

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 31
Number 2
April 2013

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2013 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida
July 25 – 28, 2013

Hosted by Region Seven, the Florida Secretariats

We are really looking forward to our time serving you, our guests, at the 2013 NLSAM on July 25-28! If you have not yet registered, we encourage you to submit your registration forms right away! You will not want to miss this refreshing time in the “Streams of Living Water!” The campus of Palm Beach Atlantic University (www.pba.edu) is compact, easy to learn, and even easier to travel to! We have Palm Beach International Airport 15 minutes away, and Ft. Lauderdale International, in Broward County, is 45-60 minutes away. (One of the two runways at Ft. Lauderdale is being repaired, so this could have some effect on timing there.)

If the first third of 2013 has been as stressful for you as it has been for us (we can tell you more in July!), please think for a moment about the sounds of water. Whether it is a waterfall, a gentle stream, or the mechanical fountain sitting on your desk top, there is a soothing power to the sound of water flowing. You will have the opportunity here in West Palm Beach to hear the gentle lapping of the intracoastal water way along the campus of the university. This God-given location is one of the reasons we chose the theme of “Streams of Living Water.” All the planning for this annual meeting is designed to remind us that “I can do all things through Christ’s strength” – and His alone.

When we feel the stresses of life, including Christian leadership in our beloved Via de Cristo, our time attending to those matters can begin to feel like just a “duty” – or maybe even that we are doing God a favor! How good it is to know it is “not that we have loved God but that He loved us” (1 John 4:10). It is HE who pours out the grace, forgiveness and love we need so much from the “Streams of Living Water.” We pray that you will find the 2013 NLSAM to be a time in which you can feel renewed and refreshed, so that you can return to your responsibilities in your geographical area with hearts overflowing with peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Additional Notes: The dorm rooms on the compact Palm Beach Atlantic campus share a bathroom with one other adjoining room, so no more than four people will be sharing. No smoking and no alcohol are permitted on campus. The facilities are entirely air-conditioned for optimal comfort in South Florida’s summer heat and humidity. (Continued on page three)

NLS Annual Meeting - Florida 2013



On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

John 7:37-39



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

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Volume 31
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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.(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.

(Continued from page one)

The short walks between events are palm tree-lined and on level terrain, and elevators are available in all multi-level buildings.



In this edition of the newsletter, you will find the Registration Form and the Transportation form to provide us with your reservation information. These forms are also available on the website itself, www.viadecristo.org. Please note that you may take advantage of a special “Early Bird” discount if you register by April 30th. The full registration fee will be paid by attendees registering after May 1st. Also note that the registration form offers options for arriving early, thus requiring an extra night in the dorm and additional meals. Be sure to include the cost for the extra night and meals with your total payment when you submit your reservation.

Please plan to attend this year’s NLS Annual Meeting! We encourage members from all Secretariats to send your full complement of eligible representatives plus non-voting visitors. The annual meeting experience is not just for elected or appointed secretariat members but also for community-at-large. Each year the meeting proves to be an exciting, uplifting and wonderful forum in which we can exchange information, share ideas, make new friends, and renew old friendships. You will be led, fed and encouraged with music, worship, the Eucharist, meals, laughter, and God’s love together with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the United States! (If funds are an issue for your Secretariat, please contact NLS VP of Outreach Steve Gielda at sgielda@verizon.net regarding possible scholarships.)

On behalf of all six of the Florida Secretariats, we want you to know that we have been lifting all of you up in prayer during these months of preparation, and we are so excited to be welcoming you back to Florida once again! Come, let the Streams of Living Water flow!

Your 2013 Host Co-Chairs,
Beverly Abt and Watson Ray



NLS President’s Report

Grace, peace, mercy, and love from God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Our baptismal journeys continue: our life in Christ becomes richer and our love of God grows stronger. Is that your everyday experience? Is that how an objective, outside observer would describe your journey? As I describe one of my “stumbling blocks,” I trust you will be both understanding and grace-filled!

My journey, my growth as a disciple, is much more difficult than I ever expected. The days are filled with so much stuff! Priorities are constantly juggled. God often times is an after-thought rather than a first-thought. Often times, reading my Bible is a chore or worse: a quick glance taking little time to reflect. Life is go, go, go rather than reflect, reflect, reflect. Reflection has to be intentional because that is not how I am programmed! I am painfully aware that I often miss the times when God reveals His presence because of my need to *do* versus *be*!

