

## IOWA PLOWING ASSOCIATION, INC.

### Minutes

The annual meeting of the Iowa Plowing Association, Inc. was held March 23<sup>rd</sup>. at Smokin G's in Marshalltown. A good number of our members attended. It was a nice sunny spring day and it was good to see old friends and a couple new members. A lot of good discussion took place prior to our enjoying good BBQ.

President, Mike Fitz, called the meeting to order at 1:05PM. First item of business was the lengthy reading of minutes of the 2018 meeting held March 17, 2018, at the same place. There were no additions or corrections. Kevin Holl made a motion to approve the minutes as read and Lyle Grimm seconded the motion – motion carried.

Old business consisted of Mike relating that our state match was outstanding as was our members showing at the nationals in South Dakota. We have been spoiled the past couple years due to the willingness of Kevin, Deb and family to provide facilities and put in the time and effort to make wonderful experiences for Iowa plow people. Mike led us in an appreciation round of applause.

Dick Pedersen presented a treasurer's report. We keep making progress and are more financially fit than we were one year ago. On March 17, 2018, we had a bank balance of some \$7,100.00. Since that time we have had expenses of \$225.00 for national contests entry fees for Iowa plowmen, \$305.00 for trophies for our state contests, \$106.70 for printing of our newsletter and \$625.00 to Lake of the Woods for buttons for entry to the 2019 world contests. These buttons will be available to any of our members who wish to attend the world matches and are good for three days. Trophy costs were a little more than we normally have and that is because we added a Junior class in 2018. But, Spoker Farms, LLC., a company owned by member, David Law, and his two brothers has, for the last couple years, reimbursed IPA the cost of all trophies in memory of their parents, Jack and Darlene Law. This very generous act is greatly appreciated by all. David Law moved to accept the treasurer's report, David Postlethwait second the motion and the motion carried.

Pedersen gave a brief report on what took place at the board meeting held in January at Smokin G's. The somewhat iffy weather kept most of our directors away, but the three that were there had a good meeting. Kathy Willhoite and Pedersen were non-directors present. It was determined that Kathy contributed as much to the meeting as the six missing directors could have. 2019 world matches, preparations that have been made, what still has to get done and how will we be able to assist Henry Gruber and his team in Minnesota was the main topic at that meeting. Mike did report that Belmond is the place for state matches this year.

Iowa state matches will be in Belmond on Saturday, August 17. Mike has secured the acceptance of Dave Nelson, the manager of the annual show in Belmond and we should be happy we get to go back there. Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, will be a day for laying out plots and doing any other preparations needed. Pedersen will contact the Americ Inn in Hampton to reserve a few rooms for anyone who wants to help on Friday and stay overnight. This will be a great time for our guys going to Minnesota two weeks later to get warmed up. PLEASE, IF YOU WISH TO PLOW IN OUR STATE CONTESTS, LET MIKE KNOW SO PLANS CAN BE MADE PROPERLY AND WITH NO LAST MINUTE CHANGES FOR PLOW PERSONS WHO "JUST SHOW UP." Thanks.

2019 World Contests are still a concern of many persons. Mike and Ray Elsberry met with Henry Gruber one week ago to review what has been done and what is yet to be done and by whom. Henry often talks in circles so one has to be alert at all times. However, Henry knows one thing for certain – World Contests will be held at Lake of the Woods in Minnesota the last two days in August. The truth of the matter is, if Henry had not stepped up, there would be no 2019 world contests at all. The entire program runs from August 25 through September 1. More corporate sponsors are needed as are many more volunteers. The US national matches will be the day following the world festivities and preparing for that is also on Henry's plate. We do know that there is enough land available for practice for both world and national competitors, but arrangements must be made well in advance. Our people who want to compete need to get familiar with how all this is going to happen. Henry is looking for assistance from USAPO members beginning a couple weeks in advance of the world contests. Housing has been reserved for those offering such assistance. 50% of the proceeds from the sale of the buttons will be paid to LOW, or the owner of the facilities, to help

