

Central Iowa NWA Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 19th, 2012
Ames, IA

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review how the Severe Storms conference went.

- **Speakers: (Dr. Gallus)** Speakers were all good, the comments received back were all positive.
- **Registration: (Mindy)** There were some minor hiccups, but overall things went well.
 - There were some complaints from people in groups who were not able to sit together.
 - Maybe we should put a row of extra chairs in the back for people to use next time?
 - We may have also had some stragglers come in who were not registered, which would have added to the chair problem.
 - People commented that they would like some healthier options for snacks.
 - Hotel overall was good.
 - Traffic during the lunch hour in Ankeny was quite bad. Maybe we should move our lunch time to not deal with this traffic?
 - Maybe advertise with local restaurants to get a discount for conference attendees
 - We had a few complaints that our registration rates were too high—but compared to other conferences our rates are quite reasonable. People also said our DVD rates might be too high, but overall considering it is the entire conference, it is reasonable.
 - The DVDs are about 30% done.
 - People have also asked why we don't post the PowerPoints from the presentations on the website anymore. This will be looked into and they may be added back in the future.
 - People asked for more coffee and maybe a second screen in the back since it was hard to see from the back rows.
 - Should we have a career panel for students? We have a number of different fields in the atmospheric sciences represented at the conference—it would be good for students to be able to sit down with these people and talk about career opportunities.
 - It was cumbersome not being able to take credit cards for registration. Maybe we should look into purchasing a credit card “square” that plugs into a smartphone. The fee per transaction is 2.75%, which is about what we are paying now anyway for our current setup. Our other method was taking too long for people to pay. It was moved to research this option and was seconded.
- **Presentations:** The presentations by Tim Marshall and others were all good.
- **Radar Workshop:** Could have gone smoother
 - We need to make sure that there is a laptop at every table
 - We should have specified that GR only runs natively in Windows—some people brought Macs and were unable to use them.
 - We should have explained the scoring beforehand and had the live scores on the screen during the event.
 - There was no real wrap-up to the workshop—it just suddenly ended and we sent people off. We should have done a post-event debrief and explained some of the signatures and asked why people warned the way they did.
 - Maybe next year we can have a section on the registration website that talks about the radar workshop, how to get set up for it, and asks if people are bringing a laptop to it.
 - With Chris K. leaving in the fall, we should make sure someone can take over running his Warngen program next year.

- **Pam Daale Scholarship: (Rod D.)** Still improving the selection process.
 - There is likely too much weight on past accomplishments and not future goals.
 - Maybe put more weight on the essays?
 - Should past scholarships not be considered in the selection?
 - Therefore, we can award it to someone who hasn't had the chance to receive a scholarship yet.
 - Should we email the top three contenders that they are in the running for the scholarship rather than just having all applicants attend the conference (since attending the conference is mandatory for an applicant to receive the scholarship)?
 - Should we have an award for the poster session?
 - The scholarship will be advertised on the national NWA site next year, so it should get more publicity.
- **Travel: (Chris)** No problems except one instance. The ASA forgot to submit a gifted travel form for the travel reimbursement, which has been causing issues with use reimbursing the person for their travel expenses.
- **Vendor:** No issues.
- **Electronics:** Overall good—though the clicker went missing for a time.
- **Treasurer:** Dues will be accepted again in the fall--\$10 as usual. They will not be due until January.

The next meeting will be in September

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.