

NGWTE Board Rep Weekend Report

Board Rep: Elizabeth Gadsby

Walk# W221

Please consider these questions from the timeline perspective between the moment you were asked to be a Board Rep (BR) until closing ceremony ended on Sunday evening.

Please review the Lay Director's report prior to filling out the Board Rep report to ensure that all points are fully addressed.

- 1) Based on your own past team experience, did you feel that you were prepared to represent the Co-Board?

Yes, it was helpful to have served as Board Rep once before. The BR training session and checklist were very helpful!

- 2) What service requirements would you suggest imposing on community members to be considered for the BR position?

I agree with the current requirements of ALD-qualification. It is advantageous to have already served as LD to have further appreciation for the role and overall team.

- 3) If you were charged with the task of designing a new WTE, what changes would you recommend to the structure of the team staff?

I am thrilled with the new Fourth Day Servant role. It would be nice if they could be closer to the Pilgrims throughout the weekend by being allowed to sit with them during meals and attend Poster sessions as a part of the "Inside team". It may also be beneficial for them to have a pre-meeting a few weeks prior to the Walk with Sponsors and POTENTIAL Sponsors to help them prepare (especially for first time sponsors).

- 4) What situations confronted you for which you felt ill-prepared?

Laity: none

Pilgrims: none

Community: none

Board: none

Trustees: none

Co-Board/Nashville: NA

- 5) What would you do differently before the weekend if you knew then what you know now?

Pre-arranged the IT support for Candlelight since the first-time Tech Servant did not interpret her position description to include handling it and she was uncomfortable letting her computer being used without her. My computer and the Candlelight Music host's computer did not have the proper connections and the adapters we found did not fit either.

- 6) Did you feel that you had proper support from the Co-Board?

TBD

- 7) What could the Co-Board do to further assist a BR toward promoting excellence throughout the experience?

Funding of the Kitchen Allowance was not sufficient due to some highly special diets and missing foods from the Sysco order.

Team	Allowance	Spent
Kitchen	\$200	\$341.66

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Gofer	\$50	\$25.18
Outside Coordinator	\$30	\$0

8) Are there any (other) concerns or problems that you would like to note?

- Pilgrims were reassigned table communities just after being seated at them on Saturday morning because a change requested by a Table Leader was not incorporated into the final plan and they pointed it out at that point. A Spiritual then noted that a Pilgrim at the same table which was right next to the head table may not be comfortable being in close proximity to her. So two pilgrims moved from one table which was slightly disruptive, but was handled as promptly and graciously as possible. The table communities developed well and seemed to indicate that the decisions were appropriate and did not have a negative impact other than the initial awkwardness. The lesson is that the table assignments should be reviewed thoroughly to avoid changes after they are announced.
- Head Dorm did not arrive until later in the afternoon so there were no bed tags or clear direction for where team member's bunks were assigned. This was difficult since people arrived early and wanted to get set up and then attend to other duties in preparation for the weekend. The plan also was not the one the Lay Director had agreed upon so it resulted in a slightly rough start with people having to move after setting up. Perhaps this can be sent to the team prior to the weekend so they know the plan prior to arrival to avoid surprises.
- A team member pointed out that it would have been helpful for pilgrim numbers stay the same the whole time of preparation and not alphabetized as new ones come in. This would allow us to pray for our pilgrim by name as soon as our number of pilgrim is reached and write our letter for our gift earlier in our preparations.
- Agape did not bring agape to the White House which excluded the Spirituals (other than Head Spiritual who stayed in the team dorm. It may be good to clarify or emphasize this sensitivity if it is not already in the Agape guidance.
- Head Chapel had strong communication with the Head Spiritual as suggested, but suggested that it needs to be emphasized more based on all the possible chapel changes and lighting options.
- Tech Servant should be reminded to turn off time/clock so it does not show on the screens in the conference room during projection.
- Final restroom break for Pilgrims prior to Closing took FOREVER because there were only two single bathrooms available. It is understandable that the Dorm wants to clean and close bathrooms in order to be finished promptly, but perhaps at least the multi-stall bathroom should be left for the end for efficiency.

9) If not highlighted above, are there any (other) comments you would like to make about things that went especially well?

- Chapel team published a "Praying for Walk ###" with specific prayer suggestions for each role along with the name of the person serving in that role for the Walk. For example, "Pray for the Lay Director (Joan Munoz). Pray that she walk in His spirit for anything she may be called upon to solve."; "Pray for the Assistant Lay Directors (Leslie Palmer, Christy Rausch, Daisy Watson) that they have discernment about God's perfect timing and His plans for this Walk."; "Pray for the Board Representative (Elizabeth Gadsby) that she may have the courage to keep the purity of the event and not let personalities keep them from doing what they promised God they would do." This was a beautiful way to infuse the Walk with purposeful prayers.
- Three-day schedule review was conducted by phone in a very efficient manner by asking everyone to review the emailed version in advance and each person stating their name and event from the schedule in chronological order. It kept the pace moving and raised relevant questions.
- Great photo advice from the LD to have benches on the "back side" of the three crosses so that everyone was looking into the sun. They were told to close their eyes and open on the count of

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three as the camera button was pressed. It was much better than my previous photo of the Outside team take on the other side of the crosses with the sun behind them.

- Online sign-ups for dorm supplies and other items made it efficient and well-coordinated.

10) Upon review of the Lay Director and your own report please list the items that you believe require attention or action by the board?

- Overall this Walk was one of the most peaceful, prayer-filled ones that I can remember. I credit the Lay Director's attitude for being servant-hearted and truly humble by minimizing personal attention to herself. There were no special presentations of gifts to her at team meetings or team commissioning and limited individual agape gifts exchanged, which emphasized the focus on Jesus and serving the pilgrims. Well done, good and faithful servants!
- It was an incredible honor to host representatives from the Belize/Honduras Emmaus Community! I encourage us to continue to reach out to them to provide guidance and financial support as they build their own dedicated WTE retreat center on the grounds of a local UMC church that was donated to them.
- Are mixed gender Spirituals necessary and appropriate now that it is possible to have enough of the same gender as the Walk participants? It seems contradictory to the purpose of having same gender Team members and Pilgrims, but include different gender Spirituals. I can appreciate the advantages issues being understood by the opposite gender and giving exposure to validate both genders' roles in church leadership. However, the disadvantages of distractions should also be considered. If same gender Spirituals are on a Walk, it could be considered that they are more connected with the team by staying in the team dorm, instead of separately in the White House. This worked well on NGWWTE #221 with the Head Spiritual staying with the team, but I wondered if it disrupted the unity of the Spiritual team.
- Schedule updates
 - ALD role description/3-day schedule has ALD instead of BR covering Roster Corrections and Packet contents
 - Add a row on Saturday for the outside team (or one for each area so it will be picked up in the filter) to go to outside Communion. Currently there is only one for the spiritual director (9:15) and the head music (10:15).
 - ALD provided comments in 3-day schedule (file available)
- Weekend Communications- Office Max gave the Gofer an updated account number: **8012 790 4521**
- Training- Create signout sheet for Spiritual manuals similar to Team manuals to help keep track easier
- Set-up- A new template for the nametags was created to allow the back of the nametag to be pre-printed with more space to write on each line
- ALD provided edits to LD/ALD Task List and Speaker Letter (combined the form to include need-to-know for tech, kitchen, chapel and inside ALD)- files available

Separate reports to various chairs: Issued to Music, Spiritual, and Team Selection leaders on Board.