2027 meeting 7/15/26 AI recap - Minutes

Deb & Ruth, John & Val, Budd & Jennifer, Jim, Mike,

Quick recap

The meeting focused on finalizing preparations for the RCA 2027 convention in Richmond, Virginia, including reviewing and approving the minutes from the previous meeting, discussing the PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming Denver convention, and updating the website and registration process. John presented the PowerPoint, which highlighted the convention theme of "bridging our recovery" and included information about Richmond, the Omni hotel, and registration details. The group discussed potential slogans, program content, and ways to engage both in-person and online attendees, emphasizing the hybrid nature of the convention. They also talked about distributing flyers and QR codes at the Denver convention to promote registration and volunteer sign-ups. Ruth shared updates on the website, registration system, and hotel arrangements, confirming that all systems were live and functioning. The committee discussed strategies for recruiting volunteers and speaker couples, and considered ways to reach out to newcomers and involve local groups. The conversation ended with logistical planning for the next committee meeting and a closing serenity prayer.

Next steps

John

- Update the PowerPoint presentation based on feedback (add bullet points for bridging those who can't travel, pioneers instead of old-timers, families, etc.), add QR code for registration, and swap the order of registration and Omni slides.
- Contact Gali Beh to coordinate including flyers in the Denver convention folders and to inquire about a table for sign-ups and materials.
- Point out Mike and Liz during the Denver presentation for people to approach about volunteering or signing up.

Mike

- Print 100 full-page copies of the updated flyer and arrange to have them available for distribution at the Denver convention (either by sending them ahead or printing locally).
- Create a sign-up sheet and a visible display (e.g., foam core board with QR code) for the volunteer table at the Denver convention.

Ruth

- Update the flyer with the correct QR code and any other necessary information, then send it to Mike and John.
- Add the updated PowerPoint presentation to the RCA 2027 website.
- Work on the Frequently Asked Questions section of the website.
- Reach out to the Trailblazers group after the Denver convention to involve them in the committee.
- Add "Recruitment Strategies" to the agenda for the next committee meeting.
- Schedule the next committee meeting for August 12th at 6:30 PM.

Collaboration

- All attendees going to Denver (John, Linda, Mike, Liz): Actively recruit volunteers and speaker couples at the Denver convention, collect names and contact information.

Summary

Meeting Minutes and PowerPoint Review

Ruth led a meeting where the group approved minutes from the previous meeting (624) after reviewing them. The minutes covered completed tasks including finalizing committee positions, logo approval, website registration flow, contract signing, and WSO completion. The meeting then moved to discuss a PowerPoint presentation, with John taking the lead to review it page by page.

Denver Convention Presentation Draft Review

John presented his draft slideshow for the Denver Convention, which he created with AI assistance from Copilot. The presentation includes information about Richmond, Virginia as the convention location and discusses the theme of "bridging our recovery" across different dimensions including coupleships, fellowships, and international participation. Ruth suggested adding content about the hybrid format allowing older members who cannot travel and international participants to join virtually, making it the first hybrid convention. The group discussed potentially incorporating the visitrichmondva.com website for additional information about the location.

Convention Accessibility and Engagement Ideas

The group discussed ideas for improving convention accessibility and engagement, including adding a bullet point about virtual participation for those who cannot travel due to various constraints. They agreed to replace the term "old-timers" with "pioneers" in their messaging. The discussion included exploring ways to bridge participants with their families through sessions and activities, with Mike suggesting this could cover topics like moving from dysfunctional to functional relationships. Jennifer suggested including information about a theme park in Massanutten and highlighting local attractions within a two-hour radius of Richmond, including Washington D.C., mountains, caverns, and Virginia Beach.

RCA 2027 Convention Planning Updates

The team discussed plans for the RCA 2027 convention in Richmond at the Omni Hotel. They reviewed presentation content including the location structure, program details, and registration process. Key decisions included changing "Yoga" to "morning gentle stretching" to avoid religious connotations, setting the opening welcome for Friday at 6 PM, and adding speaker couples to Sunday's program. The group also discussed including QR codes for registration and potentially providing early registration incentives.

Convention Registration Logistics Planning

The team discussed logistics for the Omni hotel and convention registration materials. John confirmed the convention rate of $179 per night at the Omni and agreed to add the $60 Zoom participation fee to the materials. They decided to reorganize the presentation slides to show registration information first, followed by hotel details, and Mike offered to print 100 full-page copies of the flyer for the convention folders. John will coordinate with Gali Beh about including the flyer in convention materials, while Mike will handle the printing once he receives the updated materials from John.

Flyer Distribution and Promotion Planning

John will follow up with Gali Beh to confirm if she or someone else on their committee can proceed with their plans. Ruth agreed to post the flyer on the website and coordinate with Wendy to ensure it gets scheduled. John and Mike will work together to prepare 100 paper copies of the flyer for distribution at the convention. The team discussed incorporating a QR code and email signup link for the "Stay Connected" initiative, with Ruth suggesting monthly or bi-monthly updates about program developments and activities.

Denver Convention Volunteer Recruitment Plans

The team discussed plans for volunteer recruitment at the Denver convention. They agreed to place a sign-up sheet at the RCA convention table featuring a flyer with a QR code for online registration, with Mike offering to create a foam core display. The group reviewed the convention website, which includes registration options for in-person, phone, and Zoom attendance, with particular emphasis on phone registration for those without bandwidth for visual components. They also discussed using the 2027 RCA website for registration rather than the main RCA website to expedite implementation of new features.

Conference Hotel and Planning Updates

The team discussed hotel accommodations for an upcoming conference in Richmond, with Ruth confirming that the Omni hotel offers the same $179 rate for up to 12 total days including before and after the conference. Jennifer suggested creating a one-day rate for newcomers to RCA, which the group agreed to consider for future discussion with the program committee. Mike proposed a creative approach to welcome newcomers, suggesting a first-step meeting on Saturday followed by lunch where attendees could decide whether to continue with the program. The team also discussed updates to their presentation and website, with John requesting the ability to manually advance slides and Ruth agreeing to explore options for implementing this feature.

RCA 2027 Convention Planning

The team discussed preparations for the upcoming RCA 2027 convention in Denver. John will revise his presentation and contact Gali about incorporating flyers into convention folders and securing a table for sign-ups. Mike offered to handle delivery of materials to Denver, potentially printing them locally at Staples. The registration system is now live and ready to accept attendees, with data being collected through PayPal. The group scheduled their next meeting for August 12th at 6:30 PM, and discussed recruitment strategies for convention involvement, including reaching out to specific couples and potentially involving the Trailblazers group.