

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 4 PM. Those in attendance included: Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Linda Woodcock, Lahoma Counts, Marshall Huffman, Joy Drennen and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane recapped the Black History event stating that there are still 7 books for sale; next year we need to get the word out that students can enter the contests directly and do not need to go through classes that offer it as an option for students; and also that the front of each entry must contain information about the individual submitting it such as name, grade, school. This information would be very helpful and would eliminate some of the confusion that we have seen. We will not want to offer savings bonds as prizes due to the requirement for the social security number of the student and the 2 week wait. All in all, this year's event was a great success and we hope to build on that success next year.

The new topic of conversation for the meeting was the next event we will be a part of – the River City Festival. The date for our participation will be September 19<sup>th</sup> with our Lunch by Central Park. Jane has already met with the Park Board and the biggest concern is the electricity. Jane and Mary Hameil were both at the meeting and had a chance to talk with Mark Suby. We will need to look into a couple of things regarding the park's electrical capabilities and will hopefully be able to get that resolved soon.

Jane will also be contacting the Police Department and getting the necessary permit for the event. It will all be set up much the same way as last year, with the street blocked off on the west side of Central Park. The vendors will be on the west side of Federal Avenue on the sidewalk. The Information Fair will be on the east side of Federal Ave on the sidewalk. Cultural displays will be on the street along with the picnic tables.

Eric Branson is no longer on the Board of the HR Association but he did talk to the Association and they are interested in participating in the Information Fair. Last year the HR Association contacted many of the area non-profits and they were at the event with displays and information of what they have to offer in the area.

Our funds for this event will be limited. With this in mind we are looking to alternatives to having KLSS live at the event. Dan has a sound system that we can use and we do have some ethnic CD's. We would like to have some live music and are checking a couple of possibilities there. Hopefully we will have some answers by our May meeting. The possibility of having some of the international students from a community college and we will be checking into that.

We are hoping to have many of the same vendors as last year and perhaps adding a couple more. Since we will be having the event as a kickoff to the River City Festival the attendance could be up and we need to be prepared to feed more people. The vendors that we will be contacting or have already contacted include: The Holy Family Men's Club, Troy Levenhagen (Susie Q), The Mixing Block, The Homeless Shelters, Dawn's Pies, The Girl Scouts, the Greek Ladies group, and Chicago Dawg. It was mentioned that if Chicago Dawg is there, NIDAT might consider serving something such as Irish Stew and not doing the brats and hot dogs like last year. If the weather is cool, soup may be a good alternative. If anyone has any other ideas about vendors, especially those with ethnic type food, please let us know.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14 and we will again be discussing the September event and trying to finalize as much as we can.