



Connecting National and Local Secretariats

Volume 22
Number 2
May 2004

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

**NLS 2004 Annual Meeting
July 22 — 25, 2004 in Knoxville, Tennessee**

Time is passing! The 2004 National Meeting will be history before too long. You still have the opportunity to be part of that history. Register today! Many options are available. Use the on-line form. Or, download the form from the website, complete it and mail it along with your check. Or get a copy of the form from your Lay Director. But don't delay—the early registration deadline is June 22, and only a limited number of registrations will be available after that date. You surely don't want to miss out on this opportunity for...

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National Lutheran Secretariat
Conexiones-on-the-web
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E-Mail Notification

Please notify me by E-Mail when the latest edition of **Conexiones** has been posted on the NLS Web Page

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Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Name of Secretariate _____

Position on Secretariat: _____

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Write in large letters - be very clear, computers rely on EXACT information



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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 1st, April 1st, August 15th, and November 1st

DeColores, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's springtime and all the trees are budding in North Carolina. God's creative hand shows in His nature all around us. The warm breezes, bright sunshine, and Carolina blue sky reminds me that God is all around us. This special time of year also makes me think about our theme for this years' NLS Annual meeting, *Created, Called, and Commissioned*. He created each one of us, and He continues to create beauty all around us.

We may not always be able to see beauty in everything around us, but it is there. Recently I heard that every experience we have in life should be a learning experience or one for our amusement. Too often we take ourselves far to serious. That sounds pretty simple, but how often do we see right past something beautiful and focus on the negative.

Lois and I went to the movies and saw *The Passion of the Christ*. What a moving experience for everyone who witnesses that epic film. Sure, I like you know the story and how it is described in *The Holy Bible*, but when you see the soldier's torture, whip, and beat Him you just want them to stop. Then to see them make Him pick up the cross, carry it, and still keep beating Him; it's hard to watch.

We were in a small theater with about a dozen other couples. Two couples got up and left when the torture began and they didn't return. I'm sorry they didn't get to see the end of the story. Which reminds me of the Easter story our Pastor told us about a small boy in our church who came in the house in tears and told his mother and older brother that they had killed Jesus. His older brother then asked him, "didn't you hear the rest of the story?" He told him that after three days he arose from the grave and He lives. The little boy then jumped in the air and said "whoopie!" What a wonderful way for a small boy to say "Alleluia!"

I hope you and your family had a joyous Easter. We have a Lord who loves us very much. He died for our sins and arose again that we might have everlasting life. Learn something from each of your experiences or find some humor in them. Our gracious Lord created us, called us, and commissioned us to go forth and make disciples for Him. Let us share the good news!

Peace and joy,
Larry Witham, NLS President

Conexiones Subscription

About 350 of you are choosing to obtain the Conexiones through mail delivery. The suggested annual donation is **\$6.00** and can be sent to the treasurer, address is found on page two. Please help us to be good stewards of these materials and we thank you in advance for you payment. Again if you would prefer to receive an email notification, just fill out the E-Mail Notification Request Form that can be found on the web.

Distribution Center Manager Needed

Our National Distributions Center is in need of a manager. This is a position that is appointed by the NLS executive board and is a renewable position. The position is best suited for someone who enjoys working with inventory and basic accounting.

The manager would be responsible for:

- 1.) Attendance at the annual meeting to display NLS resources.
- 2.) Handling orders and distributing items in a timely manner.
- 3.) Handling the inventory, receipts and distribution of all Via de Cristo materials except the weekend crosses.
- 4.) Operating its own books of record and checking account. (NLS currently uses Quick Books to merge with the Treasurer so that reports may be presented in the Excel format.
- 5.) Ordering or reproducing items as needed and will pay its own invoices.
- 6.) Reimbursed for approved NLS expenses that are incurred.
- 7.) Providing accounting reports to the NLS executive board as needed. (Usually to the treasurer on an annual basis).

If you think God is calling you to step forth and serve in this capacity, please respond to **Larry Witham**. His addresses and phone numbers can be found on page 2..



Order Forms

In this current newsletter you will not find the usual order forms for our NLS materials or tapes and the numerous crosses from Symbols, Inc. Those forms can now be found on the web and can be downloaded as needed. This change will save you time in scrolling down or copying forms that you may not need each time the newsletter comes out. I have also put a smaller version of the email request on page two as a reminder to sign up, but that too can be downloaded off the web. This change has been done to continue to be good stewards of our resources, since it will save us and you time and money in printing costs. We are aware that not everyone has access to the web and email service. If you are in need of either form, we encourage you to talk to someone in your secretariat who can obtain a copy of that form for you. Don't hesitate to contact the board with any of your questions in this change. Their address, phone numbers and email addresses can be found on page two. Thank You!

NLS Board Minutes - Mid-Year Meeting December 5-7, 2003

1:30 P.M. Friday, December 5, President Larry Witham called the meeting to order and Larry Llewellyn opened in prayer. Others present were Diane Purcell, Judy Laabs-Foss, Tracy Ziemke, Ron Millard and Su Kralj.

Administration: Tracy gave an overview of the 2004 site. We will be touring the site Saturday. Ideas for the 2004-meeting theme include volunteer, servant hood and grace. The board will develop ideas for the theme during another session this weekend and present it to the host committee, if they have not yet come up with one.

Tracy gave us a verbal report in September and followed it with a written report for the mid-year meeting based on the evaluations from the July 2003 annual meeting. The board dialoged over the responses. Tracy then presented survey results.

The overall experience in Ohio was good. The theme went well, the speakers did a great job, the location was the beautiful Trinity Lutheran Seminary outside of Columbus Ohio and the Ohio/Good News groups were able to pass on "seed" money to the next hosts. We had some technical difficulties and a few glitches, but by in large, this was a very successful annual meeting boasting of the largest crowd ever.

