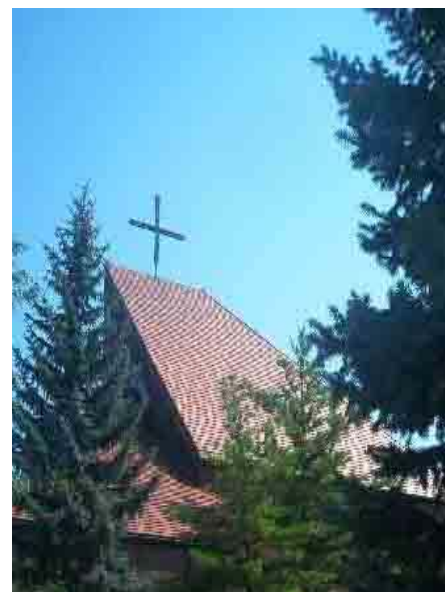


Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Summer Edition
Volume 21
Number 3
July 2003

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC



NLS 2003 Annual Meeting July 24 — 27, 2003 in Columbus, Ohio

As you read this, our annual meeting has concluded and except for a few pictures and our daily newsletter, it is but a memory. If you were unable to be with us this year, the Summer Edition of the Conexiones will try to give you a flavor of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future.

First, we give Praise and Thanks to our Father for this movement and the opportunities we had to meet, share, fellowship and grow in God's love during our time together. We came to celebrate, and as a movement, there was a lot to celebrate. We celebrated the life of **Oran Gough**, NLS webmaster, who went to his eternal home last fall. We celebrated **Carroll Lang's** years of service in this movement. And we celebrated the accomplishments of **Doug Burrows** and **Lucy Hightower** as their terms of President and Secretary concluded. We did all of this through our worship and fellowship, along with completing the necessary business.

We thank the Ohio and Good News Secretariats, for their hosting yet another successful and grace filled meeting. **Jim Caldwell**, Host Committee Chair, Ohio VdC and **Bob Veres**, Host Committee Chair, Good News VdC and their teams. We were truly blessed, enriching and fulfilling! As our theme stated;

"Christ's Grace - The Heart of it all"

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CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 67,000 who have participated in 34 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, ELCA bishops and the Directors of the Division for Ministry and the Division for Ministry in Daily Life about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving **CONEXIONES**, call Larry Whitham as the numbers listed on the side.

Subscriptions for the general public are \$6.00 per year, and are available by sending your name, complete mailing address, and phone numbers to **CONEXIONES** Editor, Diane Purcell, 8303 Ingleside Ave. So., Cottage Grove, MN 55016-3236; (651) 459-7249 (H); or by fax: (651) 768-0624

Material for CONEXIONES

If you have information for **CONEXIONES**, items, requests and/or information, address corrections, changes or additions - even inspirational bits - send them to the **CONEXIONES** Editor at the address on the side. **DEADLINES:** January 1 for February (Late Winter) edition; April 1 for May (Spring) edition; August 15 for September (Annual Meeting) edition and December 1 for December (Winter) edition.



Welcome
Larry Witham,
Newly Elected NLS
President &
Su Kralj, Newly Elected
NLS Secretary



Christ Grace—is the heart of it all.

As we gathered together as the largest contingency ever in the history of NLS, Christ certainly was at the heart of it all. Christ was in the heart of the host team, the musicians, the pastors, the speakers, the delegates and the visitors. We all stood together on Holy ground and felt the shower of God’s grace.

I’m still singing the theme song that was written by the host music team on a daily basis in my head! The chorus keeps echoing “Christ’s Grace, the heart of it all... not just a part of it all... not just a Sunday kind of thing... Teach me to make a friend... teach me to be a friend... help me to bring my friend to you... Christ’s Grace – the heart of it all” Our theme song was a close variation of our group reunion prayer “Come Holy Spirit”. What a joy! Thank you 2003 NLS Host Music Team!

Thinking back over the past seven years that I have attended NLS meetings, I have witnessed exciting growth in our movement across the country. Christ has been at the heart of it all as we have seen many new Secretariats formed. Local Secretariats are vital to our mission.

The mission of Via de Cristo is to provide weekends that will awaken the Christian faith of lay leaders and inspire them for greater action in their homes, churches, places of work and communities. The NLS assists local Secretariats by promoting continuity in operating polices for certain aspects of the weekends while promoting the flow of information between Secretariats and providing assistance in training leaders.

As I look forward to the next two years, my prayer is that many more new Secretariats will be started as we continue to grow. I pray that the NLS will continue to provide a means by which the individual Secretariats can work together to improve the results of the Via de Cristo experience, while remaining faithful to the Cursillo method which God has blessed so abundantly. Via de Cristo means the “Way of Christ”. If we keep Him at the heart of it all, we will succeed in our mission.

I look forward to serving our Lord as President of the NLS. His call and your support humble me. As our paths come together over the days to come, I look forward to working with each one of you. My door is always open to you. Contact me whenever you feel that I might assist you. Together, we can do all things, through Christ, who strengthens us.

God loves you my brothers and sisters, and so do I.
 Larry Witham

Hello. I am Su Kralj

I have lived in Florida since 1958 and presently reside in Rockledge, Florida where I worship at Calvary Chapel of Melbourne. I made my weekend in Jacksonville, Florida (Sonshine North VdC) in 1981 and sat at the table of Dorcus. Today, I serve on the NLS Board as your secretary.

I am very blessed to serve you. God always stretches me, and this task is no different. He is constantly changing and moving me into places that are far from my comfort zone. And because of His awesome wisdom, He sees something in me that I never imagined. It is important to remain calm, relaxed and focused. Those of you who know me and more important, know God; understand what I am talking about. My walk with the Lord began as an infant at baptism. From what my parents use to tell me, I was a very good child. Although I do remember being mischievous every chance I got. God has been 1st place in most of my life. Yet, in my late teens and early adulthood (college years) I choose a different path. He let me go as far as He knew I wanted without killing myself. Then, with a simple little tug at my heart, I responded to Him. The vessel He chose was my best friend from youth. We remain best friends after 43 years.

So, at the age of 24, I rededicated my life to Him and can honestly say, I have served Him with all my heart ever since. The pastor of my little Lutheran Church saw great potential in the spunky attitude that beamed from my big smile. He treated me like one of his own daughters. There was an opening in the Sunday school for a 6th grade teacher, and the job was mine. From that day on, I have gratefully accepted every opportunity to work for God in any capacity that He blessed me. Sometimes I would be over zealous and take on more than I should. Ever been there?

The first thirteen years (approx) of Indian River Via de Cristo, where I serve, I was known at the "grits lady". In our movement, Saturday morning breakfast has grits on the menu. Have you ever made grits for over 100 people? Since being raised in the south most of my childhood, I learned to cook grits from my southern nanny.

My memory needs a boost every once in a while, but I do know this, I have served in every position on our weekends accept 1. I have never given the Piety Rollo. Through the years, I have served on our local secretariat off and on from 1984 to the present. This includes, two two-yr terms back to back as Leadership coordinator and National delegate eight different years. I have been a delegate at the yearly conferences serving on various committees, including couple of times with the committee that revised the lay talks. This year, God has chosen me to serve as secretary to the NLS. Please pray for me. Serving is an awesome responsibility that I take seriously. Come Holy Spirit; fill the heart of your faithful.

In His love, Su Kralj

NLS Board Minutes - Conference call

Sunday, June 15, 2003, 9:00 PM EST

The president, Doug Burrows, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 PM. All board members were present along with Judy Laabs-Foss, editor of the *Conexiones*. At Doug's request, Pastor Larry offered a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as published. (Larry/Diane).

