

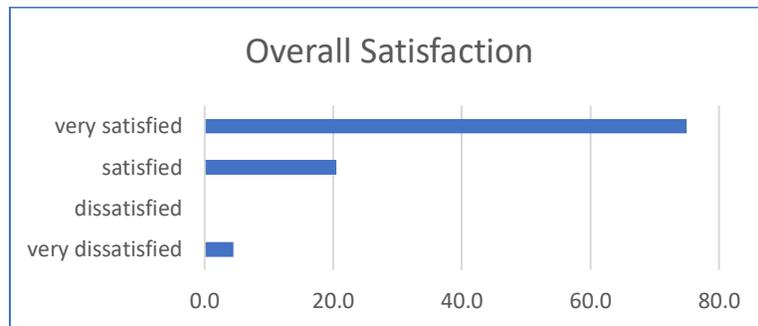
The Survey Says ...

WILPF-US 33rd Triennial Congress attendees had good experiences!

Those who attended the WILPF-US 33rd Triennial Congress were asked to take a short survey to rate their experience. Approximately half of those who attended Congress (44 of 90 attendees) completed the survey and provided feedback on what went well and what could be improved.

Congress attendees were very satisfied!

Asked for their **overall satisfaction** with their experience with Congress (using a 4pt rating scale to force non-neutral positions), **75% were very satisfied** and 95% were satisfied+very satisfied.



Comments included:

"This was my first time to attend. It was informative and inspiring."

"It was my first Congress and I loved it: excellent speakers and WILPF leaders present and engaged!"

"The Congress was more focused than earlier Congresses."

"It was the first Congress I've been to that there was a more positive and encouraging atmosphere among the attendees."

"I appreciated the feel that was created for the event. Whether in the lobby or either of the conference large rooms, I felt WILPF around me."

People were happy with the Overall Program and Schedule

- 95% were satisfied+very satisfied with the Overall Program
- 100% were satisfied+very satisfied with the Overall Schedule

Suggestions for improvement included need for downtime, scheduled breaks, non-repeating workshops and promotion of the Early Bird/Night Owl ad hoc sessions set up by members.

"Could use more down time, unscheduled."

"There was little time given for moving between workshops, so many started late."

"There were two hours of workshops without a break in between ... I think one-hour workshops were more realistic."

"I think some of the workshops that were repeated didn't need to be repeated, in order to leave space for other's that were needed..."

"We could have reminded people about Night Owl and Early Bird gatherings."

"People expressed disappointment about the early / late self org sessions-- people not showing up. Good to allow 5 min "poster" time during formal session time for people to pitch the informal sessions."

Trip to Jane Addams Hull House was a highlight

93% were very satisfied with the Trip to Hull House, with 100% satisfied+very satisfied

"Wonderful walk and education about Addams and the settlement house, so relevant in today's world."

"Glad to be part of the Hull House trip and discussion with members. The after-tour visit and film were outstanding."

"Every WILPFer should tour Hull House, very inspiring and CURRENT."

"Made her life so real to me."

"Fun and instructive."

"A learning moment for me."

"Really enjoyed the visit to Hull House, I was the last one there as I read everything."

Panel Nights were a hit

- Thurs Night Peace Activist Panel = 79% very satisfied
- Thurs Night Entertainment with "Voices" = 77% very satisfied
- Fri Night Chicago Activist Panel = 77% very satisfied
- Fri Night Entertainment with "Harmony, Hope and Healing" = 86%

Comments were positive, although also included suggestions for content and fewer speakers.

Peace Activist Panel

"Phyllis Bennis' speech was one of the highlights of the Congress for me. She's amazing."

"Excellent speakers and most inspiring."

"I thought it was a little repetitive and one too many speakers on a night when most of us were tired from traveling."

"Their presentations were not very info rich. Rather than prepared talks, they were off-the-cuff remarks."

Chicago Activist Panel

"Fabulous! It's wonderful to see what real people are doing on a local level. So impressed."

