

Central Iowa NWA Meeting

September 1st, 2011

Brookside Park – Ames, IA

16th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

March 29th – 31st, 2012 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny, IA

Conference Team Sign-Ups

A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for conference teams. If you were unable to attend the meeting and wish to participate in a team(s), email President Chris Maiers (cmaiers@gmail.com). The teams available for participation are as follows:

Agenda Team - Dr. Gallus has been the chair for this in previous years and has offered to lead the team again this year. The agenda team decides who would make good invited speakers for the conference, as well as selecting and arranging the presenters for all of the sessions. He mentioned that the agenda should be interesting this year with all of the large weather events this spring and summer.

Registration Team – The registration team chair position is currently vacant. The team is busy throughout the conference registering and signing in attendees. They also set up the poster session. If you are a member of this team, you will only work a few hours, so you will not miss much of the conference.

Travel Team – Aubry Wilkins has offered to be the chair for this team. The team works at getting the travel and hotel arrangements lined up for the invited speakers. The team may be re-formatted this year.

Hotel Team – This team is generally only comprised of one person, in which they make sure things go smoothly with the hotel (making sure payments and fees are correct and have been made). This year we will need to start looking for a new conference location because our contract with the Courtyard by Marriott will be up.

Vendor Team – Chris Maiers has been the chair for this team in previous years and has offered to handle the position again this year. The vendor team works to recruit vendors for during the conference, as well as sell ad space within our agenda. An informational pamphlet about our chapter and conference will be put together to better inform the potential vendors what we are selling to them.

Electronics Team – Willard Sharp has been the chair for this team and has offered to take the position again this year. The team assists in setting up the conference electronics, the radar workshop equipment, internet access, getting adequate projector equipment lined up, etc.

Radar Workshop – This team handles setting up and running the radar workshop. The workshop is an interactive session in which the conference attendees get into small teams and analyze radar data of an actual event and issue warnings. This has usually been a competition in which we give the winning team a small prize. Last year we gave the winners a free hotel breakfast.

Pam Daale Scholarship – Rod Donavon was the chair for this last year. The team views the applications and then sends the top three to a panel of judges. We increased the scholarship amount from \$1,000 to \$1,500 last year. The team is limited to non-students to reduce potential biases in the selection process.

Officer Elections

Officer elections will take place at the October meeting. Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are open. Nominations are to be sent to a neutral person, so it was motioned and voted to send them to Rod Donavon (Rodney.Donavon@noaa.gov). You are allowed to nominate anyone who is a member, including one's self. Officers need to be present at elections to be elected. You must be present to vote.

National Conference in Des Moines Update

The topic of whether to apply to bring the national NWA conference to Des Moines was discussed in previous meetings and was brought up again at tonight's meeting. Some positives of attracting it to our area is that we will get good publicity for our local conference and it would be easy for us to attend due to proximity. The major negative of this would be that our chapter would be extremely busy in planning both the national and our local conference during the same year. We would not need to plan the entire conference, but would be responsible for the agenda.

The general feedback from members was not to put in a bid for bringing the conference to Des Moines; however, this will be further discussed in upcoming meetings before we completely decide one way or another. If we did put in a bid, the conference would tentatively be here in 2015.

Fundraising Ideas

In previous years, our chapter has worked concession booths at ISU basketball games, which have been very hit or miss and don't give us a lot of profit. Also, as a result of new management with the concessions, we are required to purchase the uniform. Another fundraising event that took place last year was from bussing tables at Pizza Ranch for an evening. This earned us a

small profit because we got to keep tips as well as a small portion of the restaurant's profits from the evening. If this is done again this year, perhaps we will need work on better advertising for the event and explaining better where the tip money is going. Having fundraisers at Pizza Hut, Cold Stone, or Fudruckers was also brought up.

If you have any other fundraising ideas for the chapter, email President Chris Maiers (cmaiers@gmail.com) or Vice President Ken Podrazik (kenneth.podrazik@noaa.gov). Any funds we raise helps our chapter offset costs of the conference and the Pam Daale Scholarship.

Treasurer Update

Membership dues were \$10 last year, so there was a discussion about whether to raise them for this year or not. A motion was made to keep the dues the same as last year, and the vote passed by majority of the club. Membership dues are \$10 and are to be paid as soon as possible for new members. For returning members, pay dues by the January 2012 meeting. Since our treasurer position is currently vacant, pay dues to President Chris Maiers until elections take place in October.

Overall, we did well financially with last year's conference regardless of the low attendance, so we most likely won't be in trouble financially if that happens again this coming spring.

We sold 7 or 8 conference DVDs last year and are planning on burning more copies of last year's DVD to sell this year.

Current Balance ~20,000

Secretary Notes

We will be taking attendance at each of the meetings, be sure to sign your name at each meeting you attend so ensure that you'll get the member registration rate for the conference this spring. Attendees will be listed alphabetically following the meeting minutes.

Other Items

Chris Karstens proposed that our club look into putting severe weather awareness public announcements on the radio. Costs of PSAs would need to be researched before moving forward with this idea. Chris mentions that our chapter's mission is to promote severe weather awareness. Another idea is to include these awareness statements/advertisements in sports programs or even during sporting events. The group agreed that this is something to look into especially since our bank account has been increasing over the years.

A joint ISU AMS and NWA meeting was proposed. If followed through, it would likely happen during the November meeting because our next meeting will likely be in Des Moines, and officer elections will be taking place. Dr. Gallus offered to present on the Joplin, MO tornado, we would need to get a hold of a projector for this though. Brenda Brock suggested a potential location of

the meeting be at the Community Center in Johnston. Details regarding content during the joint meeting will need to be further discussed.

Next meeting will be in early October, date and location: TBD

Any questions regarding meeting minutes from September 1st 2011 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Rachel Hatteberg (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>

09/01/2011 Attendance

Andrew Ansorge
Ashleigh Baumeister
Jacob Beitlich
Brenda Brock
Lyndee Clark
Peter Effertz
Dave Flory
Nathan Gogo
Mike Greve
Corey Harguth
Chris Karstens
Ryan Lehms
Chris Maiers
Tim Marquis
Ricky McFarland
Ethan Milius
Rob Nelson
Jim Orlando
Kenny Podrazik
Samantha Santeiu
Justin Schultz
Kevin Skow
Darren Snively
Aubry Wilkins