Treasurer: The treasurer explained that the financial report that she had sent today by e-mail was a preliminary report and that she will have everything finalized before our annual meeting in July. Tracy asked for clarification of how the memorial funds we receive are used. In connection with this she said that the Ohio movement and Jim Caldwell will be taking care of the tribute to Oran Gough. Doug asked if funds were available for this use if needed. Doug and Tracy will be in contact with Jim.

Doug requested a motion to accept Diane's report as information to be filed in anticipation of the July audit. (Tracy/Lucy) Motion carried.

Diane said that she had received, for the first time, a bill from Vogel Printing for the last newsletter for which Pastor Carroll had been editor. It was well past due and they had added about \$102 in finance charges. Since this was the first copy submitted to her, she paid only the printing charges and not the finance charges.

Outreach: Ron reported he expects representatives to be coming from two newly formed secretariats—Taste of Grace; and Prairie Sonshine, Central Illinois. Both have signed NLS constitution and have asked to join NLS. Ron certified that all the paperwork was in order and then made a motion that both be accepted into membership. Unanimous approval. Lucy asked Ron to send her original copies of the signed constitutions, survey data, and secretariat rosters for each new secretariat.

Ron has been working with a group of people in Nashville who want to know if they can fill the position of Spiritual Director with an intern. The board

stated that she cannot fill this position until he is ordained.

Spiritual Director: Larry has been in contact with the Ohio representatives, and the worship services are pretty much set. He has been unable to reach Paul Schmidlin, but it seems that Darryl Larson is pretty much taking charge of the planning. Things seem to be going very well, but he will touch base with the Ohio folks again soon.

Newsletter: The April newsletter was mailed out and some board members reported that they had received theirs. Diane asked that she be sent a hard copy as long as she is on the Board. Lucy said that she will change the code in her database so Diane's name will appear on the mailing list.

Plans for the daily newsletters at the annual meeting are well underway. Donna Gough and Jan Lars will be handling the reporting, editing, and publishing. Judy said that the next *Conexiones* should go to press sometime in August and will contain mostly annual meeting news.

"Christ's Grace - The Heart of it all"

Other Business: Doug reported that Pastor Gene Hermier had written him in January or February to say that he would be unable to do the forum in July. Unfortunately, Doug did not receive this letter. As soon as Doug became aware of the problem, he contacted Pastor Ed Simonsen who has graciously agreed to do the forum on the Grace Talks. Diane said that Mike needs to talk with Doug to get more direction on his part of the program. Pastor Carroll has agreed to be present at the meeting to take part in our tribute to him for all of his many years of dedicated service to the NLS.

Administration: Tracy reported that

the committee expects to do a final walk-through next Saturday. Things seem to be running quite well. Approximately 157 people have already registered; of these, 62 are first time attendees. Lucy asked Tracy to make sure that she (Lucy) gets a list of those attending so that she can compile the list of official delegates and certify their eligibility. Lucy also said that she was having some difficulty getting all of the survey information in and asked that Tracy check with Good News! VdC and that Larry check with Atlanta VdC.

The music people are excited and have worked up an agenda. There was a discussion concerning whether the evening music should be held in one of the two outdoor courtyards or in an area very near the dorm. Tracy will discuss the pros and cons with the committee. The thinking of the board was that proximity to the dorms would encourage better attendance so that people can go to their rooms whenever they are ready without having a long walk later.

A discussion followed concerning the number of rooms that we have available. If the number of rooms reserved proves to be insufficient, we would need to know what the cost would be for additional rooms.

Doug reported that Debbie Speights has completed the roster of nominees for the open positions on the board. In addition to the one incumbent, Ron Millard, who is eligible for re-election, the slate will consist of Larry Witham for President and Sue Kralj for Secretary. Tracy inquired about the availability of the bio forms for anyone who might be nominated from the floor. Doug said that Debbie will have those; Lucy also has some copies.

Tracy has been working on the evaluations and the letters to first time attendees. She will e-mail copies to board members for their input.

We will need to schedule some time (prox. 10-20 minutes) on Saturday for the tribute to Carroll. The suggestion was that we might start this around 6-6:15 during dessert at the evening meal and then schedule the serenade for

around 6:45.

There was a brief discussion of bids for hosting of future meetings. Doug will be in contact with some of those who have expressed an interest. The board will meet at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, July 23. Only Judy and Diane are flying in and Doug will probably pick them up. All others indicated they will be driving in.

Finland: Doug reported that he had made a trip to Finland and that they have weekends going on there in six different places.

NLS Constitution: There was a problem including the revisions required by both the IRS and Minnesota because Diane's computer crashed and she could not retrieve the data. We cannot make 90-day deadline prior to the meeting. The revised constitution will be presented at the annual meeting.

Video Tapes from Texas Meeting: Tim Johnson still has not sent the films from the 2002 seminars to the Distribution Center. This year the films will be shot by some students at the seminary and will be given to the Distribution Center immediately.

Promotional Video: Ed and Bob will present a preliminary video.

Resource Library: The Leadership curriculum has been transcribed in CD form and a copy will be available for each secretariat. The revised talks are complete; Doug has received them from Karen. A discussion followed concerning the cost to format and duplicate the revised talk books on CD's. Doug will contact the print shop about formatting and proof reading. He will send the master CD to Ron for duplication. A third possible project is the production of materials from 1991-2002 in CD form.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned after a prayer by Pastor Larry.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Hightower
NLS Secretary



No Fear Friday's and Everyday?

A favorite Twin Cities Christian radio station of mine talks about No Fear Friday, No Fear Thursday and No Fear Everyday of the week. They adopted this stand after the historical day of 9-11-01. The Bible talks about fear in two ways; that we are to fear the Lord and it also tells us not to be afraid. I am told there are more than 500 references in the Bible with fear as its theme. With that many verses on "fear" we could have one for every day in the year and then some! Here are a few to get you started. "Fear not, for I am with thee" (Genesis 26:24). "Fear not them which kill the body" (Matthew 10:28). "Fear not I am the first and the last" (Revelation 1:17). "The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure." (Isaiah 33:6). "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness" (Joshua 24:14a).

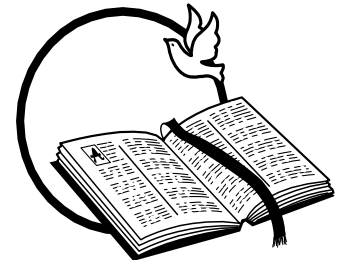
Have you ever wondered why the Bible says we are to do both? The dictionary defines fear as a feeling of anxiety caused by the presence of nearness of danger, evil, pain, etc. Then in the next line down fear also means to feel reverence or awe for. When I think of fearing God, I find myself filled with humility, respect and honor for the holiness of my Heavenly Father. It gives me a desire to please someone that I love and trust. When other sections of the Bible tell me to fear not, I try to imagine taking what I am afraid of and placing it in God's hands. It sure has given me the hope I have needed when driving in a snow blizzard, rainstorm or when facing other crisis in my life. So what are your fears? I can't help but think that your answer is only a page away in the manual (**Basic Information Before Leaving Earth**) we call the **BI-BLE**. May all of your fears be put in the proper perspective today!

