

ACS IL Sections State Fair Committee March 17, 2007 Meeting

The planning committee had a conference call meeting Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 2 pm. Cherlyn Bradley, Fran Kravitz, Milt Levenberg, Avrom Litin, and Frank Salter participated.

Cherlyn mentioned that Harsh is giving a talk on the project at the ACS National meeting in Chicago on Tuesday March 27 (Paper #1657).

The IL State Fair will be August 10-19. Therefore, set up is Thursday, August 9. We did discuss the possibility of setting up the tent Monday or Tuesday instead (at the Dept. of Natural Resources' request). However, Fran will have to check with the tent company regarding extra cost for renting the tent earlier.

At least three of us (Fran, Cherlyn, and Marsha) will not be able to stay the full time since our committee work at the ACS National meeting in Boston starts before the Fair ends.

Contract Space - Fran reported that she has emailed Terry at Conservation World several times and that she doesn't expect a response until April.

Volunteers/website scheduling - Milt reported that he will put up the volunteer website this week. He will also contact Chantel and ask her if she's willing to do the volunteer scheduling again. If she can't, he will ask Craig McLauchlan.

Frank put together a volunteer solicitation flyer that can be sent to chemistry and other science teachers as well as ACS student affiliate groups at the different colleges in Illinois. Frank emailed

the flyer to the planning committee for comments and will send it to schools.

Budget - The 2006 income and expenses were reviewed and estimated 2007 expenses discussed. One possible new expense item for 2007 is a carpet dryer. We saw one during the Fair last year that gave us the idea that such a device might be useful in "cooling" the tent. We would want one that blows air well but not too noisy. Fran recently saw them in use at a Meiers store. She will inquire where they got them. Another idea is to check on the Internet for them.

It's never too early to start asking for donations. Last year, donations (plus selling the Carson coupon books) amounted to \$5,917 (which was about \$388 more than our expenses; not including carry-over from the previous year).

Milt asked about the expected cost of the tent rental this year. Fran indicated that there will be an ~10% increase; so, an estimated tent rental cost of \$1200.

Regarding volunteer T-shirts, Fran reported that we have a great quantity left.

Tent furnishings - We agreed that a separate table for the teachers' sign-in and receipt of their bags would be good. The location of the table was discussed; maybe replacing one of the literature tables with the teachers' table and putting the literature on the middle display columns. How to have the literature available that way needs to be thought out.

We discussed the need to have an eye wash station, first aid kit, and a fire extinguisher. Frank said he will get these items.

We also discussed better location of the box fans -
- maybe have one up higher to blow the air around
better (or use a ceiling fan?). Maybe, use the
carpet fan to blow air out of the tent.

Demos & Hands-On - Frank and Jackie will again
spearhead the demos and hands-on activities. Frank
said he and Jackie would discuss and tweak some of
the demos. Milt has some improvements in mind for
the chromatography hands-on activity. Fran reported
that we do have a new hands-on -- the talking cup
(using a plastic cup that'll be chained to the
display board). During the conference call, Fran
emailed us some pages from
www.stevespanglerscience.com of possible
activities. Some of these may be used. Someone from
the Chicago section also mentioned contacting Irene
Cesa, Flinn Scientific, who might be able to get us
the books on experiments for teachers.

AV activities - The chemistry quiz was discussed
and what's there is good.

We also discussed if the survey and/or the
teachers' sign-in information could somehow be an
online function.

CD updates needed - Milt indicated what is
currently on the CD. Avrom agreed to put together a
list of chemistry-related podcasts. Fran suggested
that if Flinn is a listed sponsor, this might be
leverage for getting the books on experiments.

Promo/Raffle materials - Fran said she will get the
tattoos at the National meeting, has ordered the
moles, and will order the pencils. She will begin
making the t-shirt pins. If someone knows where to
get a stamper/die cutter of a little t-shirt, let
her know; she cuts the foam of all those t-shirts
by hand. We also discuss having some kind of token

gift to hand out to those who fill out the survey sheet. Fran reported that 242 people took the survey (fewer than last year). We don't have a good feel yet for how many paper fans to order until we get costs.

There was some discussion on the pros and cons of continuing the NCW Activity Patch. About 50 people filled out the sheet but Fran received only 2 followed through with the other projects. Since this activity isn't really costing us anything, we'll continue it.

We discuss this year's giveaway item - paper fans (the kind with a wooden handle). Fran has a source, different from the ones who made the water bottles last year, and will check prices. Consensus of the group is that paper fans are a good idea.

Posters/table literature - Cherlyn is working on these. We could loosely use the 2007 National Chemistry Week theme, "The Many Faces of Chemistry".

There was some discussion regarding the value of the display boards as we now use them. People don't seem to read them much. The idea of hanging the literature off the middle columns was again discussed. That would free up space on the side and allow room for the teachers' table and give more room in the back for demo area. How is the literature hung on display pillars at expos?

Storage locker - Frank says there is room for any new literature or other we want to have stored. Harsh graciously stored shipped material in his garage last year and will be able to do it again this year(?) Steve will again volunteer to get a truck or van to help us move the materials from the storage locker to the tent site (?)

Fran and Cherlyn will likely take a road trip down to put stuff we have now for the locker. Most of the boxes in the locker are bags. Milt indicated that these were stored on one skid.

We also discussed the need of a regular ladder. Frank will handle getting one.

Next meeting - Consensus is to have the next conference call on May 19.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Cherlyn

*Most of the action items from the March meeting are highlighted in blue and have an asterisk.