

## NLS Executive Board Meeting 2017-09-18

Board Members present were: Wendy Showalter, President; Warren “Butch” Seeley, VPA; Ellick Morey, VPO; Brenda Accola, Treasurer; Debbie Klatt, Secretary; Pr. Mark Marxhausen, Spiritual Director; Diane Purcell, Financial Adviser; Dave Lambert, Database Coordinator and Carol Reedstrom, Newsletter,

Absent were Karen Bennefeld, Archivist/Historian; Rick Hanzlik, Webmaster; John Bradford, Distribution Center and Paul Sabatier-Smith, Palanca Coordinator.

Wendy called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm Central time. Mark opened us with prayer.

The minutes from July 26-27 pre-Annual Gathering meeting were briefly discussed with no comments and were passed with a motion made by Butch and seconded by Brenda.

The minutes from July 29<sup>th</sup> post-Annual Gathering/new Board meeting were also passed, motion by Ellick and seconded by Mark with no changes.

Past Secretary Carol McGill has still not submitted minutes for the Annual Gathering Business Meeting and Wendy will continue to reach out to Carol.

Wendy briefly explained that the Executive Committee met in a closed Executive Session to discuss each job description of the appointed positions on the Board. We began and closed with prayer. There were no motions made and each job description was edited to fit the needs of the Board and of the VdC community. The changes made were given to the each appointee. Following an explanation of the needed revisions, Paul Schmidlin took exception to the changes and later explained to the Executive Committee why he disagreed and resigned by email two days later. The notice of Paul’s resignation was sent to the community via Constant Contact.

Butch sent out a detailed email referencing the Mid-Year Meeting on August 29 and is waiting for details from the Host Committee. We are set for November 16-19<sup>th</sup>, with most of the Executive Committee arriving on October 15 and gathering for dinner. Brenda stated that the Host Committee is having another meeting on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and she will ask for someone to respond to Butch’s questions as soon as possible.

Butch is also working on culling the results of the NLS Survey and will provide the Board with a report in early October. Wendy suggested that we brainstorm later in the year to implement tactics to improve the number of returned surveys next July. Butch suggested a “giveaway” of some kind. Wendy will send Butch the past two year’s reports so that (during the Mid-Year Meeting) we can compare results.

Ellick shared his plans for an all-day Regional Coordinator training session October 7. He stated that five of the seven would be attending. Cindy Perkins, the new RC for Region 3 will not be able to attend, nor will Chris Rasmussen. Ellick will present the expectations of the position and all the tools that are available to support the health and growth of the secretariats. He will be detailing all the secretariat information needed for our database and that all will be sent to Dave Lambert. Mark plans to attend and will either open or close the meeting. Butch asked Ellick about his new position as VPO. Ellick said he will need guidance from God, but he is doing fine now. Dave wants him to ask the R.C.s how the Board can help.

Debbie presented some of the Region 3’s “Back to the Mountain” experience. She explained that the downturn in the team volunteers and getting new Pilgrims for the weekends was concerning the community and it was decided that something had to be done. This will be sort of a “booster shot” for 4<sup>th</sup> Day members only and has been a couple of years in the making. It will be co-hosted by Texas Lutheran VdC and Texas Gulf Coast VdC and held November 10-12, 2017 in Texas. Debbie explained that

several Executive Board members will be speakers and it is hoped that the weekend can be presented to other secretariats that are struggling. The overwhelming response from the 4<sup>th</sup> day from registration has been inspiring and they are getting excited for the special event.

Brenda said the monthly financial statement is complete and she will send it out this week. Wendy asked when the reconciliation of last year's financials will be completed. Brenda will be digitizing the documents and sending to Diane very soon. It is a goal to have this completed earlier next year.

Dave has not received a final count from the NLS Gathering as yet but will load the information in our database as soon as he hears from the Host Committee. Wendy asked Dave to explain the difference between Rick's position and his. We learned that Rick maintains the website and sends out informational emails via Constant Contact and our Facebook page. Dave maintains the integrity of contact information on the database. Dave offered to send out RC information via Constant Contact, similar to what Rick does for Mark's Spiritual Director's Corner and other announcements.

Diane told us she has been working with Colorado on their Bylaws. Wendy requested a brief description of the problems with Colorado be sent to the Board so that we are made aware.

Carol shared that her daughter, Vicki, will be having very critical open-heart surgery in late October at the University of Minnesota and she is asking for comfort and strength. The newsletter will be sent out by quarters; December-February/winter edition...with a submission deadline of December 30---March-May/spring with March 30 as deadline---June-August/summer with June 30 as deadline---- and September-November/fall edition with September 30 as deadline. She welcomes articles from all Board members as well as ongoing reports from the Regional Coordinators and the activities in their regions.

Next meetings are noted:

Executive Committee – October 15 - 7:00 pm CST

Mid-Year Year – November 16-19

Full Board – December 18 - 7:00 pm CST

Executive Committee – January 29 - 7:00 pm CST

Full Board – February 19 - 7:00 pm CST

Before closing, Mark shared his views on “Robert's Rules of Order”. He thinks they are outdated and negatively impacted our discussions during the Annual Gathering Business Meeting in July. Diane cautioned that there are Minnesota Statutes regarding this issue for non-profits. Wendy asked Diane to send the Board a copy of those statutes as soon as possible so that we can move forward wisely.

Mark closed in prayer.

Mark motioned to close the meeting and Butch seconded.

Wendy called the meeting to close at 8:08 pm CST.

Debbie Klatt  
NLS Secretary