

Take-aways from evaluations & post-retreat meeting 5/14/25

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1. Sound system: Large speakers near the person with the microphone sound loud to the person talking, yet people in the back couldn't hear. Next time:
 - a. Have those speaking with a microphone practice with the equipment (sound check) and get used to having it sound loud to them.
 - b. When starting to speak, ask audience if they can hear (especially in the back).
 - c. When beginning a session ask audience to speak up at any time if they can't hear.
2. Audience shares, comments, Q and A could sometimes not be heard by participants.
 - a. Pass them the microphone, have them walk to the microphone, or leader repeats what they said so everyone can hear.
3. We did not give information on the hiking trails; participants didn't know what to try.
 - a. If we meet again at this location, check out and describe some of the trails for participants in written handouts.
4. If we are here again, ask if/how we can open the sliding doors at the end of Craft Room; better ventilation, less claustrophobic, some could work on picnic tables outside.
5. Make enough copies of handouts for all participants.
6. Proceedings after the afternoon speakers were a bit chaotic.
 - a. Schedule set 7th tradition just 5 minutes before starting Letting Go Bowl.
 - b. When Letting Go ceremony started soon after, people left their chairs and formed 2 long lines for the bowl. The 7th tradition basket and envelope were stalled. Some people came up later to look for them.
7. One suggestion was to have a leader ("master of ceremonies") explain the series of upcoming events and call for the other leaders to introduce their pieces one at a time.
8. Raffle felt rushed, and some participants said they couldn't hear the numbers being read.
 - a. Suggestion: make sure to use the microphone when reading numbers
 - b. Note actual time vs schedule and don't hurry if we are on time. We finished the afternoon more than 30 minutes ahead of schedule.
9. Closing: circle with closing prayer was powerful, with so many participants. Other ideas:
 - a. Before the prayer, call the committee members to the front to be acknowledged for all their work, and call out the volunteer helpers to be acknowledged for their work.
 - b. Maybe do 2 concentric circles, participants giving affirmation to the opposite person as Renee has done in workshops; some are triggered by low lights etc.
 - c. Maybe have participants greet / handshake the people next to them
10. Next time, plan for and recruit volunteers to help with cleanup. Define the tasks so they can be delegated.
11. Do we want another retreat this year?
 - a. Jeannie tentatively reserved October 5 for us in Upper CE, no deposit.
 - b. Some of us don't want to do more than 1 retreat per year.