What causes my dashing through life? I suspect it is the Western drive to “be productive!” I can still hear one of my first bosses say: “Keep moving – it is hard to hit a moving target!” I strive to reflect at the end of each day only to say: “I did that!” I am struck by the thought: “What might the disciples have said at the end of one of their days?” Might they have said: “What did we witness today?” or “What did we experience that we can’t explain?” Two very interesting questions in the days so many years prior to the Age of Enlightenment!

In the days ahead, I intend to take time reflect on the questions the disciples probably asked while on their journey. I suspect my journey will be richer and less stressful. It will be a matter of *being* versus a matter of *doing*! Nurturing my relationship versus working on stuff!

May you know God’s rich presence and may your relationship with the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of the universe become stronger.

Ed Broestl,
NLS President



Happy Easter!

OK, Easter's over, so now what...

I recall, as I neared my retirement from the Marine Corps in 1993, I looked around at the fast-paced change of our world and I was a bit fearful that I would catch the old nostalgia disease, the tendency to go about trying to recapture the past 25 years in my new setting or at least bemoan its loss.

I even felt a little bit that way just this past week as I recalled the splendor, the meaning and the beauty of the recently completed Via de Cristo weekend on which I had the privilege of serving as one of the spiritual directors. Quite frankly, I wanted to hang onto those special moments – for the pilgrims and for me.

But the problem is, we cannot recapture the past. We live in the present and are thrust into the future. Old truths are challenged and with them old values are challenged too in such ways that the new can seem to threaten so much we have held dear. Somehow we must have the wisdom to key into those values that are timeless, that never change while at the same time be accepting of values that speak God's Word to our new situations.

Easter is another occasion that I want to hang onto. As I write this article and even as you receive it we have just recently celebrated the most holy and significant moment in our Christian heritage and lives – our Lord's resurrection – that which is the basis for our beliefs as Christians. This is what makes us new creations and gives us the ability to start new. Yet, sometimes I think Easter has become "old" news rather than

NLS Spiritual Director's Report

"new" news. Easter is just another thing we have "to do," another thing added to our plate. Easter should be new and good news every time we think about Easter. We are, after all Easter people!

What do you think it would take to make the new news good news? What if God says, "When I say new I don't mean extra or additional. I mean something so radical that it cuts through all the do's and don'ts to simplify and make sense of all that's good and right and proper. I'm talking about what fosters healthy relationships all the way around. This is what cuts to the heart of the matter: love each other as I have loved you and then the world will see that you are my disciples. This new command cuts through to the center of what's good and in so doing cuts the throat of all legalistic religion. There is only one command: Love God as you have been loved and show it by your love to your neighbor.

Well, there is good news and bad news about that. The good news is it's about as simple as you can make it and the bad news is it's not so easy to pull off. Anyone who's tried knows that you always seem to come up short and seem to fall back into the legalism, because you begin to worry about the love you offer not being good enough or there not being enough of it. Also, some people, it seems, are hard to love. But surely not you, and certainly not me.

So the new news really is good news. The new commandment is not about what is demanded of us in order to become disciples.

It's about our gracious God who first loves us, who comes to dwell among us and continues to empower us and love through us to demonstrate the discipleship that is already ours.

The word "love" has appeared on countless banners. It has been printed in thousands of books. It has been sung in endless songs. All that is to the good. But simply repeating the word and glorifying the concept accomplishes very little.

The source of love is Jesus Christ who comes as the extreme expression of God's love. That love is renewed wherever Christ enters a human life and begins to recreate that person. Only when Christ has taken over the heart can it be a heart of Christian love. Only the deeds that come from that kind of love can be called Christian actions of love. All others are human love and a lower level.

That same love and newness of life is offered to all of us. All we have to do is reach out with our hearts and faith and embrace it.

As we consider Easter, even as we reflect on its beauty and wonder and perhaps even try to hang onto it now that it's over, let it be a time for renewing of love...

**Love God; love people –
nothing else matters!**

Behold, the old has passed away and the new has come.

Now, that's good news.