Some comments and suggestions for future consideration:

- 1.) Registration: publicity and reminders worked well. Don't rely on e-mail and have "on site" directions clearly marked.
- 2.) Transportation: was suggested that vans not be used. They are too difficult for many people to board.
- 3.) Facility was excellent in many ways. Consider not placing the hospitality area too close to business meeting, if at all possible the chairs in the Chapel were too hard.
- 4.) Food: average to excellent, possibly consider a more vegetarian approach. Help people understand we are not eating at hotels or restaurants.
- 5.) Worship services were well re-

ceived, other than a few personal preferences. Let Pastors know if they have a time limit or if they are going over their time limit.

6.) Housing: This was our tough spot. Concerns in the areas of temperature, cleanliness, and difficulty for elderly, disabled or handicapped people to move around. Suggested more blankets

7.) Hospitality was excellent: host committee helpful & friendly. Snacks were good & plenty. Hygiene items did not appear to be available - no Kleenex or extra necessities.

8.) Office Support: this service was not actually used by very many people so it was hard to evaluate

9.) Palanca Team: dominate comment - people were not aware of the chapel and prayer opportunities, even though it was mentioned several times during business meetings.

10.) Organizational Process: Appeared to run smoothly. Business meetings were on time.

Seventy-eight surveys were returned. Other comments returned to us included:

Attendees would like to have had the titles of seminars ahead of time and possibly outlines. Keynote was excellent. Some felt Pastor Ed Simonson was hard to hear due to technical difficulties. He did an excellent presentation addressing the whole weekend rather than just the grace talks. Talk was moving and inspirational. Weekend leadership seminar was good. Mike's talk was positive although some felt he was a little hard to hear, due to technical difficulties, and that he could have addressed the issue with a little more depth. Small group discussions are still being received well, for the most part and we will continue to build on these in the future. There was a suggestion to create a group for lay directors.

A resounding "Yes", our annual meeting was refreshing. A noticeable appreciation on the emphasis on the essentials - unity of purpose, seemed to have been stepped up a notch. A few evaluations had statements and ques-

tions about using ecumenical pastors in the worship services. We are a Lutheran movement and although we hold ecumenical weekends, our worship at the National meeting has focused on using Lutheran pastors. The AV department/team did an outstanding job. The seminar is available on tape and is awesome. The 2003 host committee's final report was turned in and reviewed.

Tracy has identified the need to re-vamp the registration form along with the verbiage addressing "late fee" instead of using the term "discount". Discussion on the last date for early registration verses late registration fees will be finalized by the next meeting.

The Board then began a discussion on establishing an outline (agenda) for the 2004 annual NLS meeting. Ideas for forums and seminars were looked at from the past five years to use as guidelines for the up coming meeting.

Diane Purcell brought up the issue of the revised constitution & by laws. The letter from attorney Mary Probst dated 12/3/03 and Fred Schneider's faxed notes were then read. After a discussion, Tracy moved to accept recommendations made in a letter dated 12/3/03, by attorney Mary Probst. Judy seconded, all voted yes, motion carried.

Motion is made by Tracy to pass corporate resolution authorizing the Minn. registered address to be changed to 8303 Ingleside Ave. S. Cottage Grove, MN 55016. Seconded by Larry L., further discussion; passed, motion carried.

Motion is made by Diane to pass corporate resolution authorizing President Larry Witham and Vice President of Administration, Tracy Ziemke, to sign Minnesota's Charities Report. Seconded by Ron, discussion, unanimously passed, motion carried.

Motion is made by Larry L. to pass minutes of the 9/14/03 tele-conference call be approved as corrected. All in favor unanimously voted yes, motions carried. Meeting recessed for dinner.

At this point Jan & Bill Larson (Tenn. Host Committee Chair) joined our 8:40 p.m. meeting. A discussion of the cost over runs from past annual meetings was presented. Diane cautioned Jan to be careful with making a realistic financial budget for 2004. Jan said her committee would be deciding on a theme tomorrow. The Board will meet her at 9:00 a.m. and the rest of the host committee hopefuls at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Johnson Bible College Campus. Jan & Bill depart and the board continues with their meeting.

Next tele-conference dates will be set in February and June 2004. Larry Witham appointed a nominating committee for the 2004 because three seats are up for re-election: Treasurer, VP of Administration and Spiritual Director. Larry W. asked Diane to chair and Larry L to serve on the committee.

Treasurer's Report: Diane presented financials and went over each line item. A motion was made and Larry L seconded to accept 11/30/03 financial. So moved and motion carried.

Diane discussed the issue of MN printing the newsletter for volume 21, issues 1,2,3 & 4. MN wants to be reimbursed \$250.00 for each issue for a total of \$1,000.00, plus postage. A motion was made by Tracy to accept the offer from MN and to pay them for the printing of the four issues. Larry L seconded, all approved, (Diane abstained) motion carried.

Newsletter dates: Lead-time for the newsletter is slated for information to be in by January and mailed around the 1st of February. April is deadline for May 1st newsletter. Larry W. noted the importance of the newsletter as a great communication tool and that its main purpose is to post the minutes.

Ron & Tracy suggest we put a blurb in the cover letter to attendees about how the dollars are allocated from the registration fees.

Ron brought up the issue about updating each of the job descriptions for board members. He suggested each person write his or her own job description and forward to Tracy. We need to

update the 1995 version.

Ron announced that the Long-Range Planning Committee is in place. Leona Fox agreed to chair. Randy Mullin and Phil Lustig will complete the committee and they will meet the last week of January 2004.

Outreach: Ron had an inquiry from New Jersey. He also read a letter from Uganda, S.Africa inquiring about VdC. Meeting recessed until Saturday morning.

Saturday: Jan Larson met the NLS Board and we caravanned to Johnson Bible College. The college liaison led a tour throughout the buildings and the available facilities discussing what rooms could comfortably fit the needs for our business and committee meetings, forums and seminars.

The board began a 1:00 p.m. meeting with the host committee on campus. President Larry W welcomed everyone to our mid-year meeting. Larry L. opened in prayer. Those present from the host committee: Jan & Bill Larson, Doris & Norm Featherston, Angela Moon, Chuck Simmons, Jon McCay, Mark Freeman, Marlin Sterud and Dee Bumpers, Pastors Steve Misenheimer and Joe Nilsen.

