

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 30  
Number 2  
April 2012

**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

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

Once again the Host Committee invites you to the NLS 2012 Annual Meeting. We are looking forward to serving each of you the weekend of July 26-29, 2012, at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Plans continue to progress at a steady pace. We think you will enjoy the Regis campus and all it has to offer. It is easy to get from one building to another. There are many places outdoors for conversation, meditation, and enjoying God's creation.

If you or your Secretariat's delegates have not taken care of registering yet, it's not too late. (Registration Form, Travel Form and Schedule Highlights: <http://www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2012/2012index.php>) And here are some tips and suggestions for your consideration as you register:

- Complete all parts of the registration form, printing clearly.
- Plan to arrive in time to attend Orientation at 11am on Thursday, July 26.
- The event concludes with worship on Sunday morning (around 9:30am).
- Each meeting participant will have opportunities to attend two of the three seminars offered. It is wise for delegates from a single Secretariat to coordinate seminar choices so that your Secretariat can reap the greatest benefit. Seating space for the seminars is limited so it is possible that seminar sessions may fill and close out early.
- Go ahead and send your registration even if your travel plans are not finalized. You can easily send itinerary updates via email closer to the actual meeting date.

Registration and transportation forms are available on the NLS website ([www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org)). Or, contact the Host Committee Registrar, Loretta Harten at [lharten25@gmail.com](mailto:lharten25@gmail.com).

Come join us, won't you? Come to Colorado and "*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit's fire . . .*"  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-19*

God loves you and so do we!  
The Colorado 2012 Host Committee



**REGIS UNIVERSITY**



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**National Lutheran Secretariat****Conexiones-on-the-web****E-Mail Notification Request Form****E-Mail Notification — [execdirector.nls@gmail.com](mailto:execdirector.nls@gmail.com)**

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Position on Secretariate: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**CONEXIONES**

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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.

**NLS President's Report**

Encouragement...a very interesting concept. My guess is you were encouraged to attend a weekend. There are many opportunities to be encouraged in our faith on a Via de Cristo weekend. After a weekend, encouragement may or may not abound!



God's encouragement is so wonderful. God promises: to never leave us or forsake us; to never give us more than we can bear, even when the present seems absolutely unbearable; and to be with us to the end of the age.

One method Via de Cristo uses to encourage is through Ultreya. I "goggled" Ultreya just to see what came up. First on the list was the "French-speaking Cursillo Movement of Canada" website [<http://cursillos.ca/en/faq/f05-ultreya.htm>]. That itself was encouraging because that was not what I expected. I was expecting a website of the more well known Cursillo movements: Catholic, Episcopal; Walk to Emmaus; Tres Dias; or Presbyterian. Anyway, the first paragraph states: "'Ultreya" is a Spanish word, derived from the original Latin, meaning Onward! It was in common use by pilgrims to greet and to encourage one another along the way.'" Greet and encourage one along the way... to me that is a Via de Cristo "hallmark."

There are so many things in and of the world that are discouraging. Few people greet one another with a smile and a pat on the back. However, at a Via de Cristo gathering there are smiles, laughter, and "pats on the back," either figuratively or literally and most times both.

Christ encouraged his disciples...Jesus told the one who denied him three times to "feed my sheep!" I don't believe Jesus meant just physical feeding. There is certainly spiritual feeding that we receive in so many ways. However, I believe one of the ways that is going out of style is emotional...called encouragement.

Take time in the next few days to encourage someone: maybe a brother or sister in Christ or maybe not. Don't do it just because I mentioned it! Do it because the individual you are encouraging is a child of God and you are truly grateful that God has placed them in your life. Christ is counting on us!

In Christ –

Ed Broestl, NLS President



**V.P. of Outreach Report**

***God is Counting on YOU!***

Brothers and sisters in Christ I hope this message finds you all well. Spring has come very early for us here in Virginia. The lilies were blooming by the end of February and the Cherry Blossoms peaked in late March. Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining! Spring is one of my favorite times of year. It's a sign of renewal, a rebirth of the trees, flowers, grass and shrubs. During this time of year I get re-energized to get out in the yard and start pruning dead branches and flowers. Isn't it similar to what we need to do in our lives from time to time – to prune off the dead branches so other branches can sprout? We all have those limbs or branches in our lives that we just hang on to, we feel as if they are important, but if we do a closer examination we find they'll not really bearing any fruit.

My original reunion group was one of my branches that I held on to because it was important to me. I felt I needed to be there for my brothers and knew they were there for me. For almost 10 years my original reunion group brothers and I had been together and been through a lot together. Over the years we had seen some brothers come and go, but Mike T, Mike H, and Joe R were my core group.

