

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 29
Number 5
Nov. 2011

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2012 Annual Meeting
July 26 – 29, 2012
Hosted by Colorado VdC of the Rockies

You are invited to attend the 2012 National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting at Regis University in Denver, CO, July 26-29, 2012, hosted by the Secretariats in Colorado.

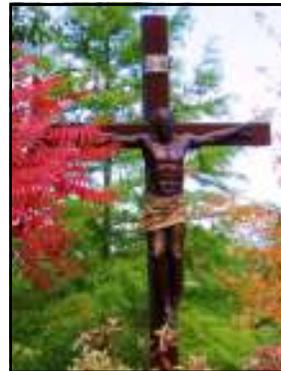
The Colorado Secretariats (Via de Cristo of the Rockies and Colorado Via de Cristo) recently had the privilege of hosting the NLS Board in Denver at Regis University. There was a lot accomplished at this meeting for planning of the NLS 2012 Annual Meeting.

In 2012 we are celebrating the 40th year as a Lutheran body. The theme is *“Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit.”* 1Thessalonians 5:16-19 This is a pretty good description of living as a member of the 4th Day community.

The Host Committee has been praying and planning for next summer’s meeting and arranging all the details to make the NLS Annual Meeting run smoothly and allowing you to enjoy your visit. Registration forms will be available soon. So make your travel plans and register early for the “early bird” price.

We look forward to your visit next July for a taste of “western style hospitality”. Please plan to join us!

God loves you and so do we,
NLSAM 2012 Host Committee



REGIS UNIVERSITY

NLS Selects an Executive Director

The National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) selected Nancy Peterson as its first Executive Director. The NLS Executive Board has long recognized the need for such a position. The Executive Director's role is to be the primary point of contact for all questions related to Via de Cristo and increase the communications within the associated Via de Cristo Secretariats. At its Annual Meeting last summer in Charlotte, NC, the gathered delegates from the affiliated Secretariats directed that a search committee be formed and an Executive Director be selected. The search committee consisted of three past NLS Executive Board members (Past President Doug Burrows, Past Spiritual Director John Propst, Past Secretary Leona Fox) and three present board members (Ed Broestl (President), Carolyn Hawkins (VP - Administration), and Steve Barnett (Treasurer)) selected Nancy from a group of very well qualified candidates. Nancy is a volunteer to this position and will work with associated Secretariats to discover their best practices and where they need assistance. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom be given to Nancy and the entire Executive Board. To learn more about Nancy, see her introduction article on page three.



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 Regis University - July 26-29
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National Lutheran Secretariat
Conexiones-on-the-web
E-Mail Notification Request Form

E-Mail Notification — carolyn.nls@carolina.rr.com

Please notify me by E-Mail when the latest edition of Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page

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Name of Secretariate _____

Position on Secretariate: _____

E-Mail Address: _____@_____

Write in large letters - be very clear, computers rely on EXACT information

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Volume 29
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Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 97,500 who have participated in 48 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, Lutheran Bishops and District Presidents about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above named positions are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving **CONEXIONES**, call a member of the board at the numbers listed on the side.

Subscriptions for the general public are \$6.00 per year, and are available by sending your name, complete mailing address, and **phone numbers** to **CONEXIONES** Treasurer, **Steve Barnett**, 5091 Oley Turnpike Road Reading, PA 19606 or contact him at; [610-301-9900](tel:610-301-9900) (C)

Material for CONEXIONES: If you have information for **CONEXIONES**, items, requests and/or information, address corrections, changes or additions - even inspirational bits - send them to the **CONEXIONES** Editor at the address on the side. **DEADLINES:** January 15th, April 15th, August 15th, and November 15th.

WELCOME TO THE NLS BOARD

Hello. My name is **Nancy Peterson**; I worship at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul, MN. I made my Via de Cristo weekend in August 1992 in St. Paul, MN, going through the last co-ed singles weekend that Minnesota hosted. I grew up on the Canadian border by International Falls, MN and attended a small country church, Bethany Lutheran, where my roots in Christ were seeded and nurtured. While in junior high and high school I served as church organist and taught Sunday School.



