



Executive Summary: 2025 PNG/KLS/ SPLC Reunion, post-survey



- **Overall Satisfaction:** Participants were very pleased with the reunion, particularly valuing the opportunity to reconnect with friends ("wantoks") and the specific programming related to PNG (MK Nexus, George Weiblen).
- **Top Highlights:** The "MK Nexus" sharing sessions and the time spent socializing were the most cited highlights.
- **Key Area for Adjustment:** The most common request was for **more "down time"** or unstructured time for casual conversations.
- **Future Planning:** Preferences for the next reunion interval are split, with a slight preference for **2 years (16 votes)** over 3 years (13 votes), largely driven by a desire to meet while able, balanced against travel costs and committee fatigue.

Detailed Session Feedback

Participants rated sessions on a scale of 1 to 7 (1 = Low, 7 = High). All sessions received positive ratings, with the Barbara Goldhardt presentation receiving the highest praise.

Session / Event	Average Rating (out of 7)	Key Feedback
Barbara Goldhardt Zoom	6.70	<i>Highest rated.</i> Attendees found her story unique and compelling.
George Weiblen & Jonathan Frerichs	6.58	Highly valued for the update on conservation efforts and the connection to PNG.
MK Nexus Sessions	6.46	A core highlight. Participants loved hearing personal stories and finding common ground.
Jared Diamond Zoom	6.06	Generally well-received as an interesting speaker with wealth of knowledge.
Looney Lutherans	5.97	Mostly enjoyed as a fun diversion, though slightly more mixed reviews than other

Event Logistics & Atmosphere

Casual Time & Schedule

- **78%** (31 respondents) felt the amount of casual time was "About right."
- **23%** (9 respondents) felt there was "Too little" time.
- **Comments:** Multiple attendees suggested a less busy schedule, longer meal times (more than 20 minutes), and more "open time" to visit without missing programs.

Silent Auction

- **Yes, enjoyed it:** 31 respondents (78%)
- **Did not participate/enjoy:** 8 respondents (20%)
- **Comments:** Participants enjoyed the variety of items and the "friendly bidding wars," though one suggested it takes significant volunteer effort that might be better spent elsewhere.

Venue: Mt. Olivet Retreat Center

- **Feedback:** Overwhelmingly positive regarding the setting, food quality, and staff friendliness.
- **Issues:** Minor complaints included coffee machines being unavailable at times, buildings/chapel being locked too early or requiring assistance, and short meal service windows.

Future Planning Insights

Reunion Interval Preference

- **2 Years:** 16 votes. *Rationale:* "We are aging," "Want to stay connected."
- **3 Years:** 13 votes. *Rationale:* "Travel/financial burden for overseas guests," "Give the committee a break."

Volunteer Interest

- While some (10) noted they are unable to help, **6 respondents** expressed a general willingness to help "wherever needed," and a few identified specific interests in programming and communications. Other respondents did not reply to this question.

Recommendations for Next Reunion

1. **Simplify the Schedule:** Consider reducing the number of programmed events slightly to allow for extended meal times and more organic social interaction.
2. **Coffee & Amenities:** Ensure coffee is available consistently throughout the day and clarify access to buildings/chapel during late hours.
3. **Hybrid Approach to Interval:** Since the vote is close, the committee might consider continuing the 2-year interval if a simpler, less labor-intensive format is adopted to reduce burnout, or move to 3 years to accommodate international travelers.