

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 23  
Number 3  
August 2005

**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

## **NLS 2005 Annual Meeting July 28 — 31, 2005 in Emmittsburg, Maryland**

### ***Thank You!***

#### **To our hosts...Rainbow & Vineyard**

You cast your nets and we came! You have made us welcome in more ways than all the fish in the sea! Your smiling faces and rainbow hats, plus your directions and the signs that helped us find our way. The decorations were a labor of love to give us a visual picture of casting our nets everywhere we looked.

We were hooked from the time you picked us up at the airport by the warm reception, the beautiful location, the fair weather and the great facility. Many hands were required to reel in nets full of all the printed material needed—the worship folders, songbooks, notebooks, rosters, reports and much more—and you got it all done!

The music and worship filled us up—filled our nets, ready to be sent out again to cast our nets in the world. What a joy to praise our God together in this VdC community. Thank you Rainbow and Vineyard Secretariats for making this 2005 NLS Annual Meeting a great success! You have taught us to continue to *Cast Our Nets* and that we will do in the many communities we represent.

The NLS Board, delegates and visitors



### CONEXIONES

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California in 2006**

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Name of Secretariate \_\_\_\_\_

Position on Secretariat: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

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

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Volume 23  
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**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 71,500 who have participated in 37 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 Witham 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 Treasurer, Jerry Lemcke, 1520 Fountain Drive, Oviedo, FL 32765-8688; 407-977-7568.

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 15th, April 15th, August 15th, and November 15th.

# WELCOME!!!

## Greetings in Christ:

My name is Dave Erdman; I attended Indiana Men's Cursillo #5 and sat at the table of St. Paul. I worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have been married to Linda for 39 years and have two children and four grandchildren.

My wife and I have attended 9 national meetings, both as delegates and as visitors. I have served on the finance committee each of those years. We have met and established relationships with many dedicated servants and look forward to the meeting each year. I encourage anyone reading this article that has not attended a National Lutheran Secretariat annual meeting to start making plans to attend the meeting in California next year. You do not have to be a delegate; you can be a visitor! You will not regret doing so.

I thank Ron Millard for all the great work he has done and accomplished for the past four years. I also thank him for all the help he given me as I am learning my job.

It is an honor to be selected for this service to our Lord and this ministry. I am looking forward to working with my brothers and sisters on the national board in service to you.

DeColores and May God bless your fourth day.  
David Erdman  
Newly Elected Vice President of Outreach

## DeColores!

This year's annual meeting has been a wonderful reinforcement of what I am taught in Bible study. Jesus wants us to *cast (y)our nets* to bring people into a relationship with Him. It is such a joy when someone you know and care about becomes caught in the net of Jesus' love.

I have come to the realization that in the last 20 years I have been *caught* in God's net on a lot more than one occasion. Of the 7 jobs that I have held over the last 20 years, each position has given me new skills and expertise, molding me and shaping me for where I am today. It is my belief that God placed me in the different companies, where He wanted me to be, for a reason. He truly is an Awesome God!

I accepted the call to attend Good News! VdC Weekend #14 in 1994 and He continues to *catch* me often. Serving on my secretariat as secretary for 4 years and as lay delegate for 2 years has been a wonderful experience where I learned even more skills by using the Spiritual Gifts that God has given me. His callings into His nets have been a blessing to my families and me.

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to have been elected as your secretary and I look forward to serving God wherever and whenever He calls me.

God loves you and so do I!  
Newly Elected Secretary, Jan Long

## California Dreamin'

The **2006 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting** will be held in Los Angeles on July 27<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Loyola Marymount University. The Via de Cristo of Southern California and the Central Valley will be hosting our meeting. There will be many activities and places to visit in the beautiful California region.

The theme for the meeting will be "**Know, Grow, Go.**" The California team wants us to know that we will definitely celebrate Christ's grace and what it means in our daily lives. He wants us to **KNOW** Him, He wants us to **GROW** in Him and He wants us to **GO** and share this with all the world. You will learn more about this theme in future newsletters.