My career has been centered in the services to persons with disabilities field where I worked in and ran group homes and day habilitation programs. Since 1996 I have been employed at ARRM, a private, not for profit trade association for providers of services to individuals with varying disabilities. Organizing all of our events – from small workshops to 3 day conferences with 1600 in attendance has been the core of my responsibilities. I enjoy working with people and building relationships and have recently also taken over the member services responsibilities of ARRM. It has been a pleasure to work with and share my faith with many people in this field of human services. Mission work has always interested me and as such, the support of colleagues was a blessing when I was able to do mission work in Tanzania, East Africa in 2000 and 2004. The subtle ways God puts the people you need into your life at the time you need them continues to amaze me.

After working a number of VdC teams, I was elected to the state council in Minnesota, attending my first NLSAM at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in 2006. I cherish the many friends I have made through this blessed ministry and look forward to working with and for you – and for Christ - during my time as Executive Director. It is a daunting task ahead of us as we shape this position but never before have I felt such a strong sign from Christ that He is in charge and He clearly has a plan for the future of Via de Cristo and related Christian renewal movements. It is but for us to be still and listen – knowing God is leading us.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your first Executive Director. God will lead us in this ministry if we but keep the main thing the main thing and stop to hear His voice. Please pray for your Executive Board as we pray for you, your secretariats and weekends. May the Lord grant each of us His grace and love to share with others.

Peace,
Nancy Peterson
execdirector.nls@gmail.com



My name is **Richard (Rick) Hanzlik**. I attend Good Shepherd Lutheran Church In Sandy, UT. I entered the Via De Cristo community in 1993 weekend #3 here in Utah. I don't recall the table I sat at, but I do remember that the weekend was staffed by mostly Minnesota VDC members. My wife Ruth and I have been married



for 29 years, have two children and have been member of Good Shepherd since we moved to Utah in 1987.

I am a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines with degrees in electrical engineering and in computer science. I enjoy riding my motorcycle with my wife, taking photos and spending time with our grandson Ryder.

Since my weekend, I have worked numerous weekends serving in positions from Rector of Palanca chapel to Rector for the weekend. For the past 12 years it has been my privileged to take the group photo of weekenders and teams.

Three years ago at the national convention in Florida, I began discussion with Pastor Larry about taking over the National web site. At that time I wasn't quite ready to handle it on my own. Although I do have quite a bit of web site back ground, I didn't feel I was ready to take on the challenge. This past year, after much prayer and discussion with my wife, I decided I would offer my services to the community. I look forward to serving the community and I hope to be able to continue the quality of web site support that Pastor Larry has started.

I welcome any and all suggestions as to how we can improve the site. If you would like to contact me, email me at: Rjhanzlik@gmail.com.

God Loves you and so do I
Rick Hanzlik
NLS AV\Webmaster

NLS DUES STRUCTURE CHANGE

At the 2011 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting the delegates approved the motion to change the Dues Structure of the NLS to the following:

- Year of Affiliation - \$0
- After 1 full year - \$50
- After 2 full years -\$150
- After 3 full years - \$300 or \$3.00 per Candidate / Participant (whichever is higher)

If a Community has one or less weekend during the calendar year ending during the NLS fiscal year, the rate would be 1/2 the regular rate.

Continued on page eight

NLS Conference Call Minutes

September 11, 2011, Conference call

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Sunday, September 11. Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Magdala Ray, Pr. Doug Givan, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, and Diane Purcell were able to connect to the teleconference.

Ed invited all to join him in the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Pr. Doug led devotions reflecting on 9/11/2001 and focused on our "stories". We rejoice that our stories, both painful and joyful, are centered on the Gospel Story. The NLS story now continues on with an executive director joining us, and we know that in every story, God IS with us!

President: Ed introduced Nancy Peterson, newly-appointed NLS Executive Director, to the board. The timing of our mid-year meeting has been changed to October 21-23, 2011, in Denver, CO. He then reviewed the expectations for appointees to the board, including 1) being able to attend the annual meeting; and 2) submitting a report for the NLSAM whether they are able to attend or not.