Tracy led this section of the meeting. She thoroughly reviewed the responsibilities of the host committee. Then she asked the committee for the theme they selected for the 2004 meeting. Between the NLS Board, and the 2004 host committee members, a theme was selected. The 2004 theme will be: **Created, Call & Commissioned: Go Forth With A Servant's Heart & Volunteer Spirit**

Chuck Simmons, treasurer of the Tennessee Host Committee addressed the meeting about finances and what they felt was a reasonable working budget. Diane Purcell encouraged Chuck with some good information to aid him in his committee work. Angela Moon who is a grant writer and fundraiser asked questions from NLS Board so she can develop ways to bring finances to the working budget. The S.D's assured everyone that they would

include the theme in the worship services. Bill Larson presented Tracy with a revised registration form. The details in the fee section of the form will be worked out shortly. The host committee departed and the NLS Board resumed their meeting.

The NLS Board worked on the committees that would be standing for the 2004 annual meeting and they will be as follows:

<u>COMMITTEES</u>	<u>CHAIRS</u>
Spiritual Directors	Pastor Larry L.
Hosting	Tracy Ziemke
Long Range Planning	Ron Millard
Lay Director Dialog	Pres. Larry W.
Finance	Diane Purcell
Palanca	Su Kralj / Lois Witham & Carlene Lemcke
A.V. Web	Bob Northrup
Newsletter	Judy Laabs-Foss

At this point we began a discussion of the schedule for the July meeting. Tracy had printed a skeleton outline for the annual weekend. She also prepared a 2nd handout with topic suggestions for small groups, seminars & forums. The board discussed the possibilities and had a basic working outline for the weekend and adjourned for dinner.

The NLS Board was invited to attend the Festival of Joy Dinner at Johnson Bible College. After dinner we reconvened and began our evening meeting at 7:45 p.m. The entire weekend schedule, forums, seminars, keynote address title and suggested speakers were basically outlined and finalized at this meeting. Tracy said she would have a rough draft in place by morning for everyone to review.

Sunday Morning worship was at St. John's Lutheran Church. We attended a brunch served in the church fellowship hall and then convened in a small conference room at the church for a brief overview of our working weekend. All agreed it was a successful and blessed weekend and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving before everyone departed.

Respectfully submitted,
Su Kralj
NLS Secretary

NLS 2004 Annual Meeting Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY

- 11:30 am Orientation
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Opening Worship
- 2:30 pm Keynote *"And We Shall Be Created"*
- 4:00 pm Business Meeting
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Small Group Breakouts
- 8:30 pm Vespers
- pm Hospitality to follow Chapel



FRIDAY

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Worship
- 10:00 am Forum: *"Christ Is Counting on You. For What?"*
- 11:15 am Business Meeting
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Seminar #1 *"Important Questions to Ask Yourself as a Secretariat."*
Seminar #2 *"Can You Hear Me Now?"*
- 2:30 pm Repeat Seminars
- 3:30 pm Committee Work and S.D. Dialog
Hosting a National Meeting
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Small Group Breakouts
- 8:00 pm Worship
- pm Hospitality to follow Chapel

SATURDAY

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Worship
- 10:00 am Forum: *"How to Build a Strong 4th Day Community"*
- 11:00 am Open panel discussion
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Business Meeting with elections
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm Worship and Installation of officers
- pm Hospitality to follow Chapel

SUNDAY

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Worship



2004 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Thursday-Sunday, July 22-25, 2004

**Johnson Bible College,
Knoxville, Tennessee**

Hosted by Tennessee Lutheran Via De Cristo Secretariat

REGISTRATION INFORMATION – Use one form for each person attending. Please print.

Secretariat: _____ Position: _____

Name: _____ Name Tag 1st Name: _____

Address: _____ Male Female

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Evening Phone: (____) ____-____ e-mail: _____

My church home is: _____, City: _____

Mode of Travel: Air Auto

Please check this box if you require any special accommodations in order to fully participate in this event. Someone will contact you to discuss your specific needs.

Please note that your registration acknowledges your awareness of the following: *Johnson Bible College is a smoke-alcohol-drug free campus. This prohibition extends to dormitory rooms, all buildings and the entire grounds.*

Please register me as: Lay Delegate Clergy Delegate NLS Board
 See NLS Bylaw #4 for Delegate formula Lay Visitor Visiting Clergy Speaker

Have you attended a National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting before? No Yes, how many? _____
 Former National Secretariat Board member? If so, year _____, position _____

Complete this entire form, and mail, with payment, to:

VDC NLS 2004 Annual Meeting
Bill Larson, registrar
216 Whittington Drive
Knoxville, TN 37923
 OR

On-line registration available via link from the National Via de Cristo website. (www.viadecristo.org)

Late fee is required for any registrations postmarked after June 18.

Refunds (less \$25 fee) will only be considered if postmarked or e-mailed before July 1. After that, no refunds will be granted.

Payment and Fees

Full registration (per person) includes double occupancy housing, nine meals (Thursday lunch thru Sunday breakfast) and all conference materials..

Full Registration @ \$175 \$ _____

Roommate: _____ or

Please assign me a roommate or

Single room supplement @ \$35 \$ _____

Late fee (postmarked after 6/18/04) @ \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to VDC Annual Meeting

Additional Information (including early arrival/late departure): contact Bill Larson at:
lwlarson@member.kiwanis.org or
 (evenings) 865-693-8845

NLS Board Minutes - Conference Call February 29, 2004

President Larry Witham called the meeting to order. Others present were Pastor Larry Llewellyn, Ron Millard, Diane Purcell, Su Kralj, Tracy Ziemke as well as Judy Laabs-Foss and Bob Northrup. Pastor Larry opened with a prayer.

President Larry welcomed Bob Northrup and stated he would be a great asset to our meeting.

