of looking at prices of renting the needed technology from the hotel. Prices for the electronics are fairly similar to the previous hotel's costs. He and Chris Maiers are planning on touring the hotel in the next week or so to get a better idea of the conference room layout and how many outlets are available etc. He has the skeleton setup for the radar workshop wireless internet.

### ***Radar Workshop (Liz Suess)***

Justin Schultz reported for Liz, who could not be at the meeting. A case was lined up for the workshop, but recently changed. Decided to choose a more recent case, so that super resolution radar will be available (available for post 2007 cases). The final case will be selected by this Friday. The next step is beta testing with Daryl Herzmann. Stop by Chris Karstens office in Agronomy Hall if you would like the resources to test the case. Liz has contacted Mike Gibson about a temporary license for each of the radar workshop participants during the conference. Mike has not yet gotten back to her.

May be beneficial to let Mike Gibson introduce his product during the workshop so he can benefit from attending the conference. The idea of adding a plug for the workshop on the website

or on the registration form so that participants know that they should arrive at the workshop a few minutes early and not filter in throughout the workshop period like last year. This will allow us to be more prepared and organized. The idea was suggested of sending out a confirmation email after they register telling them that if they are planning on attending the workshop to contact the registration team (Someone will be designated)

The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 31st from 1:30 to 4:00 pm

### ***Pam Daale Scholarship (Rod Donavon)***

2 people applied at this point. The due date for applications is February 18<sup>th</sup>. Electronic submission of these applications is showing to be making the selection process much easier.

Julie Novy interned under Pam Daale at WOI. She is currently an Air Force Meteorologist. She agreed to speak during the presentation of the scholarship and her registration and banquet costs will be waived. Her travel costs will be covered as well. She is in Ames, so it will not be too costly. The club agreed to follow through with this idea.

### **Video Recording/Streaming the conference**

Overall conference registration is down from years past. Possibly creating an audio recording/presentation slides dvd of the presentations and charging for it could be another way to increase revenue for our club.

Forms for pre-ordering the dvd will be available at the conference. We will offer a discounted price for conference attendees who order the dvd while at the conference. Mindy Beerends motioned to make prices for the audio/presentations for the 2011 conference are \$20/\$40 (pre/post conference orders) and will have a feedback question on the questionnaire at the end of the conference. Jim Lee seconded it. The motion was voted on, and passed with majority of the votes.

Chris Maiers volunteered his time to put the dvd together. May be more efficient to use Camtasia during the conference to eliminate hours of work.

Streaming the conference should be looked into for next year. The club showed interest in this idea, but much time will be needed to put the streaming process together.

### **Attracting the National NWA Conference to Des Moines**

Chris Maiers contacted National NWA regarding this matter, and found the following information: we would need universal support from NWS, media, university etc for participation and advertising the conference, the Des Moines chamber of commerce needs to be on board. We would call for abstracts, have them due in June, and prepare the agenda for the conference. June and July months are the busiest. We would mainly be doing the agenda planning and national NWA would handle the hotel, vendors...etc.

The conference typically runs from Sunday-Thursday. There are 4 other cities interested in doing this for the 2015 national NWA conference, so we need to decide in the next 6 months whether or not we will be putting in a bid for hosting this event. We would have the option of still holding our own conference the following March if we would choose to. The chapter would not directly profit from it, but we could use it as a good advertisement for our own conference.

It would be great to look into seeing if planning committees/chapter members getting reduced registration rates. We will look into this further.

### **Fundraising Ideas**

Pizza Ranch- The event will last from 4:30 to 9:00 pm on Monday, March 7th. We will need 4 to 5 people at any given time that evening. We would receive a portion of the tips. The Pizza Ranch is off 13<sup>th</sup> St in Ames, IA. It might be good to look into having a raffle (50/50). Email Mindy at [Melinda.beerends@noaa.gov](mailto:Melinda.beerends@noaa.gov) if you are interested in helping that night. If you aren't volunteering, work at getting people there to eat! Wear a red shirt if you are volunteering so we coordinate.

### **Treasurer Update**

Current Balance is \$19,052.91

Dues are past due if you haven't paid.

Adam showed current/historical registration records. We are slightly above par from where we were at this time last year. If we don't spend \$6,000 for food, including banquet food, the hotel room rates will increase dramatically. If you would like to visit the website for the attendance plots/budget estimator, email Adam at [ajdeppe@gmail.com](mailto:ajdeppe@gmail.com)

### **Secretary Notes**

Advertising for our conference on the ams/nwa newsletters/website? They are a go for the websites, too late for the newsletters.

### **Other Items**

Pella Corporation Tour-Thanks again to Mindy for setting that up for us. 5-7 people attended, and they had fun.

JoBeth Minniear, the president of ISU AMS asked the club to host a booth at ISU's VEISHEA on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-4. If you are interested in helping out, email JoBeth at [jominnie@iastate.edu](mailto:jominnie@iastate.edu). There was some interest.

A motion was made by Mindy Beerends to adjourn the meeting and seconded by JoBeth Minniear. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

*Next meeting will be Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00pm. location TBD*

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*Any questions regarding meeting minutes from February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 can be directed at the Central  
Iowa NWA Secretary Rachel Hatteberg ([rah@iastate.edu](mailto:rah@iastate.edu))*

*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>*