"I think this was the best event of the conference"

"Good presentations, but didn't get a sense of the deep crisis facing Chicago as a whole"

"A little too long. But very good. We could have gone with 3 speakers instead."

"Excellent content and speakers, though more guidance might have been given to make the explicit connection of their activism to peace and freedom and democracy."

And high ratings for some of the logistics

- Congress location = 77% very satisfied
- Welcome Packet = 78% very satisfied
- Registration process = 76% very satisfied

Congress location was generally viewed as favorable, due to its close proximity to Hull House, but there were still some issues with transportation, even though Chicago is a transportation hub.

"I thought it was great to have the Congress within walking distance of Hull House, and it was easy to get there from the airport and to get downtown after the Congress on public transportation. I spent a few days after the Congress in Chicago and had a great time."

*"Having Congress in Chicago gave us the chance to have event at Hull House for which I am grateful."
"UIC campus provided a great setting ... the Chicago area restaurants were the icing on the cake."
"Reasonable cost, but hard to get to."
"Traffic from ORD on Thursday pm was awful."
"Great city for conferences, but a rather obscure site; my airport shuttle driver wasn't sure where to drop me..."
"There was really nothing near enough to walk to... and the area was not very safe to be walking about."*

All were satisfied with the workshops, though there is always room for improvement

- Workshops = 100% satisfied+very satisfied, 57% very satisfied

*"Awesome conversations with everyone and was very interactive!!"
"The survey to access what topics members were most interested in was a valuable guide. Given the numbers of members attending maybe there were still too many workshops so attendance was too divided."
"Only problems were technical, av issues."
"I was disappointed not to be able to attend any workshops, since mine was scheduled twice."*

Aspects that could have worked better, though most were still satisfied (79%), were the Issues Committee Roundtables and Sunday Morning Rise-Up & Wrap-Up sessions

- Fri Issue Committee Roundtables = 79% satisfied+very satisfied, 21% dissatisfied+very dissatisfied
- Sun Morning Rise-Up & Wrap-up = 79% satisfied+very satisfied, 21% dissatisfied+very dissatisfied

While instructions were given, the format was a relatively new concept that may not have been fully understood. More time was also needed for these aspects.

Fri Issue Committee Roundtables

*"The two I attended were not well organized and I felt the facilitators didn't know exactly what the goal of the meeting was."
"This seemed a bit awkward with no real leader or facilitator assigned, and difficult for everyone to weigh in."
"Only complaint is that all of the committees met at the same time. Many of us would have liked to attend other committee workshops, as we serve on more than one."
"Would like to have had more time to participate in Issue Committees workshops. Only able to attend one, and had hoped for at least two."*