All members of the board should review our current job descriptions, paying special attention to how each position supports the NLS purpose and mission. The reviews will be accomplished by the following teams:

Ed will work with Nancy and Rick.
Steve G. will work with John.
Carolyn will work with Judy.
Steve B. will work with Diane.
Magdala will work with Ron.
Pr. Doug will work with Paul.

Refund requests for 2011 NLSAM registration number eleven (11), and all have been recommended by the 2011 Host Committee. Carolyn will contact individual secretariats to determine whether the HC should send funds to the local secretariat or directly to the person. Carolyn will resolve this by Friday, September 16th.

Ed related the many God sightings in the committee process of selecting the first executive director of NLS. He has proposed that Nancy start by improving the organization of our database and other resources in an effort to reach inward before we prepare to reach outward.

Her first priority will be to contact the secretariats who could not attend the

2011 NLSAM and then to confirm all local secretariats' leadership, contact information and status.

Our current database is MS Access, and currently, only a few EB members possess the complete list. Ed and Carolyn will work on updating the current database. Diane will help Ed identify and locate a database software program which would allow all EB members to have an access code, enabling them to make immediate corrections and additions to the database as new information is available. Ed and Rick will work together to determine the most appropriate place to store the database online.

The next agenda item was "processes," meaning how each of the EB members break down the steps to our duties and record what actions we take. Each member needs to analyze his or her processes for the next meeting.

After discussion, the EB determined that the process for distributing, correcting and approving meeting minutes will be as follows:

Magdala will send out the draft minutes to everyone on the meeting invitation within two weeks of the meeting. (These minutes will be identified in the footer of each page as "DRAFT.")

The other EB members will then have one week to respond to Magdala with corrections, questions, changes and additions. (Once Magdala has made the necessary changes, the footer identification will then read "FOR APPROVAL.") No later than one week before the next monthly meeting, Magdala will then send out those corrected minutes for final approval by email.

When all EB members have approved the minutes by email, Magdala will send out the final minutes with the footer identifying the minutes as "FINAL" in time for the next monthly meeting. Approval of the minutes will then not need to be an agenda item.

Ed asked the EB members to let him know how we can make each person's job function better. For instance, in the recent destructive fires in Texas, Steve G. could have a pre-approved amount

of money (\$500?) to send immediate help to the local secretariat experiencing obstacles. Diane suggested that each position should be considered for such a "threshold" amount.

Reports/Concerns:

Secretary/Newsletter Editor/Historian-Archivist: The process for recording, correcting and distributing minutes was developed as stated above.

Treasurer/Financial Advisor: Steve B. reported that he will be mailing first quarter financial reports before the October teleconference meeting.

VP – Outreach: Steve G. was not able to attend this meeting. He sent his thanks for all the support for Texas and promised to continue updates concerning any additional needs.

VP – Administration/NLS Distribution Center Manager/Host Committee Chair: Carolyn reported that she will be in Denver October 20 to meet with the Host Committee. The rest of the EB will meet there October 21-23. All EB members traveling to Denver for the mid-year meeting, please send flight information to Carolyn. The 2011 NLSAM evaluations will be summarized and sent out to the EB before the October meeting.

Nancy has need of a laptop to use for NLS business; she is currently using a workplace computer. A motion was made to give Ed authority to proceed with researching (with Nancy's input) and purchasing a laptop for Nancy with a spending limit of one quarter of the \$4,000 budgeted amount for the executive director. 1st: Steve B.; 2nd: Pr. Doug; approved unanimously.

Executive Director: Nancy thanked everyone for her warm welcome. She has been taking lots of notes, and she is very grateful for the assistance in selecting a computer and software for NLS business. Her new email address is execdirector.nls@gmail.com.

Ed thanked the board for their prayers; prayer partners were changed for the month of September. The group shared our prayer.

