



Youth Activities Committee
Wisconsin Elks Association Convention
Wausau Elks Lodge #248
Saturday April 30, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCauley at 8:57 a.m. in Wausau at St. Stephen's Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman McCauley followed by a roll call of those present.

Committee members present: McCauley, Widzinski, Gygi, Baca, Hagen, Wagner, Johnson, Diehl, Mathias, Musolf, Schulze and Vandre.

Also present were guests: Calkins, Parker, Kromraj, Dumke, Ruck, Kollross, Bittorf, Sheahan, Whalen, Pike, Brien and Bocher.

Introductions of those present were made to make everyone aware of who was in attendance. The minutes of the Mid-Winter Conference meeting were read and approved as presented.

A report was given by Baca pertaining to the State Soccer "Shoot" which will be held on September 24, 2011 at Oak Island Park in Wausau. Last year's tournament saw an increase in youth participation. A discussion pursued with regards to reimbursement to families who have to travel to attend the State Contest. Widzinski stated that a letter was sent to the State Trustee Chairman asking for an increase in the Youth Activities budget so that some sort of reimbursement could be made to help defray the costs associated with travel and high gas. We will have to wait until the afternoon general session to see if the budget will be increased. Baca also handed out materials pertaining to Wausau's local contest as well as the State contest and website information. He encouraged any lodge not yet holding a local contest to contact him and he would help them get their lodge involved.

Vice-Chairman Widzinski stated that the Association still had a supply of free dictionaries donated by the Dictionary Project to be utilized by our lodges for distribution to schools throughout the State. Any lodge that still needed free books for distribution should contact him to make arrangements for pick up. The only stipulation is that they have to be distributed to schools who have not received books in the past. Contact Widzinski for more information.

Chairman McCauley then showed a framed certificate by Wood County proclaiming Elks National Youth Week. He suggested that all lodges should contact their local government to see if they could be presented with a like copy and to help get some publicity pertaining to all of the ways the Elks help the youth in their area.

Various other discussions took place on the many youth activities that are taking place in the lodges throughout the State. It was mentioned that lodges can again submit requests for reimbursement to the Committee for any unfunded youth activity that is taking place. All requests will be considered for reimbursement and that the Committee fully intended to expend its entire budget.

Marshfield is holding "family nights" featuring free burgers and movies. Waukesha is attendance at the "night out against crime" and is holding games. Portage is hosting its 27th annual Kids Fisheree. 142 kids participated last year with each child receiving a gift bag. Four different age categories featuring trophies and a bike will be given away to the lucky winners. Local sponsors help defray some of the costs associated with this event. Kaukauna will be holding its 47th annual Youth Activities Banquet featuring the top 10 students from all 5 high schools in the area. Chairman McCauley also showed everyone a clear glass plaque his lodge gives away. All in attendance agreed that all the lodges of the State Association are heavily involved with the youth of their respective areas thereby exemplifying the Elks motto of "Elks Care...Elks Share".

Having finished our regular business, the Committee adjourned at 9:44 a.m. until our next meeting in September in Waukesha at our annual 2011 Fall Conference.

Tom

Thomas J. Widzinski, PSP
Vice-Chairman and Advisor