

AIF Northeast Iowa District Meeting

Sunday, September 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. in the Volunteer Hall on the Jackson County fairgrounds in Maquoketa, Iowa, by the president, Jennifer Dunn.

Roll call was taken asking each county present to introduce their members in attendance. The following fairs were in attendance: Benton, Chickasaw/Big Four Fair, Big Four Fair/ Postville, Black Hawk Co. 4-H & FFA Fair, Bremer County, Buchanan County, Clayton County, Delaware County, Dubuque County, Fayette County, Howard County, Jackson County, Jones County, Linn County, National Cattle Congress, Winneshiek County and Wyoming Fair Association.

Appreciation was given to the Jackson County fair board for hosting this meeting and for the lovely meal that they provided.

Minutes of the March 14 2010 meeting were read. Clayton County moved to accept the minutes as read and the motion was seconded by Buchanan County. The motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Election of the district officers followed: Those elected were: Jennifer Dunn, President; Ron Pullin, Vice President; Mary Esther Pullin, Secretary.

Election of the Director to the Iowa Association of Fairs was held. Rick Palmer and Karen Kutsch were nominated and a secret ballot was conducted with Rick Palmer receiving the most votes.

Paul Vaassen gave his State Fair report. He talked about capital improvements in the works for the 2011 State Fair. A new electrical system is planned for the Sheep Barn. He stated that the Jacobsen Building is the jewel of the fair grounds and was completed for \$15,000,000.00. The school starting dates are a major issue with the State Fair and the Iowa Tourism Bureau. Paul is a voting delegate to the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and has worked long and hard to get that organization to add the school starting dates issue to their policy. He was successful in having accomplished this mission at their last meeting.

John Harms gave his report. He thanked everyone who contacted and gave him support during the summer flooding and especially during the Jones County Fair. He announced that there was near record attendance for the County Fair Day on the first Friday of the State Fair. There was also a live feed during the Opening Ceremony and Ribbon cutting held in the Jacobsen Center. Lee Greenwood sang during this ceremony and it was transmitted to our troops. He also commented on the cloned steer issue and feels that there will be some rules or regulations coming down the road on this issue. It was a challenge for the sale but the steer still brought a record price. The 2011 fair's theme will be "Nothing Compares".

Association Report:

Tom Barnes announced that each fair will be receiving \$10,000.00 for 2011 which will be handed out at the State Conference. He asked for a motion to approve the expenditure of funds in the northeast district. A motion to this effect was made by Ron Pullin and it was seconded by Dave Westcott and it carried.

Rick Palmer gave the Iowa Association of Fairs report saying that he had attended ½ of the county fairs in our district this year and will visit the other ½ of the fairs next year. He also announced that the Clayton County Fair has been chosen as the Blue Ribbon Fair for our district.

Joe Yedlik reported on the E-Coli emergency management plan.

Tom Barnes gave his semi-annual report and asked each person present to contact their Legislators regarding the school starting date of the last Monday in August. He asked the counties to get their fair financial forms back to him by November 15 along with membership dues on October 1 and the conference registration form along with any changes in E-mail addresses. He needs the originally signed forms through the mail and not E-mailed or faxed to him.

Tom also gave the ICAP report stating that 46 or 47 counties are using this as their insurance carrier.

The 2010 Conference will begin on Friday morning with 9:00 registration and 10:00 open business meeting. He asked for the fairs to bring fair books, posters and other information on your fair to share in the Resource Room.

The Zone 5 meeting will be February 18 – 20, 011 in St. Louis

Unfinished business – Do we want another Consumer Protection Workshop?

New district business – Paul Vaassen asked for our support in electing him to another two year term on the State Fair Board. The election will be held at the annual conference in December.

The spring 2011 district meeting will be hosted by (tentatively) Jones County in Monticello in March.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Buchanan County, seconded by Wyoming Fair Assn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Esther Pullin, Secretary