Your Editor, Judy Laabs-Foss

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to

do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:18 NIV



In Loving Memory - Oran Gough

At our annual meeting, Friday's celebration included a tribute to one of our NLS's leaders. He was the originator of our current web page. Fred Schneider eulogized the late Oran Gough, of Westerville, Ohio, a mover and shaker in the Via de Cristo movement, in a power point presentation.

Oran became active in the movement after his son, Frank, who was in prison at the time, made a commitment for Christ that turned his life in one of Christian service, later becoming an Episcopal priest. This so impressed Oran that he joined the movement and became one of its leaders.

Oran was in the broadcasting business as manager of a local television station. He used his skills to develop marketing and development materials for the NLS. "Well done, good and faithful Servant." Matthew 25:21

NLS Annual Meeting 2003 Minutes

NLS Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday July 23, 2003

With all six members of the executive board present, Pastor Larry Llewellyn opened the meeting with a prayer. Judy Laabs-Foss, editor of the *Conexiones* was also present. Doug Burrows, president presided.

The first item of business was to go over the schedule and discuss anything that needed clarification or further discussion. Prior to the opening worship and commissioning service, Doug will introduce visiting dignitaries. There will be an information person, Lorraine Miller, stationed outside of Gloria Dei Chapel.

THURSDAY

At the first business meeting, the secretary will seat the delegates in order by state with the exception of the new secretariats. After she has finished seating the delegates, Doug will turn the podium over to Ron Millard who will then introduce the four new secretariats and seat their delegates.

Ron explained that there would be fifteen small discussion groups who will be grouped according to the colors of the "buckeyes" they picked up at registration. The question for small group discussion on Thursday will be: "What does Actual Grace mean to you? Give an example."

Nominations from the Nominating Committee will be announced for the following positions: President, Secretary, and Vice President of Outreach. The procedure for making nominations from the floor will also be explained.

There was a brief discussion of various "housekeeping" issues and officer reports. Ron will announce the small group discussion topics. Orientation will be announced and then Doug will give a brief presentation on his trip to Finland. He will also play a portion of a CD of music written for the NLS by a lady in Finland as a "thank you" for NLS's having helped start the movement there. The Keynote address will follow and dinner will be at 5:30.

FRIDAY

Pastor Ed Simonsen has graciously

agreed to do the forum on The Role of the Grace talks after Pastor Gene Hermeier was unable to attend. Since Pastor Ed has already paid his own expenses, a discussion followed about paying his expenses if he will accept reimbursement. Pastor Larry made the motion that the Board pay Pastor Ed's transportation cost and the Host Committee his registration. Seconded by Judy. Motion carried.

The business meeting is scheduled for 11:00 AM. First order of business will be to receive any nominations from the floor. An appeal will be made for hosting of the 2005 meeting. The 2004 meeting will be held in Knoxville, TN. The tribute to Oran Gough will follow.

Doug said that the board should probably begin to think about redefining the work of the committees. Task orientation has changed over time, and committee work may need to become more like seminars. This issue should be presented to the body for consideration. However, both Finance and Palanca committees need to remain as they are.

At this point, Fred Schneider joined the meeting at Doug's request. Fred agreed with Doug on the issue of committees. He felt that we should look at the function and purpose of each committee; we should drop if no longer needed.

A discussion of the role of the NLS versus the local secretariat followed. The Board's role is to create a form where the secretariats of the NLS can come together. We need to orient people toward what the purposes of the committees are. Doug encouraged the board members to sit in on the committees and try to initiate discussion of what the purposes are.

Doug said that there is a need to provide instructions on hosting the NLS meeting. We need to try to generate interest and alleviate concerns about the costs of housing, feeding, etc. Tracy will create a meeting on hosting during committee time. Tracy said that she is willing to update her area of expertise to make the materials more user friendly if the board agrees.

A discussion of the constitution revision followed. Diane explained that she has several issues that need to be addressed including secretariat fees and changes needed to comply with Minnesota law and the Internal Revenue Service. Fred recommended that we get a Minnesota lawyer look over the revisions to make sure they comply. Diane moved that we hire Mary Probst who is a specialist in non-profit organizations to examine the document. Larry seconded. Motion carried. Diane added that we (NLS) are presently not in compliance with the law and that we need to be organized to operate according to Minnesota law where NLS is incorporated. Ms. Probst has helped the Minnesota secretariat in the past.

The topic for small group discussion for Friday will be: "How does your secretariat choose its leadership?" This will include leadership of weekends and local secretariats.

Lunch will be at noon. The two seminars will be each be done twice so that all will be able to attend both seminars.

Tracy explained that unfortunately there had been a mistake in scheduling the music groups that were coming in. Both had been scheduled for Friday and there was none for Saturday evening.

SATURDAY

The Forum topic will be "Understanding the NLS." Mike Swecker will be the presenter. Following the forum, there will be an open discussion at 11:00 AM with the board. A "commercial" for the Distribution Center will be at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting will be in the dining hall at 1:00 PM. Order of business will be the election of officers, committee reports, old business, new business, Host Bid for 2005, and a presentation by Tennessee.

The Board will meet with the Tennessee Host Committee immediately after the business meeting on Saturday. Doug indicated that he would be willing to go the Florida meeting of the Fourth Day Movements if needed. He will also pass information on to the new president as

necessary.

Dinner will be at 5:30. The Tribute to Carroll Lang will follow dinner. Fellowship and host time will be afterwards.

SUNDAY

The Board will hold a brief meeting after worship to organize for the coming year.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion about distribution of the three CD's containing the Leadership Materials, the Lay Talks and the NLS from 1991-2000. Ron said that he has the ability to duplicate them here at the meeting if necessary. Unfortunately, the "Authentic 3-Day Weekend" document was omitted from the CD's. Ron has it in electronic form. He will get it to Doug so that it can be included on CD #2 when corrections are made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCY HIGHTOWER
NLS Secretary



is involved in secretariat formation in Nashville, TN.

Doug introduced Jim Caldwell, chair of the Host Committee. Jim made some announcements and introduced Bob Veres, his co-chair, who also welcomed the group. Jim introduced Donna Schmidt who is affiliated with Augsburg Fortress. She invited folks to drop by the store and announced there will be a drawing for a book. Augsburg then distributed a bag with some information to each attendee.

Jim announced where people could park RV's; he also explained that the library is under repair so it cannot be fully open to the public at this time.

Nominations: Doug then read the nominations for Debbie Speights, chair of the nominations committee. She was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict. They were as follows: President, Larry Witham; Secretary, Sue Kralj; Vice President of Outreach, Ron Millard (incumbent). Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Friday meeting. There was a reminder to contact any nominee to be sure that they will accept; each nominee must fill out a "bio" form.

Officer Reports: The following presented their reports and referred delegates to their printed reports: Lucy Hightower, Secretary; Ron Millard, Vice President of Outreach; Tracy Ziemke, Vice President of Administration; Finance, Diane Purcell; Spiritual Director, Larry Llewellyn; and Judy Laabs-Foss, *Conexiones*. Diane invited anyone who is interested to come to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

Doug thanked the group for allowing him to serve as president for the past four years; he said that the last year had been a year of transition. The NLS Library is now in CD form and the Lay

Talk Revisions are complete. He then recognized those who had worked on the Lay Talk Revision Committee. He also thanked Randy Mullins for making a digital CD presentation that covers NLS records from 1991-2000.

Other Business: Doug reminded the attendees to turn off their cell phones while meetings are in session, to use the walkways rather than cutting across the grass, to not eat food in the carpeted areas of the building, and to smoke only on the outside of the buildings.