In the spring of 2011, I was hearing the words, "God is counting on you". There were three friends of mine from church that I had sponsored to attend the men's weekend. I knew it would be my responsibility as their sponsor to get them in a reunion group. Instead of having these three new guys join my existing group, I made the difficult decision to birth a new group. It was a difficult decision for many reasons, but here we are one year later and this new group is getting to the point we are going to have to branch out and birth another reunion group.

I know when my original reunion group brothers read this newsletter they may get the sense that I am referring to them as a dead branch...that couldn't be further from the truth! They are alive and living their Christian faith out loud! I am merely saying that Christ calls us to be His disciple, to reach out to others. Therefore, we must prune and grown from time to time. Just like any plant, if it's not pruned back it may eventually die.

Long time reunion groups are a real blessing! My parents were in their reunion group with the same people for over 30 years. However, I want to challenge you. We all heard the words on our weekend. **"Christ is counting on you...on you or whom are you counting on?"** If you know of individuals who are coming off their first weekend and their sponsor had not done their job and got them connected to a reunion group, step up! Take the chance and start a new group. Remember, your original group will still be there if things don't work out...Christ is counting on you!

God Loves you and So do I,

Steve Gielda  
NLS Vice President  
of Outreach



## NLS Conference Call Minutes

### Sunday, January 8, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Sunday, January 8. Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Steve Gielda, Pr. Doug Givan, Pr. John Bradford, Rick Hanzlik, Magdala Ray, 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 and welcomed guest Pr. John Bradford.

President: Ed requested that all input and changes to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Manual be sent to John Bradford, NLS Distribution Center Manager, by 1/31/2012. An educational and promotional video was created several years ago; Ed asked that the EB consider how that video or a revised, new one might be used to communicate The Essentials to local secretariats. The video reproduction costs are less than \$1/copy; the distribution center sells them for \$7 each. John Bradford has requested guidance on how to handle possible requests by non-VdC groups to purchase materials from the distribution center. Ed suggested that if such an event would occur, perhaps a local NLS or EB member could contact the person making the request to determine the situation. Diane pointed out that the materials are copyrighted for NLS use exclusively and that in the past the EB has requested that copyrighted materials be returned by organizations which do not adhere to the VdC three-day weekend. Steve B expressed concern that unauthorized use of NLS materials could dilute the integrity of a weekend built on The Essentials.

Regarding the constitution and bylaws, the EB agreed that the current version has reasonable and clear information for the purposes of establishing a quorum at the NLSAM. Ed suggested that since we are in a transition period with the new ED role, we should focus on a continued review of the constitution and bylaws during 2012 in order to present proposed changes at the 2013 NLSAM. The board agreed.

In response to a local secretariat's question concerning the use of photography on weekends, Steve G emphasized that the taking of photos is not part of The Essentials. Since the NLS is not a governing body, we should refrain from setting specific rules or policies concerning such an issue. Magdala suggested that

this type of issue is a good example of how the NLS should be used as a clearinghouse to provide guidance to secretariats seeking answers to such questions. Nancy agreed that it should be our role to direct local secretariats toward best practices, and she suggested developing a blog or some other means of communication online. Ed asked that the board members pray about we can best provide guidance and direction for this and similar issues. At the EB meeting in Orlando at the end of this month, Ed would like to begin a discussion on codifying what we do as a board in the form of policies and what we recommend to member secretariats in the form of guidelines.

Secretary: Magdala will make changes to the letterhead based on the email feedback she has received. Following communication with Nancy regarding the wording of a paragraph in the mid-year meeting minutes, Magdala will send out the final version. The November and December minutes have been emailed for comments by the board; Magdala will incorporate comments and changes received by Wednesday, January 11, and will then send out the final version. In conjunction with the treasurer's report, Magdala asked for clarification of the responsibility of sending out the membership survey. It was agreed that Nancy as the ED will be sending out the request and sharing the results with the EB as needed. Magdala will email her the template used in the past.

Treasurer: Steve B reported approximately \$1500 in expenses since the December teleconference meeting, all in expected and typical amounts and purposes. He will continue to send out quarterly reports to the EB. When the membership survey results have been tabulated and sent to him by Nancy, he will send out the dues reminders to the local secretariats.

VP-Outreach: Steve G reported that we have received over 550 responses to the Zoomerang leadership survey and asked Magdala's assistance in developing a report to be presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Day conference in Orlando. He will be meeting with Regional Coordinators the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Website Administrator: Rick ex-

plained a new process for editing the web pages with the new management system. He also suggested establishing a forum on the web page, which the new system allows, to provide a means of discussing issues and delivering guidance as covered in an earlier conversation of this meeting.

VP-Administration: Carolyn continues to work with the 2012 Denver HC in preparation for the annual meeting. She and Carol McGill will have the registration form ready for the January 15<sup>th</sup> newsletter. She has requested that the HC keep her informed of their activities through copies of minutes for each of their meetings.

