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

## **NEA Meeting Monday, 2 August 2010 NWC Room 3910**

**President Steve Kruckenberg called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon CDT. Twenty-eight members were in attendance.**

**Co-secretary Jami Boettcher read the minutes of the last (26 April) general meeting.**

**Treasurer Linda Skaggs provided a financial report:**

NEA account balance \$9532.33

NEA expenditures:

67.0% merchandise

23.0% charity

3.4% flowers/memorials

2.0% "Pet tornado" (plastic-enclosed tornado water toy for sale)

2.0% ice cream social

Desire is to keep account balance  $\leq$  \$10,000.

### **Old business**

President Steve Kruckenberg noted that the NEA web page improvements that he made as webmaster have been completed.

Members agreed unanimously to donate \$1000 to Norman Meal-On-Wheels. This motion had been proposed earlier in the year by David Imy and was the revival of a previous proposal that was temporarily shelved after the NEA elected to donate \$2000 to the Norman Women's Resource Center in January.

### **New business**

Bob Staples proposed donating \$200 for the NEA to be a "sponsor" of the 10 October Cleveland County, OK Crop Walk. Money collected by the Crop Walk is distributed by International Church World Services, a non-denominational

organization. Of the money collected, 25% will remain in Cleveland County; the rest will be used by the international organization. Serving as a sponsor would mean that the NEA "logo" (actually, just the stylized letters, "NEA," that appear on these meeting notes and on the NEA web page) would appear on the water bottles to be distributed at the event.

Since the NEA is a non-profit organization, Mark Benner proposed that the NEA simply make a direct cash donation of \$200 to the local Crop Walk without serving as a "sponsor" (and thereby have \$150 of the donation leave the local area). Another proposal was that NEA members agree to help solicit volunteer walkers for the Crop Walk; this proposal would involve no monetary donation.

Finally, a third proposal was to have the NEA make a direct \$1000 donation to Food & Shelter for Friends, a United Way organization in Norman that feeds and provides shelter to the hungry and homeless families.

Bob Staples also suggested another non-perishable food/personal care item drive, similar to last year's successful NEA efforts. The materials collected would, as last year, be picked up and distributed by local churches (e.g., Compassionate Pointe?) to the local Salvation Army. An email will be drafted to solicit support for the drive amongst NEA members. It also was proposed that links be added to the NEA web site for local non-profits that accept donations, and/or to organizations to which the NEA has made past donations.

Moving beyond charitable donations, a suggestion was made to set aside ≤ \$1000 for the annual NWC holiday party. OU's new dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographical Sciences, Berrien Moore III, has expressed interest in maintaining the annual event. Moore also is interested in obtaining a permanent cabinet to display sale items of the NEA and those of other organizations within the NWC.

Dena Grose proposed to once again direct \$175 toward the annual "Chilli Cook Off;" the event perhaps should be re-named "Crock Pot Cook Off." Awards would once again be given to those who contribute soup. Participants get to vote for their favorite entry.

Bob Rabin read a proposal made by Steve Vasiloff to fund a bicycle station outside the NWC. The "station" would include a rack to assist in the repair of flat tires, and also would include spare inner tubes and small tools needed for minor bicycle adjustments. The station would be housed in one of the existing NWC bike lockers, sponsored by Buchanan Bicycles of Norman, and would allow NEA members to obtain discounts at that business. Linda Skaggs noted a potential problem with the proposal was that OU owns the bicycle lockers, but that non-OU individuals potentially would benefit from the proposal. Jeff Kimpel noted that the proposal would be of benefit to only a small percentage of NWS people and, therefore, might not be the best use of NEA funds. On the other hand, other

members noted that Norman was not a very bicycle-friendly town, and that encouragement of bicycle use would be one of the benefits of the proposal.

Vote on all of the above proposals involving significant monetary donations will be deferred to a special meeting to be held in the near future.

Linda Skaggs proposed another ice cream social, this one tentatively set for Friday 20 August 2010 at 2:00 PM (pending no conflict with building tours usually scheduled on Fridays). Because the proposal involved such limited funds, everyone present agreed to support the motion.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM CDT. A special meeting will be in the near future to vote on the proposals involving significant monetary donations that were made during the present meeting.**