

Association of Iowa Fairs

Northwest District Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2009

The fall meeting of the NW District of the Association of Iowa Fairs met on August 29, 2009, with Pocahontas County hosting.

President Dave Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. with 16 fairs of the NW District answering roll call. Also present were Bill Neubrand, Jeanne Partlow, Darwin Gaudian, Tom & Sue Barnes. During roll call a member of each fair introduced those representing their counties & gave a report on the success of their 2009 fairs.

Minutes of the spring meeting & treasurers report were read and approved by a motion made by Cherokee County and seconded by O'Brien County.

Election of District Chairman was held. Plymouth County made a motion to nominate Darwin Gaudian and Marcus seconded. Motion carried. Election of District Vice-President was held. Plymouth County nominated Rich Benson and Ida County seconded. Motion carried. Election of District Secretary/Treasurer was held. O'Brien County nominated Lynnette Soden and Plymouth County seconded. Motion carried. Election of District Director was held. Marcus Fair nominated Dave Hoffman and Calhoun County seconded. Motion carried.

Jeanne Partlow reported on behalf of the Iowa State Fair. She started by thanking all fairs for their efforts. The state fair had 1 million 6 thousand in attendance, which is down about 9%. It's felt the start date of schools and couple days of rain played a part in the decline. The Corn Dog Stomp time was backed up. It wasn't free but had many give-a-ways. They had 20,000 in attendance. A new thing evolving is winery. There was a display of how the process works and had grape stomping contest. Bill Neubrand then reported the State Fair contracted a new midway. He stated it was clean, cheaper and they were great to work with. The foods building had over 12,000 entries. The new stalling barn is completed. The horse arena is still under construction. Bill then gave a short presentation about running for the Iowa State Board.

Association Report: Tom Barnes asked all fairs to make sure they had an email listed for their counties to assist in better communication.

Tom then highlighted the changes and adjustments to Extension services.

Tom reported on the pool funding and how it will be distributed among the fairs. He commented if an individual fair has changed their initial plan since the time of application; they can email the changes to the office. The question was asked about next years funding if it would be taken away. Tom answered by saying it is always possible for it to be taken away but reminded everyone it doesn't come from the general fund. He then encouraged everyone to thank their local Legislators.

2009 AIF and Conference forms were handed out. Tom reminded everyone to get the forms in quickly. The financial report form is due November 15. The officer form is a new form and Tom reminded everyone to make sure to make updates on the form.

Tom then remarked about ICAP insurance program. O'Brien County was the first fair to sign up. 34 of the 107 fairs have signed up. Of those currently signed up, have felt they had a great savings and better coverage.

Tom announced this years Blue Ribbon Fair is Dickinson County.

10 fairs from the NW District have sent in there Barn Quilt designs. All are encouraged to submit a design.

Tom then highlighted the upcoming Conference. It will be held December 11-13. At the present time Tom didn't have the full details or schedule but further info will be arriving. He stated as of yet there isn't a spouse's tour finalized. The motivational speaker will be Dr. Larry Helms. He will be speaking on Friday @ 2pm and Saturday in the AM session and in the PM session.

Darwin Gaudian talked about the County Fair Day at the State Fair. The picnic was attended by over 1200 people. He remarked how the NW District was well represented. Plymouth County, Clay County and Cherokee County all had their fair queens in the top of the finals.

No new business was discussed.

Emmet County offered to host the spring meeting for the NW District. It will be held March 20, 2010. Sioux County stated they would be willing to host the fall meeting in 2010.

Dave Hoffman commented what we as county fairs do for kids. He stated what we do can affect them in many ways and in some cases for life.

Marcus Fair made a motion to adjourn, Lyon County seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.



Lynnette Soden

District Secretary/Treasurer