Minutes: A motion by Pastor Larry L was made to accept the minutes from the December 5 – 7, 2003 meeting and was seconded by Ron Millard. Unanimously passed and accepted.

Su gave a report on the responses from the annual Secretariat survey's that went out the end of January. Approximately one fourth of the secretariats have responded. Su is planning a follow up mailing requesting the remaining secretariats send in their statistics as soon as possible. Lucy is still keeping up with the national database as requested by President Larry.

Treasurer: Diane Purcell reported the next quarter ends today and that she will e-mail it to everyone on the board for approval at our next meeting.

A discussion of paying GIA Productions for the copyright usage of the song "Arise" in the green pilgrims guides every time the books are reprinted. NLS paid GIA \$200.00 for the last 5,000 books that were printed. It was noted that we are current with our copyrights.

Letter to the secretariats will go out the 1st week in March reminding everyone of their dues for the current year.

Constitution is in the final stages of being reviewed and should go to vote at this year's annual meeting.

The nominating committee has reviewed and interviewed the applicants who expressed an interest in the treasurer, vice president of administration and S.D. positions that will be come vacant at this year's annual meeting. Ron Millard noted that the nominating committee looked at the qualification of each applicant, their length and depth of involvement at the NLS an-

nual meetings. Pastor Larry L. reminded us that the candidate must be a delegate in attendance in order to be nominated for any position.

Ron informed the board that Diane has been and is helping W. Seattle, Washington with their tax business status and they are now incorporated.

Vice President of Administration: The Tennessee Host Committee is doing well and ahead of their planning schedule for the 2004 annual meeting. Ohio sent approximately \$2,000.00 to Tennessee as seed money from our 2003 annual meeting. This is something that every host committee will be working towards, to send seed money to the next host community. Someone mentioned that a member of the host committee, Mark Freeman might be willing to video the meeting this year for little or no cost to the NLS. Tracy will speak with Jan Larson, chairperson for the 2004 host committee to verify and will inform the board of the outcome of this conversation.

The 2004 Tennessee Logo, registration form and an abbreviated agenda is in the January Conexiones. Tracy, Su and Larry W. all reported that the speakers who accepted the call for the 2004 meeting are currently working on their talks.

Tracy has asked everyone to forward to her a detailed job description of their duties and responsibilities for the NLS Board. She will then arrange their layout into a similar format to be forward to Larry W. for approval and then to be voted on by the board. Tracy thinks that 1996 was the last time job descriptions were updated. She used the example that was stated in the description of the secretary's duties to have the minutes from the preceding meeting available to the board members one-week prior too the next board meeting. President Larry W. would like to see the minutes available as soon as possible to the board members, for a review and a reminder of things that need follow up. It was discussed that a 2-week

period be given to the secretary to get a rough draft out to the board. President Larry went on to say that the minutes are written to be informative and to give a summarization of the topics discussed, as well as being presented positively and accurately. The minutes don't have to be written verbatim and the secretary is completely right in summarizing and that is not taking poetic license.

Ron Millard thought that it would be a good idea for all board members to include in their job description that they are also responsible for submitting a newsletter article for every Conexiones.

Tracy also had questions in regards to who keeps the job descriptions, and forms and who designs committees for the annual meetings. President Larry says board will review.

Vice President of Outreach: Ron Millard gave a brief on the following areas of the country: Western Washington (Seattle) is now incorporated and will have a representative at our 2004 annual meeting. The Pittsburgh VDC may reorganize and locate in Somerset, Pennsylvania. Yellowstone never officially joined and thinks they may this year. Ron will visit Kansas this May. Richmond Virginia expressed an interest in VDC as well as Fargo, North Dakota. New Jersey area was active in 1977 and it was suggested that Pastor Ed Simonsen would be able to give Ron more details. In March Ron will be making a trip to Orange County, California and work with all the VDC movements. There is an area in California that is interested in starting a new movement. Hawaii has also expressed an interest in having Ron come to discuss VDC sometime in April. There is a pastor's conference in Hawaii during the same time period. Ron said if he was confirmed, and assured he could speak to more than one group, he might consider justifying going to Hawaii.

Spiritual Director: Pastor Larry

talked with Joe Nilsen about him taking the S.D. position on the NLS Board. Joe said he now has time to commit to being active and confirmed his willingness to accept this offer. He is presently helping Tennessee with the 2004 annual meeting.

President Larry reported on his and Ron Millard's attendance to the 4th day meeting forum in Winter Park, Florida. Doug Burrows also attended. This was the 13th year this forum has met and Ron's 3rd time to attend. Cursillo based movements such as Kairos, Tres Dias, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian had representatives in attendance. Discussions, sharing ideas and problems and exchanging of information was very good. Ron received a hard copy of the Walk to Emmaus handbook. President Larry thought it was time well spent and looks forward to next year's meeting.

President Larry receives a lot of e-mail from diverse groups asking questions and wanting information. Some of the inquiry's he forwards to Pastor Larry.

President Larry expressed his pleasure in serving on the NLS Board.

Newsletter Editor: Judy said everyone should have their copy of the Conexiones. She noted that no forms were included with the e-mailed newsletters and reminded everyone that they can go to the WEB page and download any of the forms they may need.

Deadline for articles is April 24. The next newsletter will go out May 1.

Judy said she sent out 340 hard copies this last mailing. She asked the board if people were asking for a copy of the newsletter to be sent to them by mail, should they be on their local secretariat in order to receive it at no cost. A discussion from various board members felt it was in the best interest of our movement to send the newsletter to anyone who wanted it, regardless if they could financially contribute or not. Thoughts on those asking for the newsletter who have access to the Internet should make every effort to receive it that way and only mail hard copies if they do not have Internet service.

Larry L. agreed. Discussion on whether a \$6.00 fee should be requested for mailing hard copies of the newsletter ended with Larry W. suggesting an article be put in the upcoming newsletter addressing the mailing fee.

Ron Millard and Su Kralj both requested hard copies of the newsletter be mailed to them. Ron uses them when making presentations to prospective movements and Su needs one to put in the official record books.