Ron reminded people about the small group breakouts; they will meet here at 6:40 PM. People will group according to the color of their "buckeyes;" each group will simply find a spot to meet and start by following the Reunion Card. The topic will be: "What does actual grace mean to you? Share an example with your group."

The first timer photo will be at 8:45; please gather after worship tonight.

Doug then explained briefly how the Finland movement got started. In 1997, a group from Finland came to Tennessee and made a weekend. Pastor Larry was one of the SD's that weekend. Doug, Pastor George and Rachel Kahl recently made a follow-up trip to Finland and were overwhelmed by the way the Finnish people love the Via de Cristo movement. It is now alive in eight locations where weekends are being held. We then listened to a portion of a CD of music written by their music director. It is a beautiful gift of love and prayer.

The meeting was then adjourned to the Gloria Dei chapel for the Keynote Address by Pastor Al Sager.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCY HIGHTOWER
NLS Secretary

Business Session Two

Friday, July 25, 2003

Doug Burrows, President, called the meeting to order and opened with the prayer to the Holy Spirit as found on page 42 of the Pilgrim's Guide. He then made some announcements of a general nature. Jim Caldwell announced that there would be a tour of the new dormitories at 2:00 PM for anyone who was

Business Session One

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Doug called the meeting to order and asked the secretary, Lucy Hightower, to proceed with the seating of the delegates. After she had finished, Doug asked Ron Millard to introduce the new secretariats and seat their delegates. The following secretariats were introduced: Taste of Grace Via de Cristo, Chicago, IL; Prairie Sunshine Via de Cristo, IL; River's Edge Via de Cristo, IL and metro St. Louis; and Light in the Desert Via de Cristo, Nevada. Ron presented each secretariat with a banner stand made as palanca by a member of Heart of Illinois.

Doug reminded all attendees to be respectful of the use of the facilities. He then recognized the following who had served NLS in the past and thanked them for their attendance: Luther Piel, Al Sager, Ed Simonsen, Hilde Hildebrand, Phil Lustig, Randy Mullins, Judy and Carroll Lang, Leona Fox and Mike Swecker.

Ron Millard then introduced a group from Seattle, WA. where a new secretariat is forming, and Judy Mowrey who



interested.

Nominations: Doug opened the floor for nominations. In addition to the board nominations, there was a nomination from a member of the Minnesota delegation of Vi Christiansen for the office of secretary. Fred Schneider then moved that the nominations be closed. Bob Northrup seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was carried. Larry Llewellyn then moved that the offices of President and Vice President of Outreach be filled by acclamation. Jerry Lemcke seconded. No discussion followed and the motion was carried. Doug thanked the two newly elected officers for their willingness to serve.

Hosting Bid: Vineyard Via de Cristo and Rainbow Via de Cristo then made a presentation to host the 2004 meeting of NLS.

Distribution of CD's: Ron and Doug then explained that each secretariat would receive three CD's: 1) NLS Library containing The Essentials, Leadership Materials, Ultreya, etc.; 2) Lay Talks as revised 2003; and, 3) Presentation of NLS files from 1991-2000. Doug thanked those who had worked on these projects and asked that a delegate from each secretariat pick up their CD's after the meeting and be sure to get their names checked off.

Other Business: Doug reminded everyone of the seminars and committee work that would be going on in the afternoon. On Saturday the presentation will be on the Role of the NLS Board with an open discussion following. He then gave a brief description of what each committee will be doing. There will also be a meeting in Room 217 on Hosting an NLS meeting.

Oran Gough: We then had a tribute to

Oran who had the vision of our website and had, along with Tim Johnson, put together our informational tape on VdC. Fred Schneider read a tribute to Oran as the group watched a Power Point presentation.

Other Announcements: Ron announced that the small groups would meet in the same spots as the night before. Anyone can feel free to join any group if he or she did not group last night.

People were asked to make corrections to the roster that had been distributed and asked to make a note that Light in the Desert Via de Cristo is in Nevada, not Arizona.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Business Session Three *Saturday, July 26, 2003*

Doug Burrows, president, called the meeting to order; he announced that both the "bio" forms for the two nominees for the office of secretary and committee reports were being distributed to all delegates.

The first order of business was to proceed with the election of the secretary. Doug asked that the two nominees, Su Kralj and Vi Christiansen, come forward and introduce themselves to the assembly while the ballots were being distributed.

Committee Reports

AV Committee: Bob Northrup, chairman, reported that the Audio-Video committee is working on fine-tuning the script for the proposed videotape. The committee hopes to complete it by November for approval and modification. He also reported that our website would contain a "Share Section" where material can be either copied or inserted for sharing with others. Videos from this year's meeting are already complete and will be sent to the Distribution Center where they will be copied and available for purchase. Unfortunately, the videos from the 2002 meeting have not yet been completed.

Constitution Committee: Fred Schneider, chairman, reported that, although he had hoped to have the

document ready for this year's meeting, some changes and insertions still remain to be made in order for the constitution to comply with requirements of both the state of Minnesota and the IRS. These items will be integrated into the document and a Minnesota attorney will examine it to see if it complies with Minnesota law.

Committee on Hosting: Tracy Ziemke reported on what hosting and NLS meeting might look like in the future. Tennessee VdC will host our 2004 meeting at a college that is east of Knoxville; Jim Larson is the contact person. Vineyard VdC and Rainbow Christian Community will host our 2005 meeting in the Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania area; Diane Foor is the contact person. Tracy asked for input and especially for ideas on how to help fund the host committee through various grants and donations. She asked that both individuals and secretariats consider sending donations to the host committees.

Doug expanded on the hosting process and explained why we need to meet in different areas of the country. He felt that it is possible to meet our meeting expenses and that growth of NLS could be enhanced by holding our meetings in different geographic areas.

Long Range Planning: Ron Millard said that the NLS Board would be tackling the three items highlighted in their report. These are 1) to analyze our annual meeting to determine future direction; 2) to analyze and suggest changes in our governance—officers and board; and, 3) to analyze our delegate apportionment. The Board will appoint people to work on the document submitted by Tim Johnson. Their hope is to get together several times during the year to work on this project.

Newsletter: Judy Laabs-Foss, editor, said that her committee spent time sharing information about individual secretariat newsletters. She invited people to contact her and ask for help if needed. Future plans include having *Conexiones* published totally by e-mail. Both past and current issues are already being published on the NLS website and available for anyone to download and print. Out of the total list of atten-

dees only 21 do not list e-mails. Mike Swecker asked if all in attendance would be willing to receive e-mail notification when a new newsletter is available on the website. Phil Lustig made a motion that all persons present at this annual meeting be provided with such an e-mail notice. Seconded by Olin Knutson. Fred Schnieder then asked that the motion be amended to read that those who want a hard copy have the option to request one. Seconded by Larry Llewellyn. Phil and Olin accepted the amendment. During the discussion of the motion, Bob Northrup asked if it would be feasible for secretariats to notify all Cursillistas in their communities; this would multiply the number of persons who have access to the newsletter. Lois Witham suggested that it might be possible to include a link on the local secretariats' websites. Someone else asked if we could put a declaration in so people can reject receiving notification if it is not wanted. Another person asked if both husband and wife, if applicable, would receive notice; response was that both should receive notice. Kirk Danielson called for the question; Joe Nilson seconded. Motion to implement e-mailing of newsletter was carried.

Palanca: Teri Meier who chaired the committee meeting was not present. Attendees were asked to read the committee report that had been distributed.