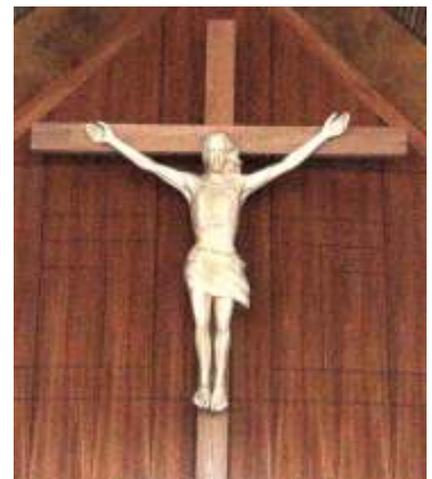
Executive Director: Nancy has had great conversations with the LDs of some of the secretariats which were unable to send their delegates to the 2011 NLSAM. All EB members can assist her in establishing relationships with the local secretariats by coordinating any update information they receive with her. She is learning the NLS database and will continue to work on making it as comprehensive and accurate as possible.

Ed led the group in prayer for the special prayer requests and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm EDT.

The January 8<sup>th</sup> teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Magdala Ray, Secretary



## NLS Conference Call Minutes

### Sunday, February 12, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, February 12. Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Gielda, Pr. Doug Givan, Rick Hanzlik, Magdala Ray, 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 and in special prayers for EB members.

The major item for discussion was the NLS database, which is being reviewed and revised. Ed and Rick have reviewed a schema with database information which will be entered into a web-based program (MySQL), making access, entry, and reports much easier; multiple copies of software will not be necessary using the web. Tables for name, position, newsletter mailing list, dues, etc. will be included. Ed emailed a sample schema to the EB members for review by the end of February. The database will include the following features:

- The current NLS board (elected and appointed) will be able to search the database.
- The Executive Director (ED) and Secretary will be the only ones with global change access.
- The local secretariats will be able to update their information via a UserID and password.
- Certain fields will be protected, e.g., the Treasurer would be the only person other than the ED and Secretary who could update the "Dues Paid" information.

Secretary: The board agreed that when Magdala sends out meeting minutes with "FINAL" in the footer, Judy will know they are approved for publishing in Conexiones, and Rick will know they are approved for posting on the website. Ed will contact Judy and provide her with updates this month.

Spiritual Director: Pastor Doug expressed his regrets for his absence from the January gathering in Orlando. He is looking over the pastors' data sent him by Nancy, and he is developing a web survey. He will send Magdala the draft for her to create on Zoomerang.

VP-Outreach: Steve G has sent the Leadership Survey results to all the board members. He will be heading to Tennessee in late February to meet with

Notes of Grace. He requested prayers for his knee surgery on February 17.

Website Administrator: Rick is working on a mock-up of the Joolla-based website and would appreciate feedback from the board.

VP-Administration: Carolyn has been in frequent and regular communication with the Denver 2012 HC with the assistance of Steve B., who has provided the teleconference call connection for weekly communication. Registration packets will be mailed this coming weekend.

Executive Director: Nancy continues to connect with the lay directors of all the local secretariats, and she is updating the current database. She will re-search the use of VistaPrint business cards for the NLS. She thanked the board for prayers for the healing of her arm.

President: Ed reported on the 4th Day conference (January 27-28) and EB meeting (January 29-30) held in Orlando, FL. John Thompson was a wonderful host for the 4th Day group, which included representatives from most of the major 4th Day movements – Episcopal, Presbyterian, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Kairos and Via de Cristo. We will be the moderator for the 2012 conference at the Upper Room in Nashville, TN. Steve G has the Leadership Survey results from all these groups, and he will compile those for a complete report. Nancy commented that it was an encouraging meeting, reminding us that we are not alone in our efforts.

The EB meeting accomplished several important tasks, including finalization of the 2012 NLSAM schedule, the six month ED evaluation, and the development of an annual ED performance appraisal. The board members all agree that bringing in an executive director has really elevated our efforts and results, and we are excited about that! Separate meeting minutes will be forthcoming from Magdala.

Ed also reported on his attendance at the Gold Coast Via de Cristo 40th Anniversary Jubilee in Boca Raton, FL, on Saturday, February 4th which also served as a Florida Grand Ultreya. He spoke to the 250 Cursillistas who gathered for food, fellowship, worship and

fundraising (over \$5,000 raised that evening).

Ed then led the group in prayer for the special prayer requests and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, March 11th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The February 12th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.