Web Page Coordinator: Bob Northrup expressed his willingness to serve and at this point in time had nothing to share. He did ask where Vineyard's web site went. It disappeared. Tracy will e-mail Diane Foor and find out.

Old Business: The 2004 annual meeting, speakers, and agenda was discussed earlier in VP of Administration's report, as well as discussion of job descriptions and deadline for articles in the May 1st newsletter.

Ron reported that the Visionary Committee consisting of Phil Lustig, Leona Fox and Randy Mullin are in the process of putting together a document. Ron thought he should be getting something from them next month. He gave them a copy of the Walk to Emmaus book to look over.

Diane and Larry L. of the Nominating Committee, have recommended to the board to endorse nominations to Joe Nilsen for S.D., Tracy Ziemke for V.P. of Administration and Jerry Lemcke for treasurer at the 2004 annual meeting.

Revision updated reported by Diane Purcell on the Constitution and By-Laws: The mention of "Cursillo" in the preamble of the constitution was discussed at great lengths by the board as to why it appears, the reasoning behind it and how it should appear, if at all. Larry L moved the board agreed to reword that section of the constitution per Randy Mullin's suggestion. Seconded by Tracy, all agreed, motion carried.

New Business: Larry W. reported

that Richard Emery from Florida who has operated the **NLS Distribution Center** would no longer be able to continue to serve in this capacity. There is an opening to serve and so far no one to fill the position. Richard doesn't know of anyone he could recommend. Larry W. asked Judy is she would write an article for the next newsletter about replacing Dick Emory. Tracy would like to have a job description of what the distribution center duties are and post them in the newsletter. Ron thought the board should discuss at the next telephone conference meeting a gift for Dick.

Larry W. suggests the board have a **Data Base Operator** whose responsibility would be to keep up the NLS data base information. This would be a separate job from the web master, newsletter person and secretary. Judy and Su each gave a brief synopsis on where and how we are where we are with the database. Under the direction of Larry W., Lucy Hightower is continuing to keep updating and maintaining the database. Ron suggested that Lucy do a back up and store it off site. Larry W. directed Su to contact Lucy and inform her of the board's request for her to do a regular back up and to store it off site.

Ron brought up the fact that all our documents need to be presented in the same format. He referred to the Walk to Emmaus Handbook that Dick Gilmore gave him at the 4th day meeting in Florida. Ron will e-mail the board a memo on what he recommends. Tracy and Larry L. both thought that was a good idea.

Other New Business: A friendly reminder to our newest attendee and to keep the current board informed that only board members can vote on motions, however, anyone can make a motion and make a second to a motion.

Tracy made a motion to adjourn; Larry W. accepted unanimously and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Su Kralj,
NLS SECRETARY

NLS OUTREACH NEWS

There has been a large amount of new movement activity since the last issue of Conexiones. I admit I am guilty of not keeping my outreach portion of the NLS web site up to date, but I'll try to do a better job on that task in the future. Check the web site for the latest outreach areas, and also pay attention to those areas mentioned that you, personally, might be able to help in. Then get back with me with your offers of help.

I have been trying to get Via de Cristo into San Francisco and Portland, OR. I now have a few contacts in those places, but need more. If anyone has some names and contact information for Cursillistas in those areas, please contact me as soon as possible.

A potential new secretariat in Hawaii has been put on hold, but other opportunities have emerged. Some of those I can't go into yet, but tremendous new growth over the next year or two is assured. Nashville, Birmingham and Kansas City look very good for the near future, and as mentioned in the last issue, Seattle and Montana are close to signing NLS constitutions. There is also a very good chance of another secretariat in Florida.

I just returned from a trip to South Orange County, CA., where decisions are being made on whether to go ahead with a new secretariat in the Mission Viejo area. Southern California and Central Valley Via de Cristo and Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California would help where needed. If this new movement starts up, the San Diego folks plan on sending candidates up to them, which will in turn create the leaders needed to move ahead down there.

Via de Cristo has performed an apostolic act! We have supplied copies of VdC startup manuals to a group of people in Pensacola, Florida. This group travels frequently to Kenya for mission work, and will now have what they need to put on a fourth-day weekend there. All references to Via de Cristo will be removed from the materials so the weekend will be a "generic" event. I did ask that somewhere either on the weekend or in some handouts, that Via de Cristo be credited with helping on this project.

You will find a separate article in this magazine from Pastor Carroll Lang detailing the results (and perhaps some pictures) of the Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry project in Belize. As you can see, lot's of good things are happening! Thanks for the article Carroll...

The Visionaries Team, which is part of the NLS Long Range Planning Committee, has finished their task. Great job Visionaries! They were tasked with the following items:

- Analyze our annual meeting and determine future direction.
- Analyze and suggest changes in our governance-officers and board.
- Analyze our delegate apportionment.
- Revisit the suggestions made at Dallas 2002.
- Evaluate Tim Johnson's proposal as presented at NLS 2003.

The NLS board is currently reviewing the report as turned in by the Visionaries, and will determine the best way to present the findings to those in attendance at NLS 2004.

NEWS FLASH: WELCOME NEWEST NLS MEMBER!!

After my outreach article was submitted to our editor, the signed NLS Constitution was received from Via de Cristo of Western Washington. They have been approved by the NLS, and are now our latest member! Those who attended the annual meeting last year in Columbus may recall meeting Blake Ozias from this movement. Blake and his wife will be in attendance this year, as will the lay director for Via de Cristo of Western Washington, Ron Becker. They will be introduced as a new secretariat. Please keep this new movement in your prayers as they prepare for weekends in the fall.

Submitted by Ron Millard, VP of Outreach



Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry goes to Belize

Larry Van Zante and Jim Newton had a dream in 2003 to help out a friend, Jean Goemaat, a central Iowa volunteer who had been working with Chuck Colson's InnerChange Freedom Initiative at the Newton Correctional Facility in Newton, Iowa. Jean was taking the IFI program to Kolbe Prison in Belize. Since she was not officially connected with the IFI program, she calls it "InnerChange For Freedom—Belize." Larry and Jim are also volunteers in the IFI program and inmate participants there are offered a prison Via de Cristo experience during their time in the IFI program. They wanted to make VdC a part of Jean Goemaat's program, too.

