

SWANI Chapter of IAAP

Meeting Minutes

- When:** February 21, 2012
- Where:** Holiday Inn Express
- Speaker:** Sarah Iverson
- Present:** Aimee Bierman, Nancy Arnold, Mandy Doersam, Brenda Groninger, Mary Hesse, Gloria Huschka, Lisa Skarlupka
- Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012
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I. Welcome and Introductions

We had a small group at the February meeting and we all knew each other so no introductions were needed. Each of us introduced ourselves to the speaker.

II. Dinner

We had a delightful dinner of chicken, vegetables, potatoes, cesar salad, and some sort of evil chocolate layered dessert that was hard to resist.

III. Program

Sarah Iverson gave us a lot of interesting tidbits of information regarding meeting planning in facilities such as the Holiday Inn. Some highlights include:

The Holiday Inn Express is owned by a local group of investors. They used to own 7 properties, but now only own this facility and one in New Berlin, WI.

"Express" means they do not have a restaurant onsite.

Holiday Inn offers priority reward points that can build up fast when booking meetings and rooms. They can be used for airfare, merchandise, etc.

This Holiday Inn is nearing the end of their 20-year contract with their brand, and at that time they're required to make significant improvements to the facility to renew their contract with Holiday Inn (to meet their standards). They'll be investing \$3 million in the hotel very soon. It'll be exciting to see the improvements.

Sarah recommended always calling the front desk of a hotel to book or at least confirm the room reservations instead of the 800#. The local personnel are the only ones who actually know the facility and can answer questions.

For catering, tell the sales person what amount of money you have to work with and they'll make it work so you have the best meal for the money. (If that was what was done for our meeting then it worked perfectly... we had a beautiful dinner and were also treated to a candy bar and it wasn't too expensive!)

IV. Business

- o Nancy briefed us on the upcoming Wisconsin Division meeting. She visited the hotel in Stevens Point this weekend and got a first-hand look at how awesome the hotel and the surrounding area is. SWANI is responsible for the Friday night event as well as staffing the raffle room. We also need to come up with a basket to donate for the raffle.
- o We're going to research a SWANI Facebook page to help communication with members and provide information to potential members as well.
- o Nancy was able to get us set up with the Magnabilities fundraiser. We plan on running it March – June. More information to come soon.

V. Announcements/Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle (\$13) was won by Nancy Arnold. There were multiple winners of gift bags and also.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.