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NOAA Employees Association (NEA) at the National Weather Center (NWC)

Minutes for NEA (NOAA Employees Association) Meeting

Date: April 23, 2008

Location: Room 1313, National Weather Center

Meeting Call to Order: 11:42 AM (Kevin Manross)

Attendance By Organization:

SPC	(11)
NWS WFO	(2)
ROC	(5)
NSSL	(14)
WDTB	(5)
Other	(3)

Meeting Minutes

Subject 1: Welcome by Kevin Manross, Past President of NSEA/NEA

Item 1: Big Transition of Organization- Introduction of New Officers

President: Dave Imy (SPC)

Vice-President: Daphne Thompson (NSSL)

Secretary: Suzanne Van Cooten (NSSL)

Treasurer: Kenny James (NWS WFO)/ Christine Grant (NWS WFO)

Item 2: Thanks and acknowledgments of past officers

Kevin passed meeting responsibilities to Dave Imy, new President NEA

Subject 2: Presentation and discussion of new business led by Dave Imy

Item 1: Thanks to past officers for past three years of service

Item 2: Thanks to Mark Benner for support of NEA

Item 3: Thanks to Mike Coniglio for merchandise support

Item 4: Thanks to Joan O'Bannon for NSEA/NEA photo concession

- Item 5: Introduction of Christine Grant as replacement for Kenny James
- i. Kenny James has accepted a position with HPC and will be leaving the Norman WFO.
 - ii. Christine Grant, Administrative Assistant NWS WFO Norman, has volunteered to be NEA treasurer and the officers have accepted the offer

- Item 6: Organizational Points of Contact (P.O.C.) introductions and explanation of duties
- i. Due to the number of organizations now involved in the NEA, each organization will have a P.O.C. who will be responsible for linking NEA to its employees and collecting dues (i.e. outreach to individual organizations)
 - ii. Introduction of P.O.C.s
 - a. Randy Steadham (ROC Apps Branch)
 - b. Steve Kruckenberg (NWS OUN)
 - c. Linda Curtis (WDTB)
 - d. Jason Levitt (SPC)
 - e. Dena Grose & Kevin Manross (NSSL)

- Item 7: Treasurer Report (Presented by the President as Dena Gross (past treasurer) and Kenny James unable to attend)
- i. Overview of assets and liabilities for available balance of funds
 - a. Available balance is approximately \$7300 right now
 - b. Most funds come from merchandise as dues have not been collected
 - c. Membership dues will be accepted shortly

- Subject 3: Status of merchandise concession presented by Mike Coniglio
- i. New order has come in to restock merchandise closet after the National Severe Weather Workshop
 - ii. New merchandise ideas (discussion led by Daphne Thompson) to increase the offerings across price points, ages, and interests
 - a. Particular items currently available are not fast sellers (i.e. water bottles and duffle bags). Suggested these items not be re-ordered
 - b. Shirts are the best sellers with several recommendations to the group
 - I. New logo shirts for new NEA member groups
 - II. Expand T-Shirt designs to include storm chaser motifs
 - c. Create notecard sets/stationary using some of the photos NSEA/NEA had and any new photos people would donate for use
 - d. Creation of magnet message frames similar to the one produced containing weather words
 - iii. Dave Imy and others mentioned approximately 3,000 dollars of merchandise was sold at the National Severe Weather Workshop. Thanks to those who volunteered to help

Subject 4: New NEA web site information presented by webmaster Steve Kruckenberg

- i. The new web site is neaatnwc.com
- ii. Thanks to John Hart for hosting our NEA web site for gratis
 - a. The domain name was bought for an annual fee of 10 dollars using NEA funds
- iii. Web Page is a work in progress
 - a. G-Mail is available and can be used for NEA members to offer suggestions and comments.
 - b. An officer's news blog section is in development to keep all members up to date on group activities
 - c. Links for NSEA/NEA merchandise still go to College of DuPage but will reside on the NEA domain shortly

Subject 5: Highlights of new constitution and bylaws presented by Dave Imy

- i. As of today, P.O.C.'s will start collecting membership dues
 - 10 dollars for NOAA employees and 5 dollars for students employed by a NWC NOAA organization
- ii. Dues go to support the holiday party, lunches, summer picnics, flowers and remembrances, and other activities NEA votes on
- iii. The discretionary spending limit by officers (for pizza lunches, etc.) has been lifted to 175 dollars. Expenditures over this level have to be approved by the NEA membership
- iv. For new NOAA employees there is a 1 year exemption on membership dues
- v. A new position has been created to help with the multiple organizations now involved. The P.O.C. position and role is described in the governing documents
- vi. NEA meetings will be held quarterly

Questions:

- 1) Are there going to be any more "gab at the grill" events

Response:

OU food service says we need a food permit to prepare food in the building. NEA cannot grill or prepare food without one

A food permit comes from attending a class at health department with a cost of 20 dollars

NEA has not come up with an alternative except we can bring in food so we might have people pay a small fee and bring in food or have potlucks

NEA might think about more joint parties with OU since they are helpful in setting up tables, chairs, and reserving the atrium

- 2) If there are questions on the constitution or bylaws sent in via e-mail will the vote on the constitution and bylaws need to be moved from the next meeting to the third meeting so those questions can be addressed by the entire group?

Response:

Those questions will be answered as they come in. There will be a period of discussion prior to the vote at the next meeting which should resolve any additional issues. The vote on the constitution and bylaws will remain on the agenda for the next meeting

- 3) Can NOAA employees who work at the NWC but are not in one of the NEA organizations join NEA?

Response:

Yes. You can pay dues directly to the treasurer. If you feel you need a P.O.C. pick one from the list and inform the P.O.C. and an NEA officer of your choice so e-mail lists will be accurate

- 4) The Sam's Club Card will need to reflect the name change and be renewed. Does NEA want to keep Mark Benner as the primary on the card?

Response:

Yes. Mark Benner will remain the primary on the card. Mark will update the account and the NEA will reimburse Mark for the annual fee.

Action Items for Next Meeting (Mid-May)

Action Item 1. There will be a vote next meeting to ratify the constitution and bylaws

- a. The comment period is open for prospective NEA members to review and send comments via g-mail to webmaster
- b. There is an updated set of bylaws and constitution on web page (www.neaatnwc.com)
- c. You will need to be a dues paid member at the time of the vote. Membership dues will be accepted by the P.O.C.s (or NEA officer if a P.O.C. is unavailable) prior to the meeting. Dues will also be accepted at the door prior to the second meeting (Checks can be made out to NEA).
- d. A current dues paid membership roster will be maintained on the NEA web page

Action Item 2: There will be a review of current NSEA/NEA expenditures and their associated activities. A vote will be taken to end or continue each of these activities as NEA in order to close out NSEA expenditures and move them to NEA expenditures

Action Item 2: Suggestions for merchandise let Daphne or your POC know

Action Item 3: Send web page suggestions to Steve for content and ideas

Action Item 4: Bring suggestions for social activities to mid-May meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 PM by NEA President