

Reunion 2022: Reflections

by Gary Wilson

Not having been together in three years, it was unclear what our tolerance levels would be.

So, the Reunion Planning Committee felt it prudent to minimize events away from the hotel and maximize time at the hotel. With that in mind, we only had one event away from the hotel that being dinner on Tuesday evening at the Hofbräuhaus. The time at the hotel was filled with two first time events (Bingo + Ice Cream + a movie) and one event for the second time (Name That Tune). Judging by the fact the over 80% of the attendees opted to participate in this approach, we must have hit the mark. Consideration for repeating these will be made in planning future years.

On Tuesday morning, Larry and Andrea Ingham lead the group in their fun version of “Name That Tune”. This is the second time we played this game. Everyone was given the opportunity to play and reminisce with some of the “oldies but goodies” of the music of bygone years.

Then, on Wednesday morning, Cathy Wilson with the help of Jo Ann Morro introduced the age-old game of BINGO. This was the first time we played BINGO at a reunion. WOW! What crafty players there were. Seeing some playing multiple cards and winning was fun to watch. There ended up being five games played with six winners.

Another tradition at our reunions is the Annual Auction held on Wednesday evenings. This year, as in the past, our shipmate Barry Smith led another successful auction effort. Prompting people to bid is Barry with helpers Larry Dixon, Larry Halloran and Jimmy Carroll.

Yet another first, was what we called and “Ice Cream Social” and a movie. On Thursday afternoon, our shipmates and guests assembled in the Banquet Room to watch the Tom Hanks movie “Greyhound”. Attendees were provided a bag of popcorn, a bag of mixed nuts and a container of ice cream from a local favorite, Graeters’ Ice Cream. The movie was a nice touch in order to bring our Navy careers back into focus.

We are learning to find ways to reduce the workload of the reunion hosts and committee. This year we used the Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitors Bureau to find the hotel. They also provided local contact information for services needed. We also used Kroger who allowed us to provide a shopping list to them and they filled the order. All we had to do is go to the store and pick up and pay for it.

All these events helped to provide from an entertaining time together. It has always been said that gives us time together and we will make the best of it. That certainly proved to be the case with this year’s reunion. It was fun to see us get back together, after three years apart, to laugh and be happy.