

**NLS Executive Committee Meeting
Teleconference
March 19, 2018**

Board Members present were: Wendy Showalter, President; Warren “Butch” Seeley, VPA; Ellick Morey, VPO; Debbie Klatt, Secretary; Brenda Accola, Treasurer; Mark Marxhausen, Spiritual Director

Wendy called the meeting to order at 7:06 CST and Pastor Mark opened us in prayer.

The minutes from February 19, 2018 NLS Executive Board meeting were briefly discussed with no comments and were passed with a motion made by Butch and seconded by Brenda.

Old Business:

The Ratification letter is going out this week. There will be a letter and an explanation to the Lay Directors and Regional Coordinators. All the letters must be signed if each Secretariat wants to remain an affiliated Secretariat with their signature and returned to us. Ellick will alert the RCs and explain the process to them.

Reports:

Pastor Mark talked to John Aclin about the letter he wrote. The letter was about how we need to be moving forward with all the different Lutheran Churches. There are 64 different Lutheran denominations in the U.S. He discussed the challenges that Via de Cristo is facing with the different problems/issues within the numerous Lutheran denominations. The fragments of the different Lutheran Churches cannot agree. There is a “Spirit of Protesting” each other and that is not what Via de Cristo is about. We have a theological problem.

Pastor Mark said he contacted about 20 pastors about the Spiritual Director positions and received many “no”, responses. He needs more names of pastors to contact.

Butch has a couple of names for VPA that might be interested; Terry Parks and Lynn & Jim Ryan. Ellick will contact them.

Butch has not had a chance to get his video in, but will try to get it done this week. He will send it directly to Rick for upload.

The Host Committee is confident they are moving forward with progress for the Annual Gathering. The Host Committee chose to go with a phone call assignment rather than the Save the Date cards. They divided the attendees. Magdala has the Script. Butch will find out how far along they have gotten.

The speakers for the Annual Gathering have not received their outlines but will be sent out this week. The **music for the weekend** is moving forward with fundraising efforts.

No word from Indianapolis yet for the **2019 Annual Gathering location**

Butch spoke to Paul and is trying to get the Red Book back. Paul has been out of town.

Ellick – The Regional Coordinators teleconference is the 4th Monday of each month. It has been difficult to get all 7 RCs in attendance.

The RCs questioned if they could see last year's Activities Survey. They didn't understand the "Survey" or "Roster" term. This will be corrected next year.

The final surveys will be forwarded to Brenda with updated information.

Nominating Committee has no names for the open positions except someone who might be interested in the Distribution Center position. Ellick suggested she call John Bradford for information.

It was suggested that the minutes taken at the RC meetings be sent the Executive Board so that all can have more understanding of the activities out in the field.

Ellick will write and send a blast email to the body seeking nominations. This needs to happen in the next two weeks.

Debbie – All but 6 of the 2017 Activities Surveys are in. Debbie and Ellick sent out an email to the missing Secretariats in hopes of getting a fast response.

Jack Balsley accepted the challenge to be the Parliamentarian at the 2018 Annual Gathering. He only requested the outline for the meeting so he can be prepared for any challenges that might come up.

Brenda – The dues letter went out to all the Secretariats. She has already received about 25% back. Prairie Sonshine did not respond to the dues letter at all. What should be done with the \$900 due? The Executive Committee assigned Brenda to send a registered letter to Prairie Sonshine within the next two weeks with a designated deadline for payment of past dues,. If they do not meet the deadline, they could lose their status as an affiliated Secretariat.

Thrivent Financial is no longer doing grants for the Annual Gathering. Discussion ensued about what to do in place of these funds. No decisions made but need to think about it for April meeting.

Pastor Mark discussed his frustration with lack of attendance at VdC weekends and loss of commitment to the ministry. Is this a trend of our society? What do we do about the future? Why are we devoting our efforts for a declining Via de Cristo? We need to move forward and enliven the community. Is the 5-year plan working or not? The division of theologies is there and won't be healed. It was mentioned that "Back to the Mountain" in Texas was a success and maybe we should think about something in line with that? This would be for Secretariats that are drowning and need reviving. We are fighting a battle on multiple fronts. Do we re-invent ourselves? The Executive Committee discussed various avenues and decided we won't let the fire go out.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm with prayer from Mark.

Debbie Klatt

NLS Secretary