

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met in the basement conference room at City Hall in Mason City on Wednesday, February 14, 2007. Those present included: Rev. Jack Gannett, Dan Gapinski, Jane Ginapp, Tammy Hove, Mark Miller, Laurentiu Plaian, Linda Woodcock, Aimee Kern, Sr. Carol Besch, Anna Christianson, Alga Guzman, Corey Brown, Ron Wagenaar, Jamie Nagel, Hal Minear, Dixie Lamoreux.

The meeting began with introductions since we had some new faces in attendance. Jane updated us on the finances of NIDAT in Joy's absence. Our bank balance is \$1816.27. We will be applying for grants from Mercy and Principal in the next few months and the fund raising match from Thrivent was approved but put on hold until June. Ours will not be one of the first to be funded but if money permits, it will be funded.

A card was passed for people to sign thanking Jim Spencer for his support of and work for NIDAT. He has left Mercy in Mason City and will now be located in Sioux City. He will definitely be missed in this area.

Next on the agenda was an update from the Black History event. There is a display in Southbridge Mall of the work students submitted for the contests. Thank You's were sent out to the judges, singers and the harpist. It was a successful event and we got many good comments. We are hopeful that we can get more involvement next year and make it even better.

Dan reported that the website controversy has been settled with Kevin Suhr and the misunderstandings were taken care of. We owe no money to Kevin for past due fees but we are unable to switch our account to Matt Marquardt until next year. We plan to begin working with Matt in the fall so it is all lined up and ready for an easy transition. Kevin has given us some information on a site called dotphoto.com where we can post pictures. He will add a link to our page free of charge so the photos can be viewed. Jack Gannett graciously volunteered to work at getting this up and going and post pictures for us. We have several pictures from the event in the mall as well as some from Lunch by Central Park that was held in September.

Tammy Hove reported that she has been in contact with PSI regarding the printing of calendars for NIDAT to sell as a fundraiser. We would use the work submitted by the students for the Black History contest and it would be a 16-month calendar. She has a couple of students lined up to do the set up work on it and that would be a good money saver to us. She is going to get some firmer costs before our March meeting and will report back at that time.

We tentatively set the date for Lunch by Central Park 2007 and that date is Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Jane will need to go to a Park Board meeting to firm this up but we would like to get it settled and be able to use the city water bills as free advertising for the event.

The remainder of the meeting time was given to Rev. Gannett and Sr. Carol to present a brief movie and talk about "Our Hispanic Neighbors". Anna and Alga both briefly told their stories of immigrating to the United States from Mexico. Jack gave us all some handouts with good information for us to have. The presentation was very interesting and informative. The localization of it (right here in Iowa and in places not so far from Mason City) made it even more realistic and easy to relate to. Due to time constraints, the presentation was shortened, but Jane did invite them all to attend NIDAT meetings in the future.

Our next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux