

2011, July 28 -- NLSAM Business Mtg. #1

The 2011 NLSAM in Charlotte, NC was called to order at 3:30 p.m. with Tracy Schmidlin welcoming the delegates and visitors and making introductions. President of Queen's University, Dr. Pamela Davies, welcomed the VdC Community to the university and told about the school's history.

A Thrivent representative, Glenn Deal, welcomed the group and told about Thrivent funding and announced that it is a faith based Fortune 500 company. He is Publicity Chairman for this NLSAM Host Committee.

Tracy began introductions by asking all the first timers to stand. Then she introduced past leaders of the Lutheran Cursillo/Via de Cristo community. Present were 4 pioneers from the first meeting in Atlanta in 1981. Past board members from 1981-1990, then 1991-2000, were asked to stand and be recognized. Past and present Board members from 2001-2011 were also recognized. Tracy explained that in 1986 the National Lutheran Secretariat Cursillo body voted to change the name to Via de Cristo to allow us to be interdenominational by including other Christian denominations being invited to the weekends while maintaining the integrity of Lutheran theology.

Secretary Katie Sistar explained the seating process and had each delegate stand to be recognized. She seated the 86 delegates with a power point presentation.

Each Board member explained where his or her report was in the Notebook and pointed out a few items which needed additional emphasis.

Tracy gave the President's Report. It is on page B4. We were excited when we have added new secretariats and saddened when some have stopped participating. We have been trying to have a National Coordinator, now to be called Executive Director, for many years. That process has been stymied for various reasons. We will talk about a way to get the position started this weekend. We need to emphasize Essentials, and we hope that you enjoy our double anniversary. It is important and your responsibility to share what you learn here with your secretariats back home.

Steve Giolda, VP of Outreach, discussed the 4th Day Conference, the Wellness checklist from last year and the importance of keeping the movement on track and true to the essentials as we expand. His report is on page B7. He is planning training to go beyond the 101 and 102 training to a 300 Level Leadership Training Course. He explained that on page B40 there is a job description for the 7 Regional Outreach Coordinators that are needed.

Carolyn Hawkins, VP Administration, discussed learning her job this past year. It was helpful to be part of the Host team as she worked at the new position. She spent a lot of time on last year's evaluations. We learn from them so she wanted everyone to be sure to fill out the revamped evaluation form this year. Her report is on page B6.

Pr. Doug Givan, Spiritual Director, has a report on B5. The scripture was from Isaiah 42. He told about the devotional booklet that will be used as a help as the pilgrims' Fourth Day begins.

Steve Barnett, Treasurer, presented the financial report on B9-B12. *Larry Schone moved that we accept the financial report. Alice Allison 2nd. Motion passed.*

Katie Sistar, Secretary, gave her report and highlighted items on B2 and B8. She called attention to the need for surveys of the previous year's weekends to be sent to the secretary promptly when the request is sent out Feb 1 each year. People have asked what kind of weekends secretariats are having. There have been 137 weekends in 2010 with 45 Men's, 51 Women's and 41 Coed/Mixed. From the beginning through the year 2010, there have been a total of 99,960 pilgrims who have attended our weekends.

John Bradford, Distribution Center, stated that it is harder to pay for items, so there has been an increase in prices. Pilgrim's Guide is \$1.00, Red Brochure is \$5.00, Clergy brochure is the same, 4th Day is \$1.00, Reunion Card is .10 each, Large Print and S.D. Manuals are \$5.00, and the DVD audio disk of the Pilgrim's Guide and the new History Book are \$10.00 each.

Larry Conway, Web Servant, talked about the importance of updating communication. His report is on page B 15. This position is open for a new leader.

Judy Laabs-Foss, Editor of the Conexiones, has enjoyed doing the Newsletter for the past nine years. The past year's report is on B16. Most newsletters now are received by e-mail which has saved money.

Ron Millard, Archivist/Historian, is absent. Carolyn told how for the past 1 ½ years he had been working on our 25th year History Book which all NLSAM participants have received in their bags. He and John Bradford put it together quite professionally. Additional History Books are available for \$10.00.

Diane Purcell, Financial Advisor, stated that she was Treasurer for 4 years and was then appointed to be Financial Adviser since 2004. Her report is on B13. She is available to help any secretariat with 501c3 applications or other financial information.

Jim Ryan, Database Coordinator, is absent. Carolyn Hawkins gave his report and noted that there are application forms available for the appointed offices of Database Coordinator and Web Page Coordinator.

Paul Sabatier-Smith, Palanca Coordinator, is absent. Carolyn stated his report is on B14. There is a form that can be used to update weekend information for the palanca list.

Tracy explained the nominating process. Judy Lado reported the committee's nominees for elected offices this year: Ed Broestl, from Colorado, as president; Magdala Ray, from Florida, as Secretary; and Steve Gielda, from Virginia, for VP of Outreach. Any nominees from the floor need to be nominated in the morning and complete biography forms.

Tracy spoke of the importance of a National Coordinator who is to be called “Executive Director.” The National body has been talking about such a position for the past 10 to 15 years. We had a committee that tried to plan how to fund the position, but with the economy and people’s concerns about privacy in using the data base to seek funding, it has not been established. As representatives from the Fourth Day movements have met each year, Tracy and Steve G. have observed that we are the only Fourth Day movement that does not have an Executive Director.

The Board’s recommendation is to fill the position with a volunteer and provide expenses. Tracy asked those in attendance to pray about this, review the material in the book and talk with others about it before the next business meeting where it will be open for discussion.

Steve B. presented a possible way to change the fees structure. Dues haven’t been changed in 11 years. He suggested this change would help smaller secretariats, increase the fees income by \$2200, and be a step toward not having a deficit budget. New secretariats do not have to pay dues the first year. The second year they would pay \$50.00. The third year they would pay \$150.00 and after 3 years pay \$300.00 (up from \$250.00) or \$3.00 per candidate/pilgrim on a weekend, whichever is higher. If a secretariat has only one or less weekends a year and submits their survey, they would only have to pay ½ of \$300.00. This structure will be discussed on Friday.

Carolyn made an announcement about the first timers’ photo and this year a photo of everybody to be done after the forum on the steps. Tracy gave a tip regarding signing posters. Steve G. explained small groups. Carolyn told about the seminars. They are full in a tight space so be sure to go to the ones you signed up for.

Carolyn moved that we recess the session. Pr. Doug 2nd. Pr. Doug closed with prayer and asked a blessing for our meal at 5:37 P.M..

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar
NLS Secretary