

RED RIVER VALLEY SAS USERS GROUP

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 7, 2006

Present: Kevin Martin, Iris Gill, Dean Hjelle, Darrel Weers, Jeff Nielsen, Jeff Struck, Kathy Wang, Bill Slanger, Janet Carlson, Carmen Williams.

Pizza was served for lunch, \$3 per person. \$30 lunch money was collected.

BUSINESS MEETING:

1. Meeting was called to order by Kevin Martin at 12 noon.
2. The August workshop was discussed. 28 registrations were received with 27 people attending the sessions. Suggestions for other types of program presentations were offered, both for normal meeting format and for a workshop or seminar format.
 - Authors of current books often state that they present at user group meetings.
 - Steven Furst group in Milwaukee
 - SAS web site has suggestions for speakers/presenters
 - Art Carpenter (macro presentation)
3. Election of officers for 2007 was held. Officers are elected for a one-year term. (Struck moved, Williams seconded that slate submitted by Nominations Committee be put to a vote.)
 - President: Dean Hjelle
 - Vice President: Carol Drechsel & Jeff Struck
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Iris Gill
4. There was discussion about other regional companies/schools that might use SAS and should be contacted about joining our User Group. Mentioned were the Nutrition Lab, the Transportation people at NDSU, keeping in contact with PRACS, talk about Concordia College maybe getting the Learning Edition of SAS for use in the classrooms.
5. Brief minutes from August 8 workshop were handed out by Iris Gill.
6. Treasurer's report was given by Iris Gill. Current balance is \$689.81. Mention was made that we expect to receive \$140 from Andrew Karp from the August 8 workshop to cover \$5 membership fee for each registrant (28 registrations @ \$5). Checking account has been changed to a "Small Business Checking Account" that has no interest and no service charges.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Possible topics:

- Enterprise Guide
- Dashboards
- Stored Processes
- Business Intelligence and OLAP Products
- Enhancements in version 9.2
- Tagsets
- Macro presentation by Art Carpenter
- Proc SQL
- Visual Basic front end to launch programs

PROGRAM:

- Iris Gill described how to make user-defined formats permanent.
- Kevin Martin discussed the Autoexec.sas file in which you can set some defaults for your SAS sessions.
- Dean Hjelle presented examples of:
 1. How to export to multiple tabs in an Excel worksheet by doing it within a loop.
 2. A program he devised to test the time-to-completion performance of several computers with varying hardware configurations in his shop.
- Jeff Struck showed the power of the FILENAME statement and its many options in reading external files into SAS.

3 books were given as door prizes and each attendee received a desk accessory holding post-it notes and colored tab markers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Iris Gill, Secretary/Treasurer