

NGWTE Board Rep Weekend Report

Board Rep: Patti Ann Allen

Walk# 240

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? I feel I was prepared because of my mentors, Hilary Berman (pre-walk) and Jeanette Karstensen (during the walk) who were veterans.
- 2) What service requirements would you suggest imposing on community members to be considered for the BR position? I think the current requirements are acceptable.
- 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 received multiple feedback from team members, outside and kitchen team, about reunion groups not serving together because of cliques, taking over task not in their lane, and feelings of isolation. My opinion is that this was unique to the strong personalities on the kitchen team but I have passed this information on to Team Selection as a point to add to their checklist for future walks.
- 4) What situations confronted you for which you felt ill-prepared?

Laity: None

Pilgrims: None

Community: None

Board: Specifically financial concerns also reported separately to Treasurer. The Facilities Coordinator did not receive check for \$280 until Oct. 30. Need for a checks and balances for Candlelight Offering.

Trustees: The sewage smell in the pilgrims hallway was a source of frustration for the team and leadership. Please see LD detailed account. I would have suggested moving the pilgrims to the Chrysalis Room or switching dorms with kitchen if I had known how long the situation would last. I would have encouraged breaking silence to explain the situation to the pilgrims. The timing of Thursday night and time of silence left the pilgrims frustrated. Of course, hindsight is 20/20. The Housing Coordinator and team as well as the Facilities Coordinator and assistants demonstrated ingenuity and great problem solving skills.

Co-Board/Nashville: None

- 5) What would you do differently before the weekend if you knew then what you know now?
It was reported by a team member that her husband served on the men's team 203 and noted the smell on Sunday afternoon. I don't know this as a fact but I would have hoped that the men's team would have reported the issue to the superintendent prior to the women's walk the next weekend.
- 6) Did you feel that you had proper support from the Co-Board? Yes
- 7) What could the Co-Board do to further assist a BR toward promoting excellence throughout the experience? I think an assigned mentor is a great idea. I certainly used my experienced co-board friends throughout my first BR experience.

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- 8) Are there any (other) concerns or problems that you would like to note?
- **Sewage smell that lasted through Saturday discussed above. It was disheartening to hear a pilgrim say in closing that they almost asked to leave the weekend Thursday night because of the smell.**
 - **Broken printer in Shepard's Staff – reported to Technology Board Chair**
 - **Spoiled chicken (10 lbs). Addressed in separate Kitchen Report**
 - **Increasing special diet needs with pilgrims and team needs to be addressed to keep everyone safe from cross contamination. Reported separately in Kitchen Report.**
 - **Financial concerns listed above and in separate report to Treasurer.**
- 9) If not highlighted above, are there any (other) comments you would like to make about things that went especially well?
- This was a very spirit filled walk with dedicated and giving servants throughout the team.
 - The obstacles were met with unique problem solving especially from outside heads.
 - The Spiritual Director was extraordinary. He cares about Emmaus and serving God.
 - This team stayed on schedule better than any team I have ever served on. Part of this was because of the small pilgrim size (13).
 - These pilgrims were so well sponsored. They were spiritually prepared and knew what they needed to know to be comfortable on the weekend.
 - The 4th Day Servant was outstanding. As pilgrims approached the sign-in table, she knew each by name and greeted sponsors putting a face to a name following individual phone calls.
 - A portion of this team and certainly the LD have demonstrated perseverance as they have prepared for this walk 3 times (prior w 231). This is the last of our Covid cancellations!
- 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?
- The 3-day schedule needs tweaking before the spring walks. Several of the suggestions reported this walk were reported on WW#238 last spring when I was LD. I have sent this to the Training Chair with the documents and training feedback because I am not sure who "owns" the 3-Day Schedule.

Separate reports to various chairs: (do not include these on this report)

Music Chair

Community Spiritual Director

Treasurer

Training Chair

Kitchen Chair

Facilities Chair/Superintendent

Team Selection