Pastor John
Bradford,

NLS Spiritual
Director



NLS 2012 Mid-Year Minutes — Continued on page 8

Friday, November 16, 2012

The NLS mid-year meeting began at 1:00PM on Friday, 16 November 2012, with lunch in a meeting room at Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, Florida, followed by devotions and communion led by Pastor John. Present were Steve Barnett, Pr. John Bradford, Ed Broestl, Steve Giolda, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell, Magdala Ray, and Nancy Peterson. Our devotional thoughts focused on the unity we have in Christ Jesus and His prayer for us that we work for His kingdom in that unity.

Magdala led the next activity, an exploration of the application of the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) to strengthening relationships within the EB and the entire NLS. Through recognition and awareness of the types represented on the EB, our own stress triggers, and the coping mechanisms available to us, more effective communication and teamwork can result.

Ed asked the members of the board to provide their reports, including planned activities for the remainder of the year, any joys, worries or concerns, and a brief summary of their activities since the NLSAM in Denver, CO, July 2012:

VP – Administration: Carolyn's activities since the NLSAM have included working closely with the 2013 NLSAM HC, where there is great evidence that the Holy Spirit is active.

VP – Outreach: Steve G. reported that he has been working with the regional coordinators to launch the training program; the goal is to have one program done in each region by July. A December 2nd teleconference is planned. He has also published a book.

Financial Advisor: Diane has been addressing technicalities of trademarks and copyrights. She assisted Sunrise VdC in WI in setting up their

501(c)3 status. She has also been working with Rainbow VdC to resolve an involuntary dissolution due to neglect in sending in the annual report to IRS, and she is revising her job description. She will continue to seek ways to communicate her willingness and availability to help local secretariats.

Secretary: Magdala has been working on the action items list, creating an "open" and "closed" list for each calendar year. She has accepted the call to serve as assistant LD for Gold Coast VdC beginning in January 2013.

Newsletter Editor: Judy has published the fall newsletter. With the new January 2013 requirement of bar codes on the newsletter, she questioned whether they should continue to be printed as hard copies or distributed as links in emails. The newsletter's emphasis on love and commitment to the VdC method, the joy of sponsoring, and the strengthening and encouragement of the 4th Day community may be more effectively communicated electronically.

Executive Director: Nancy has sent the updated database to Rick. She attended the international Emmaus conference, learning that they have dealt with many of the same issues we are facing. She also visited the two WI secretariats – Northern Light and Sunrise. She feels that the ED needs to be out and traveling more to meet with the local secretariats. She is revamping the survey and preparing it for distribution in January.

Treasurer: Steve B. distributed all financial reports to the board via email. He sees great benefits in our continued prayers and contacts with the local secretariats. His concerns include finalizing plan for the funding of the ED position, locations for the 2014 and 2015 NLSAMs, and whether the information provided at

the 2012 NLSAM has been passed on to the next leaders in the local secretariats. His joys include the completion of a local weekend in which the pilgrims grew in their walk and demonstrated much unity in Christ at the Ultraya.

Spiritual Director: Pr. John has written a newsletter article and has provided his thoughts on reading material which could be suggested during a Study rollo. He is still learning this position and loves the VdC movement.

President: Ed is continuing his internship training in the trauma hospital. He praises God for the VdC movement and the leadership group that God has put together to focus not on us but on God's ministry.

The group took a brief break from 4:30-4:45pm.

Resuming the meeting, Ed asked the group to provide input regarding the prayer partner system employed this past year. There was discussion concerning the "busyness" of switching partners every month and the possibility of working on quarters or even longer to establish relationships and closer bonds through prayer and communication. One suggestion was to have regional quarterly prayer partners.

A general discussion was held concerning our goals for local secretariats after the 2013 NLSAM – an increased, deeper connection with the NLS, improved relationships, and the ED position solidified in both concept and application to their needs. Nancy noted that she has seen evidence of trust and respect being strengthened in the relationships she has been building with the local secretariats. The ED position is aiding the understanding that the NLS is more than just an advisory group and that we have a great deal to offer each secretariat.

