

EVALUATION results: 75 returned.
Tre Lag Stevne: August 3-6, 2016 in South Saint Paul, Minnesota

I'd like to try a different approach to this results report.

Here are the bad parts first.

- Twenty nine people reported issues with the hotel & banquet. "Not ready for business, too cold, low water flow, banquet food cold and not sufficient for price, self serve banquet coffee & cookies, could not reserve room because hotel was full [it wasn't!] and many variations on these points. I like this quote best - "Great Stevne in challenging environment".
- A few complaints of lack of restaurants in close proximity to hotel.
- A few complaints about not being able to hear speakers - especially during Q & A. ... Do we need a portable mic system?
- A few complaints about sessions either starting early or running late and about time spent in set-up by speaker. ... Do we ask speakers to try their computer set-up before they are scheduled to speak?

Other than that -- the Stevne was a great experience filled with 'outstanding' speakers/sessions! MANY comments on the quality of the speakers and the nice mix of interesting, informative topics.

- Speakers - Grade scores ranged from A+++ to C-. I didn't spend the time to calculate them mathematically ... how many points is a A+++? ALL sessions were in the A/B range.
- Top 7 sessions [most grades given] were Bryon Nordstrom, Dr. Peter Agre, Lawrence Moe, Thor Bøhmer, Paul Rolvaag, Nancy Pickering and Gary Romsaas.

TOUR - Muskego Church, Mindekirken and Norway House: Many people went but few comments - other than they wished the usual Muskego tour guide had been present. Maybe a little too much time at Mindekirken & Norway House. (2) Inform about tour conditions i.e. air conditioning, walking distance, steps - so participants can make an informed decision.

Future seminars:

New ideas: Live demo accessing different Internet sources, Genealogy sources for Canada, short demos of sites & software, DNA, tutorial on using the new Norwegian Arkivverket, Norwegian records before 1820, organizing all genealogy 'stuff' to downsize.

Old ideas listed in descending order of votes: Norwegian History, Emigration Stories, State/County Histories, Online Genealogy sites, Norwegian pronunciation & General genealogy, Photo help.

Movie: The Wave: Pros: Many liked the movie. Many want to continue movie night. Cons: (2) subtitles scrolled too fast, larger screen would be nice.

Hospitality Room: Pros: Great hosting, wonderful variety, great snacks. Cons: not enough space to sit and talk, no prep space/water/sink/frig, lack of Norwegian foods. 10+ want either a larger combined space or a space separate from vendors for visiting & snacks.

Vendors: 43 people bought something from the vendors. When asked if there are enough vendors they are pretty evenly split between enough and too few. But they all like variety. 'Readables' & 'Fun stuff' won over 'wearables' & 'collectables' and someone added a new category - 'useables'. Several asked where the 'reseller' vendor was this year - must be Karen Erickson Mullen.

- Is there a Norwegian-themed vendor you think we should try to include next year = Claire Thoren (artist), Hal Sitzer (carver), vendor with rosemaled designs on clothing, vendor with genealogy supplies, bunad lady from Ely, Candace Simlar (author), a chip carver.

Genealogy Lab: Pros: great helpers, good book selection, many thanks to genealogists! Cons: it shares room with banquet so closes early on Friday, need printers/scanners that copy to USB drives, need new books for Hedmark.

- Idea - somehow identify those who read/speak Norwegian and are able/willing to help with

translations.

Friday's Banquet:

What to keep: Bunad parade. But maybe without music which made it hard to hear the speaker. Wonderful music before or after would be ideal, just not during.

A good speaker or entertainer is important - and good luck finding someone to top David Engen! Well over 50% commented on how much they enjoyed his 'talk' and how funny it was. Wonder what he is doing in 2017?

What to get rid of: this Hotel and it's cold food.

Future Stevne sites and tours:

Holiday Inn in Austin MN, Hotel Marshfield in Marshfield WI, Plaza Hotel in Eau Claire WI, "VW-RF was a great site a few yrs ago for 7lag" by 2 people, Earle Brown Center MN, tour = Westby & Community Prairie Church.

- Cities mentioned: Alexandria MN, Fergus Falls MN, Detroit Lakes MN, Decorah IA, Madison WI.

Random comments: Many thanks to the steering committee!!! Well planned Stevne, Thanks. Acknowledge genealogists at banquet. Enjoyed the musical entertainment - do it again next year. Friendly people! " I don't think we need more than 1 session at a time so I don't have to choose between 2 good speakers. We can use extra time to visit or research." Would be nice to have a few blank pages in the booklet to use for notes. Long & narrow lecture rooms caused auditory problems. Lag musicians are always good! You got an "A" for the speaker alone. My first Stevne and I enjoyed it very much. 'The staff was pretty laid-back. I prefer more organization.'

I shortened my process from a couple weeks to several long days. I did read every evaluation - and tallied 3/4 before running out of steam. It is hard to quantify and organize into an informative report. Is every comment needed? Is every iteration of the same basic comment needed? Someone wrote 'the tour was a waste' but not under Tour - it was under Anything Else to Share --- so was that comment about the Wednesday tour or the 2017 LaCrosse 'tour' during the banquet?

To the tune of 'The thrill is gone . . .' if anyone would like the complete results, I'd be happy to mail all 75 evaluation sheets to you. Otherwise - they hit the recycle bin by years end.

Have a good meeting!

Trudy DeKeuster