Pr. Doug led the group in prayer for the special prayer requests, all members of VdC communities, the movement, all congregations represented in this movement, and for all the fall weekends being held around the country. The entire

group prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The next meeting will also be a teleconference on Sunday, October 9th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



Spiritual Director's Report

"Have you seen Jesus my Lord?"

I was shopping the other day at a store that knows my wife by name, and I was enjoying spending a little birthday money and looking around. It was a busy Saturday and the typical families were together, the Mom's wrestling with young children, and girlfriends out to shop with friends. This particular store is just wonderful to shop at. All the shelves and display's are full, well stocked and ready for the holidays.

Are you? Are you ready for the Holidays?? By the time you read this we might just be a month or so from Christmas! And so, ready or not, here Christmas comes. And better yet, here Christ comes in the midst of whatever is going on for us in life.

As I shopped that day I came upon the Christmas products and they literally took my breath away! Beautiful trees fully decorated, gift items, candles, wrapping, greeting cards, yard ornaments and on and on. On one display unit full of candles I was taken by the center candle. It was the nativity scene! Right there in the midst of the orange, red, and peppermint candles sat this one lone candle. It was gorgeous and, yes, I bought it.

I couldn't escape the imagery. Right in the middle of our lives Christ comes again to light the way. During this season which is so dark for many, may Christ light the way. For the lonely, lost, and sick Christ brings the light of healing grace. For those who are feeling overwhelmed by the holidays, family and all that comes with it, Christ comes. All we have to do is look!!!

The elementary children were concluding their wonderful Christmas program in the auditorium. Each child was to take a letter and they were going to spell out CHRISTMAS LOVE! As they stood on the stage and got ready to spell this out, little Mary got her M upside down! There was a quiet hush in the crowded room and then a burst of applause!! CHRIST WAS LOVE, is what they spelled and I would add CHRIST IS LOVE AND CHRIST WILL ALWAYS BE LOVE!

God Bless and may your Holidays and New Year be blessed,
Pastor Doug Givan,
NLS Spiritual Director



NLS President's Report

Reminders: Ya gotta live with them!

Since our Annual Meeting in Charlotte, I have been reminded often – on a variety of subjects. My wife, Diane, reminds me often that she loves me: A very welcome reminder. My dad often reminded me to cut the lawn: A not so welcome reminder but certainly appropriate. God reminds us often of His love for us: A very welcome reminder indeed! Reading God's word often reminds me of how holy and righteous God is and reminds me of His grace and mercy for all of us.

As we prepared for our recent mid-year meeting, I cannot tell you how the other members of the Board prepared but there was prayer...lots of prayer. I prepared via prayer and by reminders: my notes from the meeting in Charlotte and by what is written in our Essentials. Over and over again the question: "What is our purpose?" rang in my head. What are we to do? What needs to be done? What needs to be emphasized? Thankfully, it wasn't completely up to me to figure that out. Honestly, it wasn't up to the Board to completely figure that out either. Because God knew what was needed. I am happy to report that just like on the weekends that our Secretariats work so hard to plan, schedule, and worry over, God showed up! Not as a knight in shining armor...but...as a quiet voice (or maybe as a not so quiet voice) to encourage us and guide us.

Over the course of the next few months, the exact shape and persona of our Annual Meeting will take shape. I ask all who read this to pray for the planning by both the Host Committee and the Board. It will be a time of celebration: 40 years as a Lutheran organization encouraging the ecumenical mixing at our weekend but not forgetting our heart-beat: God's love and our Lutheran roots. Next summer will also be a time of encouragement: representatives will gather to encourage one another and learn from one another. I suppose the Annual Meeting can be best described as a "Really Grand Ulteya." A time of renewing acquaintances and the joy of being one in the Spirit.

Over the course of the next few months, the Board will increase its interaction with each Secretariat. With the help of our new Executive Director, Nancy Peterson, every Secretariat will be called so their joys are shared and their worries and concerns heard. Our objective is to facilitate the inter-workings of the portion of the Body of Christ known as Via de Cristo. I am certain that every Secretariat has worries and concerns. I am certain that some Secretariats have experienced the same worries and concerns that others are currently experiencing and by God's amazing grace and wisdom have either solved the problem or figured out a way to manage the tension. Our goal is to engage and facilitate the exchange of information.

