

# Association of Iowa Fairs

## Northeast District Meeting Minutes - Sunday, March 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds Ball Room by 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. Fair, Benton Co. Fair, Chickasaw/Big Four Fair, Black Hawk Co. Fair, Bremer Co. Fair, Buchanan Co. Fair, Clayton Co. Fair, Delaware Co. Fair, Dubuque Co. Fair, Fayette Co. Fair, Howard Co. Fair, Jackson Co. Fair, Jones Co. Fair, Linn Co. Fair, National Cattle Congress, Winneshiek Co. Fair, Big Four Fair, Postville and Wyoming Fair Assn.

Guests present: Iowa State Fair Directors Paul Vaassen and Dave Huinker, AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes and AIF Executive Secretary/Treasurer Sue Barnes.

Sue Barnes passed around the AIF attendance sheet for all in attendance to sign.

The Dubuque County Fair Board was given a round of appreciation for the great meal that was served and for hosting this meeting.

Minutes of the September 14, 2008 district meeting were read by Mary Ester Pullin. Linn County made motion to accept the minutes as read and Fayette County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's report.

### Iowa State Fair report:

- Dave Huinker reported that the new Jacobsen Building is in the process of being built and will create lots of hazardous traffic around it during the 2009 State Fair. The MidAmerican Energy building is also being constructed. The Ellwell Family Theatre will be completed by the time of the 2009 State Fair. Dave also invited all of us to attend the County Fair Day on August 14.
- Paul Vaassen stated that the National Appaloosa Association has contacted the State Fair in regards to having their national show on the State Fair grounds in the future. He also filled us in on a new project which will be tied to the Jacobsen building. The State Fair is required to apply a certain percent of the construction costs of this building to art and art works. In order to comply with this requirement, the State Fair is asking each county to submit a Barn Quilt design and an alternate by October 15, 2009. They have suggested a contest in each county which will be managed by the Extension Service to select a winning design and alternate. Perhaps this could be a class at the 2009 county fairs. Paul also reported that the entertainment line up is very good for the State Fair this year and will be made public soon.

### Association Board of Directors report:

- AIF District Director Joe Yedlik reported on the ISU Extension Task Force report which was put together in response to questions regarding county fairs and their relationship to the Extension Service. He went over the Memorandum of Understanding which should be a part of each county fair board's duty to conduct. The Memorandum of Understanding spells out the responsibilities about who does what in conducting the county fair. It is merely a guideline and it is not carved in stone and could be changed whenever it is reviewed, perhaps on a yearly basis. It could eliminate a lot of misunderstanding between the Extension Service and the county fair board.
- AIF District Director Rick Palmer reported on the recently held IAFE Zone 5 meeting. Rick encouraged everyone to attend the 2010 IAFE Zone 5 meeting which will be held in Iowa.

**Association of Iowa Fairs Report:**

- **AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes reviewed the Legislative items and State funding for county fairs. Tom reported the AIF Board is hosting a breakfast social at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 18. This social is held to discuss the legislative issues with the Iowa Legislators.**
- **The Iowa Tourism Industry is working with the AIF to support the school start date of 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in August.**
- **The Appropriations Committee is meeting now and we need to contact our legislators to support the State Funding for county fairs.**
- **Tom also says the pool of funds for 2008 project is at a stand still. The Treasurer's office wanted to handle the funds and now they do not know how to go about making the distributions.**
- **The State Funding forms have been sent via e-mail to each county from the AIF office. Each fair is to print it off, fill it out and send it by first class mail to the AIF office by July 1, 2009.**
- **The State Veterinarian office is sending inspectors to each county fair to take samples of poultry feces to test for Avian Flu and other deceases.**
- **Premise ID number is needed for each county fairgrounds. If it has not been applied for, do so now! This can be acquired through the Iowa Department of Agriculture.**
- **Insurance update: The Iowa Legislature has approved working with ICAP to obtain insurance coverage for AIF member fairs. A few fairs are test counties to see how this would benefit their particular fair and to compare their present insurance coverage with the ICAP premiums, coverage, etc. ICAP coverage can be obtained from any insurance agent. After 6 years in the plan the fair is vested and can receive dividends.**

**There was no district business for discussion, no new business and no old business.**

**Dave Hunker passed out information from the state 4-H office regarding the changes in the swine project for 2010. He asked us to take this information back to our county for review and discussion to see how this would affect our county's swine program.**

**Host for the fall meeting to be held on September 13 will be Howard County.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Clayton County and was seconded by Bremer County.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mary Esther Pullin, District Secretary.**