

Some of my Branson Goers Reunion memories

We have had so many good memories over the years that Bringers having been meeting. My husband and I started coming to it 16 years ago and since I was the one that had polio I was anxious to get to the reunion but I didn't know exactly how my husband would handle it. But to my surprise he joined right in and although he was not one to go up to people and start a conversation with them but everyone was so nice and friendly that within a few hours we felt right at home. I thought that we would only go for one year for me to get information about PPS because I was starting to have problems but the following year he was the one that suggested me go again. He passed away in 2006 with cancer but he wanted me to promise him that I would keep going, and I did.

I have a great very large biological family and love them all dearly but when it comes to the Reunion I usually don't let anything stand in my way to go see my PPS family. They have become a big part of my life just like my Bio family.

When my husband and I first started it was held at the "Welk Hotel" and although we liked the hotel we didn't have a large meeting room. It was 3 rooms (if I recall right) that we had, so you had to go from room to room to visit with people but we had wonderful times there. There was a large area down from our rooms that had a piano and we would gather there and sing songs.

We out grew that hotel and moved to one called "Settle Inn Hotel" I believe it was and then they changed the name to "Stone Castle Hotel". We had a lot of wonderful times there too but their handicapped rooms were not as assessable as we would have liked and going in and out of the hotel was a problem for some because they did not have electronic doors. We again felt the need to find a different hotel so this year's reunion (2016) we made the move to "Branson Towers Hotel".

We found the hotel easier to access with electronic doors etc. and the handicap rooms were more accessible too. I think all things considered we made a good move.

We have met so many wonderful people from all walks of life, but when we get together we have something in common with them and that is PPS. I am in a power chair 24/7 now but when I first started coming I was still walking. I remember when I first started having problems, when I got tired I would limp and I would try my best not to and I would have to sit down and rest more often but I never wanted anyone to know why. But my first time at the reunion I found that I was so at ease because I didn't have to try to act normal (whatever that is) because I had found someone that had the same problems I was having. I really didn't know too many people with polio to compare myself to.

One thing I know for sure is there are several of us that don't get much sleep when we are at the reunion because it isn't anything for us to sit up until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning just talking, laughing, and having a good time.

2016 reunion is over and now we wait another year to do it all over again.

Wilma/MO