cover the cost of the early stay. Kathy Willhoite asked if persons volunteering will be moving to other lodging once the official program starts. Mike responded that no one will have to move. The cabins Jan Nietfied has reserved for USAPO volunteer members will be their housing for the entire time spent at LOW. Our members not volunteering will be housed at the same resort. Henry also told Mike and Ray that gators, golf carts, 4 wheelers and other similar vehicles will not be allowed on the premises. If anyone has questions, the best person to go to is Henry. Dick mentioned that the Ollingers are the only lowans registered at this time. So, if you want a bed, better get your name on the list.

Mike brought up sponsorship opportunities available for the World Contests. They vary in cost from \$2,500 to #100,000. He suggested IPA consider doing a \$2,500 sponsorship. We have a reasonable bank balance and it would be nice if we shared some of our wealth and show our support of bringing these matches to the United States. David Law responded by stating Spoker Farms would be willing to partner with IPA in a sponsorship. His company would go half on one at the \$2,500 level. The response to this was very favorable. Chad Adelmund made a motion that IPA partner with Spoker Farms and become a \$2,500 sponsor. Lyle Grimm seconded the motion – motion carried.

The 2019 National Matches will be held at LOW on September 1. Pedersen does not know when or where activities, such as drawing for plots, paying entry fees, plowmen's banquet nor anything else, will take place. The only thing known for certain is that all contests will be held the same day. Dick thinks Henry and John Gaard, USAPO president, are thinking a banquet is possible the evening of the contests. Probably, information will be coming in the next four months. Mike will be making calls, or something, to determine who will be representing Iowa at national matches. This could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Election of IPA directors took a twist from the last several years. Ray Willhoite wondered how many directors we should have, we presently have nine – is that the best number for an organization such as IPA? Our by-laws state the number shall be an odd number. Ray suggested we might reduce the number to five. Mike thought we could go with seven at this time, see how that works and reduce further if our members so decide next year or later. Ray made a motion to elect seven directors for 2019, Dick seconded the motion – motion carried. Kevin Holl stated he would not be a candidate this year. Dave Postlethwait said he thought

Keith Gillmore would, most likely, prefer to not be re-elected due to some health issues. After some discussion among the group relative to "will you" or "won't you" serve as a director, Ray Elsberry made a motion, seconded by Chad Adelmund to elect the following for director: Chad Adelmund, Gene Elphic, Ray Elsberry, Mike Fitz, Dick Pedersen, David Postlethwait and Ray Willhoiote. There being no further nominations, the president cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Kevin received a big round of applause for having served faithfully for a number of years.

Pedersen then informed the group that he had informed the USAPO directors at a meeting in Minnesota a couple week ago that he was stepping down from his position as the US Representative on the World Ploughing Organization board of directors after the 2019 contests. He stated it has been a honor and a great run to have served for nearly twenty years and it was not time to let another have the same great experience. Ray Willhoiote voiced concern how our group would be getting information concerning WPO activities. He also led the group in a much appreciated round of applause for Dick's service.

Anne Postlethwait said she was concerned that some of our members were not getting all the information they should be about IPA happenings and suggested we explore better means of communicating. Mike will address this situation and share his thoughts.

Pedersen asked that all present think about articles or information they would like to add to our newsletter that should be distributed in June.

On motion of Chad and second of Dave Postlethwait to adjourn, the meeting ended at 2:12PM.

Secretary  
Dick Pedersen



IOWA PLOWING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Directors' Meeting Minutes

The 2019 organizational meeting of the board of directors of the Iowa Plowing Association, Inc. was held March 23<sup>rd</sup>. at Smokin G's in Marshalltown.

President, Mike Fitz, called the meeting to order at 2:25pm. Members present were Chad Adelmund, Ray Elsberry, Mike Fitz, Dick Pedersen, Davie Pstlethwait and Ray Willhoite.

Mike asked that we forgo reading minutes of our meeting held in January because they had been covered at a meeting of our total membership two hours earlier and we all had a comprehensive treasurer's report at the same meeting.