Respectfully submitted,  
Magdala Ray, Secretary

### *Joyful Easter blessings to you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ!*

NLSAM 2011 evaluation responses have helped shape this coming meeting's agenda and offerings. For example, Tres Dias Executive Director John McKinney led a seminar in 2011 about the charisma of Cursillo. Mr. McKinney inspired and encouraged all who attended and also left you wanting more. More is on the way. This year, Mr. Greg Engroff, the International Lay Director of Emmaus, promises to similarly stimulate our minds and hearts as he challenges us to make our 4th Day count for Christ.

Many evaluation forms submitted requested more time for Regions to meet together. As a result, this year's schedule has an opportunity for a third regional meeting – if the participants of your Region meeting want to reconvene this group a third time Saturday evening, the time is available for this.

Speaking of time, your input from last year's meeting was that it was too packed. We were very deliberate about trying to lighten the schedule while still keeping the most loved parts of the meeting intact.

I am so looking forward to seeing you in July and together experiencing all that the 2012 NLSAM has to offer. May God bless you and your local movement.

Peace and joy!  
Carolyn Hawkins  
VP of Administration



## NLS Mid-Year Meeting January 29-30, 2012 - Orlando, Florida

### Sunday, January 29, 2012

The NLS January mid-year meeting began at 8:30am following breakfast and adjourned for worship at 10:00am on Sunday, 29 January 2012. The meeting reconvened in the St. Margaret Mary conference room at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Winter Park, Florida. Present were Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Steve Gielda, and Nancy Peterson. Ed, Nancy and Steve G had attended the Fourth Day Conference in Winter Park the two previous days. Magdala Ray joined the NLS meeting at 1pm on Sunday.

The first agenda item covered on Sunday morning was the finalization of the 2012 NLSAM schedule. In the afternoon, the ED position and its relationship with the EB was discussed first. Nancy reported that she is in contact with a little over half of the local secretariats' lay directors and has discovered an array of organizational structures and means of electing officers. In some areas, no elections are held but positions are appointed. She encouraged the EB to increase and improve our efforts to support the movement through shared materials. The current "share" site is closely guarded, and the group discussed ways to make more of that material more easily accessible. One suggestion was that we ask Rick to create a "button" on the main website indicating that tools are available for starting and supporting local secretariats within the movement. When a viewer would click on the button, a message could direct the viewer to Nancy's email to request access.

Ed also suggested a monthly or quarterly email newsletter which he could send out to the lay directors. In addition to his message as president, the issues would rotate articles from the ED, VP of Outreach, and VP of Administration. The first one will be sent in February.

As ED, Nancy has made great progress in tackling the job, although the group acknowledged that responses have been somewhat slower than anticipated. Overall, the group agreed that on a scale of 1-10, we are at a 7 or 8. Carolyn and Steve G commented that local secretariats have expressed their appreciation that the EB has taken the time to be deliberate in putting the position into place. With that

foundation, Nancy and her successors in the ED position will be able to learn and grow. Nancy is working to establish the connections and relationships which are so important to the movement's future; local secretariats will come to know the ED as a person with accurate and timely information whose purpose is sharing and connecting. The group agreed that the annual performance appraisal for the ED will be a more formal written form.

Ed asked that the EB members be prepared to introduce themselves at the 2012 NLSAM with two points: 1) one thing we have each done that has been beneficial to the movement, and 2) what we each pray and hope the NLSAM participants will take away with them. A full report of the ED position and accomplishments will be provided in the second business meeting of the 2012 NLSAM.

The group then moved on to reviewing each EB member's job description in light of the new ED position and the progress we have seen so far this year. Carolyn will type up the agreed upon changes to the job descriptions. Ed shared that what he has learned in the process since August 2011 challenges the assumption he had that teams are made strong by having a common shared experience. His new insight is that strong team relationships begin when all members are targeting and embracing the same mission – not only because we have all had a common experience. He emphasized the importance of clearly stating our policies – how we work and "do business" as a board as well as the importance of providing clear guidelines on how we work with the local secretariats. These policies and guidelines must be delineated and written clearly.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the current NLS constitution and bylaws. The group agreed that in light of the ED position and its purpose, changes should not occur at this point in time. Ed will request input on any proposed changes at the 2012 NLSAM, and the goal will be to hold a vote on any changes at the 2013 NLSAM. Key questions in this process include the dues structure, quorum pro-

cedures and how we can expand the ministry through the ED position. Ed, Nancy and Steve G reported that these were common concerns in the reports and discussion of the Fourth Day Conference. In addition, the Fourth Day Conference focused on the need to be culturally inviting – developing cultural diversity into our communities as a means of strengthening and growing the movements. Steve G will incorporate more about this into his presentation of the Leadership Survey at the 2012 NLSAM.

The group adjourned for the evening at 5:30pm and resumed meeting at 8:45am the next morning, Monday, January 30th, at the same location.

