



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

## February 20, 2009 NEA Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am with 38 members in attendance.

The Nickels room was originally reserved at 11:30 am for WTDB to set up the room for their upcoming DLOC class, but pushed the setup back to 12:30 pm so NEA could have the meeting. Thanks much WTDB! It was also Linda Curtis's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday and all sang Happy Birthday to her.

Linda Crank next read the minutes from the previous NEA meeting held on Nov. 13, 2008.

The Treasurer Report mentioned that the NEA account had \$5881.92 (minus the \$129 for the pizza).

The Christmas party (Dec 16<sup>th</sup>) total cost was \$1090 with NEA/OU splitting the costs. Thanks much to Mark Benner for once again cooking all of the meats.

Merchandise Report – We have plenty of T-shirts on hand for NSWW, but need golf shirts and hats. Mike will make an order at the end of the week to ensure we have plenty of merchandise.

A suggestion was brought up about having a clothing display somewhere in the NWC lobby. The problem is the furniture must match the buildings décor and then having someone available to sell the items, when needed. This idea will be explored for further discussion at the next meeting.

NEA Bylaws Article III (Election of Officers) states the following:

**Section 1.** A Nominating/Election Committee (2 to 4 persons) will be formed from the current NEA membership by no later than the end of each calendar year. Members of the committee may volunteer for service or be recruited by the presiding President. *Mark Benner and Linda Curtis were the two who formed this committee.*

**Section 2.** The Nominating/Election Committee shall begin solicitation of nominations for NEA officer positions at least one month prior to the election. Open nominations will be received by the committee. *They did this.*

**Section 3.** The committee shall prepare a ballot which will be distributed to all NEA members. Ballots will be collected anonymously by the committee. Dues (if applicable) must be paid at the time lots are collected. Write-in candidates on the ballot may be accepted. Two members of the election committee (who are not running for any NEA office) will tally results and announce

hem to the POC to distribute to their respective organizations. *Has not happened yet due to lack of candidates.*

**Section 4.** Officer elections will be conducted no later than the third Wednesday of February (Feb 18) each year. NEA members will be given no less than three (3) working days to cast their vote after ballots are distributed. Winners are determined by a simple majority of all candidates. In case of a tie, the committee shall conduct a run-off election to be completed by the last working day in February. *Same as Section 3.*

*Linda Crank (Secretary) and Chris Grant (Treasurer) have both decided to step down from their current positions. If interested, please let Mark Benner and/or Linda Curtis know.*

There was a discussion about dues (whether they should be maintained or lowered). After discussion it was decided to follow the NEA Bylaw (Article V), which states, “Dues, based on a membership year, are \$10, and will be collected on a yearly basis. Student dues are discounted to \$5 per year. Dues for employees wishing to join during mid-session will be prorated.” **The dues will be collected by the NEA Point of Contact’s (POCs) beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

A suggestion was made for NEA to be involved at the “OU Commissioning of the Radar” on April 4<sup>th</sup>. However, NEA was unaware of the event and, as of this time, has not been invited.

Dena Grose proposed that NEA donate \$1000 for individuals affected by the Lone Grove tornado. Linda Curtis seconded the motion. The proposal will be voted on at the next meeting.

Jami Boettcher mentioned that the NWC participation in the December Food Drive was outstanding. The following three agencies received two full car loads of food items: (1) Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency – serving all of Cleveland County with distribution of non-perishable food; (2) Food and Shelter for Friends – hot lunch served 6 days per week and distribution of non-perishable food as supplies allow; (3) Salvation Army – serving the Norman area with distribution of non-perishable food and holiday baskets. Your help was greatly appreciated!!!

Jami also suggested two possible service community activities for NEA.

The “Full Circle Adult Day Center” is in need of a vacuum cleaner and portable DVD players. Jami proposed that NEA allocate up to \$600 to provide a vacuum cleaner and portable DVD player for the “Full Circle Adult Day Center”. The motion was seconded by Dena Grose. This proposal will be voted on at the next meeting.

Also, Jami described a horrible situation where homeless families are now living in makeshift homes under the Canadian River Bridge here in Norman. To help these individuals, a service community project will be run in April for anyone interested in helping these individuals. As with the food drive, bins will be setup around the NWC. Donations will consist of personal hygiene items, paper towels, non-perishable canned food, etc. A more comprehensive list of items will be distributed when the drive begins.

Kevin Manross brought up the topic of NEA donating NOAA Weather Radios, as it has done in the past. Sandra Allen spoke with Shawn Kennedy at “Feed the Children” and he said they needed 16 weather radios to be used in warehouses where volunteers sort and ship. These warehouses are located across the United States from CA, IN, TN, and TX. Feed the Children has been in operation for 30 years and 80% of their resources are used here in the United States. Kevin Manross plans to talk to a Midland Radio representative during the NSWV and see if they are interested in donating the 16 radios to “Feed the Children.” If not, he’ll see if they can provide them to NEA for a discount and we will consider a donation to “Feed the Child.” More on this at the next meeting.

A recommendation was made by Linda Curtis that we contact the local papers so we can publicize that the Norman weather community does more for the community than just “weather.” Keli Tarp has been contacted about this effort.

The possibility of a spring picnic was mentioned, but it was determined that the spring was too busy to fit this in.

Dena Grose mentioned that a new 15 oz. Bistro style mug is available through NEA now. The full color NSSL logo is printed on two sides of the mug. The costs will be \$12 for NEA members and \$15 for all others.

If you are interested in helping to sell merchandise at the NEA booth during the NSWV (mainly during breaks and lunch), let David Imy know.

- Need volunteers for NSSL (sign-up sheet)
- Those who volunteer need to be registered for NSSL

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.