Spiritual Directors: Pastor Larry Llewellyn reported that their group had discussed problems with spiritual directors within the individual secretariats. The consensus of the group was that spiritual directors serving on the weekends should be faithful in attending team meetings and should also have their talks critiqued.

Phil Lustig moved that all committee reports be accepted as presented. Seconded by LaWave Speck. Motion Carried.

Election: Doug announced that Su Kralj had been elected to the office of NLS secretary.

Budget and Finance Committee: Diane Purcell, treasurer, recognized and thanked all those who had served

on her committee and in particular, Jerry Lemcke who has helped her for a number of years. She reported an error in the preliminary report she had handed out on Thursday. That report showed that Indian River VdC had not paid their dues and that Indiana VdC had. The corrected information is that Indian River has paid their dues but Indiana has not. She reported that the review of the treasurer's books had shown no discrepancies. Fred Schneider moved that we accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Seconded by Bob Northrup. Motion carried.

Diane then presented the NLS Budget. She explained the three columns and how the expected income was being forecast. She then explained each line item, line by line. A new expense item this year includes money for the Long-Range Planning Committee; the amount for the Video was rolled over from the prior year; a small amount was added as Board discretionary to cover miscellaneous small unanticipated expenses. She noted that this budget is once again a deficit budget and that expenses might exceed anticipated income. As the budget came out of committee, no motion to accept was needed, and the floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the budget was adopted by voice vote.

Old Business: Doug commented that the *Authentic 3-Day Weekend* document needs to be added to our library on CD. He would like to see the Pilgrim's Guide digitized as well. There may be copyright problems with "Arise;" Diane Purcell will ask the publisher if we can include "Arise" in a digital copy.

Debbie Grazier asked why we couldn't use the tune to *Edelweiss*. Pastor Carroll explained that the copyright to this song dictates that no other words may be used with that melody. There was mention of a blessing that Ohio Kairos is using a version of the blessing that can be found at the Via de Cristo "share" site. Phil Lustig said that Gold Coast also has a version that can be put on the "share" site.

New Business: None

Other Business: Tracy Ziemke re-

minded people to turn in their evaluation forms and to take their both their palanca posters and banners home with them. She also reminded people that various crosses were still available for purchase.

At this time Diane Purcell called Lucy Hightower up to the podium to thank her for serving as NLS secretary for the last four years and presented Lucy with a beautiful cross necklace. Tracy then called Doug up to the podium and thanked him for his years of service both as Vice President of Outreach and as President for the last four years. She presented him with a beautiful framed Kincaid print.

The Tennessee group then presented an amusing skit in which all were invited to come to the next NLS meeting in Knoxville. They promised that each room would have its own "outhouse."

Doug recognized Larry Witham, the newly elected president; he then asked for a motion to destroy the ballots for secretary. Motion made by Bob Northrup and seconded by Fred Schneider. Motion carried. Doug announced that Diane was still accepting offering from anyone who forgot about Friday's offering; monies received will be used for outreach. The NLS banner is to be passed to Tennessee at tonight's worship service.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCY HIGHTOWER
NLS Secretary





“Gracias from the Heart ”

The connection between grace and gracias may seem like the two are opposites, with grace as the gift and gracias as the thanks, but Al Sager put a new twist on it when he told us that God is crazy about us, so maybe God’s grace is God’s “Gracias” to us for loving God with all our heart and soul and strength in response to his grace to us.

The 2003 NLS Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, was the first time since February 1981 that I have had the opportunity to “just be there” at the Annual Meeting. I began the NLS database “way back when” and, as Lucy Hightower said, it was “filled with massive amounts” of information.

I began doing the newsletter in 1985 when Judy got elected Secretary. At that time it was the part of the secretary’s job description to do the newsletter, so we did it together. I can’t recall exactly when the position became an appointment, but I did the newsletter for 17 years before handing over the typesetter to Judy Laabs-Foss in 2002. The editor is considered part of the Executive Board without vote, so I had been on the Executive Board more than twice as long as our past president, Doug Burrows, who was the next longest member of the Board at 8 years.

Editing the Conexiones has been a labor of love as well as an excuse for upgrading my computer every once in a while. I still have my hand in editing newsletters by training my members to edit our church newsletter.

I was overwhelmed by Saturday evening, Doug Burrow’s gracious words, and the precision interruption by the serenaders with “De Colores”. The “plaque” is beautiful, even with my picture in the middle of it, and I will never forget the honor you all have given me. ***Gracias from the Heart.***

Carroll Lang, former Conexiones Editor

NLS Honors Carroll Lang

The NLS came to a rousing climax Saturday evening at the annual banquet in honor of The Rev. Carroll Lang, a guiding light for the NLS for many years. He retired this year as editor of *Conexiones*.

The Ohio and Good News! communities served the banquet. Rev. Lang was introduced and praised for his service by outgoing President Doug Burrows, who presented him a large plaque that depicted his service to Via de Cristo.

Rev. Lang related how he was among the brave few that wrote the NLS Constitution in 1981. He said by-laws change over time, but the Constitution is pretty much the same as that original. He helped write talks, manuals and outlines. In looking for a name for a newsletter, he scanned the English-Spanish dictionary, and found *Conexiones*, now emblazoned across front page of every newsletter.

He quoted Romans 1:24, saying prophets call us to be true and to stick to the basics. The same applies to Via de Cristo, keep it pure, keep it simple and resist change.

He has held many important posts in NLS over the years, including spiritual director.

He was saying when he heard *DeColores* the first time he thought it was awful. Just then more than 100 serenaders marched in loudly singing “All in color, all in color...” That effectively ended his speech, but conveyed to him the great love the 300 or so admirers in the room had for him.



"COME TO OL' ROCKY TOP IN 2004"

The NLS did not know some apparent relatives of the Clampetts were at Capital University until they "invaded" the National Meeting with an invitation to "Come to Ol' Rocky Top" in 2004.

The invitation was among the most gracious and inspiring this editor has ever heard! The clincher was, of course, the offering of a "separate outhouse" in every room! Opened by a hillbilly from New York, the Tennessee Secretariat gave the gathering assembled a "foretaste" of what's to come at the National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting at Johnson Bible College, east of Knoxville, Tennessee, in July 2004.

To help the Clampett relatives persuade us to "c'mon down", they brought Gramaw and Grampaw, a "baar" (spelled b-e-a-r in Ohio), persuaded an Oak Ridge scientist to share his latest discovery, and featured a "cham-peen" Tennessee Volunteer and cheerleaders! The group also serenaded us hillbilly fashion. The star of the show was that "up front" country and western singer, Dolly Parton. We didn't know she had a beard!

All the monkeyshines were to issue a sincere invitation to the next NLS meeting, according to Jan Larson, Host Committee Chair for the event. She said that no one should come to "God's Country" just for a meeting, but for all the other wonderful attractions – the Great Smokey Mountains, Oak Ridge, river boating on the Tennessee River, and of course, Dollywood. See you in Tennessee in 2004!



Spiritual Director's Column

GOD'S GRACE THE HEART OF IT ALL

That about says it for the gathering we just attended in Columbus, Ohio. I don't believe that I have had so much fun before all because of great work by the host committee but the topic chosen for our gathering. From the opening worship to the closing on Saturday night everyone just got better. Our speakers on the subject of GRACE opened my eyes to new meaning for God's work. God is still active in our world and we need to share the Grace of God with all people.

