2014 September Website/Publicity/Evaluations Report

Website: I am going to change our webhosting company as I am finding the service I am using flakey. The webhosting company I used for years was bought out a little over a year ago and at first the new company was good, but not so much any more. No extra cost involved, as the new hosting service is actually cheaper as I do not need the old database support for collecting speaking proposals, pre-reg, and evaluations. I hope to launch the new website sometime in November. It will look a bit different, but not a whole lot. There may be a 1 or 2 day period where the website is in transition and may not be available. pdtca.org will be the main new website url, so if you start using that it will take you to the new website when it goes live. At that point I will disable palliserconvention.org as the main website, but you will still be able to use it. It will redirect to pdtca.org. Bottom line, use pdtca.org from now on and sometime in November you will see a new look! The other advantage of the new hosting company is that the site will be more mobile friendly.

We are using a new database service which is proving its worth. All the speakers who had contacts issued are confirmed except for one. That is unprecedented i n the whole time I have been part of this board. All data is accessible to all exec who need it24/7 anywhere there is internet. Speakers can also log in and see their information. Also, I can filter out groups of speakers and send personalized emails to them - ie speaking proposals that were not chosen got a personalized email letting them know . This filtering ability was very useful to remind speakers who had not uploaded their signed contract.

Exhibits is using the same system and likewise all info is accessible 24/7 to the Exhibits Chair as well as to exhibitors.

Pre- reg will be handled through the database as well. It will be very simple to monitor, see the total number registered for that session, and we can easily delete duplicate registrations. Also no need to email any delegates as a personalized auto email is sent out when they register. They can keep this for proof of registration. Also, delegates can log in again and the website will show them all the sessions they pre-registered for.

Publicity: Are we using lanyards, bracelets, cards or something else to identify delegates? I can easily post a printable program "booklet" that can be printed on letter size paper for anyone who wants a printout. With our program confirmed so early, I see very few changes down the road and I could have that on the website early in February. I will do more of the huge posters. We have sched.org for a mobile site that views nicely on a phone. I don't think we need to print a grid for everyone. I would still do the speaker lanyards with their session information as I have done in the past.

Evaluations: We will collect our own data this year and then submit that to a person who will combine all the results for one provincial report. Hopefully we get more feedback this year. It was so poor last year that the results were not valid and we did not send evaluation data to the speakers. Not sure if we ever got a provincial evaluations report as we were told we would. I personally did not see one.