Further discussion focused on the reasons for local secretariats to com-



Meeting and Registration Form
 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013
 Thursday July 25 Through Sunday, July 28 2013
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 West Palm Beach, FL

Hosted by Region 7 Secretariats—Florida: Indian River, Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North, & Gold Coast Via de Cristo

ONE FORM PER PERSON ATTENDING * PLEASE PRINT * PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY			
First Name	Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Name for Name Tag
		<input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Address		City, State, Zip	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
E-mail Address			
Home Secretariat		Position, if on Secretariat	
Please check all that apply:			
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Visiting Clergy
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
First time attending NLS Annual Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If no, please indicate last year attended _____		Position attended as _____	
I am active in a reunion group <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
I will need on-site transportation assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
I require special accommodations for the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Dietary <input type="checkbox"/> Physical			
Please Explain:			
Travel 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 NLSAM site from Palm Beach Int'l airport PBI and Fort Lauderdale Int'l FLL only.			
Are you renting a Car: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<i>You must submit the separate Travel Information Form to make reservation for airport pick up</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send a map with driving directions to Palm Beach Atlantic University			
What day will you be leaving the annual meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday PM <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday by Noon			
\$ <u>200.00</u> Registration fee includes meals, housing, and material for Thursday 11:00 a.m. thru Sunday 11:00 a.m.			
\$ _____ Early Bird discount (-20.00 if mailed before May 1st)			
\$ <u>0.00</u> Double Rooms—Roommate requested: _____			
\$ _____ Single Room fee, additional \$45.00			
\$ _____ Extra Night on Wednesday—Per Person Double \$30.00, Single \$45.00 (does not include meals)			
\$ _____ Extra Meals (mark each extra meal) <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. Lunch - \$9.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. Dinner - \$9.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. Breakfast - \$6.00			
\$ _____ Total Payment **PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Gold Coast Via de Cristo **			
Complete Forms, Mail Registration Form, Travel Form & Payment To:			
<i>NLS Registration % Janet Vigilante</i>			
6742 Forest Hill Blvd #274 West Palm Beach, FL 33413			
Home Phone: 561-433-6434 Fax: 561-433-6435 Janetplanet2@bellsouth.net			

REGISTRATION USE ONLY Date Rec'd: _____
 Travel info Rec'd: _____

Check No. _____
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Confirm. Sent: _____



Air Travel Information Form

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013
 Thursday July 25 Through Sunday, July 28 2013
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 West Palm Beach, FL

Hosted by Region 7 Secretariats—Florida: Indian River,
 Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North,
 & Gold Coast Via de Cristo

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Personal Info: First Name _____ Last Name _____		
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Fax _____	E-mail Address _____	
<p>**Host Committee will arrange Transportation between Palm Beach Atlantic University and only Palm Beach Int'l Airport <u>PBI Preferred</u> (10 minute drive) or Fort Lauderdale Int'l Airport <u>FLL</u> (1 Hour drive)**.</p> <p>Do you need ADA accessible transportation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, Please Explain _____</p>		
Any changes to your travel itinerary after submitting this form should be sent directly to : Janet Vigilante		
Flight Itinerary is as follows:		
<p>ARRIVAL: Pick up location: <input type="checkbox"/> PBI <input type="checkbox"/> FLL <input type="checkbox"/> Rental Car Lot _____</p> <p>Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight # _____</p> <p>Departing City: _____ Departing Airport _____</p> <p>Connecting City: _____ Connecting Airport _____</p> <p>Number of people traveling on this flight: _____</p> <p>Names: _____</p>		
<p>DEPARTURE: Drop off location: <input type="checkbox"/> PBI <input type="checkbox"/> FLL <input type="checkbox"/> Rental Car Lot _____</p> <p>Date: _____ Departure Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight #: _____</p> <p>Number of people traveling on this flight: _____</p> <p>Names: _____</p>		
<p>Complete Forms, Mail Registration Form, Travel Form to:</p> <p><i>NLS Registration C/O Janet Vigilante</i> <i>6742 Forest Hill Blvd #274</i> <i>West Palm Beach, FL 33413</i> Home Phone: 561-433-6434 Fax: 561-433-6435 Email: Janetplanet2@bellsouth.net</p>		

NLS 2012 Mid-Year Minutes - Continued from page 5

mit to attending the NLSAM, the responsibility of the delegates, and the signing of the constitution every three years for consistency and recommitment. The group agreed that one of the goals for the 2013 NLSAM was that every person present will understand that the ED is accessible, available and knowledgeable for questions, information, conversation – a resource for every secretariat. This effort will provide credibility – “one face, one place,” which will also be communicated in Ed’s monthly “Musings” to the LDs. The board took a break for supper at 6pm and resumed meeting at 7:45pm. The meeting resumed with Ed leading a prayer of thanks for the meal and fellowship with the HC co-chairs, prayers for the weekends being held – North TX 86 and MN Co-ed, and concluded with the group praying “Come, Holy Spirit.”

