

## ATTACHMENT F

### 2013 AS1 Thoughts

Judy and Dennis O'Keefe

It was an honor to be asked to Chair last summer's conference. We enjoyed the week and really appreciate the help of so many. In particular, we'd like to thank Deb Walton and the Stewarts' for all their help on the constantly changing registration list and the Coleman's for just being the calming and loving Coleman's. The Children's staff was wonderful, as always, in spite of some last minute juggling. As you all know, once on the island, the conference takes on a life of its own. People pitched in, did their volunteer assignments and things ran pretty smoothly.

We do have some thoughts we'd like to share:

- The island management is very enthusiastic about working to make the conference run well. There were many emails exchanged during the spring and questions posed and answered. A Conference Calendar by day and hour is provided by the island to fill in all the details about the activities planned for the week. It did help to organize this information in one place, but took an inordinate amount of time to fill out. Yet, at the first meeting on island, hours prior to the conferees arriving, it seemed as though many of those at the meeting had not read it. It was also apparent that many of the emails providing information had not been read. There were also activities included on the calendar by the island that we found out were incorrect. This did impact our schedule. We don't know if this has happened in prior years or if it was due to the many things being done on the island before we arrived. We think that preparation for a large conference is also important and that material provided should be read as a courtesy as well as for preparation.
- FYI, we were asked to come out to the island on the 6:30 AM boat on the first day of the conference. Not being early risers, we requested to come out on the 10:45 AM boat. This seemed to work out fine.

- We felt that the island staff and especially Deb Walton did a great job accommodating 285 conferees. We had the highest bed night number of all the conferences. This is a great help to island finances. There were no complaints about overcrowding at meals since the Pels were staffed up, but the island was fully utilized.
- We had a Bingo game ready to go for a rainy day but didn't use it. In retrospect, we should have scheduled a game after afternoon classes on the rainy day that resulted in the scavenger hunt being cancelled.
- Since the speaker is not paid, we would recommend that the conference pay for a hotel room in town if they have to travel a long distance.
- The new showers were a hit as was the staff of Pelicans.
- As discussed in the first bullet, communication between staff and conferees is important but don't expect everyone to read the info provided. Also, don't be shy about asking staff for help or accommodations. The Pels always seemed happy to help.
- If evaluations and volunteer reports are put out mid week and announced at meals there may be a better response.
- We would suggest posting the Porch News, Boat News and Address List on the AS1 website for a few weeks after the conference.
- The volunteer job descriptions on the AS1 website are outdated and need to be updated. They caused confusion among some who were new to their jobs.

We hope this helps and hey, do we have a great conference or what!!!!