

ACS IL Sections State Fair Committee February 2008 Meeting

The planning committee had a conference call Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. with Cherlyn Bradley, Fran Kravitz, Milt Levenberg, Avrom Litin and Frank Salter in attendance.

We discussed how well last year's tent shutdown went and the importance of having enough people and trucks available to transfer the tent items to the storage locker. The suggestion was made that some items could be moved to the locker the day before to help facilitate the shutdown.

The State Fair will be August 8-17. We agreed to again have the tent set up on Tuesday, August 5.

***We need a volunteer scheduler. Milt and Frank said they will ask Craig if he would be willing to do it. Otherwise, who is willing to take on this task? If Craig can't, maybe he knows somebody he can ask.**

We then discussed some possible ways to get more volunteers. ***Frank plans to send emails to the teachers and schools in his area within the next 2-3 weeks. *Milt will set up the website online scheduler within the next week.**

Another source of volunteers is the student affiliate groups. National ACS has a list of these groups. ***Fran said she will ask David Harwell at National for the list of student affiliates of the Illinois sections and the surrounding regions.**

We also discussed the possibility of getting high school students within the Springfield and surrounding communities via the database we have of teachers that visited the tent last year. High school teachers usually give their students credit

for doing volunteer work. From the list of teachers who visited us last year, we have information to contact them. *Fran will check the 2007 teacher database. [Fran emailed us later that there were 346 CDs given to the teachers last year.] Using the database, she will pull out the information of the high school teachers within the Springfield vicinity. We can then mail a flyer to them for volunteers.

Budget - The 2007 expenses and income haven't changed since the last meeting. We received \$6,926.30 in donations and spent \$6,574.05. We have \$4,128.20 in the account to date. *We still need to continue to pursue and secure sources of income. *Cherlyn will begin putting together the budget sheets for 2008.

*We agreed that it would again be worthwhile for each of the Illinois local sections to send out fliers and advertise in their local section newsletters soliciting volunteers to help in the tent and also soliciting funds. Another idea was to put information about us in any of our community newsletters, papers and email blasts.

*Fran will begin work on obtaining the space contract.

*Regarding improving the lights set-up, Avrom suggested having a switch box to control different strings of lights.

We are short one Stanley pivoting utility fan, which stop working before the end of the fair.

*Cherlyn will purchase another one.

We discussed Otis Rothenberger's offer of a disk of demos that Jim Webb and he (both of ISU) have put together. Avrom said he would contact Otis and have

the disk sent to him. We agreed that such information could go on the teacher's CD (there is still lots of space left on the CD).

We also received a note from Woonkie Paik suggesting a demo using sulfur hexafluoride. The hot weather and air currents were brought up as possible hindrances. *Frank said he'll follow up on it.

There was some discussion about letting children use the super bubbler. The ground area of the super bubbler tends to get pretty soapy. Fran mentioned that the SciTech Hands-On Museum in Aurora has a self-contained super bubbler apparatus that they built that might be useful. Maybe we can get information from them on how it is built.

Fran indicated to Milt that the online survey database needs revision (the way the data is collected needs to be in a better form for easier access for evaluation and reporting purposes).

If we need another PC, Cherlyn has an extra one from Richard Cornell that she is willing to donate. There is likely a need for a third one since the PC for the teachers' registration and the survey tends to develop a long line of teachers. Consequently, it would be good to have separate PCs for the survey, teacher registration, and the quiz.

There was discussion on location of the PCs (two on one side of the tent and the third one on the opposite side) and using a shelving unit for literature storage, etc.

*Cherlyn and Fran plan to obtain some give-aways/raffle items at the National meeting in April (e.g. the moles, the wallet periodic tables, and Science magazines and posters). Fran will again get

the hand fans (all of them were given out last year).

There was some discussion about finding a better way of putting up the display boards to get more floor space under the tables for the storage bins (the legs on the boards take up significant space under the tables). One idea was to maybe try hanging the boards from the tent.

It would be nice to know what literature is left in the locker. It was mentioned that maybe Frank, with Harsh or someone, may be able to take an inventory of the storage locker contents. *Frank will contact Harsh and set up a time to do it.

The next conference call will be April 26. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Cherlyn

Note: Action items are in red and have an asterisk.