I enjoyed seeing some old friends and making some new ones. One of the joys for me is hearing how others do their weekends and hearing of God at work with all the different situations so long as we stick to the basics and pray, pray, pray. We took in four new movements as we are growing slowly but with enthusiasm. We had the largest gathering on record and that in it self generated a lot of spirit. It was people sharing the grace of God in their lives and their movements. Awe inspiring stories that moved me to think of some of the many ways that God has chosen to lift me up, to get my attention and to grace me with His presence.

Congratulations to Rev. Carroll Lang for his many years of service both as Spiritual Director and editor of the NLS newspaper. His service has been faithful and true. God bless you Carroll.

As you can read I am just full of myself. The subject matter does that. The love of God knows no bounds. He loves His people with a love that does not end, even when we walk away. It is the love that comes from God to us because He wants us to love Him. Yes my friends in Christ it is GOD'S GRACE, THE HEART OF IT ALL.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Larry Llewellyn



Rev. Larry Llewellyn

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**Reflections of
NLS 2003**

Throughout this newsletter you will find a theme; this was a year to celebrate. All the Glory, Praise and Honor go to our Lord in all that he is doing through the Via de Cristo movement to bring others to Christ. As I reflect back to the five days (which includes Wednesday's board meeting), we were on a journey, much like working a weekend. There were jobs to do, people to meet and greet, an agenda to follow, decisions to be made, along with time for fellowship. I am told that this was the largest attended in the NLS history, including the largest number of new attendees. A picture of the new attendees can be found on page 30. How exciting to recognize new communities beginning to grow. Read more in Ron Millard's report on page 31. Also on page 31, Tracy Ziemke summarizes our evaluations and how communication is the Key. It was a time to honor Carroll Lang and you will find his reflections on page 10. We welcome our new board members; President Larry Witham and Secretary Su Kralj. Learn more about them on page 3. We also extend a BIG Thank You for our board members; Doug Burrows, past president and Lucy Hightower, past secretary for their service these past years. Pastor Larry Llewellyn shares his spiritual insights on page 18. A bittersweet celebration was the tribute to Oran Gough who now walks on streets of Gold, read more on page 5. Then hear from Diane Purcell our treasurer as she reports our financial

status on pages 32-34, including the offering amount for outreach. As this year fades into memory we can now begin to dream about our travels in 2004 to the great state of Tennessee. I have already begun to pray that we do not see that "baar" (spelled bear for those of us in other parts of the nation). We learned a lot in our weekend to take back and share with our secretariats. Lord willing, may we all be together next year to again celebrate what the Lord has done in our lives and communities.

Judy Laabs-Foss, Editor

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. Psalm 63:2-5 NIV

Improving Communication -

Flow of Info

At the 1996 NLS Annual Meeting, it was suggested that more articles and information be shared both from local secretariat newsletters in Conexiones, and also articles from Conexiones reprinted in local secretariat newsletters.

It has always been the policy to grant permission to any secretariat wishing to reproduce an article from Conexiones in its newsletter, in fact, it is encouraged. The NLS Executive Board only asks that you print the article as is and list the author and source (Conexiones, or credit at end or beginning of article).

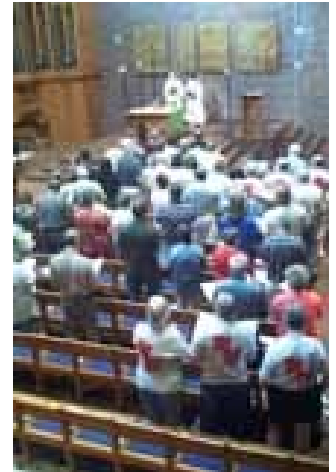
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out who, in your movement, is online, or ask a computer friend for help.

This communication can be done two ways, too, and your editors could provide the articles via e-mail to the myself at jer2911@comcast.net.

- Judy Laabs-Foss, Editor

Below and on the right are more pictures from the 2003 NLS meeting in Ohio



Record Registration!

NLS 2003 is a record breaker for registrations!

You have just read through 192 names and addresses of the attendees listed in these five and half pages. This beats the previous held record of 154 attendees by almost 25 percent. What a Great turnout. It was also a record number of new attendees as you can in the picture below.

More importantly, many more people will be going back to their communities and sharing what they learned about Christ's Grace. Grace truly is the Heart of it All!

Welcome New Movements

Ron Millard
Outreach Vice President



What a pleasure for me to welcome four new secretariats to the NLS at this year's meeting in Columbus. Presented as new members were Taste of Grace Via de Cristo of the Chicago suburbs, River's Edge Via de Cristo of the St. Louis/Southern Illinois areas, Light in the Desert Via de Cristo from Las Vegas, and Prairie Sunshine Via de Cristo located in Jacksonville, IL.

Taste of Grace has already held their first weekends, while Light in the Desert and Prairie Sunshine will have had their first weekends by the time you read this. River's Edge has first weekends scheduled for early November.

While these are certainly success stories based on much hard work and a lot of time by many devoted individuals, there are other new movements being formed that still need your (our) help. Help from us in prayers, and in particular more of God's helpers. I invite you to visit the NLS web site and follow the links for new movements. There you will find other parts of the country where there is the desire by some people for new movements, but they don't have enough helpers to move forward. Do you live in proximity of one of these? Are you available to help? Do you want to help? Is God calling you (On what do I spend my free time?) to at least investigate the possibility of helping start a

new movement in one of these parts of the country?

I don't have room in this magazine to display many pictures, but I'm going to include one at this time. This is a picture taken in Renton, WA in early July where I met with some folks there who desire to see Via de Cristo brought to the Seattle area. From left to right: Blake and Jan Ozias, Pastor Ken Wyneken, Ron and Linda Becker, and Mary Olson. They are excited about the prospects of bringing others closer to Christ through a Via de Cristo experience. They have formed a secretariat and are in the process of being incorporated in the state of Washington. They could use a few more people on their secretariat, so again, if you have an opportunity to help, please contact them. Their contact information is on the NLS web site.

One final note. I would like to thank those who supported me for another two-year term as outreach vice president on the NLS executive board. I will do my best to help Via de Cristo continue to grow in Christ's Grace, which is really the heart of it all.

God is good (all the time!)
All the time (God is good!)

Ron Millard
Outreach vice president

Thank you Ohio / Good News!!

Tracy Ziemke
VP Administration

What a meeting. Most of the evaluations are in and the overall results were favorable! I heard your concerns regarding housing and knowing more up front. So I would like to inform you now that we will be staying at Johnson Bible College, near Knoxville. The rooms/suites have private baths. The college is a totally air conditioned facility and handicap accessible.

Limitations up front? If you are a smoker, please know that this is a smoke free campus. That means that no where on the campus is smoking allowed including the grounds.

I want you to know that we had over 80 surveys returned, which is very good and by in large we had great comments on the evaluations.... constructive comments on things we can use in the future. Some comments reflect that attendees do not understand or feel the flow of the national setting. We hope to clarify that, but please know that anytime someone is "new" to surroundings there is much to be learned and appreciated. Personal preferences regarding food, housing and the setting must be taken into consideration only in light of the whole. We are not staying at Hilton Head in condos. We are trying to be practical while facilitating an wonderful opportunity to learn more.

Our speakers were well received and they will be microphoned next year. We will try to clarify the topics ahead of time, give you a tentative schedule of events and have a registration ready for you by January.

Speaking of registrations... many of you did not fill out the registration form completely. Information is not kept from year to year and so it is important that everyone (including 20 year veterans) need to fill

out the application. We try to keep it to one page for your convenience. Items like health, disability, handicap or special "needs" are important for us to know. Many of you noticed this year was not particularly handicap friendly, but we got practically no response to say that should have been a concern. So, please, let us know your needs so that we may meet them to the best of our ability.