The next agenda item was the planning and scheduling of the 2013 NLSAM. The 2012 NLSAM focused on strengthening the 4th Day. Carolyn provided evaluation form feedback. The transportation, registration, downtime, and “learning and growing” were rated highly, while the LD dialogue, food service, dormitories and Back to Basics forum received low scores. There were positive comments about the business meetings being well-organized and timely, the emphasis on The Essentials, and the “Rediscover, Recommit” campaign being a step in the right direction. Suggestions for improvement included providing printed materials earlier, utilizing just one trained technology person for all business meeting applications, omitting oral regional reports by asking regions to submit written bullets, finding ways to avoid one person dominating small group discussions, and having representatives of the NLS board be present at regional meetings. Carolyn is revising the NLSAM HC manual; Diane sug-

gested updating the manual with a health position to monitor older attendees’ medical needs.

It was agreed by the group that the emphases for 2013 included bolstering Ultreyas, building reunion groups, and sponsorship, and the group also determined that the benefits of making connections, sharing and building relationships outweighed the expense of an annual meeting.

The group also noted that the mid-year meeting should not be scheduled again on the weekend before Thanksgiving. However, the idea of holding a local Ultreya in conjunction with the mid-year meeting should be encouraged for every HC. The meeting adjourned for the night with prayer at approximately 9:30pm.

Saturday, November 17, 2012

The board began the day’s meetings with devotions and prayers led by Ed at 7:45am, followed by breakfast from 8-8:30am. Carolyn provided assignments for the working lunch meeting with the HC: Pr. John and Magdala with SD, Worship, and Music; Ed with Palanca and Facilities; Steve G with Hospitality; Nancy with Meal Liaison and Transportation; Steve B and Diane with Treasurer, Fundraising/Publicity; and Judy with Communications, IT, and AV/Sound. Carolyn also provided the group with guidelines for their discussion with the HC sub-committees.

The group discussed the idea of providing materials electronically prior to the meeting. It was decided to provide notebooks. It may be that in the future the registration form could include a choice of options for receiving the materials onsite or via links to the website. It was also noted that the EB will be prompt in forwarding materials to the HC; the following deadlines were set:

Ed will send a reminder to the EB members of materials due on June 16th. EB members send all reports and documents for the notebook to Carolyn by June 30th, 2013.

Carolyn will forward all materials for notebook to HC no later than July 10th.

The board next discussed the registration costs and deadlines. It was noted that Transportation, Registration and Housing should be ready for X number of people on Wednesday and X number of people on Thursday. Likewise, they should be reading for X number departing on Saturday and then again Sunday morning. The numbers in the manual may be low. Bags with notebooks should be ready by a certain set time on Thursday (perhaps 10am). Pr. John suggested that we prepare the HC for expecting a certain number of people on Wednesday.

At 9:15am, the group traveled to the Palm Beach Atlantic University campus in West Palm Beach, the site of the 2013 NLSAM.

After a 9AM tour of the Regis University campus, the site of the 2012 NLSAM, the board and the Host Committee met on the second floor of the student center campus. Present were the board members – Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Steve Gielda, Magdala Ray, Pastor John Bradford Diane Purcell, Judy Laabs-Foss, and Nancy Peterson – and the Host Committee – Beverly Abt and Watson Ray (Co-Chairs), John and Penny Klein, Dottie Schwartz and Tamre Hammer (Hospitality), Bill Steffen (Transportation), Janet Vigilante (Registration), Katie Sistar, Jonette Bishop, and Chip Spear (Communications), Michael Warnock (Facilities), Tom and Jeanne Scott (Worship), Susie Dowd (Secretary), Tedd Smith (Palanca), Tom Accola (Emergency Coordinator), Brenda Accola (Meal Liaison), Lori Deibel (Volunteers and Hospitality), Larry and Jeanne Schone

(Gold Coast LD and Music), Janet Cunningham (Music), Pr. Gerry Olsen and Deaconess Kathy McCoy (SDs).

Pr. Gerry opened the meeting with prayer. Carolyn led the meeting by first asking all present to share their name, position on the NLS board or the HC, a special moment from an NLSAM attended or a VdC weekend, and a special gift they would be sharing as part of the group.

