Special Events Coordinator Report 2016

Prepared by: Janet Watson

The Volunteer Tribute Dinner was held in the Private Room of Tony Roma’s Restaurant on Saturday, November 19th.

100 people were invited and 52 people attended the dinner.

Guests were greeted at the door by Carter Watson and Jordan Kos, who provided raffle tickets to each.

The buffet meal consisted of ribs, chicken, baked potatoes, ceaser salad, mixed vegetables, coleslaw and chocolate and vanilla cake for dessert. A bottle of red wine and white wine was provided to each table. Tony Roma’s staff went above and beyond to satisfy our requirements. The private room was nicely decorated for the holiday season; there was Christmas background music for everyone to enjoy; and beverage cart was brought to each table, where guests could chose from an assortment of speciality teas, or rich, dark coffee.

The entertainment consisted of “Just The Three Of Us”, which were three musicians from the South Zone Regina Heritage Fiddlers who were extremely talented and entertaining.

An excellent and amusing program was conducted by Lois Kos and her daughter, Jordan Kos. The South Zone Board Members, Program Co-ordinators and City of Regina Representatives were each honoured at the dinner. Lois explained how much each volunteer was appreciated by the South Zone and each was presented with a token of appreciation.

A large number of raffle prizes were awarded, in fact, each guest who attended the dinner was awarded a raffle prize – just another way of paying tribute to all the volunteers who contribute to the South Zone. A grand prize was presented using a reverse draw system which added an element of intrigue to the dinner.

The guests who attended seemed to really enjoy themselves and the Special Event’s Committee received a lot of excellent comments from the attendees which was very nice to hear.

Unfortunately, without providing a reason to the Special Event’s Committee, one of the Community Associations decided to boycott the dinner and further approached the other three Community Associations and asked them to join in the boycott. One other Community Association completely boycotted the event and another Community Association partially boycotted. A great deal of thought, consideration, time and effort is put into the planning and organizing of this event each year in order to make it successful and enjoyable. It is unfortunate that volunteers don’t consider this when choosing to boycott a complimentary event that offers the volunteers an evening to enjoy themselves and celebrate the volunteers in attendance.

In connection with the point above, originally we were advised that Tony Roma’s could hold 100 guests and we managed our guest list to accommodate that number. A total of 100 people were invited in 2016. However, we have since learned that due to the other set up requirements for our function; open space required for entertainment, set up for gift table, set up for guest registration table, podium, Christmas decorations, etc., the room cannot seat 100 people. Therefore, the guest list for 2017 will have to be reduced even further. This will be primarily reflected by eliminating the Community Associations that chose to boycott the 2016 dinner.