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Greetings to All Winnie Hawks!

I am sending you all the information that would be in the Newsletter, without any frills, as I am having Internet issues since the monsoons...I have to keep things brief and simple or it wont go...

First of all, I want to make sure everyone is aware that the camping portion of the State Meeting is moving to Grundy Center's Grundy County Fairgrounds. That was necessitated because of the tornado and ongoing repairs to the community of Marshalltown. I am again reminding folks coming in to Grundy Center to follow Hwy. 175 to the east edge of town, to 1st Street, then turn south toward the hospital, continuing on past the hospital, and you will end up in the fairgrounds approximately 3 blocks south of the hospital. As usual, there will be an early bird potluck on Thursday evening. The Busy Bees have tasty breakfasts planned for Friday and Saturday mornings, Catered evening meals are planned with the Busy Bees serving them. Friday's tours include a wine shop, Van Gogh's a newly opened eatery with meeting rooms in the historic Kibbey Building, an Apple Orchard with a wagon ride, and Gallery Garden tours (award winning storm water management and art). Saturday's activities are meeting in the morning, tour of the Iowa Veteran's Home with an organ concert to entertain the Veterans. We will be providing stamps for the Veterans to use at their discretion also greeting cards have been donated, if anyone wants to add to the assortment.

A short recap of the State Rally held in Amana in July: We chose to have Eileen Loan come in on Wednesday afternoon for the benefit of our many out of staters who were present, she is a meteorologist for KWWL. She shared many interesting stories and videos on severe weather, including us reminding her of how hoarse she became on air the day the tornado hit Parkersburg. She also did questions and answers. We had many vendors present including Rallys R Us, Sky Med, Norwex, Best Badges and a Bag Vendor. Many laughs were had at the Movie Night, where the featured movie was The Long, Long Trailer starring Lucille Ball, Barefoot Becky was enjoyed on Saturday night, Sunday for those staying over, a sweet corn feed was held in the early evening. Folks toured the furniture store, Kinzie Mfg., went to a Taste of Amana, enjoyed shopping and eating Amana Fare. We had a great attendance and several guests who happened to have Winnebagos and happened to be camping in Amana. A couple of them even joined the club!

At GNR, Row Party Night has never gone smoother in the time we have been members...a signup sheet had been passed for the Row Party Servers at State Rally, with timely servers, the 50# of pulled pork showcasing the Iowa Pork Industry and featuring Cookies BBQ Sauce (who was gracious and sent us tablecloths for the tables, products to include in the Iowa baskets that were used for door prizes at State Rally and GNR and cookbooks to use for door prizes at State Rally) was served up in 2 oz portion cups and gone in a little over an hour. It was suggested that 80# might be a better amount to use for next year if that is the chosen treat. Weather was a gorgeous temperature, but too many heavy rain events made parking a challenge, forcing them to suspend parking a couple of days. The entertainment was good, especially Lee Greenwood who never fails to leave you with a renewed sense patriotism.

There have been a few deaths in our Winnie Hawk Family...Jim Darrah who had been an active member of the Busy Bees, and a former president of the Winnie Hawks, leaving behind wife Deanna as well as his children. He is missed. Mildred Cummings who had been a charter member of the Busy Bees. She leaves behind 3 children. She is missed. Also, Cheryl Cooper's brother, Dallas Jass passed away. He is missed.

I was asked by Ron Hersom to pass the information along that there will be a Luncheon for Winnie Hawks in Texas, at Mr. Gutti's in McAllen on February 2nd.

We hope to see everyone in Grundy Center next week!

SAFE TRAVELS EVERYONE!