The HC and board members enjoyed a working lunch in the campus cafeteria, where the NLSAM meals will be served. Carolyn assigned all the meeting participants to specific tables for discussion and Q&A regarding the weekend in July. At the conclusion of the lunch meeting, the joint HC and board portion was adjourned. Both the HC and the board then returned to separate meetings at Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach.

At 3pm, the board resumed its planning and discussion of the theme for the 2013 NLSAM, which will be “Springs of Living Water for Our Journey,” reflecting and expanding the 2012 4th Day strengthening theme moving from the experience into the Journey. It was decided to invite Pr. Al Sager to present the keynote address. The group discussed the need for an emphasis on preparing ourselves to sponsor. Steve G suggested the term “embracing irresistible sponsorship.” The group also discussed the concept of apostolic action in nurturing the Cursillistas who have completed a weekend into discipleship and leadership in the 4th Day community and in their home congregations. One of the best practices mentioned was table leaders conducting a 30-50-90 day “touch” of their table participants after a weekend.

The group also examined the theme from a 4MAT perspective, around the natural cycle of learning, utilizing “The 4th Day Journey” as the concept, “Seeking, Inviting, and Nurturing Potential/Future Leaders” as the

topic, with both seen through the “lens” of “Strengthening the 4th Day.” It was noted that this is a direct connection to the Environment Rollo – “You have changed, but the world has not.” We have a responsibility to help Cursillistas not fall back into their “old” ways. Pr. John noted that we are leading a “Reformation of VdC!”

The group also reviewed a suggestion made by HC SD Pr. Gerry Olsen of asking Pr. Al Sager to share with the NLSAM attendees his application of Scripture to the weekend structure and experience. Pr. Gerry suggested the tripod as a way to organize the NLSAM presentations –

Piety: Directing our lives to God as examples for those potential/future leaders;

Study: How Scriptures relate to the weekend in order to understand better the experience to which we are inviting potential/future leaders; and

Apostolic Action: Sponsorship to develop potential/future leaders.

Carolyn noted that piety, study and action are the foundation of the journey, making this approach very applicable. Perhaps adding a question about whether NLSAM participants are in a reunion group could be added to the registration form. More discussion focused on the journey. Created by God, baptized into faith by God’s grace, made a child of God – the beginning of the journey which precedes the VdC experience in which many pilgrims come to understand the ideal of a life lived in grace and the calling to different paths of ministry. It is the NLS’s job to support the VdC experience as it is presented in the local secretariats by equipping the saints with tools for effective apostolic action resulting in a strengthening of the 4th Day for every community.

The group discussed a variety of ways to carry out theme, concept,

and topic through the above-mentioned “lens” by asking Pr. Al Sager to include piety in his keynote address on Thursday and then lead a Friday forum on study followed by a Saturday forum on apostolic action. Pr. John would then join these areas and summarize on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. A sample schedule was sketched.

The group then discussed the current prayer partner plan between the board and the LDs and the possibility of rotating prayer partners quarterly rather than monthly. It was agreed that the transition to quarterly prayer partners will occur in February 2013. The next discussion on the agenda concerned the protection and proper use of the NLS logo and trademark. It was agreed that Ed, Diane and Rick will work together to provide guidance to the distribution center on how to protect NLS documents and to develop a memo of agreement for local secretariats to use the term “Via de Cristo” on Facebook and websites. Ed and Diane will also work on a format for all NLS policies – existing and new – including those for vendors, copyright, travel, and trademark and logo. This format will include a written purpose, definition(s), policy, procedures, references and attachments. Diane will review old board minutes in order to extract and preserve all standing resolutions, which by law must be preserved and accessible.

At 5:54pm, Ed and Steve G signed the Minnesota Charities Report statement, the summary of which read, “The undersigned execute the document on behalf of the organization. We have assumed responsibility and will continue to determine matters of policy and will continue to supervise the finances of the operation.” This document is required annually because the NLS is registered for financial purposes in Minnesota. Steve B signed the required annual tax report documents earlier in the afternoon.

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V.P. of Outreach Report

Rediscover & Recommit

Brothers and sisters in Christ, spring is among us and it's time for the annuals and perennials to start to bloom. It's a time for many to start their spring cleaning, dusting off or deep cleaning their homes. It's also a good time for us as Christians to examine our personal walk with Christ, a time to Rediscover & Recommit ourselves to our personal journey and our calling as disciples.