### Monday, January 30, 2012

Following morning devotions and prayer, the group discussed various aspects of the 2012 NLSAM travel and meeting arrangements. The EB will need to be at Regis University by noon on Wednesday, July 25th, and will meet on Sunday, July 29th, until approximately 2pm.

The group then reviewed the action items for which each member is responsible. Under the category of database revision and construction, the group agreed that while all EB members will have individual permissions to access certain fields in the database, only the ED and Secretary will have global access. The vocabulary used in the new database will necessitate a common glossary for all local secretariats and the NLS EB to use. Eventually, the hope is that the database will provide information enabling Cursillistas moving to a new area of the country to quickly connect with local secretariats and even find reunion groups. To support that effort, Nancy will begin asking lay directors about their databases, schemas, and best practices.

The group discussed the devotional booklet compiled by Pastor Doug, and Magdala agreed to work with him to edit it into a "Pilgrim's Guide"-sized format with one devotion per page or two. The target audience for this booklet would be new pilgrims completing a weekend and would ideally contain 40 days of material.

Steve G reported that the Regional Co-

ordinators have created two teams, one for curriculum development and one for implementation. They are currently assembling best practices and are next meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, Ed thanked the group for the hard work already done and the energy demonstrated in tackling the next tasks. He pointed out that significant emotional events often are responsible for changes in a human being's personality and that for the NLS, the significant event has been the addition of the ED position, which is now signaling new growth and excitement in the movement as we learn and grow. We are thankful that God has placed us together with Nancy on this team.

The group closed with special prayer requests and prayers for travel safety, ending with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Magdala Ray, Secretary



**WHO WILL HOST THE NLSAM IN 2014 OR 2015**

Is your secretariat being called to make a bid to host the NLS annual meeting in 2014 or 2015? If you would like more information about hosting or submitting a bid, please let me know.

You can reach me at 704-651-4230 or by sending an email to [carolyn.nls@carolina.rr.com](mailto:carolyn.nls@carolina.rr.com). Better yet, bring members of your secretariat to the session about Hosting a NLSAM to be offered at the 2012 NLSAM in Denver, July 26-29. I look forward to seeing you there soon!

Carolyn Hawkins  
VP of  
Administration



**IS CHRIST CALLING YOU?**

That is what our newest (2006) NLS promotional video is called, but it now also applies to my appeal to others. I have been our NLS Archivist/Historian since 2005; I feel it's time for someone else to continue on. I'm running into more and more time constraints:

- ◆ I'm an amateur photographer and preparing some pictures to display at area art shows.
- ◆ I'm working on some video productions.
- ◆ I'm working on writing four books.
- ◆ And my weightlifting activities are taking much time. Very few people are aware of this, but I got back into masters weightlifting a couple of years ago. I am now a 2-time national champion and training for the Pan-American Masters Championships in June in the Dominican Republic and the World Masters Championships in September in the Ukraine.
- ◆ Between all these, Norma and I are now proud grand parents to 19 (1 more on the way) and great grandparents to 12 (and 2 more on the way). Time consuming to say the least, attending many birthday functions every year.

Fortunately I'm retired from work! But all of these are requiring more of my time. Is Christ calling you to take over this position? If so, please contact any NLS board member and let them know of your interest.

It's not a big job. I have a computer program where I categorized everything I have received over the past 7 years. Everything is identified by which box it's in, what it is, how many, and other information about the items. This will all be turned over to the next person. Ideally, if the person is going to the NLS annual meeting in Denver, AND is driving there, we could transfer everything from my car trunk to yours. Otherwise, we can make other arrangements.

This is a rewarding position with a nice "perk." When attending an annual meeting you can request the board to help offset some of your travel and /or registration expenses. So, again, **is Christ calling you?**

Ron Millard  
Archivist/Historian

*"Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

1 Corinthians 15:58



Blessings to you during this time of new growth, new life and renewal. As we move through the work of Christ, know that He is with us.

As your Executive Director I have been learning a lot, chatting with many of you, sending emails to try to get the survey information for 2011 from your secretariats as well as your current secretariat lists with contact information in order to update the database. Conversations have been wonderful! Thank you for welcoming me. Thanks too to those who have returned the survey information requested. We utilize that information to determine the number of delegates you may send to the NLSAM in July as well as dues calculation. I humbly encourage those who haven't returned the survey yet to please so do.

Since the world is turning to technology, most of our communications utilize the internet and email. As we look to that future, we realize we need a more usable and accessible database. If your secretariat uses an effective dB, and you are willing to let us look at it, please let me know. We are interested in format fields, schema and application. Thanks!

I am so excited for the NLS Annual Meeting in Denver and that so many of you have indicated your intention to participate. I look forward to putting a face with the name and voice and working with you for the Lord. This sacred work can be challenging but it is so rewarding. Thank you for your faithfulness within your secretariats and your community.