This year's state contests in Belmond should be a piece of cake because we have been there numerous times. AmericInn could be the place to stay for any arriving before Saturday. Pedersen will contact the motel a couple weeks prior to the contest date to let them know we may have a couple members wanting a room.

A question was raised concerning larger corporate sponsors for the 2019 world contests coming to Lake of the Woods in August. The locale is Baudette, Minnesota, a town of 1,200 people. So, that means there are few, if any, potential larger corporate sponsors. Larger companies in the area are Marvin Windows and Polaris. Henry Gruber has knocked on the doors of both of these companies and will keep approaching them. As Henry says, "sales is my thing." There is a Wells Fargo Bank in Baudette and Dick talked to a vice president when he was up there a couple weeks ago. He told the V.P. that he would help him shake the Well's tree to see what he could shake out if he wanted. The V.P. said he was a good friend of the person who would be the person to decide if Wells could become a sponsor. Other than that, most of the employers in the area are the resorts on the shore of Lake of the Woods.

Hosting national contests is still on Kevin Holl's radar. Ohio has been told they will host the 2020 nationals. Pedersen feels the thinking is that this softens the blow of their failure to be able to bring the 2019 world matches to their house. We had discussed making an offer to take the nationals in 2020, but Ohio, evidently, presented a better pitch before we made an official try. That is okay with us. We are now in line to take on the 2021 nationals. All we need to do is come up with an appropriate location. I think Kevin might have had a spot in mind when he talked about our involvement a couple years back. Ray Willhoite mentioned that Steve King remarked that he and Roger Norgren have a friend who was active in sponsoring or promoting a non-official plowing contest or some kind of friendly get together on a regular basis near where they live – Jefferson or Rippey – perhaps. It is thought that he might be a person to talk to about national. Dick is planning to have lunch with Roger in the near

future. If he can remember, he will try to find out if Roger and/or Steve can check in with their friend. Also, good old Dave Nelson in Belmond has been a friend and good person to let us be a part of his show in the past. That is a wonderful venue for staging national contests. It is good for IPA and it is a good draw for national competitors and their families. There is a \$4,500.00 cost to be the host of national contests. For that much money, the USAPO provides all trophies. Other than that, the USAPO does all the organization while the host state does all the grunt work. But, if the host state provides the trophies, the USAPO gets \$4,000.00. If we were to be able to go to Belmond, we would probably offer to help Dave with raising the \$4,500.00. In the past IPA provided the trophies plus plaque for each participant. We did this in 2011 and 2015. The plaques have the legend "hosted by Iowa Plowing Association and sponsored by Prairie Homestead Antique Power and Country Craft Show." IPA also gave Dave Nelson \$500.00 to help pay the what he paid to USAPO. So, it cost us a couple thousand dollars. However, doing that was quite easy. We are fortunate that we have enough money to do what ever our members choose to do. We do know that we are to be on deck to do this in 2021, so it is time to start the planning.

Chad inquired as to what to expect as far as Iowa plowmen competing in the 2019 nationals in Minnesota. How will we know who will be representing Iowa? That's a good question and Mike will have a few calls to make to come up with the definite information. It is quite a distance to travel. Dick noted that it is nearly 700 miles from Des Moines as far as he can tell. Some thought it was an eleven hour drive, at least, and much of that was NOT on four lane highways. It will take some organization on the part of Mile and all competitors, but it will be a really neat happening.

Ray Willhoite asked if Smokiin G's is the best place for us to hold our board and annual meetings. Perhaps we should give some thought to what other options might be available. We have had favorable experiences working the Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant in Urbandale for a few years. Perhaps we could find a place in Ames for a change. Mike thought Marshalltown was a fairly central spot. Each director should be giving some thought to this subject.

All old directors welcomed Chad as a new member to our board – a good addition.

On a motion of Ray Elsberry and second of Pedersen, the meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

Dick Pedersen  
Secretary