

Association of Iowa Fairs

Southeast District Meeting Minutes - Saturday, September 6, 2008

The AIF SE District fall meeting was held on September 6, 2008 at the Iowa County Fairgrounds in Marengo, Iowa. District Chairman Keith Bothell called the meeting to order. Bob Schultz gave the invocation.

Roll call was taken with 18 fairs present.

Johnson County made motion to approve the meeting minutes of the 2008 spring district meeting as sent out to member Fairs. Van Buren County seconded motion. Motion carried. Lee County made motion to approve Treasurer's report, with Johnson County seconding motion. Motion carried.

Gary McConnell, Iowa State Fair Director, made a motion to change the election of district officers to a two year term. Lee County seconded motion. Motion carried. Louisa County made motion to retain the current officers for the District Association (Keith Bothell as Chairman, Richard Smith as Vice-Chairman and Jim Sloan as Secretary/Treasurer) and Don Cain as AIF District Director. Van Buren County seconded motion. Motion carried.

ISF Director Gary McConnell gave a report on the 2008 Iowa State Fair. The ISF saw record attendance, due to great weather and solid entertainment. Other items of interest included: fair hosted seventy charter busses from various locations; during the fair, employees totaled 1,550; cost for grandstand entertainment was \$1,600,000; Butterfly House was a new exhibit this year; the Animal Learning Center was expanded to have ostriches, baby ducks and neutering of animals; and all exhibits were well attended. Gary also mentioned the Iowa DNR will update their building for the 2009 fair. Also, four acres of land have been donated adjacent to the fairgrounds in the campground area. Two major donations, \$3,500,000 and \$1,000,000, have been received during the Fair and will go toward renovations and new buildings.

ISF Director Bob Schultz discussed the plans for the new horse pavilion to be completed in 2010 which will be comparable to Kansas City's pavilions when completed. Bob reported on the 'newly renovated food center, which will receive \$1,700,000 for a new food center. Bob stated one property on the southwest corner of the Iowa State Fairgrounds has been purchased as well as four acres on the north side of the fairgrounds. He also said his own county fairgrounds, Louisa County, had eleven feet of water on their fairgrounds prior to the 2008 Fair due to flooding. Buildings had to be rewired as well as 250 ton of rock hauled in and placed on the grounds.

Gary McConnell is running for re-election for the Iowa State Fair Board and asking for support in his re-election bid.

Tom Barnes, Executive Director of the Association of Iowa Fairs, stated that Don Cain and Richard Smith visited the fairs in the district to review state funding reports. All fairs have met the requirements for state funding. Johnson County made motion to approve state funding expenditure of the member fairs in the Southeast District for 2008. Mississippi Valley Fair seconded motion. Motion carried.

Tom reported on state funding for 2008. \$10,000 will be distributed at the Conference. \$5,000, per fair, will be put in a pool with matching funds required (minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$50,000) to be distributed by the State Treasurer's office. All corresponding paperwork needs to be at the State Treasurer's office by December 1, 2008.

Tom reviewed the upcoming AIF Conference and Annual Meeting which will be December 5, 6 and 7 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Consumer Protection Workshop will be Friday of Conference. Friday afternoon will feature Barb Hensinger, Michigan Department of Agriculture, speaking on board development, and a Vision Iowa meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. for those fairs interested in applying for funds. A Holiday Tour will be Friday afternoon with the Awards Banquet Friday evening. Workshops, showcasing and auction will be featured Saturday. Sunday morning will include church service, workshop and the Annual Meeting of the AIF and Iowa State Fair. Tom also reported that Iowa is number one for training of the Consumer Protection Workshops.

District Chairman Keith Bothell expressed thanks to Iowa County for hosting this meeting. Wapello County Regional Fair, Eldon, will host the spring 2009 meeting. Invitations to all will be sent to all member fairs and guests.

Johnson County made motion to adjourn meeting. Louisa County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Jim Sloan, District Secretary