Music and worship had good, excellent and inspiring results by the majority. The prayer chapel and palanca will be noted up front next year so that more people may participate in one way or another. And last but not least we will continue the small groups. I did hear your concerns regarding those that struggled with staying on track, and frustrations with "dominators". We will take a look at the structure of those. It did sound like, for the most part, the groups were beneficial and attendees would like us to continue. If you would be interested in facilitating a small group discussion please look for that box on your registration form and clearly mark it.

Thank you for your time in filling out the evaluations. This was a great meeting and I look for many more to come. Communication is the key, so please feel free to communicate to anyone on the board – grace-full-ly of course ☺

God Loves you and so do I!
Tracy Ziemke
VP Administration





Treasurer's Report

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY SECRETARIAT For the Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2003

DeColores!

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your treasurer. Being the treasurer for an organization that truly understands JOG, has made my job very easy.

The NLS funds are currently in a checking and savings account with Wells Fargo Bank and an investment account at Strong Investments. The investment account is a Strong Money Market Fund and NLS has not had any loss of funds in this volatile time in the markets.

The preliminary reports are presented here and the final reports will be issued at the annual meeting if any adjustments are necessary. The report of inventory on hand at the end of the fiscal year is also included.

I would like to thank Dick and Isabel Emery for their dedication to operating the NLS Distribution Center. The records are in great shape and reports are very informative. The current inventory sheet prepared by Dick and Isabel is included with this report. There are old invoices outstanding on the Distribution Center's records. Please have someone from your secretariat check the list of unpaid invoices to see if you can help us clear some of these from the books.

Contributions by secretariats exceeded budget! This year several secretariats caught up some prior year's contributions. Thanks to all for your dedication to NLS.

The Conexiones has had some format changes. Please let our new editor, Judy Laabs-Foss know what you think! People have been requesting more articles and additional information. The Conexiones can be received by e-mail and the website. The Conexiones is posted on the NLS website. An e-mail notification will be sent to those who wish to receive the Conexiones via the website. PLEASE submit your e-mail address so that we can add you to the website list and remove your name from the printed copy list. The savings on printing and postage costs can be very significant!

As a reminder, please remain current in your corporate registration as required by your state. Also, you should monitor your status as a 501(c)(3) organization with the IRS. Several members have contacted me with questions regarding finances, IRS issues etc. I am here to serve you, so please remember that I am ready and willing to help you navigate through the technicalities.

May God Bless all of you!

Your sister in Christ,
Diane S Purcell
Treasurer

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Colorado VdC	250
Damascus VdC of CNY	250
Eastern NC VdC	250
Gold Coast VdC Inc (FL)	270
Heart of Florida VdC	250
Heart of IL VdC	250
Indian River VdC	250
Indiana Lutheran VdC	0
Iowa Lutheran Secretariat	250
LA Lutheran VdC	0
Lighthouse VdC (FL)	250
Living Waters VdC	250
Lutheran Cursillo Movement of AZ	0
Lutheran VdC of C Michigan	250
Lutheran VdC of Minnesota	1034
Lutheran VdC of Utah	250
MI Good News VdC	500
Nebraska Lutheran VdC - Reorganizing	0
North Texas Lutheran Secretariat	250
Pittsburg VdC - inactive	0
Rainbow VdC	250
SC Lutheran VdC	250
Sonbeam VdC (FL) (2002, 2003)	500
Sonshine North VdC (FL) (2002, 2003)	500
Sonshine South VdC Movement (FL)	250
South Dakota VdC	250
Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC	150
TENN Lutheran VdC	250
Texas Lutheran VdC	250
VdC of Ohio	250
VdC of So Cal and Central Valley	250
Vineyard VdC (2002, 2003)	500
W North Carolina VdC	0
Wisconsin Sunrise VdC (2001,2002,2003)	750
Yellowstone Via de Cristo	0

TOTAL

\$9,704

<i>PRELIMINARY</i>	NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT					<i>PRELIMINARY</i>
	STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY					
	For the Twelve Months Ending May 31, 2003					
	General Fund	Distribution Center	Video Fund	Memorial Fund	Outreach Fund	Total
CASH BALANCE June 1, 2002	\$17,279	\$4,607	\$2,860	\$150	\$4,202	\$29,098
Contributions - Secretariats	9,704					9,704
Palanca	3,225				856	4,081
Subscriptions	10					10
Memorials	0			25		25
Interest	224					224
Distribution Center	0	8,995				8,995
TOTAL INCOME	13,163	8,995	0	25	856	23,039
EXPENSES						
President	832					832
VP Administration	182					182
VP Outreach	1,960				142	2,102
Treasurer	343					343
Secretary	630					630
Spiritual Director	191					191
Past President	0					0
Newsletter Editor	136					136
Conference Calls	602					602
Telephone 800#	261					261
Newsletter	2,182					2,182
Web Site and Software	455					455
Administration & Postage	155					155
Annual Meeting	4,134					4,134
Mid-year Meeting	25					25
Authentic 3 Day	0					0
Lay Talk	290					290
Printing and Reproduction	574					574
Designated Board Authorized	0					0
Video	0					0
Outreach	0					0
Distribution Center						0
Annual Meeting		938				
Postage		1,230				1,230
Printing		9,783				9,783
Supplies		111				111
Tape Duplicating		388				388
Telephone						0
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,951	12,450	0	0	142	24,605
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	212	(3,455)	0	25	714	(2,504)
CASH BALANCE May 31, 2003	\$17,491	\$1,152	\$2,860	\$175	\$4,916	\$26,594

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT
(A Minnesota Not-for-Profit Corporation)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of May 31, 2003

ASSETS	End-of- May 31, 2003	Beginning of Fiscal Year May 31, 2002
Cash - General Fund	\$2,375	\$7,580
Cash - Distribution Center	1,152	4,760
NLS Savings	7,033	1,020
Investment	<u>16,034</u>	<u>15,890</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$26,594</u>	<u>\$29,250</u>
 NET ASSETS		
Restricted		
Video Fund	\$2,860	\$2,860
Outreach Fund	4,916	4,273
Memorial Fund	175	150
Unrestricted - General Fund	17,491	17,207
Unrestricted - Distribution	<u>1,152</u>	<u>4,760</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$26,594</u>	<u>\$29,250</u>

For Internal Use Only

To His Glory

Thank You to the Attendees of the NLS 2003 annual meeting! The offering taken for outreach purposes was **\$2,094.50!** What wonderful things NLS will be able to do because of your generosity and dedication to the Via de Cristo movement. May God shower blessings on all of you!



Palanca!!!