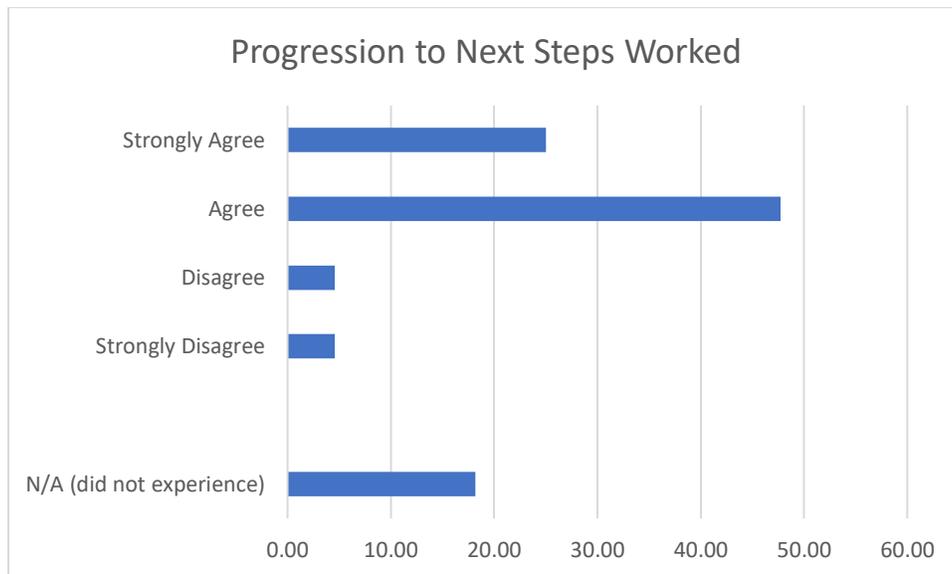
Sun Morning Rise-Up & Wrap-Up

*"This needed more time; it felt rushed."
"Seemed a bit chaotic."
"There was not enough structure or enough time to do this justice... and it should have been the most important piece. We should have come away with plans, resolutions, strategies".
"The combination of Board Voices and Next Steps left insufficient time to have good presentations, discussion and decisions."*

“It was hard to get everything in that people wanted to have on Sunday morning and more pressed for time with a shortened Congress for reasons of cost/time. At the next Congress, I think that Board program/activities should be programmed for some time in the middle of the Congress.”

Most agreed that the progression to next steps worked (48% agreed and 25% strongly agreed), but there is room for improvement

“Moving from the Workshops, to the Issue Committee Roundtables, then to the Community Gatherings was an effective method for determining “next steps” and “action items” to work on.”



Again, while instructions were given, it wasn't entirely clear to everyone how to make the progression work most effectively.

“The attempt to have this overall approach was refreshing.”

“It's an interesting design, but not all roundtables moved in this direction.”

“I thought the steps were logical, but there's only so much you can accomplish in a weekend.

“There was not enough time to come to consensus.”

“While it made sense conceptually, I felt that the range of experience in each group made it hard to move to action items.”

“It was a good format. It could have been better if we made the connections between them more clear... set expectations for how they would inform each other.”

“I didn't get any sense of building a plan from one meeting to the next. “

All in all, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet like-minded people face-to-face and continue to move WILPF forward with more ideas and action!

“It was a really wonderful experience, so powerful to all be together... and it felt for the first time since 2006 that we were all on the same page with no internal battles. Very healing and unifying. Encouraging.”

"It was the first Congress I've been to that there was a more positive and encouraging atmosphere among the attendees. I'd like to thank the Congress Committee and the WILPFUS Board and the President for making this happen. WELL DONE!"

"The workshops I went to were great, lots of helpful information. I also loved the opportunity to talk with WILPF'ers from around the country."

"I loved it! So impressed. And the leadership programme was wonderful. So many amazing people."

"Huge gratitude to Chris W and the planning committee. In the absence of a Chicago branch, you all worked miracles! Many thanks."

"Great to meet WILPFers from around the country and to hear what they're doing and to reconnect with old friends."

"By meeting in focus groups and issue committees we met members with similar interests who voiced their passion, thus enabling us to become friends."

"In general, I thought the Congress was well organized and had lots of interesting speakers and workshops. It's a great opportunity to come together and gain strength from each other. You can have conference calls until you're blue in the face, and of course they're important, but for me the personal connections you make at a Congress are extremely valuable and energizing. "

"It was very helpful to learn about what different branches are doing. A little more about national WILPF organization would have been helpful."

"Overall was very good and great to meet people (you) only "see" online or hear their voices on calls. Inspirational. Good calls to action. Hope to learn more from others who attended workshops I missed."

"Very worthwhile. So glad I was there!"

"I was challenged by the experience. I appreciate women getting together trying to find their way to address such difficult concerns. I think we need to continue to work at finding our way."

"Continue to have time for members to meet each other and share their branches work. Have a panel of women of color's experience in WILPF-US. Have a panel on "continuing to tell the story of WILPF-US's strengths (huge) and challenges/weaknesses structurally, praxis, and ideologically."

"Congress always reflects strengths & weaknesses of WILPF overall, including need for even better work reaching young women & women of color. Hard hard hard work...but that's what we need!"

To see the ratings for all aspects surveyed, go [here](#).

To see the complete list of open-ended responses, go [here](#).

END