

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 in the 2nd floor conference room of City Hall in Mason City. Those attending the meeting were: Linda Woodcock, Dan Gapinski, Hilleri Jennings, Libby Lembke, Melissa Weiner, E. Valdez Campos, Jane Ginapp, Lahoma Counts, Barry TerHark and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4 pm. In Joy's absence, there was no treasurer's report.

Everyone briefly basked in the success of the Diversity Writing/Art awards presentations. It was such a success this year. Dixie will be sending out thank you notes to sponsors, judges and others who contributed to the success of the event. Pictures will hopefully be on the website soon. The room at the museum was really not big enough to accommodate all who attended and we probably need to look at a different venue for 2010. All agreed that this is a great problem to have. We need to keep our eyes and ears open and come up with some possibilities for a location by late in the fall.

With that in mind and hearing that Lahoma holds a membership to the museum in the event that we would need to use it for something, Libby made a motion that NIDAT not spend the \$50 to renew our membership when it comes due; Dan seconded the motion and after a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

One final thought on the event was brought up by Dan and that is the idea that we send a representative to speak to a couple of classes as area schools late in the fall or early in January to put a positive spin on the contest and encourage students from schools other than the Mason City schools to enter the contest. That will be discussed later in the year.

95 books were ordered and sold and we need to have some on hand for various things that come up like grant applications or requests for donations. So Jane will order extra so we have them.

Dan stated that he will be able to again give some time to the steering committee and that he will try to set up a meeting in the near future to get going again and back on track.

Barry handed out some copies of the Resource Directory that he has been working on. He is looking for input from everyone as to additions, changes, etc. He would like this by the April NIDAT meeting. It was noted that if Legal Aide gets a summer intern, that might be a possibility for soliciting help with this project. Ms. Valdez Campos also told us that she would be willing to translate the directory into Spanish.

The cultural displays that Cecelia Robles made along with ones Jane is getting for IRIS and the Department of the Blind and one from NIVC will be on display in a vacant storefront on the open plaza north of Southbridge Mall in the near future (after April 1st). The NIDAT website will be on the cultural displays and Jane is working on a NIDAT poster to be included in the display.

The date for our annual Lunch by Central Park for 2009 will be Friday, September 18th. Plans will be discussed at our April meeting.

During the final minutes, Dan played more of the DVD he picked up at the Diversity conference he attended last fall.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 4 pm.