

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 in the basement conference room at City Hall. Those present were: Ron Wagenaar, Linda Woodcock, Marshall Huffman, Lahoma Counts, Hal Minear, Steve Wendt, Tammy Hove, Rev. John Gannett, Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Joy Drennen, and Dixie Lamoreux.

We recently sent out membership solicitation letters and Marshall continues to do telephone follow up calls. We did have three new and hopefully permanent people at this meeting – Tammy Hove, Rev. Gannett and Steve Wendt. They are all certainly welcome and we do hope they will join us each month at our meetings. Due to the new faces being there, we all introduced ourselves at the start of the meeting. Jane had agendas for everyone, so we could cover everything we needed to cover.

Joy reported that we have a balance of \$2680.57 in our bank account.

Jane said she had been in contact with Kevin Suhr, our web site management person and as of meeting time he still had not posted the November minutes on the site. We all agreed that we need to try and get more local with our web site management and we will be talking with Matt Marquardt about making a switch now that our renewal is due with Kevin. Kevin and Matt have worked together and we are hoping that this will make the transition better for everyone. Dixie gave Jane the information to make the initial contact with Matt.

As mentioned before, Marshall will continue to try and make telephone contact with those who received membership solicitation letters in early November. Hopefully we will be able to add a few more new members to NIDAT through these efforts.

The next topic of discussion was the Black History Art/Essay contests being sponsored by NIDAT. Jane has been in contact with our interim postmaster, Scott Pardoe and he has assured us that the Post Office will furnish 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes for the essay contest. First place prizes will be monetary and paid by NIDAT in both art and essay contests. 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the art contest will be gift cards from Hobby Lobby and will also be paid for by NIDAT.

Some of the judges for the contests have been finalized and some are yet to be confirmed. Those we presently have will be Peggy Bang, Linda Woodcock, Joy Drennen and Wendy Meineke. Jamie Nagel is waiting for a confirmation on a person from the Mason City Public Library and Tammy is checking into getting another person from NIACC to judge also. Confirmation letters will be sent to each judge. The actual judging will take place at 3:30 on January 15<sup>th</sup> in Suite 216 of Mohawk Square. Hal will get the projects there and there is locked storage available for storing items after the judging is complete.

Joy is now free lance writing for the Globe Gazette and will be doing some checking for us to see about coverage and possible printing of essays and pictures of artwork winning entries.

Dixie will be printing participation certificates for all students entering the contests. Hal will get the list of names to her so this can get done before the event.

The award ceremony will be held in Center Court of Southbridge Mall on February 1, 2007 from 5 to 5:30. Dan Gapinski will be our Master of Ceremonies. Before the event begins, Rebecca Davis, a 13 year old black harpist from Swea City will play her harp for us and NIDAT agreed to pay her \$100 for this and give her \$25 for travel costs. Dixie will be contacting her to confirm this. Dan and Jane will be attending the City Council meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> to receive the proclamation that will be read at the February 1<sup>st</sup> event. Marshall is still trying to contact Regan Banks about having his group of young singers sing a couple of songs at the February event also. The prizes will be given out by Jane, Dan and also Scott Pardoe from the Post Office.

Jane will be speaking with Scott at the Post Office about getting a video to be shown on local Channel 4 during February. Lionel Foster told us that he will assist with getting coverage for the event and getting the video on Channel 4 if possible.

In the way of new business, Linda announced that the Downtown Association will be submitting the North Iowa Diversity Team for a state award for “Best Diversity Initiative”. The award will be given in April in Des Moines and submission will be made in mid January. She gave Joy, Jane and Dixie forms to complete with information for her to use in this effort.

Linda also offered her services to assist us with writing and submitting grants for NIDAT, so we will be taking her up on this offer in 2007 when we submit a few grants to get money for our two yearly events – An ethnic luncheon and Black History event.

We are also going to continue to check out the possibility of using the artwork from our Black History event to make calendars and sell to raise awareness of NIDAT as well as a possible fundraiser to assist in covering our expenses.

***Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 4 PM at City Hall***

Respectfully Submitted by Dixie Lamoreux