Over the past several months I was often reminded, in a variety of ways, that our weekends remind participates (candidates, pilgrims) of God's love for them and provide a tool set to live a life that honors God. Our weekends are a time of renewal and facilitate living a Christ-like life.

May God continue to bless our work together...

In Christ –
Ed Broestl,
NLS President



The Wheel Leading to The Way

By Magdala Ray

A Three-Part Article for the Conexiones Newsletter
(Beginning with the November 2011 issue)

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." *John 14:6*

As I reflect on the theme of our 2011 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting, I am filled with gratitude for God's gift of the Via de Cristo method of Christian renewal. We have all experienced that grace-filled weekend and are dedicated to continuing "The Essentials" so that others may know and live their Fourth Day, also.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a learning process takes place during each weekend. One way to explore the effectiveness of the Via de Cristo method is to view it as a wheel, or a cycle, of learning. By progressing around that cycle, this series of articles will discuss the "why," "what," and "how" of adhering to Eduardo Bonnin's Cursillo vision.

Part 1: Connecting Heads and Hearts through the Via de Cristo Method

It is fairly common to hear Cursillistas, or pilgrims, refer to the connection between head and heart that often occurs during or after a Via de Cristo weekend. Surrounded by visual, tangible evidence of God's great love for us in sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, and filled to overflowing with a new understanding of God's grace, men and women, through the Holy Spirit's power, are called to apostolic action as Christian leaders in their environments. So, why is it that the intellectual and spiritual aspects are drawn together so closely throughout a weekend?

Created in God's image, human beings have been blessed with the ability to learn, and each of us learns in his or her own unique way. There are those who are more creative and imaginative while others look for the hands-on, practical applications of knowledge. Some have analytical strengths, and some learn best by teaching fellow learners. It is one of the gifts of the Via de Cristo method that the Essentials and the structure of a weekend address each learning style group. We will explore more specifics in the next issue of this newsletter.

Allow me to close with a favorite quote of my great-aunt, Morella Mensing, who taught in Lutheran schools for over 50 years: "*Christian education is a happening in the heart.*" Praise God that He has shown us The Way!

NLS FINANCIALS as of November 18, 2011

The YTD General Fund income was \$8,871 as compared to the prior year's of \$3,250. We had excess funds from the 2011 Annual Meeting of \$7,009 vs. \$0 last year. Great work Western N.C.!! We also collected all past due Local Secretariat Dues.

Total General Fund expenditures through Nov 18, 2011 were \$10,055 compared to last year's of \$10,310 through Nov 18, 2010, giving us a General Fund loss of \$1,184 compared to last year's loss of \$7,060. This is due to the timing of when the majority of the Annual Dues are received which is January to May of each year.

Restricted Outreach Contributions were \$2,437 compared to \$1,804 last year. We also had a \$100 donation to the Restricted Fund Raising fund.

Steve Barnett, NLS Treasurer

God is Good...All the Time...All the Time...God is Good. As many of you know, Texas was hit really hard by wild fires this summer. Texas VdC was directly impacted, a few community members lost their homes and their trailer was totally burned. As you can imagine, they lost everything in the trailer; tables, baskets, boxes of personal items, blankets, sheets, coffee pots, agape dinner supplies, pilgrims guides, green cards, crosses, etc...all of those things we take for granted that will be available for a weekend. Thanks to a few great VdC communities and the members of Texas VdC, they were still able to host their fall weekends. On behalf of Jerry Jenkins, Lay Director, and the NLS Board, thank you for stepping up and helping this community rebuild their weekend inventory supply!

