

Association of Teacher Educators

2024 ATE Annual Meeting

Director of Meetings Report

Overall Assessment. This was a very successful conference. Attendees seemed to be very happy with the sessions and the venue. For the most part, sessions were well attended and there seemed to be a lot of formal and informal engagement. I also was pleased with the attendance at most of the Saturday morning sessions as the vast majority were well attended on the final morning of the conference.

Roundtable sessions seemed particularly well attended for that type of set-up.

The General Session speakers were received positively. It was a good idea to reduce seating for the Distinguished Teacher Educator Lecture and Research Sessions. There were a lot fewer empty seats. Need to remember to include that reduction in our future Schedule of Events.

Conference Registration. Not sure what happened this year, but it seemed like every day I was sending multiple people to Robin for assistance in registering for the conference. She was easily able to get them registered but don't seem to recall having that much of an issue in the past.

Conference App. It seemed like people really liked the conference app we used this year. It was easy to navigate. The one problem appeared to be the transfer of information from Abstract Management to the app. Once the app was available to registrants, I began to get emails from people saying their session wasn't in the app or certain names of presenters weren't included. I would check and everything was correct in the Abstract Management Schedule and pdf program but somehow didn't get transferred to the app. Michael was easily able to fix it but he doesn't need that distraction at that time of pre-conference. We'll need to try to figure out what happened before summer conference.

AV. The folks with AV were very attentive when called upon. In some cases, they were there within a minute or two. I did talk to two different presenters who had AV issues but didn't know how to contact the AV folks and gave up. In both cases, they didn't know how to connect their computer to the projector, but we will need to get that info out about contacting AV for the next conference. Neither presenter ended up presenting since they couldn't project their PowerPoint.

Food and Beverage. The food at the Marriott was exceptional. Unfortunately, it was also very pricey! We had a minimum of \$60,000 and went over that by about \$100,000. It is my opinion that we need to reduce the number of food events. We simply cannot continue as “business as usual” with food and beverage and expect to make much of a profit for the organization.

Concessions. The day of extensive hotel concessions is probably over. The Anaheim contract was signed in 2017 prior to the pandemic and was supposed to be held in 2021. They provided 4 free suites and 18 half-price rooms for board members. This was quite nice! A look at future contracts reveals that there are no complimentary suites or any type of rooms. Instead, these rooms are now being offered at the group rate rather than the higher rate usually charged for those rooms. Some hotels will allow us to apply comp nights to these types of rooms while others will not. It will be something we will need to pay attention to as we approach these various sites.

Submitted by John McIntyre, ATE Director of Meetings