

Central Iowa NWA Meeting - Des Moines NWS - April 24, 2008

1. 12th Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference Review

Presidents Room Vote (Mindy Albrecht)

An online vote was conducted to see if the NWA wishes to reimburse the president for his hotel room at this years' conference. The only vote only received 12 replies, which is not enough for a quorum of the chapter.

The vote and discussion was tabled for a future meeting

Future discussion on this subject may also include the potential reimbursement for other conference positions, such as electronics and registration chairs. It is felt that these are important positions that need to be available at the conference.

Conference Treasurer Report (Chris Karstens)

Chris Karstens and Chris Schaffer prepared a presentation on this years' conference, a brief outline of what was reported is included in the minutes. Once the report has been finalized, a copy of the report will be posted online.

Hotel Costs: \$7,536.13 (day 1); \$2,339.05 (day 2); \$1,525.98 (day 3) → \$11,401.16 Total

This includes \$2,185.52 on electronics, \$7,340.50 on food, and \$1,875.14 on rooms

Invited speakers hotel costs totaled \$665.28

Final check wrote out to the hotel totaled: \$12,066.44

Travel costs for invited speakers (preliminary total): \$2,841.05

Other costs (Printing, bags, badges, folders, lanyards, scholarship, and paypal fees) produced a total of \$2,962.87

Complete Cost of 12th Annual Conference (tentatively): \$17,870.36

Total Income from registrants, vendors, etc.: \$18,825

This leads to a profit of \$954.64

Comparisons from last years' conference to this year was provided

Electronics costs increased 21.58%

Food costs decreased 3.78%

Room rental increased 11.54%

Hotel costs increased 2.65%

Invited speakers cost decreased 0.13%

Other Costs decreased 33.91%

Total costs decreased 6.44%

Attendance was down 12.16%, with the largest decrease in student attendees (-22.32%)

Room Blocks used totaled 136 (49 government) which is 24 above the required of our contract (112 room nights or 80% of the 140 rooms)

Other treasuring business included information on taxes, which are due May 15th. They are currently being completed by a business in Guthrie Center, who has provided us with preliminary figure of \$400-\$600 of tax payments due this year.

The current balance is ~\$14,000

Feedback Forms Summary (Dave Flory for Chris Schaffer)

Responses to the question on whether or not presentations were informative and interesting were overwhelming positive and comments on the personal reflections were great. Specific comments included:

- “Last day was dull”
- “More hands on presentations”
- “WSI presentation wasn’t good”

Responses to the question of preferring a promotional item or refreshments included 40 responses, 26 preferred refreshments and 14 preferred promotional item. Specific comments:

- “Healthy refreshments”
- “Hotel should provide coffee and tea”
- “Bags were nice”
- “Snowfall measurement rulers for promotional items”
- “Vendors could sponsor a snack break”

Discussion from the responses included that having the hotel provide coffee and tea for breaks would be beneficial and something to work for.

Responses to the question of location for upcoming conferences, specifically the feelings on having the conference in Ames included 9 opposed, 26 ‘okay’, and 8 were fine with either. Potential problems with Ames location will be the lack of a base hotel, which many attendees feel is a great networking source. Transportation is another logistics issue, although the city of Ames would provide bus transportation. The move to Ames may also move towards a viewpoint of a student conference with it being near or on the Iowa State campus. The Des Moines area is more memorable, as it is larger and is better known in other areas.

Other comments from the feedback form included:

- Visit tornado machine again
- Free wireless internet
- Keep conference in Des Moines
- Have a designated meet and greet time
- Move banquet dinner back to Friday
- Personal reflections are good addition to conference
- Have an alternative to coffee (hot chocolate)
- More vendors and better radar review
- SPC workshop hasn’t worked for years, get rid of it
- Have additional invited speakers
- Keep banquet on Thursday evening ← overwhelming
- More student presentations ← overwhelming
- Where was Tim Samaras?
- Make laser pointer easier to use during presentations
- Have a better radar workshop

Future Conferences Hotel Options (Dave Flory)

Hotel options include both the Marriot and the Sheraton; the Ames area may also be available due to the date changes in VEISHIA next year. The two date options include March 26-28 and April 2-4. The conference with the Sheraton this year went quite smooth, including both at conference communications and communications before the conference. We should seriously consider keeping the conference at the Sheraton as we have developed good operations with them and we can hope this can continue in the future years.

2. Concessions/Fund Raising (Mindy Albrecht)

No new details on opportunities with Wells Fargo. Hilton's schedule will not be available until the fall semester. Other fundraising possibilities may be researched if it is felt we need funding, however even without the need it would still be a good opportunity to get the chapter's name to the public.

3. Chapter Outlook for Next Year & 13th annual Conference(Dave Flory)

Increasing conference registration fees to cover the increase in fees for both hotel and transportation should be considered at future meetings.

Promotional ideas are welcome for next years' conference, the earlier the better.

Discussion brought about the potential for an addition of a question and answer period for the student attendees.

The chapter's amendments and by-laws should be carefully reviewed with potential changes or revision to encompass email voting concerns and drafting a conference policy. A committee should be established and complete this task over the summer months, this could potentially be the executive committee and the veteran members.

Questions on chapter dues and when they should be due to receive a reduced conference rate was discussed. Discussion included potential solutions of requiring dues to be paid by a certain time (i.e. January) and removing the option to pay for chapter dues at the same time that you can register for the conference.

Field trips for the chapter for a social outing would be a good addition. Suggestions include a trip to a wind farm or an Iowa Cubs game. Other suggestions welcome.

Continue to have presentations or speakers at the beginning of meetings, suggestions on topics are welcome once again.

Locations should continue to alternate between Ames and Des Moines, look into new places for the meetings as well (restaurants, etc.)

We should continue the excellent statistics that we have compiled from this year's finances and attendees information. Even continue to gather more information from registries' if possible.

4. Other Items

At earlier meetings it was questions as to whether or not we are sales tax exempt beings we are a non-profit organization. It was determined that we are not sales tax exempt on a simple basis that we are non-profit. We can become tax exempt, however in order to do this we must be able to re-sell what we purchase. In the case of the hotel, in order to be sales tax exempt from the hotel we would have to itemize each receipt to the individual registrants (room, banquet, etc.) that they pay and then must also collect sales tax on what they pay us as a chapter.

Potentially a change of status, from our current 501C3 may potentially allow us to be exempt. More research into this subject can be done to determine if any possibilities exist.

Ben Schwedler expressed the potential need for database access for our webpage from Freese-Notis in order to setup a much better registration system. Gaining database access from Freese-Notis will be explored in upcoming months and this subject will be discussed in future meetings.

Our next chapter meeting will be held in late August or early September. Enjoy the summer.

Meeting Adjourned

Any questions regarding meetings minutes from April 25, 2008 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Jayson Prentice (jaysonprentice@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>