

# Association of Iowa Fairs

## Northeast District Meeting Minutes - Sunday, September 13, 2009

The NE District fall district meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. at the Expo Center on the Howard County Fairgrounds in Cresco, IA, by the District Chairman Rick Palmer.

Roll call was taken asking each county present to introduce their members present. 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.

Guests present: Iowa State Fair Director Paul Vaassen, AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes and AIF Executive Secretary/Treasurer Sue Barnes, State Representative Roger Thomas of Elkader, State Representative Brian Quirk of New Hampton, State Senator Mary Jo Wilhelm of Cresco, and Howard County Supervisor Jan McGovern.

The minutes of the March 15, 2009 district meeting, were read. Bremer County made motion to approve the minutes as read. National Cattle Congress seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was no Treasurer's report.

The Howard County Fairboard was given a round of appreciation for the great meal served and for hosting this meeting.

### Election of Northeast District Officers:

Rick Palmer declined to serve another term as Chairman. Jones County nominated Jennifer Dunn, Linn County Fair, for Chairman. Ron Pullin made motion the nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Jennifer Dunn. Bremer County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

National Cattle Congress nominated Ron Pullin for Vice Chairman. Bremer County made motion nomination cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Pullin as Vice Chairman. Blackhawk County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mary Esther Pullin was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer by National Cattle Congress. Dubuque County made motion that nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mary Esther Pullin as Secretary/Treasurer. Linn County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Election of District Director for the Association of Iowa Fairs Board of Directors:

Joe Yedlik was up for election. Howard County nominated Joe Yedlik. Clayton County made motion nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Joe Yedlik. Dubuque County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Iowa State Report:

Paul Vaassen gave the Iowa State Fair report.

- He expressed thoughts from Dave Huinker, who could not attend the district meeting due to previous engagement.
- Paul stated that attendance was down this year but the ISF did surpass the 1,000,000 mark. The early school starting date had a huge impact on the attendance.
- The Elwell Food Center which exhibits food products was completed and dubbed a first class exhibit center.
- There is a new covered walkway from the Swine Bldg to the new Arena. The Swine barn has undergone renovation of the pens and the lighting.
- County Fair Day had the largest attendance in the history of this event. A new site will have to be found to hold the growing number of people attending this event.
- There was a new midway this year and this was an improvement.
- The Jacobsen Center will be ready for the 2010 Iowa State Fair and the National Percheron Show will be held there in October 2010.

Presentations of those interested in running for the Iowa State Fair were held. Current ISF Board member Dave Huinker is not running for re-election. Mark Troester from the Clayton County Fair Board and John Harms, Manager of the Jones County Fair both gave presentations regarding running for the State Fair Director position. The election will be held at the AIF Conference in December.

Joe Yedlik and Rick Palmer, AIF NE District Directors, reported on the just completed fair season. They both commended the fairs for a very successful year, and thanked everyone for their hospitality shown to them.

**Association of Iowa Fairs Report:**

Tom Barnes, AIF Executive Director, gave the Association report.

- ⇒ He thanked the Legislators that were present at this meeting for helping to keep the state funding in place and their support of the fair of Iowa.
- ⇒ Tom reported in 2008 county fairs had a 2.23 million dollar economic impact in Iowa. He also said 2.4 million people attended county fairs in Iowa in 2008. The 2009 reports will be available in late November.
- ⇒ The AIF Board met with members of the Appropriations Committee in March and that they had a very good discussion. Each county fair that qualifies for state funds will receive \$10,000. He also stated that the \$530,000.00 earmarked in the 'county fair pool' will be divided equally among all qualifying county fairs this year. So each qualifying county fair will be receiving \$15,000.00 in state funding this year. Checks will be issued at the AIF Conference in December.
- ⇒ AIF forms were reviewed. Dues are due October 1; Conference forms and fiscal year financial report are due November 15 and fair officer form is due December 15.
- ⇒ Tom shared with the group Howard County Fair's quilt block that will be sent to the Iowa State Fair. He reminded everyone to turn in their quilt block by October 15 to the Iowa State Fair office.
- ⇒ He asked for remarks from counties that have looked at, and are using, the ICAP insurance program. To date, 34 county fairs have joined the ICAP program. Several counties shared their thoughts on joining ICAP and the benefits they are experiencing. All highly recommended ICAP to other fairs.
- ⇒ The reorganization of the Extension program in Iowa is a major concern for the county fair system and all need to stay on top of changes as they take place.
- ⇒ The AIF Conference will be held December 11 -13 schedule. Tom reviewed the preliminary schedule. A complete schedule will be sent to all AIF members in late October.
- ⇒ Tom reminded all the AIF is going to transition most of its communications with its members from regular postal mail to E-mail. This method is faster, more efficient, and easy to communicate.
- ⇒ Finally, all fairs were asked to share all information received at the district meetings, and other communications from the AIF with each fairs entire Board. It is vital this information is passed on.

Unfinished business: the IAFE Zone 5 meeting will be held in February 26 – 29, 2010 in Des Moines. All fairs are invited and encouraged to attend.

New business: Discussion was held on recognition for Dave Huinker's 30 years on the Iowa State Fair Board.

Host for the 2010 spring meeting will be Fayette County. It will be held on March 14, 2010.

National Cattle Congress made motion to adjourn. Buchanan County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Esther Pullin, District Secretary