

Reunion 38 Final Report

This Reunion was some two years in the making and was conducted 15-20 May in Colorado Springs, Colorado (COS). Not having a local chapter did increase the effort it took the Reunion Committee to put the complete package together and it did take two special trips to COS. The first trip was made just to look over the hotels in the city who offered to host the reunion and then select the winner which was the Crowne Plaza. NWSA has stayed in other hotels in this group and thus a certain confidence that the hotel could provide both the facility and the support for which we have become accustomed. Tom and Mary Ann Miovas made a trip to COS to look over the wide variety of places of interest. All in all, the extra effort resulted in a very fine reunion.

It was widely advertised that the members, who could come early to help with the final preparations, should come a day early. It was gratifying to note that an amazing number of our members did just that. Tuesday 15 May started with Duncan Donuts and coffee. It was a very busy day gathering the materials, meal cards, name tags, hats, shirts, cups and various tickets which were placed in the goodie bags. There was a major run to Ft. Carson to buy consumables such as soda, water, beer and the commissary items. Bob Steiner and Tammie took charge of the wet bar which was spread out in two adjacent bathing tubs and a small over the counter bar. On Wednesday, there was the usual Executive Board meeting and a walking visit to Old Colorado Springs. The evening concluded with a Welcome Aboard pasta salad meal. The first General meeting was held on Thursday and in the evening we had Tacos on the Patio. On Friday there was a bus trip to Manitou Springs. In the evening we bused to the Flying W Ranch for Steak and BBQ and a western night of great entertainment. Saturday was a very busy day starting with a bus trip to visit the beautiful Air Force Cadet Chapel. It should note that there was a rain forced cancellation of a further bus trip to the popular site, Garden of the Gods. In the afternoon there was a General meeting where the voting for the 2014 to 2015 term took place and a Second Executive Board meeting.

The Banquet had a Western Theme and most members came in character with some such as Peter Peterson who came really duded up. This event was again provided with singing by the ladies – Marge Cruse, Lynne Kerr, Gerry Langemo, Betty Ledbetter, Diane Peterson, Robbie Roper and Tammie Pierce. The names of the folks who had won various prizes and who made the final bids for the silent auction were announced. Harry Nickolson won the room upgrade, Marge Cruse won the room raffle for three paid nights, and Libby O'Brien won the 50/50 raffle. Libby was most gracious and turned all the money over to the scholarship fund. There were three silent auction items – Chuck Fifield bought the hand carved Puffin, Bob Steiner bought the Anchor Pendant and Pete Peterson bought the NWSA tee shirt. There were two bottles of wine raffled off to support the scholarship fund and which were won by Howard Graham and Jeanie Hale.

A number of members showed up on Sunday morning for the field day. Alan Davis was one of the clean up committee folks which was really great as he will be the Chairman for Reunion 39. Alan took lots of notes as to which items were bought, which were sold and which items could probably be omitted for the Las Vegas Reunion. There

was in fact little to do except to move out all the finger foods and beverages. People who drove to the reunion were able to stock up on many of the beverage remnants. The local VFW was the beneficiary of a wide range of all the items which were either not consumed during the reunion or taken by the folks driving home.

As with any gathering there are the usual "Personnel Stories". Bob and Sylvy Titus planned to attend but he had to undergo a major shoulder surgery at the last minute. Bill and Carol Bowers could not attend as he was a witness to some sort of traffic incident and was not allowed to make a deposition. Joan Futtner became seriously ill in near by Durango, which caused the Futtners to initially cancel their attendance. Joan did achieve a partial recovery and they were able to attend the banquet. Finally, Ken Boden had to withdraw mid way through the reunion because of altitude sickness. The issue was further exacerbated by the fact that the high Rocky Mountains stood between Ken and his home in Eastern Washington.

All parts of the reunion were a success. We were able to pay all of our bills and pay back the seed money to NWSA. It should be noted that the local NWSA chapters bought ads for the booklet and were a major monetary contributor. The Scholarship fund was the beneficiary of several reunion activities and will receive a lump sum when every single cost item has been carefully accounted for and a certain anticipation of the cost of shipping NWSA reunion items to Las Vegas. The success of this reunion was of course attributable to all the members, their spouses, and guests who attended. Thanks to all who did their part to make this reunion a memorable event.

Earl Kerr, Reunion 38 Chairman