Jim Newton began asking other experienced team members to join him in making the dream happen. Eleven men committed themselves to travel to Belize in February 2004. In a series of emails to and from Jean Goemaat it was discovered that Cursillo, although the Catholic Priests had heard of the renewal method, nobody in Belize had ever experienced it. We further discovered that no clergy or laymen were available to participate in order to build up a Via de Cristo community, because they could not afford to take the time to spend with us. This is probably the weakest part of the plan. However, Pastor Allen Hermeier, the Spiritual Director, had an idea to make use of the best and brightest of the candidates for the next time. It just may work. We will plan to have the smaller US team arrive a few days earlier to train the new inmate team members.

Belize is officially an English-speaking country, but the participants obviously spoke English as a second language. All but one (Caucasian) were either brown or black and they all looked like any inmate in any US prison — you know, a human brother in Christ. The prison was a combination of third world buildings with some modern technology thrown in, such as a metal detector, copy machines and computers. There was a ten to twelve foot fence but no razor wire. However, at any given time there were at least a dozen guards with M-16s in several towers and on the roofs of buildings, including the chapel.

The IFF-B inmates were eager to participate and the discussions around the tables were lively and intense. It was obvious that Jean had taught them well. Jean tells us that even 6 weeks later they were still talking glowingly about the great time they had.

The institution only allowed us to have 6 hours per day, with time out for lunch, so we crammed a normally 42-hour weekend into a 33-hour five day week, with every talk limited to 30 minutes. It was just about the most back-to-the-basics Cursillo we could conduct.

The team stayed at the Embassy Hotel, located right next to the airport, which is owned and operated by a Christian couple who are transplanted Texans. Our nightly fee provided room, board and travel. We were treated like part of the family. When the Director of the prison was introduced to us, one of the team members asked him about coming back again in a year, and he said, "You bet!" I'm already thinking about it.

He is risen!

Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor
The Church of the Damascus Road

A prison congregation in the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, Fort Dodge, IA and the North Central Correctional Facility, Rockwell City, IA

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\*\*\*\*\* Check out the pictures of this weekend on the NLS web site's Conexiones. \*\*\*\*\*

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### SPANISH WEEKEND IN TEXAS

We have now come full circle back to using Spanish again reports Rev. H. Charles Eckert, Asst. Spiritual Director of Texas. Lutheran Secretariat.

The weekend, Feb. 19-22, 2004, Uno Espanol Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #50 met at Cathedral Oaks, near Weimar, Texas with 21 new Cursillistas (Learners) from all over the state---Austin, Houston, and San Juan in the Rio Grande Valley. A team of 35 experienced folks, mainly Anglo led the group in the theme "Tod lo puedo enCristo que me fortalece" Fil. 4:13 (\*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13).

The team and group was co-ed and included nine couples. The team members came from Austin, San Juan, Seguin, Gonzales, Houston, San Antonio, Texas, plus Minnesota and California. The new pilgrims had an intensive time/opportunities for personal spiritual renewal through the visitation of the Holy Spirit.

Time was not as important for the Hispanic culture as for the Anglos. As always God did good with what was offered Him---lives, and futures, families and churches.

Pastor Ricardo Erickson, Pastor Joaquin Figueroa, Pastor Faye Schott of the Lutheran Seminary Program in Austin, Sergio Escobedo was Rector; Pastors Fred Krebs, Tim Anderson, and Rev. Jesse Essinger served with gusto!

To God be the Glory!

Submitted by Rev. H. Charles Eckert (a frequent visitor)

### God always has a positive answer:

You say: "It's impossible" God says: *All things are possible* (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired" God says: *I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me" God says: *I love you* (John 3:16 & John 3:34 )

You say: "I can't go on" God says: *My grace is sufficient* (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out" God says: *I will direct your steps* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it" God says: *You can do all things* (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able" God says: *I am able* (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it" God says: *It will be worth it* (Romans 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself" God says: *I forgive you* (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage" God says: *I will supply all your needs* (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid" God says: *I have not given you a spirit of fear* (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated" God says: *Cast all your cares on ME* (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I don't have enough faith" God says: *I've given everyone a measure of faith* (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I'm not smart enough" God says: *I give you wisdom* (I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone" God says: *I will never leave you or forsake you* (Hebrews 13:5)

**Help Wanted: NLS Database Needs Updating!**

Just as bread gets stale sitting on the shelf too long, so does our database when it's not updated regularly. We need **your** help in keeping our database fresh and useful, so we're printing below a list of secretariats that have not sent in a fully updated list in more than a year. The list is in alphabetical order by state.

How do you send in updates? You can send the information by **e-mail, fax, or snail mail to Lucy Hightower** as follows: e-mail: [Bhigh922@aol.com](mailto:Bhigh922@aol.com); Snail Mail: 404 Church St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; Fax (Call first and she will turn the fax machine on) 843-884-4276.

How often should you send in changes? Whenever any change takes place, but at least once a year after elections are held. If you would like a copy of your secretariat roster as we currently have it recorded, contact Lucy and she will be glad to send you what we have listed at this time.