For Future weekends

All pending weekends for the next six months from publication will be printed in each Conexiones

- August 2003 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Men's #13 August 14-17, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- August 2003 - Texas: **North Texas VDC**, Coed #60 Aug 14-17, Send palanca to: Lilly Gholston 401 Campbell Ln Denton, TX 76209-4580
- September 2003 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Men's #53: Sept. 4-7 & Women's #53 : Sept. 25-28, Send palanca to: Deborah Young 3450 Patterson Rd. China Grove, NC 28023-7735
- September 2003 - Indiana: **Indiana VdC**, Men's #46, Sept. 11-14 & Women's #47: Sept. 18-21, Send palanca to: Perry Powers 621 N. Main St. Monticello, IN 47960
- September 2003 - Michigan: **VdC of Central Michigan**, Men's #60, Sept. 11-14 & Women's #60: Sept. 18-21, Send palanca to: Charles Bash 1304 Brentwood Dr. Midland, MI 48640
- September 2003 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #44: Sept. 17-21 & Women's #44: Sept. 24-28, Send palanca to: Tom Collinge 1974 North River Drive Jacksonville, FL 32211
- September 2003 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-South**, Peace; Winthrop Men's #419, Sept.18-21 & Women's #420: Sept. 25-28, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- September - So. Carolina: **VDC**, Women's #26: Sept. 25-28, Send palanca to: Rosemarie Doucette 3120 Columbia Rd Orangeburg, SC 29118
- September 2003 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida** Women's #89 Sept. 25-28, Send palanca to: Tony & Debbi Basone 9129D S.W. 20th Place Ft Lauderdale, FL 33324
- September/October 2003 - Illinois: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Men's #2: Sept. 25-28 & Women's #2: Oct. 2-5, Send palanca to: Christina Spiros 1101 Highland Ave. Joliet, IL 60435
- September/October 2003 - Ohio: **VDC of Central OH**, Men's #52: Sept. 25-28 & Women's #50: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Barb Ostemeier 8227 Baytree Ct. West Chester, OH 85069
- September/October 2003 - Utah: **VDC of UT**, Men's: Sept. 25-28 & Women's: Oct. 2-5, Send palanca to: Carolyn Drain 903 Dupler Rd. Sandy, UT 84092
- October 2003 - IA/IL: **Living Waters VDC**, Men's #28: Oct. 2-5 & Women's #28: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Tom & Theresa Oloffson 122 E 2nd St. P.O. Box 207 Wyandot, IL 61379
- October 2003 - MD/VA: **Rainbow VDC**, Men's #43: Oct. 2-5 & Women's #46: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Karen Schatz 9530 Sea Gull Court No Beach, MD 20714

- October 2003 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-North**, Our Savior's, Cloquet; Men's #421, Oct. 2-5 & Women's #422: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- October 2003 - Texas: **TX Luth VDC**, Men #49: Oct. 2-5 & Women's #49: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Mark Clayton 181 Notchleaf Cibolo, TX 78108
- October 2003 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #95: Oct. 9-12 & Women's #96: Oct. 23-26, Send palanca to: Roy Heitkamp PO Box 5171 Peoria, AZ 85385-5171
- October 2003 - Arizona: **Southern AZ VDC** Men's #95: Oct. 9-12 & Women's #96: Nov. 6-9, Send palanca to: Sally Watts 7310 S Camino Mirlo Tucson, AZ 85747
- October 2003 - AR/OK: **A-OK Lutheran Sec.**, Coed #8: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Becky Del Rio 18115 Fawn Tree Dr. Little Rock, AR 72209
- October 2003 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men's #50: Oct. 9-12 & Women's #48: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Mike & Anna Seden 1310 Wopod Park Dr. Kennesaw, GA 30152
- October 2003 - Illinois: **Hearthland of IL VDC**, Men's #11: Oct. 9-12 & Women's #12: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Natalee Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- October 2003 - Indiana: **Indiana VDC**, Men's #47: Oct. 9-12 & Women's #48: May 1-4, Send palanca to: Perry Powers 621 N. Main Street Monticello, IN 47960
- October 2003 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #33, Oct. 9-12 & Women's #33: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- October 2003 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Faith, Coon Rapids; Men's #423, Oct. 9-12 & Women's #424: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- October 2003 - SC: **South Carolina VDC**, Coed #4: Oct. 9-12, Send palanca to: Rosemarie Doucette 3120 Columbia Rd. Orangeburg, SC 29118-2062
- October 2003 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #10: Oct. 16-19, Send palanca to: Debra Wainner 100016 Gate Post Way Knoxville, TN 37931
- October 2003 - California: **So. California & the Central Valley VDC**, Coed #17: Oct. 23-26, Send palanca to: Chuck Mattson 4450 California Ave. PMB K171 Bakersfield, CA 93309
- Oct/Nov 2003 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC** Men's #29: Oct 30-Nov 2, Women's #29: Nov 6-9, Send palanca to: Sheila Bender % St John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave Winter Park, FL 32789
- November 2003 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men's #15: Nov 6-9 & Women's #15: Nov 13-16, Send palanca to: Gerry & Karen Givens 5440 Silver Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918
- November 2003 - Florida: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men's #15: Nov 6-9 & Women's #15: Nov 13-16, Send palanca to: Jeanne Constable P O Box 1717 Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- September 2003 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Mixed #19: Nov 6-9, Send palanca to: Deborah Young 3450 Patterson Rd. China Grove, NC 28023-7735
- November 2003 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #46: Nov 13-16, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- November 2003 - Texas: **North Texas VDC**, Coed #61: Nov 13-16, Send palanca to: Lilly Gholston 401 Campbell Ln Denton, TX 76209-4580

Palanca Important to Weekends

Recently, I have heard from some of the Palanca Coordinators for various Secretariats. They are having trouble getting general palanca for weekends. I wanted to make sure that each of you, not just coordinators, were aware of the resources available to help in sending palanca from you or your secretariat.

The key resource for obtaining information on weekends is the web site. The web site is www.viadecristo.org. Once in the site you can follow the links to the palanca page. The site is updated as I receive new information but usually at least monthly. The web site has a listing of weekends throughout the country and occasionally other countries. Currently listings are for 2003 and 2004. You can easily prepare palanca in advance since many of the dates are quite far out. Occasionally, I receive a late weekend date and that may be difficult to react to. You should check the site frequently to make sure you have these last minute updates. These listings include the dates, type of weekend, Secretariat and the palanca contact. This information allows you to easily send palanca for any of these weekends. Coordinators need to make sure they request palanca for their local weekends. In most cases the request will be honored.

Each of you can help Secretariats receive palanca by creating some. Creating palanca is a lot of work and that is one of the things that make it so very significant, but making things is not enough. The other important element is that the process be driven by prayer. I am sure that each of you received palanca from someone that you didn't know. When people see palanca from someone they don't even know, it can be very powerful. If you wonder about the real meaning of palanca, there is a button on the palanca site labeled "What is the real purpose of Palanca?" Reading this article should reinforce what you need to do to make palanca for a weekend and not just a gift. I would caution everyone that sending an email containing an attachment does not constitute Palanca. Prayer and sacrifice are critical to this process.

If you ever have questions on palanca, please contact me via email at mcames@greenspeedisp.net.

Mark Carnes
 NLS Palanca Coordinator

NLS Distribution Center

Richard Emery, Director Phone: (239) 590-8958
E-Mail: ricisa@aol.com

Annual Meeting Items Available

Dick Emery announces that all the material that was available at the 2003 Annual Meeting and video tapes from the meeting are available from the Distribution Center, as well as the shirts and the material that are on the order form.



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— NLS Executive Board



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<http://www.viadechristo.org>

Webmaster: Bob Northrup

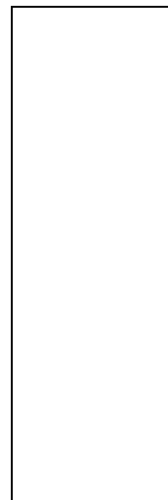
CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

Are you interested in saving the NLS money? Please sign up to receive the E-Mail Notification by filling out the E-Mail Notification Request Form. How this works is that you will receive an email notification when the latest edition of the Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page. You then can view the newsletter at your leisure and chose to copy it.



Judy Laabs-Foss
4495 Margaret Street
White Bear Township, MN 55110-3773

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