Nancy Peterson,  
NLS Executive Director

**Are you coming to the NLSAM July 26-29, 2012, at Regis University in Denver Colorado???????**



## Meeting and Registration Form National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29, 2012

Regis University of Denver

Hosted by Via de Cristo of the Rockies & Colorado Via de Cristo

ONE FORM PER PERSON ATTENDING - PLEASE PRINT - PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY FORM			
Personal Info: First Name _____		Last Name _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male      Name for Name Tag <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____			
Home Phone _____		Cell Phone _____	
		Work Phone _____	
Fax _____		E-mail Address _____	
Home Secretariat? _____		Board position, if on Secretariat _____	
<b>Attending the Meeting: Check all that apply:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Current NLS Board Member		<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Delegate		<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Visitor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Delegate		<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Visitor	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host Committee/ Team	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
First Time attending NLS Annual Meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, indicate last year attended: _____ Position Attended as: _____		<b>Seminars:</b> Please indicate 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> choices: _____ Seminar 1: Why Weekend Dynamics Work _____ Seminar 2: Engaging Pastors _____ Seminar 3: Strengthening the 4 <sup>th</sup> Day	
<b>Accommodations:</b> I require special accommodations for the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Dietary <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite Transportation Assistance Please explain: _____ Do you need your personal Wi-Fi access while on the campus? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (You will need to fill out a campus access form at arrival.)			
<b>Travel &amp; Check-In:</b> To NLS Annual Meeting will be by: <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Air                      I will need to be picked up: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ****Transportation will be provided to Regis University from Denver International Airport (DEN) only. **** You must submit the separate Travel Form to make reservations for airport pick up. <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a map and driving directions to Regis University			
When can we expect your arrival for check-in? (both by car or plane):    Day in: _____    Estimated Time in: _____ What day are leaving the annual meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday PM <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday by noon			
\$ <u>210.00</u> Registration Fee includes meals, housing and material for Thursday 11:00am through Sunday 11:00 am \$ - _____ Early Bird discount- (subtract 20.00 if mailed before May 1st) \$ <u>0.00</u> Double rooms- Request a roommate: _____ \$ _____ Single Room Fee: additional \$30.00 \$ _____ Extra night on Wednesday - Per person- Double \$40.00 Single: \$50.00 Does not include meals- see next line \$ _____ Extra Meals: Mark each meal needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Wed Lunch- \$8.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Wed Dinner- \$9.75 <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs Breakfast- \$5.75 \$ _____ Pre-order Annual Meeting bandanna: _____ Quantity at \$9.00 each \$ _____ Total Payment    ***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VDOR *** ***Refunds (less \$25.00) will be considered if postmarked or e-mailed no later than July 1, 2012***			
<b>Bandanna Sample:</b> Green "traditional" bandanna Annual Meeting logo in 2 corners		Complete form and mail with check to: NLS Annual Meeting 2012 Loretta Hartten                      Phone: 720-231-9200 5126 Alkire St                      E-mail: <a href="mailto:lharten25@gmail.com">lharten25@gmail.com</a> Arvada, CO 80002	
Registration Use Only:    Date Rec'd: _____ Travel Info Rec'd: _____		Check No: _____    Confirm Sent: _____ Registration No: _____	



**Air Travel Information Form**  
**National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting**

Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29, 2012

Regis University of Denver

Hosted by Via de Cristo of the Rockies & Colorado Via de Cristo

- PLEASE PRINT -

<b>Personal Info:</b> First Name(s) _____		Last Name _____	
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Home Phone _____	Cell Phone _____	Work Phone _____
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Fax _____	E-mail Address _____
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**\*\*Transportation will be provided to Regis University from Denver International Airport (DEN) \*\***

Do you need ADA accessible transportation?  Yes  No  
 If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Any changes to your travel itinerary after submitting this form should be sent directly to Paul Bunker.  
 Email: [pnsbunker@comcast.net](mailto:pnsbunker@comcast.net)  
 Phone: 303-904-1276

**Flight Itinerary is as follows:**

**ARRIVAL:**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Departing City: \_\_\_\_\_ Departing Airport: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Connecting City: \_\_\_\_\_ Connecting Airport: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of people traveling on this flight: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE:**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of people traveling on this flight: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete form and mail with your registration form & payment, or send separately to:

NLS Annual Meeting 2012	Phone: 720-231-9200
Loretta Hartten	E-mail: <a href="mailto:lhartten25@gmail.com">lhartten25@gmail.com</a>
5126 Alkire St	
Arvada, CO 80002	

## The Wheel Leading to The Way

By Magdala Ray

The Third of a Three-Part Article for the Conexiones  
(Beginning with the November 2011 issue)

### Part 3: Practicing and Extending Christ's Love through Our Learning Styles



In this third and final part of my article on the learning cycle and its application to the Via de Cristo experience, we will explore "how" learning styles help in team formation and in the weekend dynamics. Just as each pilgrim on a weekend has his or her dominant learning style, so does each team member. A simple learning

styles self-assessment instrument can help team members appreciate the diversity each member brings to the team and also help create true community in the process of serving each other in Christ's love. I will be providing such a self-assessment instrument and a more in-depth explanation of its use during Seminar 1: "Why Weekend Dynamics Work" at the 2012 NLSAM in Denver this July.

