

## And That's a Wrap

After years of planning for the NAA Conference and Show coming to Minnesota, it is now history. Let's back up the train a bit. Over ten years ago a plan was put in place to again host the NAA in Minnesota.

The last time it was in Minnesota, was my first NAA conference back in 1984. It changed my life. Peg and I have been blessed to attend conferences since then and some of them, like this year, with some of our family in tow. Let me reminisce a bit. I remember Wally Laumeyer being the host and inviting us up to his suite one night. The highlight, however, was a presentation by Steve and Carol Reinhardt. It was the only time in 37 years I saw auctioneers rush the stage to get a copy of their contract or some advertising ideas they shared. It makes me so proud to know the greatest presenters from 1984!

This year's conference started with a planning/Zoom meeting between NAA Chair John Schultz and our President, Judd Grafe. Joyce Peterson from the NAA office also helped guide the process. Thanks to both John and Judd for riding herd on this event.

During the summer meeting members were shown how they could get involved as well as sign up to be 'super greeters.' This turned into the Purple People Greeters that caught NAA members by surprise when they arrived at US Bank stadium. Thank you to Kurt and Connie Johnson who supplied the SKOL drumline that opened the night way over the top. The opportunity to walk onto the field in itself was far greater than I could have imagined. It is so massive looking up and seeing all the rows of seats surrounding the field. I watched several members try kicking a field goal and did not see one make it. The next morning I saw a loop of Bridget Siler kicking a field goal 47 times (something about a loop tape). The picture with all the members on the field also was a highlight of the evening.

The new booth backdrop with the new logo was displayed and many members signed up to greet or be at the booth for part of the conference. A big "Thank You" to everyone that helped make the conference such a success.

Minnesota had a great location for our booth where members could get a slice of Minnesota Nice. Many smiles were shared and apple pie was the draw at the

booth. There were pizzas during the contest and the best part was the remaining pizza pies were donated to homeless shelters. We also had a team of ring personnel working the crowd during the contest. Thank you to Paul McCartan for assisting with this task.

To quote our president Judd Grafe, "It takes a village". The goal is to have a successful conference. Minnesota has a village. There were so many positive comments from attendees which was only made possible by the work of so many villagers. Give yourselves a hand, you made the MSAA proud.

Thank you all so much,

Col Frank