

COFAS94 - The Final Report

COFAS94 was a rousing success. At least that's what Sonja and I have been told. That success started with Kathryn Willing's (Site Coordinator) excellent organization and well provisioned reception. The next morning our first guest speaker Dr. Loreleigh Keashly got us off to a vigorous start. Although this was our only three hour session, the time was much too short - we all wanted more! Conference participants were able to enjoy this session solely because of the work of Sonja Breau who not only found this speaker but made all the arrangements to secure her presence.

Others played important roles in the success of COFAS94. Judy Walker had us outside on the riverbank learning about Ti Chi and its usefulness in working through physical stress caused by computer usage. Judy arranged for the Stratford Ti Chi chapter to lead this demonstration.

Robert Clift, Rebecca Davey, Donna Ede, Laura Heller, Roseanne Hood, Allison Hudgins and Gordon Unger all gave us excellent presentations on varied topics of general interest.

The vital contribution comes from the participants and this conference was full of vitality. Sonja and I were both pleased and honoured by your enthusiasm.

COFAS94 DECISIONS

Since this was the first trial of moving to a longer conference participants were asked to review the decision. After some discussion of the pros and cons we decided to return to the shorter conference (Thursday night to Sunday morning).

It was also agreed that the Treasurer in coordination with the Agenda Organizers could expend some COFAS funds on guest speakers in future years.

At the suggestion of Chris Penn and following discussion with Site Coordinator Kathryn Willing about the difficulties of reserving hotels on a year to year basis (they are often booked out two years in advance) it was decided that we would investigate the possibility of getting volunteers for COFAS95 and COFAS96. Thereafter each conference would choose volunteers for 2 years hence.

Finally, there was also discussion of instituting a COFAS Newsletter to which we would all be encouraged to provide contributions. While everyone thought that this was a good idea volunteers are needed to carry out good ideas. Fortunately, Paula Hesselink and Ardyss Johnston (USFA) agreed to take on this arduous task.

Agenda Organizer: the Experience

Sonja and I had fun doing this - it was not overly difficult or complicated. Of course, Sonja is a joy to work with - great sense of humour. Our colleagues are thoughtful, helpful and willing to assist. That's one of the best parts! Our sincere thanks to all of you.

COFAS95
SITE: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED (either 1st or 3rd weekend in June 95)
SITE COORDINATOR: Arlene Grant, DFA
AGENDA ORGANIZERS: Susan Taylor, SFUFA
Robert Clift, CUFA/BC

COFAS96
SITE: WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED
SITE COORDINATORS: Anne Fielden, AAS:UA
Gordon Unger, AAS:UA
AGENDA ORGANIZERS: Rebecca Davey, UBC
Cheryl Reyes, YUFA

SURVEY: Brigitte Schotch, DFA
TREASURER: Rose Norman, NSCUFA

Not only were there volunteers for the next two years but CAUT Staff (Penny Plamondon, Lois MacKenzie and Nancy Gordon) volunteered to be site coordinators for COFAS97 if it was decided to hold it in Ottawa.

As noted above, the conference was notable for the enthusiasm and vitality of the participants. To all those who have volunteered and who will volunteer to be presenters - our thanks. Sonja and I wish you every success.