

NLS Monthly Teleconference  
February 8, 2015

Attending: Alice Allison, Ed Broestl, Steve Barnett, Rick Hanzlik, Diane Purcell, Paul Schmidlin, Tedd Smith, Carol Reedstrom,

Meeting began at 7:00 PM EST on February 8, 2015 with the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Meeting minute approval for the January meeting was postponed until the March meeting.

Steve informed everyone that National Gathering preparations are on-going. All Host Committee "leads" are known. Fund raising is continuing. There is no contract with the college but the Host Committee is confident that it will happen very soon. There were questions regarding individuals responsible for coordinating each of the Forums: Forum 1 (Weekend Basics) is Paul; Forum 2 (4<sup>th</sup> Day) is Wendy Showalter; Forum 3 (Secretariat essentials) is Diane Purcell; and Forum 4 (Best Practices) is not yet known.

- Steve would like to have a conversation which includes Rick and the Host Committee to assure the Host Committee is aware of our needs.
- Ed will submit the Thrivent Grant request.
- The Host Committee will send letters inviting those that attended last year's National Gathering.
- Ed and Steve will continue to reach out to Mark Carson regarding closure of the 2014 National Gathering
- Ed will help in the review of the Hosting Document

Ed summarized at a very high level the outcome from the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Leaders Forum, attended by Ed Broestl, Paul and Tracy Schmidlin, and Tedd Smith. It was a really good time of sharing. Topics of discussion centered on engaging people, how to increase communications, and how standards are set and maintained. As in previous years, we all have similar issues. Specifics will be shared with the Executive Committee and Lay Directors via email.

Ed provided some thoughts regarding our integration of information:

- The final draft of the pastoral presentation will soon be ready to present to the Executive Committee.
- Revised job descriptions will be sent to everyone. Ed will call each person to discover if there are any issues with them
- Policies and Executive Committee Best Practices are in work and will be discussed by Ed and Paul as they meet in the next few days.
- January and February Meeting Minutes and Job Description approvals will be on the March meeting agenda.

Carol spoke regarding the Newsletter and is considering having a theme for each Newsletter. The goal is for a quarterly newsletter: Jan/Feb; April/May; July/Aug; Oct/Nov seem to be the right timing. With a theme, the Secretariats will be invited to “tell their story” in the Newsletter. Ed will send an email asking what possible topics for each and will be asking for response to Carol with input. There was some concern regarding the length of the Newsletter - an item for prayer. It was noted that as we do not print and send the document out by mail it could have more content. We were reminded that the Newsletter is about the Community - not about us (NLS). An appropriate theme for the upcoming Newsletter might be “Perseverance in the Journey” - the focus of the upcoming National Gathering.

Tedd stated Outreach is progressing but not at the rate anticipated. Lake Gaston, the new North Carolina Secretariat requests continued prayers for their formation. They will most likely “affiliate” after the 2015 National VdC Gathering. An effort to form a new secretariat in the Orlando area continues. Their affiliation is also anticipated in 2016.

Rick is considering how to update (revise and refresh) the website. The group agreed that the dialogue section should be removed since it is not being used. Ed will call Rick to discuss things learned from the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Leaders Forum.

Diane said there is no update from Wisconsin regarding the status of their predicament.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM with prayer.