**Note to all who receive the Conexiones by e-mail: If you change your e-mail address, please notify Lucy, otherwise your e-mail notices will stop. Thanks for your help!**

| Date Mo-Yr   | State | Secretariat                                |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| 04-03        | AZ    | Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo    |
| <b>05-01</b> | CA    | Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California   |
| <b>03-02</b> | FL    | Lighthouse Via De Cristo                   |
| 03-03        | FL    | Sonshine North Via de Cristo               |
| 04-03        | IA    | Iowa Lutheran Secretariat                  |
| <b>07-01</b> | IL    | Eccumenical Cursillo Community of Illinois |
| 02-03        | LA    | Lousiana Via de Cristo                     |
| 02-03        | VA    | Vineyard Via de Cristo                     |
| 06-03        | MI    | Good News! Via de Cristo                   |
| <b>03-02</b> | NC    | Eastern North Carolina Via de Cristo       |
| 05-03        | NC    | Western North Carolina Via de Cristo       |
| <b>06-01</b> | NY    | Damascus Road Via de Cristo                |
| 03-03        | OH    | Via de Cristo of Ohio                      |
| <b>04-02</b> | TX    | North Texas Lutheran Secretariat           |
| 02-03        | TX    | Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo               |
| <b>04-02</b> | UT    | Utah Via de Cristo                         |

**Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?**

DeColores and blessings to every one. As the summer months are upon us, the excitement and zeal is building towards our attending the annual meeting in Tennessee this July. This is the time of year we rekindle our friendships face to face and at the same time make new ones. And the hugging begins. J

There are administrative tasks that need to be completed before your arrival to the annual meeting. Your survey and

registration information is essential to ensure that this experience be rewarding and beneficial for you and your secretariat.

This is also the time of year questions pop up, like, who is coming? What should, could and is being done to encourage the secretariats to respond to the surveys? When are they going to mail their information and registrations? Where are their surveys and registration forms? Why haven't the secretariats and delegates returned the surveys and registration forms? How long will it take for them to respond? There are lots of questions and only you can answer them. Many secretariats and delegates have returned their surveys and delegate's registration form, and there are those who have not returned either one or both.

As you can see, your immediate assistance in returning both the survey and delegate registrations is greatly appreciated and accepted with joy and thankfulness, and your spirit of cooperation is a beautiful gift that is delightfully received.

Yes, there is excitement and eagerness to see you at the NLS annual meeting in Tennessee this July. Please be sure to share as many hugs as you possibly can.

In His Service, Su Kralj NLS Secretary

**Palanca Updates**

It is not to long until the meeting of the National Lutheran Secretariat. Not only is this the time of year for us to make plans to attend the meeting but it is also the time to update the NLS Palanca data files. Normally Palanca data updates are offered by the Palanca coordinator but if you visit the NLS website at [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org) and you notice any errors in the Palanca area of the site, I would ask that you send me updates as soon as you can. I will be printing the reports that will be used for the upcoming meeting and if that data is wrong then it can be spread far and wide. It is always a tough job to keep the huge amount of data we have current and accurate but with the help of everyone, we can do a much better job. There is an electronic form that you can use on the website or you can just drop me an email. Anyway the data arrives, works. Key pieces of data are weekend dates and information on the Palanca Coordinators.

For the last year, we have been making an effort to save money and postage. Last year I notified the coordinators that we would no longer be doing updates by sending out an annual mailing. This form of updates is prohibitively expensive and this also tends to take a lot of time while offer a limited response. Please consider being an "update angel" and helping us improve our data. We are accepting early input for 2005 and 2006. Getting ahead of this makes a big difference down the road so take just a minute to send in an update.

One final thought. Please consider, sending out Palanca to every weekend on the web list. I have been told recently that many Secretariats are not receiving sufficient Palanca. The only way the various movements receive this wonderful gift is from caring and loving individuals and groups. Please take the time and don't forget the prayer and sacrifice to make your efforts a gift of love called true Palanca.

Mark Carnes, NLS Palanca Coordinator

# Palanca!!!

## For Future weekends

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

- May 2004 - Florida: **Lighthouse VDC**, Women's #26: May. 6-9, Send palanca to: Jeanne Constable PO Box 1717 Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- May 2004 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #45: May. 6-9 & Women's #45 May 13-16, Send palanca to: Tom Collinge 1974 No. River Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32211
- May 2004 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Mixed #13 May 13-16, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- May 2004 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Women's #43: May 20-23, Send palanca to: Alan Gettleman 2225 Tanglewood Lane Merritt Island, FL 32953-4287
- May 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Trinity, Stillwater; Single Men's #431, May 20-23 & Single Women's #432: May 27-30, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- May 2004 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Women's #54: May. 20-23, Send palanca to: Deborah Young 3454 Patterson Rd China Grove, NC 28138
- May 2004 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Women's #90: May 26-30, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- June 2004 - United Kingdom: **Tres Dias London & SE**, Women's #6: June 3-6, Send palanca to: Pauline Bradford 117 The Knole Faversham, Kent, ME 13 7OJ UK
- June 2004 - Michigan: **VDC of Central Michigan**, Men's #62, June. 3-6 & Women's #462: June 10-13, Send palanca to: Charles Bash 1304 Brentwood Dr., Midland MI 48640-2820
- June 2004 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Coed #20: June 10-13, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- June 2004 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Coed #17: June 10-13, Send palanca to: Gerry & Karen Givens 5440 Silver Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918
- June 2004 - Texas: **TX Luth VDC**, Coed #52 June 10-13, Send palanca to: Mark Clayton 181 Notchleaf Cibolo, TX 78108
- June 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Christ the King, New Brighton; Women in Transition #433: June. 24-27, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- June 2004 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin SonRise VDC**, Coed #4: June. 24-27, Send palanca to: Rhonda Knudtson 439 Jefferson Dr. Kewaskum, WI 53040
- July 2004 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Men's #92: July 21-25, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

