

## **AIF Northeast District Meeting**

**Sunday March 14, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. at the Fayette county fairgrounds in West Union, IA, 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: Allamakee Co., Chickasaw/Big Four Fair, Black Hawk Co. Fair, Bremer Co. Fair, Buchanan Co. Fair, Clayton Co. Fair, Delaware Co Fair, Dubuque Co. Fair, Howard Co. Fair, Jackson Co. Fair, Jones Co. Fair, Linn Co. Fair, National Cattle Congress Fair, Winneshiek Co. Fair, Big Four Postville and the Wyoming Fair Association.

A thank you was given to the Fayette Co. fairboard for hosting the meeting and for the meal that was served.

The minutes of the September 13, 2009, meeting were read and Wally Mochal moved to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Mark Troester and carried.

There was no Treasurer's report.

State Fair directors reports were given by Paul Vaassen and John Harms. Paul reported on capital improvements on the grounds. The Jacobsen Center will be in working order by the 2010 State Fair. Each county's quilt tile will be displayed on the north and south sides of the new facility. A staff person has been hired to book events year round in the Jacobsen Center in the future. The horse barns will be renovated so that year round horse shows could be booked. The Old School House will be known in the future as the New School House as it has been completely renovated.

John Harms announced the dates for the 2010 fair will be August 12-22 and the theme will be Non Stop Fun. County Fair Day will be August 13. He gave us a run down of the entertainment that has been booked so far and said that the Blue Ribbon Foundation has been actively seeking sponsorships.

Rick Palmer and Joe Yedlik gave the Association report. Attendance was up in the recently held Zone 5 meeting and next year the Zone 5 meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO, February 18-20.

Tom Barnes reported that the Conference and Annual Meeting will be held December 10, 11 & 12 in Des Moines. There will be some changes in the scheduling of events and the plans are to have sessions starting in the morning of December 10.

He announced that the State Funding Forms have been e-mailed to each county representative and need to be turned in by July 1. Fair funding is not in the Governor's budget for the coming year so it is very important that we contact our legislators to let them know that we wish them to support this item.

Tom stated that the State Vet department was present at all county fairs last year to check the poultry show for diseases.

**Tom also handed out Property Tax Exemption forms to counties that are being told to pay real estate taxes on fair grounds properties. He again reminded all present that they can download forms from the Association website.**

**Discussion was held on the Extension staff cutbacks and the need to be aware that there are changes coming down the road in this regard and we need to keep up to date on each county's situation.**

**There being no old business nor any new business the site of the next meeting was announced. We will meet on September 12, 2010, at the Jackson County fairgrounds, Maquoketa, IA.**

**Wally Mochal moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ron Pullin. Meeting adjourned.**

**Following the adjournment of the meeting a slide show was presented regarding the retirement of two long time state fair directors, Don Greiman and Dave Huinker. A token of our appreciation for the 30 years that Dave Huinker served was presented to him.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mary Esther Pullin, Secretary**