Here is a very brief explanation of the four learning styles within the learning cycle, based on the "4MAT" framework by Dr. Bernice McCarthy of About Learning. Each of us has preferences in how we take in information and in how we process that information. Picture the learning cycle as a clock with a vertical axis drawn between 12 and 6 and a horizontal axis drawn between 3 and 9. This creates four quadrants, and each quadrant describes a learning style. One of the easiest ways to identify these styles is by the "favorite" question each of these learner types like to ask in life. The four questions around the cycle are "Why?" "What?" "How?" and "What If?" Perhaps you are already guessing which one might be your dominant style!

The key "take away" from this learning styles discussion, however, is the importance of the cycle – not individual styles. It is the same with a Via de Cristo weekend; it is not about any one talk or activity or person. The weekend dynamics are woven through a cycle of 15 talks which are really ONE talk. When we follow The Essentials of the weekend, we are leading pilgrims to the cross flowing with grace by following the learning cycle. On Thursday night and Friday, we help them find the answer to the questions, "WHY is this important to ME as a Christian?" and "WHAT is my ideal, my role as lay person in the Church, and my life of authentic piety?" On Saturday and Sunday, we address "HOW" – through study, apostolic action and Christian leadership in our environments, communities, and reunion groups. The "What If?" of the 4th Day is our opportunity to take the tools of Via de Cristo and transform our world.

Much like the disciples on that first Ascension Day, we cannot stand gazing into the sky or back into our Via de Cristo weekend. Having completed the cycle, it is our privilege to follow Jesus' "What If?" message: ***Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)***

## Spiritual Director's Report

I'm at the hospital the other day where I now serve as a chaplain. I am walking behind an older woman leaning on a younger male as they slowly make their way along. I later find out that this is mother and son.

He is visiting her here at the hospital because she has ovarian cancer. She wants to get out of the room and move around a bit. And so, the son takes his weak and very frail mother, along with her IV pole on wheels, and makes their way down the hall. This is a slow walk and one that will no doubt exhaust her for the day. Energy is very low when you are sick.

As I followed this pair on this day I was quickly moved to another day at another time and place. She is young and active and outgoing and he is a toddler. She is holding onto him, guiding him along the neighborhood street or maybe along the beach.

Today I notice their roles have switched. Son now guides mother, the one who once guided him.

We all so desperately need someone to lean on. We need someone who can guide us and help us along the way. In church recently we sang "Leaning on the everlasting arms" and of course the youth link elbows and together lean back and forth!

The Easter message still rings true. We have a living Lord, who has not died but has risen. We have One we can lean on when times are tough. We have the forgiveness of sins and the free gift in grace of everlasting life. Our goal now is to reach out and share this love and let God guide, and walk with another.

When the cancer strikes, when the money depletes, when stress rises, we can lean on the one and the only Jesus Christ. We have these everlasting arms of Jesus for us today and forever.

Do you need some renewal in Via De Cristo? Could you use the fresh wind of the Spirit in your life? Would a meeting of VDC people from all over the country be the "ticket"? Then, ***come to our national gathering in July in Denver and be uplifted, guided, and urged forward by Christ and the people of Via De Cristo.***

The national weekend is a great opportunity to worship together, fellowship, learn and grow in our mission to share Christ with the world. Why, you might just meet someone who needs you to lean on, or your Secretariat!

God Bless, Pastor Doug Givan,  
NLS Spiritual Director



# Palanca!!!

## 2012 WEEKENDS:

May 2012 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #59; May 10-13 & Women #59; May 17-20, Send palanca to: Linda Barnard 4700 46th Ave. No. #11 St. Petersburg, FL 33714

May 2012 - FL: **Sonshine North VDC**, Coed #4: May 17-20, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073

May 2012 - GA: **Atlanta VDC**, Coed #26: May 17-20, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341

May 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #578; May 17-20 & Women #579; May 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

May 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #79: May 17-20, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323

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: Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486

July 2012 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Men #108: July 12-15, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

July 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #580; July 19-22 & Women #581; July 26-29, Send palanca to: Nancy Barker 6699 Industrial Rd. Saginaw, MN 55779-9434

