

Association of Iowa Fairs

Southeast District Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2009

West Burlington, Iowa - Des Moines County Fair

President Keith Bothell called the meeting to order on September 19, 2009 in West Burlington, Iowa. Robert Schultz gave the invocation.

Roll call was taken with 17 fairs present. Wapello County 4-H- Expo absent.

Johnson County moved to approve the spring meeting minutes, second by Washington County. Motion carried. Treasurer's reported a balance of \$336.27. Johnson County moved, Des Moines County, second to approve Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Richard Smith, Director Association of Iowa Fairs, thanked everyone for supporting him for the past twelve years. Don Cain, Director Association of Iowa Fairs, thanked Richard Smith for his years of service. Don called for election of AIF District Director. Nominations: Davis County nominated Jim Sloan for Director, Johnson County second. Cain asked for any other nominations. Muscatine County nominated Lori Gosenberg, Cedar County second. Motion by Johnson County for nominations to cease, second by Keokuk County. Gary McConnell and Bob Schultz counted ballots with the election of Jim Sloan to the Association of Iowa Fairs Board.

State Fair Director Bob Schultz gave official attendance to the State Fair as 1,600,000. Wells Fargo and Principal Financial did not buy tickets for their employees to attend the fair this year. The old tourism building has been remodeled to the Elway Center at a cost of \$2 million. One of the new fair attractions was the grape stomping. A freak accident occurred during the steer show. Jacobsen Center is a work in progress. The roof consists of 260 beams with an enclosure date of January 2010. No changes to the hog show in 2010. August 12 through August 22, 2010 are the fair dates with a theme of Non-stop Fun. Bob announced he would be running for reelection to the State Fair Board.

Gary McConnell, Director Iowa State Fair, requested members talk to local school board members about a later start date for classes. A brief report was given on horse shows, stage shows and the tractor pull. November 2010 there will be a rodeo on the grounds.

Tom Barnes, Executive Director of the Association of Iowa Fairs, reported that Dave Huinker and Don Greiman, State Fair Directors, are retiring at the end of their terms. The "Pool" fund for county fairs has been dissolved and funds will be distributed equally among all member county fairs. Therefore, \$15,000 per fair will be available in 2010. Paperwork for funding and financial reports is due in the Association's office by November 15, 2009. Association dues are due now. 4-H and FFA had a four to five percent decrease in members over the past three years. Thirty-four fairs reported joining ICAP Insurance. Quilt blocks are due October 15.

Blue Ribbon Fair for 2009 is Clinton County.

AIF Conference will be held December 11 through December 13, 2009 in Des Moines. The 2013 and 2014 IAFE Convention will be on Iowa's Conference dates. The Association Directors will have to decide the dates for the convention to avoid a conflict.

Keith Bothell thanked Des Moines County for hosting the fall meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Washington County with second by Johnson County. Spring district meeting will be held at Johnson County in Iowa City on March 13, 2010. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Jim Sloan - Secretary