God is calling each one of us to 'step up to His calling'. As we learned on our weekend, God is calling us to be Christian leaders in our local VdC communities, our Churches and in our homes. We as the NLS Board want to help ensure you have the training, tools, process and support to be the Christian Leader God is calling you to be. Throughout our weekend we are given tools like our "Green Card", our Pilgrims Guide, and our Crosses that remind us "Christ is counting on YOU". We learned about Reunion Groups and Ultreyas as a way to stay connected to our calling. Are you living your 4th Day? We need to be mindful of what it means to 'live our 4th Day'. God is calling each of us to take action, to step up to His calling. We should be in Reunion Group, sharing and supporting each other to walk the path Christ has paved for us. If we think we can go it alone, we're kidding ourselves. We should be attending Ultreya's to feed and nourish each other, (and I am not just talking about the wonderful pot-luck food that is provided!). We are also called to support our local congregations, being available to serve where your pastor needs help. There are many people in our VdC community who have attended a weekend and we've never heard from them again. It's not that they didn't have a great experience, though we know that can happen. It's because the sponsor or anyone else from the weekend, didn't step up to God's calling. We need to remember, VdC isn't about running weekends and introducing people to a deeper relationship with Christ. That's merely the kick off to a possibly amazing journey. But the journey isn't so amazing for many. They don't get connected to a Reunion Group, they are not personally invited or encouraged to attend an Ultreya, yet we often encourage or beg them to join the next team thinking that's the best way to support the new member.

Let's take some time to help each other grow in our faith and live a stronger 4th Day. Let's commit to stepping up to His call and get those not connected in their 4th day connected. To support this effort,; the NLS will be implementing a Leadership Survey in a few weeks. The link will be sent to all Lay Directors and it will be encouraged to be sent out to everyone in the local community. We will also post the Leadership Survey on our website. This survey is being implemented by all 4th Day Communities; Catholic Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Episcopal Cursillo and Via de Cristo. Please help us by stepping up and completing this personal survey.

Thank you in advance for stepping up to God's calling. He is counting on YOU. And YOU...whom are you counting on?

Steve Gielda
Vice President of Outreach



Palanca!!!

NLS Conference Call Minutes

October 9, 2011, Conference call

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 9. Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Steve Gielda, Magdala Ray, Judy Laabs-Foss, and Diane Purcell were able to connect to the teleconference.

Ed invited all to join him in the prayer to the Holy Spirit and requested continued prayers for the mid-year meeting in Denver, CO.

President: Ed asked for all members to voice the topics they would like to discuss at the mid-year meeting in Denver. Judy requested that the EB discuss quarterly items for Conexiones and training of the Host Committee communications team. Steve B. requested the topics of fundraising activities and annual meeting finances. Both Carolyn and Diane requested that the EB verify the issue of what constitutes a quorum at the annual meeting, including the procedures for determining who the delegates will be and how they have been selected to represent their local secretariats. Diane reminded the board that any changes made regarding quorum must comply with Minnesota law. Diane will also be sending papers requiring EB signatures and placement into the corporate book. Carolyn's topics for discussion included the annual meeting's key note speaker, seminars and forums – creating a solid preliminary schedule. Diane asked Carolyn to ensure that the registration form is correct and approved. Magdala requested clarification of the procedure for verifying delegate eligibility and identification.

Ed then asked for reports for the month.

Secretary: Secretariats absent from the annual meeting have been contacted; their materials and palanca posters are being mailed to them.

Newsletter Editor: The newsletters returned due to address problems have been sent to Carolyn. The due date of the next Conexiones newsletter is November 15.

Treasurer: Financial reports will be brought to Denver for mid-year meeting review.

Financial Advisor: USPS postage report will be forwarded to Steve B.

VP – Outreach: Steve G. expressed his

gratitude for all the support offered and provided to the Texas Via de Cristo community which lost many of its supplies in the severe fires ravaging the state. As a result of the generosity of the greater Via de Cristo community across the country, the Texas community can move ahead with its plans for an October women's weekend. There is interest in secretariat formation in four areas: Virginia Beach, New Jersey (Newark area), Manitoba, Canada, and Central Illinois. He will also be attending the Notes of Grace annual Ultreya in January. The effort to establish a regional coordinator program has met with some obstacles but will be moving forward.