- July 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-North**, First Lutheran, Bemidji; Men's #434, July. 22-25 & Women's #435: July 29-Aug. 1, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- July 2004 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran VdC**, #62: July 22-25, Send palanca to: Lily Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209-4580
- July 2004 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #5: July 28-31 & Women's #435: Aug. 4-7, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- August 2004 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #49, August? Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- August/Nov 2004 - Illinois: **Prairie Sonshine VDC of Central IL**, Men's #3: Aug. 5-8 & Women's #3: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Stacy Thomas 1800 Mound. Jacksonville, IL 62650
- August 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Men's #436, Aug. 19-24 & Women's #437: Aug. 26-29, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Sept./Oct.? 2004 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Women's #91: Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Sept./Oct.? 2004 - Iowa: **Iowa VDC**, Men's & Women's: Send palanca to: Newell Bowers 1610 Lincoln Dr. Atlantic, IA 50022
- Sept.? 2004 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VdC** Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Sept. 2004 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Coed #21: Sept. 9-12, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- Sept. 2004 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #50: Sept. 9-12 & Women's #51: Sept. 16-19, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Sept. 2004 - Florida: **Gold Coast VDC**, Men's #69: Sept. 16-19, Send palanca to: Dawn Ellis 393 NW 22nd ST. Boca Raton, FL 33486
- Sept/Oct. 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Men's #440, Sept. 23-26 & Women's #431: Sept. 30-Oct.3, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Sept/Oct. 2004 - Illinois: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Men's #4: Sept. 30-Oct.3, Women's #4: Oct. 7-10, Send palanca to: Amy Prior 16801 Blackfoot Dr. Lockport, IL 60441
- Sept/Oct. 2004 - South Carolina: **South Carolina VdC**; Coed #5: Sept. 30-Oct.3, Send palanca to: Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lake Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- Oct. 2004 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #99: Oct. 7-10 & Women's #100: Oct. 21-24, Send palanca to: Roy Heitkamp PO Box 5171 Peoria, AZ 85385-5171
- Oct. 2004 - AR/OK: **A-OK Lutheran Sec.**, Coed #10: Oct. 7-10, Send palanca to: Becky Del Rio 18115 Fawn Tree Dr. Little Rock, AR 72209
- Oct. 2004 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men's #51: Oct. 7-10 & Women's #49 Oct. 14-17, Send palanca to: Mike & Anna Seden 1310 Wood Park Dr. Kennesaw, GA 30152
- Oct. 2004 - IA/IL: **Living Waters VDC**, Men's #30: Oct. 7-10 & Women's #30 Oct. 14-17, Send palanca to: Tom & Theresa Oloffson

- 122 E 2nd St. P.O. Box 207 Wyanet, IL 61379
- Oct. 2004 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Women's #14 Oct. 7-10, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Oct. 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Men's #442, Oct. 7-10 & Women's #443 Oct. 14-17, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Oct. 2004 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC** Men's #30: Oct. 14-17, Women's #30: Oct. 21-24, Send palanca to: Jan Fry % St John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave Winter Park, FL 32789
- Oct. 2004 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men's #13: Oct. 14-17, Women's #14: Oct. 21-24, Send palanca to: Natalee Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- Oct. 2004 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #52: Oct. 14-17, Women's #53: Oct. 21-24, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Oct. 2004 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #12: Oct. 14-17, Send palanca to: Debra Wainner 100016 Gate Post Way Knoxville, TN 37931
- Oct. 2004 - Arizona: **Southern AZ Lutheran VdC**, Men's #17: Oct. 21-24 & Women's #18: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Sally Watts 7310 S. Camino Mirlo Tucson, AZ 85747
- Oct. 2004 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Men's #438, Oct. 21-24 & Women's #439 Oct. 28-31, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Oct. 2004 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Men's #14 Oct. 28-31, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Nov.? 2004 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Nov. 2004 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men #18: Nov. 4-7 & Women's #18 Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Gerry & Karen Givens 5440 Silver Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918
- Nov. 2004 - Florida: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men #27: Nov. 4-7 & Women's #27: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Jeanne Constable PO Box 1717 Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- Nov. 2004 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #46: Nov. 4-7 & Women's #46: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Tom Collinge 1974 No. River Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32211
- Nov. 2004 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Mixed #20: Nov. 4-7, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 304 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012
- Nov. 2004 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin SonRise VDC**, #45: Nov. 4-7 & Women's #46: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Rhonda Knudtson 439 Jefferson Dr. Kewaskum, WI 53040
- Nov. 2004 - Florida: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #44: Nov. 11-14 & Women's #44; Nov. 18-21, Send palanca to: Skip Young 2885 10th Ave. No. St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- Nov. 2004 - Nebraska: **Nebraska VDC**, Men's: Nov. 11-14 & Women's Nov. 18-21, Send palanca to: Gloria Stingley 5235 S. Dove Pl Lincoln, NE 68516
- Nov. 2004 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran VdC**, #64: Nov. 18-21, Send palanca to: Lily Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209-4580



### 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



### High Returns Cost

Returned Conexiones newsletters cost up to \$1.01 each. Please notify us of any changes in address on a post card or in a letter. Include complete information, including complete address with Zip+4, Secretariat and position, if applicable, and both home and work phone numbers. If you no longer want the newsletter, please let us know.

### Visited our Web Site Lately?



<http://www.viadechristo.org>

Webmaster: Bob Northrup

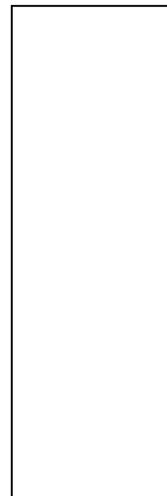
### CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

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.



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## Iowa Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry goes to Belize



Team at the Control Gate of Kolbe Prison in Belize

L-R: Robert Reynolds, Des Moines; Willis Van Haaften, Leighton; Max Webb, Mitchellville; Rev. Allen Hermeier, Decorah; Rev. Carroll Lang, Fort Dodge; Doug Musser, Des Moines; Don Nielsen, Atlantic; Jim Newton, Collins; Randy Bogaards, Pella; Larry Van Zante, Pella; and Larry Holle, Adel



Jim Newton, Rector, of Collins, Iowa. Jim is the spark plug that inspired the team to go to Belize.



Jean Goemaat (left) was a participant herself and sat at the table of St. Peter with team member Doug Musser (right) of Des Moines, Iowa



The yard of Kolbe Prison. Yup, there was a pond in the middle. Walkways were sandy dirt paths. The long building behind the tower is the new "super-max" unit under construction. The inmate in foreground was not a participant in the Via de Cristo.



This is a cell in the IFF-B unit with typical rebar door and window. No screens or glass windows.