As many of you know, the Region Coordinators and I have been working hard for the past year to develop a new workshop for everyone who has attended a VdC weekend. We are calling this workshop, Rediscover & Recommit. Over the past three weeks we have run two pilot programs to ensure we get the program in good order before we launch it to everyone. I want to personally thank Kim and Chris Brownlow for hosting the facilitation team at her home and working so hard to set up all of the logistics for our program in Colorado. We had over 100 people from Colorado VdC and VdC of the Rockies come to learn what it meant to Rediscover & Recommit themselves and their VdC community for God's greater purpose.

This morning I sit in the home of Raleigh and Pat Sandy from Dayton, OH grateful for them for hosting six of us at their home this weekend. We had our own little VdC weekend, all bunked up together in his beautiful home. I also want to thank Cathy Doering for taking a chance and volunteering the Ohio VdC for the second pilot program. She and her team pulled together the logistics and we had over 60 people come from as far as 4 hour to participate in this exciting workshop. Again, the feedback was amazing and people walked away with a deeper understanding of the mission of Via de Cristo and their personal strategy to strengthen their relationship with Christ and how to help VdC achieve its mission.

Starting in April, this workshop will be ready for you and your community. Be sure to reach out to your Lay Director and set a date on the calendar!

Finally, as many of you know, my term as Vice President of Outreach for the NLS Board will be coming to an end in July. Now is the time we need to begin to pray about whom God will call to this elected position. I encourage you to pray about who should be our next VP of Outreach. Is God calling

you? Is God calling someone in your community? I was uncertain and scared about what I was stepping into. You or those to whom you ask may feel the same way. I encourage you to listen to Him. Pray about this and know that I will ALWAYS be available to help if it's needed. Please call me 703-266-7667 or email me sgielda@verizon.net if you want to learn more about this blessing the God has provided me.

God loves you and so do I,

Steve Gielda
VP Outreach



NLS Executive Director

He is Risen! Hallelujah!

A new life begins for us all with this gift of grace and life. Just as you are renewed each time you receive communion, you get to start over. Many of our secretariats have new groups starting: weekend preparations and training, new secretariat members, new methods to renew, to rediscover and recommit to the essentials of Via de Cristo.

I had the wonderful experience of taking part in the pilot of the Rediscover and Recommit program in Colorado Springs in early March. What a wonderful program! It was energizing to sit among Cursilistas who were excited to look at where they have been as a secretariat and where they can grow. As this program is launched regionally, I encourage each of you to take part in it. This provides the basis for a growing of your secretariat or, if necessary, a new beginning.

Lay directors have received requests for survey information from 2012 as well as current secretariat members. Thanks to the 20 secretariats who have fulfilled those requests and sent their information to me. I ask the remaining 24 secretariats to forward their information to me. The information provides the basis for the number of voting delegates each secretariat will have at our annual meeting in July in West Palm Beach, FL. With the proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws, it is very important that

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Palanca!!!

2013 WEEKENDS:

- April/May 2013 - NY: **Damascus Road VDC of Central NY** Men #15; April 18-21, & Women #15; May 16-19, [Send palanca to](#): Lu Huckabone PO Box 184 Poland, NY 13431
- May 2013 - FL: **Sonshine North VDC**, Coed #5, May 2-5, [Send palanca to](#): John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- May 2013 - GA: **Atlanta VDC**, Coed #27, May 2-5, [Send palanca to](#): John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- May 2013 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #61; & Women #61, May 16-19, [Send palanca to](#): Dana Marquart at dmarquart@sonbeamvdc.org
- May/June 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #594: May 23-23 & Women #595; May 30-June 2, [Send palanca to](#): Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- June 2013 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Women #86: June 20-23, [Send palanca to](#): Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486
- July 2013 — **NLSAM**; July 25-28 in West Palm Beach Florida
- Aug. 2013 - CO: **Colorado VDC** Men #37; Aug. 1-4, & Women #37; Aug. 8-11, [Send palanca to](#): Christie Sorge PO Box 386 LaPorte, CO 80535
- Aug. 2013 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Men #110: Aug. 15-18, [Send palanca to](#): Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Aug./Sept. 2013 - GA: **Atlanta VDC**, Men #59, Aug. 22-25 & Women #58 Sept. 19-22, [Send palanca to](#): John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Sept. 2013 - FL: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men #58, Sept. 19-22 & Women #58 Sept. 26-29, [Send palanca to](#): John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- Sept. 2013 - NV: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #20, Sept. 26-29, [Send palanca to](#): Todd Rush 7524 Bush Garden Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89129
- Sept./Oct. 2013 - NY: **Damascus Road VDC of Central NY** Men #16; Sept. 19-22 &

