

NLS Executive Committee
Pre-Annual Gathering Meeting
July 25, 2018

Present: President; Wendy Showalter, VPA: Butch Seeley, VPO: Ellick Morey,
Spiritual Director: Pastor Mark, Treasurer: Brenda Accola, Secretary: Debbie Klatt

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm EST.

Pastor Mark opened us in prayer.

Wendy asked for a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Brenda motioned they be approved and seconded by Mark. Motion passed.

Reports:

Pastor Mark spoke with Dave Rankin a number of times about the services for worship and thinks it will be a good blend. Mark also connected with Janet Cunningham about the music and is happy with the selection of music for all the services, commissioning, Palanca team, new Board members, etc., for the Annual Gathering. Host Team has everything in hand. Mark will “pray for all the forum speakers” prior to each talk in the Palanca Chapel. Keynote speaker will be in the chapel and all others will be in the Weyenburg Center/Palanca Chapel. He will also pray with the music team.

Ellick talked about the Regional Coordinators and struggling to get them to do things requested of them. He has some challenges with them because he doesn't want to push, speak harshly or come down on them, because that is not who he is. He understands their frustration, but they need to understand his as well. He will be meeting with them tomorrow afternoon at 12:30 pm. Ellick is looking forward to Sunday afternoon, as he is meeting a local group about starting a Spanish-speaking secretariat. There is a potential new Regional Coordinator to replace John Aclin. Debbie asked if there was a problem with the Regional Coordinators, in reference to their jobs. After she read the RC minutes, she became aware of the discord from some, on the amount of work we are asking of them. Ellick wants to make a timeline/calendar of events for them, so they will know when these items are due back to the NLS and to pass these on to the Lay Directors of each Secretariat. This is one of his goals for this year. Annual Surveys, Ratifications and nominations will be some of the items on the timeline. Brenda was concerned that they were overwhelmed with too much work, but Ellick thinks if he creates this calendar, then all they need to do is send a reminder to the Lay Directors that these items are due. Wendy didn't think we asked too much and hope

they can better develop their relationships with the LDs. Butch stated the same thing and included how some of the Secretariats might have some dysfunction in their region, but not all of them. The RC meeting will meet tomorrow and hopefully talk about the requirements we are asking of them. The Ratification letters are not necessary each year, so that should not be of concern. Brenda suggests they, (RC), to contact the Lay Directors and maintain the relationship. Closer to mid-year, maybe contact them again and find nominations for those upcoming elections. Develop relationships by calling them at least 4 times a year and follow up with an email. Pastor Mark mentioned a book called: *Influencers: "Your world is perfectly organized to get the results, you are presently achieving."* How do you make change? What can we do to produce positive change? Leadership. Ask them what Ellick can do for them to help them produce positive results. What can you do in your region to help you get the surveys in? Don't look in the rearview mirror, look through the windshield. Help them to influence positive change in the RCs, LDs and the Secretariats. How can we help them with our expectations? If you can't meet the expectations, do you think you might not be ready to fulfill this position of Regional Coordinator? We can't lower the expectations, but how can we help you meet those expectations?

Wendy is still missing the signed Ratification letters from Colorado, Calgary, Heart of America, Atlanta, Notes of Grace, Indian River, and Sonbeam .

Brenda: She worked on the budget for next year. She will get hard copies tomorrow. We discussed the advisability or practicality of the entire board being present at the Annual Gathering and pay their way, including RCs if they request. Brenda shared with us that at the time of her joining the Executive Board, the elected six officers, Executive Director, Financial Advisor, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster were invited to the NLS Annual Gathering every year and the Board paid for them. The Database Coordinator was also included after the board appointed someone to that position. After discussion, the board decided at this time, that the Archivist and Palanca Coordinator were not essential for the AG.

Debbie: She talked a bit about her frustration with registration. She requested, in the future, that a firm cutoff date for "Delegate Registration" be two days before the event. If any Secretariat does not register before that, then they would lose the ability to have a voting Delegate at the business meeting. Standard registration for visitors will continue as usual. The Regional Coordinators will need to be made aware of what a Lay Delegate is and be able to explain it to the Lay Directors BEFORE the next Annual Gathering. Debbie is ready with the PowerPoint for any changes. Wendy suggests we have two external hard drives going forward to have a digital copy of everything. This will ensure that all history and corporation

material is stored in two different places. Motion made by Debbie and seconded by Brenda. Motion passed. The new Executive Director will purchase the second one. Debbie was given a copy of all the material given to us from Diane Purcell. She will scan and copy all the material to the hard drive.

Butch: Communication with the Hosting Committee isn't always easy. Schedules have to be changed because of the time of breakfast. Dealing with the University can have issues. Hosting has done a good job with a few hiccups. He feels it will be a good gathering. The speakers will be thought provoking. Pastor Billings sounds like a great guy and looking forward to hearing him. The Parliamentarian, Jack Balsley who was appointed for this business meeting, will need to be informed about the boards, "letter of retraction". The motion is still on the table from last year about the delegate counting. We will need to formally withdraw the motion at the business meeting. Since it was tabled at the meeting, do we open it again? Jack will know the proper way to address the body with this motion. The body did not know what to make of the chaos at the meeting last year. The body did not have time to digest the information and many thought if everyone's delegates were brought down to two, would they still come to the Annual Gathering? Moving forward, how do we encourage the 4th day to come to the AG and reduce the notion it is only about a business meeting? Moving forward, we will inform everyone that every year at the business meeting, we will be electing new board members and passing the budget, but anything beyond that will be passed on to the Lay Directors months before the Annual Gathering so that the Secretariats have a chance to review it and discuss it and get feed back. The official name of NLS Annual Meeting was changed to NLS Annual Gathering to de-emphasize the meetings and focus more on the gathering of fellowship. In keeping with our Constitution and By-laws, we must have an annual meeting, true, but for the future, focus more on the Gathering and not the meeting. We agreed that Executive Board serves as a consulting and resource board more than a governing board. Communication and action with the body should be our top priority. The health and spirituality of the entire body is key. The Annual Gathering should be about "learning and fellowship" and not the business meeting. Positive change.

The mirrors for the AG will be distributed at the table at the first Forum. The speaker will inform them what the mirror is for. The first mirror is for them and the second mirror given at the final forum be given to a friend.

Wendy brought up the 5-year plan and discussion ensued. The dates were suggested to be eliminated on the actual plan and the details listed within the board for the PowerPoint. Discussion ensued and decided that the details and dates should be for internal use only, but the "body" of the 5-year plan be

projected. Present the 5-year plan as a living document and cross out the ones we have completed. Eight items are on this current 5-year plan and if we come up with more, they can be added as needed and prioritized.

Wendy expressed our sadness that Brenda and Mark were leaving the board. They will truly be missed. We became a family and will miss the bond we formed.

The next board meeting is 11:00 am tomorrow for the entire board. The Host Committee meeting is after the Agape dinner. The post-meeting is at 7:00 pm with the new board.

New Business:

The Executive Committee received an email from Diane Purcell requesting an informal meeting with her. She has some issues that she would like to cover regarding the board and some of their decisions. The entire board prayed and decided it would be in the best interest of Via de Cristo to hear her out. We will meet and reconcile with her tomorrow at 10:00 am prior to our 11:00 am Board meeting.

Motion by Butch to adjourn and Pastor Mark seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Debbie Klatt
NLS Secretary