VP – Administration: Carolyn has been finalizing the review of the 2011 NLSAM held in North Carolina and preparing for the Denver NLS EB mid-year meeting with the Host Committees. Evaluations from the 2011 NLSAM indicate that many attendees would like to have more time for reflection and meditation; the EB will keep this in consideration as they develop the 2012 meeting schedule.

Steve G. led the group in prayer for the special prayer requests, all members of VdC communities, the movement, all congregations represented in this movement, all the fall weekends being held around the country, and especially for all the pastors serving Christ in the world. The entire group prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The next meeting will be the mid-year meeting October 21-23 in Denver, CO. The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, November 13th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The October 9th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



2012 WEEKENDS:

- Jan. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #572; Jan. 19-22 & Women #537; Jan. 26-29, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Jan./Feb. 2012 - TX: **Texas Lutheran VDC**, Men; Jan. 19-22 & Women #537; Feb. 9-12, Send palanca to: Ken Handley 509 Gaslight Blvd. Lufkin, TX 78154
- Feb. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #574; Feb. 9-12 & Women #575; Feb. 26-29, Send palanca to: Nancy Barker 6699 Industrial Rd. Saginaw, MN 55779-9434
- Mar. 2012 - WI: **WI Sunrise VDC**, Men #79; Mar. 1-4, & Women #80; Mar. 8-11, Send palanca to: Greg Clark 822 Broad St. Beloit, WI 53511
- Mar. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #576; Mar. 8-11 & Women #577; Mar. 15-18, Send palanca to: Mary Arfmann 2333 4th Ave. NW Owatonna, MN 55060-1209
- Mar. 2012 - TX: **Lutheran VDC of Northern Texas**, Coed #85; Mar. 15-18, Send palanca to: Barb Guinn 2832 Mimosa Park Dr. Richland, TX 76118
- Mar. 2012 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Men #84; Mar. 22-25, Send palanca to: Ron Pusins 3160 NW 67 Court Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
- April 2012 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #59; April 12-15, & Women #63; April 19-22, Send palanca to: Debbie Howe 14768 Truitt Farm Dr. Centreville, VA 20120
- May 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #578; May 17-20 & Women #579; Mar. 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- June 2012 - TX: **Texas Lutheran VDC**, Coed June 7-10, Send palanca to: Ken Handley 509 Gaslight Blvd. Lufkin, TX 78154
- June 2012 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Women #84; June 21-24, Send palanca to: Ron Pusins 3160 NW 67 Court Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Check Web for additional 2012 weekends

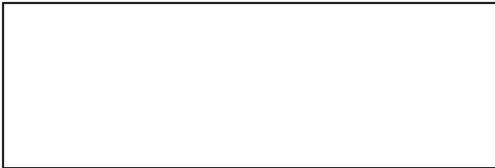


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This is the first change to the structure since the year 2000. There are two main reasons for the change. First, we want to help smaller Secretariats who may have 1 or less weekends per year, and second, to increase the NLS's revenue to partially cover our deficit Budget and to help cover the expenses of the new volunteer position of the NLS Executive Director.

Our aim is to have a dues structure that is as fair as possible to all secretariats. The dues you pay help us to help you by providing resources and support for your local secretariat, as well as promoting and expanding the Via de Cristo method at a national and international level.

Dues are due for the NLS fiscal year which is June 1 to May 31 of each year. The amount is calculated based the calendar year which ends during the current fiscal year. They are due each year before the close of the NLS fiscal year, but preferred to be received in March or April of each fiscal year.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please contact me by email (sgb121266@aol.com) or by phone (610-301-9900). Also, please let me know when there is a change of your Local Secretariat's Treasurer or their contact information.

Remember, it is God's work and He does it through us. Thanks be to God!!!!

Your Brother in Christ,
 Steve Barnett, NLS Treasurer

Visited our Web Site Lately?



www.viadcristo.org

Webmaster: Rick Hanzlik



**NLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER CLOSED;
 November 26th through December 4th, 2011**