- Women #16; Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Lu Huckabone PO Box 184 Poland, NY 13431
- Oct. 2013 - AZ: **Southern AZ Lutheran VdC**, Coed: Oct. 10-13, [Send palanca to](#): Scott Malcomsen 4013 S. Lone Palm Dr. Tucson, AZ 85730
- Oct. 2013 - MD: **Vineland VDC**, Coed #11: Oct. 10-13, [Send palanca to](#): Jim Stottlemeyer 13043 Mt. Zion Rd. Sabillasville, MD 21780
- Oct. 2013 - MI/OH: **Good News VDC**, Men #53: Oct. 10-13 & Women #53; Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Karen Warsop 5633 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- Oct. 2013 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #62: Oct. 10-13 & Women #66; Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Julia Shaw-Fuller email = juliashawfuller@gmail.com
- Oct. 2013 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #109: Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Oct. 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #596: Oct. 17-20 & Women #597; Oct. 24-27, [Send palanca to](#): Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2013 - MO: **Rivers Edge VDC** Women #21 Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Silas Whitener 328A Olive St. Washington, MO 63090
- Oct. 2013 - TN: **Tennessee VdC**, Coed #31: Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): eMail: purplediny@hotmail.com
- Oct. 2013 - WA: **VdC of Western Washington**, Coed #10: Oct. 17-20, [Send palanca to](#): Deanna Oeffner 7631 120th Place SE Newcastle, WA 98056
- Oct. 2013 - AR/OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #31: Oct. 24-27, [Send palanca to](#): Patti Johnson 11510 W. Westport St. Wichita, KS 67212
- Oct./Nov. 2013 - WI: **WI Sunrise VDC**, Men #85: Oct. 24-27 & Women #86; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, [Send palanca to](#): Richard Pettit 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Nov. 2013 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #62: Nov. 7-10 & Women #62; Nov. 14-17, [Send palanca to](#): dmarquart@sonbeamvdc.org
- Nov. 2013 - PA/DE: **Journey of Faith VDC**, Coed #7: Nov. 7-10, [Send palanca to](#): Patti Kline 43-2 Azalea Way Reading, PA 19606
- Nov. 2013 - IL: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Coed #19: Nov. 14-17, [Send palanca to](#): Dawn Fehr 333 2nd St. Downers Grove, IL 60515

Check Web for the latest updates for the upcoming 2013 weekends

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all affiliated secretariats be represented. The registration information for the NLSAM can be found on the home page of the Via de Cristo website. Please pray and then join us.

As part of the survey, mentioned above, secretariats provide information used to update our database. This information provides accurate mailing and email addresses for communication purposes. A large number of emails are coming back as undeliverable; if you have changed your email address, please forward on your new email to me (execdirector.nls@gmail.com). We thank you for your assistance!

With Easter, we see the beginning of spring here in Minnesota – ok, so it is still cold right now as I write this article, but the snow is melting and the sun feels so warm on your face. I watch, with anticipation, for the daffodils and tulips to poke through the soil. It is a new beginning of growing season. As you look in the mirror each morning, know that as a child of God, you get to start new each day as well. Praise the Lord! I hope to see you in West Palm Beach in July. Blessings to you all this sunny morning.

Nancy Peterson
NLS Executive
Director



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE EXPEDITE



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At 6:00pm, the group broke for supper and an Ultreya hosted by Gold Coast VdC at the same location.

At 8:20pm, the meeting resumed with the prayer to the Holy Spirit. The next agenda item was constitution and bylaws changes, many of which were minor but necessary changes in grammar, length of time, and means of notification to the body of NLS. As part of this discussion and work, it was noted that the group meeting has erroneously been called a "board" when it should be called an "Executive Committee" (EC). Henceforth, this group will be referred to as the EC in minutes and other written documents. The meeting adjourned at 10pm with prayer.



Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray, Secretary



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