

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 in the basement conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those attending were: Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Luis Arellanes, Melissa Weiner, Jack Gannett, Hal Minear, Darshini Jayawardena and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4 PM. Jane noted that the minutes from November needed a change made in the last paragraph stating the Karen Ries is with Kaplan University and not with NIACC. With that change made, Melissa made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting; Dan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Joy Drennen's absence, Jane reported that we have a bank balance of \$2272.15. Dan made a motion to accept the report and Dixie seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

With this being the first meeting for Luis, introductions were made.

Jane stated that she received word from Joy that Lola Rehm had contacted her regarding a fall publication of The Iowa Griot that had coverage on Ruth & Ruby Haddix and Lionel and Leonard Foster talking about Manly and Mason City. Joy is obtaining 5 copies of this publication.

Dan reported from the Steering Committee stating the items in the new bylaws that need to be taken care of in January or February. This includes reviewing and publishing the membership roster. Dixie will bring that to the February meeting. This is the time of year when mission and vision statements will be reviewed but only in the odd numbered years so not in 2010. There will also be a committee review and Jane said she would like to see Luis' name on the Resource Directory Committee. The treasurer's annual report will also need to be done soon.

Special Events Committee – Jane showed everyone the news release for the Art/Writing Contests that are in progress now. The judges for the art contest are Jan Koska and Kim Larsen and for the writing contest they are Joe Buttweiler and Joy Drennen. Judging will take place at 3:30 PM on February 16th at the Mason City Administration Building – 1515 South Penn. Hal is still checking on student musicians for the Awards ceremony on March 4th and will report back at the next meeting. Libbey contacted Jane to say that KCMR will allow the winners of the writing contest to read their entries “on air”.

Jane reported that Darcy Skellenger is no longer the representative from the Girl Scouts and has been replaced by Diane Murphy. She will be asking them to once again present the Color Guard and provide refreshments at Music Man Square for the Awards Ceremony. Jane also reported that she made some purchase of boards to display winning entries on and will use easels provided by Music Man Square.

Luis handed out folders with information explaining exactly what his job is with Work Force Development and what he offers to the diverse population he serves.

Darshini then addressed the issue presented to Jane from Joe Buttweiler of the Globe Gazette. Joe is looking for representative from various ethnic groups that would be willing to be a spokes person for

the group on various issues. It was the consensus of the group that there really are no formal ethnic groups in the area and each issue needs to be handled on an individual basis and people contacted may offer their opinion on issues but probably would not feel comfortable speaking for an entire ethnic group. Jane is going to invite Joe to become an active member of NIDAT and then he can see exactly what we offer in the community and surrounding area. There really is no welcoming committee in the area that greets newcomers and offers them resources for things such as schools, churches, hospital services, etc. This is definitely a need in the area but is just simply not offered. Perhaps just brochures from different agencies would be an option.

The next meeting will be February 10th at 4 PM.

Dixie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dan seconded and after a vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Dixie Lamoreux, NIDAT Secretary