July 2012 - CO: **NLSAM** July 26-29, Send palanca to: Rosalie Fesser email = [mtnroro@yahoo.com](mailto:mtnroro@yahoo.com)

July 2012 - WI: **WI Sunrise VDC**, Coed #9: July 26-29, Send palanca to: Greg Clark 822 Broad St. Beloit, WI 53511

Aug. 2012 - NV: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #18: Aug 16-19, Send palanca to: Todd Rush 7524 Bush Garden Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89129

Aug./Sept. 2012 - GA: **Atlanta VDC**, Men #58: Aug 23-26 & Women #57; Sept. 20-23, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341

Sept. 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #80: Sept. 13-16, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323

Sept. 2012 - FL: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men #57; Sept. 20-23 & Women #57; Sept. 27-30, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073

Sept./Oct. 2012 - UT: **Utah VDC**, Men #55; Sept. 27-30 & Women #56; Oct. 4-7, Send palanca to: Kelly Martin 5698 So. 1150 East S. Ogden, UT 84405

Oct. 2012 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #107: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

Oct. 2012 - MI/OH: **Good News VDC**, Men #51: Oct. 11-14, & Women #51: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Karen Warsaw 5633 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843

Oct. 2012 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #60: Oct. 11-14, & Women #64: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Debbie Howe 14768 Truitt Farm Dr. Centreville, VA 20120

Oct. 2012 - AR/OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #29: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Patti Johnson 11510 W. Westport ST. Wichita, KS 67212

Oct. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #582; Oct 18-21, & Women #583; Oct 25-28, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Oct. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #584; Oct 18-21, & Women #585; Oct 25-28, Send palanca to: Nancy Barker 6699 Industrial Rd. Saginaw, MN 55779-9434

Oct. 2012 - MO: **River's Edge VdC**, women #18: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Laurie Hensley 7704 Stonebridge Dr. Maryville, IL 62062

Oct. 2012 - TN: **Tennessee VDC**, Coed #29: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cir. Fairfield Glade, TN 39558

Oct./Nov 2012 - AZ: **So. Arizona Lutheran VDC**, Men #31: Oct 18-21 & Women #32: Nov 8-11, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 Clemons Way Tucson, AZ 85749

Nov. 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #81: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323

Nov. 2012 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #60; Nov. 8-11 & Women #60; Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Linda Barnard 4700 46th Ave. No. #11 St. Petersburg, FL 33714

Check Web for the latest updates of 2012 weekends

**Pastor Marvin L. Llewellyn Jr.**  
February 3, 1938 - April 9, 2012



Pastor Marvin L. "Larry" Llewellyn, age 74 of Mableton, GA., passed away April 9, 2012. Memorial services were held Thursday April 12, 2012 at 11am from the First United Lutheran Church at 3481 Campus Loop Rd. Kennesaw, GA. 30144; with Pastor Tony Prinsen officiating. Pastor Llewellyn was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Marvin and Jane Llewellyn, Brother Dr. Jack Llewellyn and Sister Mary George Llewellyn.

Surviving are: Wife, Dorothy B. "Dot" Llewellyn, Mableton, GA., Daughters, Jennifer and husband Tom Ciarletta, Acworth, GA. Susan and husband Jim Preece, Acworth, GA., Mary George and husband Cliff Whitney, Norcross, GA. Grandchildren, Heather, Sarah, Josh, Laura, Ashley, Matthew, Jackson and Ben; Great Grandchildren, Emma and Aubree

Pastor Llewellyn served on the NLS Board as Spiritual Director - being elected July 2000 and serving through July 2004. The NLS board expresses their condolences to his family and friends. *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* Psalm 34:18

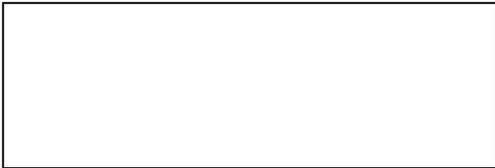


Judy Laabs-Foss  
4495 Margaret Street  
St. Paul, MN 55110-3773

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**ALL SECRETARIATS TAKE NOTE!**

All 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations are required to file a Form 990 with the IRS. The return is due on the fiftieth day of the fifth month after your fiscal year end. For most, the year end is December 31<sup>st</sup> so the form is due on May 15, 2012. The secretariat's gross income level determines which form needs to be filed. Many will file the electronic form 990-N for organizations with income less than \$25,000.00.

Please be sure that the secretariat is also filing any state reports which are required. The web site for the State's Attorney General Office or the web site for the Secretary of State Office are good resources for determining the requirements.

If the Secretariat is not s 501(c)(3) , a federal corporate income tax return should be filed as well as any state income tax return required.

If your secretariat has questions, please contact Diane Purcell, NLS Financial Advisor [dspurcell@msn.com](mailto:dspurcell@msn.com)



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