Just a reminder that it is imperative that you register early, by **June 1, 2006** in order to avoid paying a \$25.00 late fee and to ensure sufficient housing is available. Any questions regarding housing and registration can be directed to Bob Pflieger at: [vdc12nanu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vdc12nanu@sbcglobal.net)

Your co-hosts Bob Pflieger and Max Turner

**CALIFORNIA**  
[www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)



## NLS Board Minutes — July 27-28 & 31, 2005

On July 27th at 1:00 PM Larry Witham, president, called the meeting to order. Others present were Judy Laabs-Foss, Ron Millard, Joe Nilsen, Lucy Hightower, and Tracy Ziemke. Jerry Lemcke, treasurer, will be joining the meeting shortly. Pastor Joe opened the board meeting with a prayer.

The first order of business was to go over the agenda in order to clarify and check on weekend details. Tracy said that the representative of Mount St. Mary's, George Gelles, had had an extensive illness, and as consequence other staff had scheduled an orientation event that might cause some conflicts with our schedule and agendas. He has asked that the Saturday dinner be moved up about fifteen minutes on Saturday. Housing seems to be OK. Meals will start on Thursday for the body of attendees and dinner on Wednesday for the Board. The Board will receive their meal cards this (Wednesday) afternoon. She also went over various meeting room changes. These will be announced so that people can incorporate them into the participant notebooks. Morning worship will be in Knott Auditorium and evening worship in the campus chapel.

In order to receive email, people will have to get a password. The locations where computers can be used have not been clarified. Judy asked for some cell phone numbers that people could call if they have any questions such as lost items. She will publish these numbers in the daily newspaper.

Ron explained that he had created "tickets" for the small group participants. As people register they will draw one of these out of a fish bowl; the various groups have fish names—in line with the theme of the weekend. Tracy explained that the people who are handling the audio are being paid; they will do whatever is needed. Larry reminded Tracy of the need to check the sound equipment to be sure that it is working where room locations have been changed.

Tracy then explained how she had created lists so that attendance at the seminars can be evened out. Everyone who signed up for the seminars will be able to attend at least the top three choices. Joe suggested that Tracy make it clear that if a person did not make any choices on the registration form, there may not be space available. Rose Lundquist will need an over-

head projector for her seminar; Scott Anderson needs a flipchart; Tracy needs Power Point.

Seating of the delegates was discussed. The Board then went into the auditorium to finalize how we will do this. Lucy suggested that the seating of delegates be the first item of business right after calling the meeting to order and the opening prayer. Larry said that at the close of the Commissioning Service he would ask that the center section of the auditorium be cleared. Visitors will be asked to sit anywhere in the side sections. There is enough space in the center section so that delegates can sit in every other seat; this will provide room to spread out books and personal items. Someone will be designated to show the delegates where to sit. Two rows in the front will be reserved for those who have difficulty with stairs.

Upon return to the Board meeting room, Ron asked where the small groups would be meeting. He plans to make signs for the group leaders.

Ron then made a motion to accept Notes of Grace Via de Cristo of Middle Tennessee as an affiliate of NLS; seconded by Tracy. Unanimously accepted.

Ron then moved that NLS accept Yellowstone Via de Cristo of Montana as an affiliate of NLS contingent upon their signing the NLS constitution as planned on Thursday. Seconded by Jerry. Unanimously accepted.

Bob Northrup was unable to be in attendance this weekend but will be available by cell phone if needed. Judy reported that the McGowan Computer Lab would be available for use; the code will be available at the Administration Office during business hours.

An offering will be received only once, and that will be at worship on Saturday evening. It will be used for Outreach activities and includes such things as start-up of new movements on both the national and international level as needed.

Ron asked Jerry about payment for the Yellowstone delegate plus some other expenses: \$175 for registration and \$75 for expenses. A discussion followed. Tracy will ascertain.

The Friday schedule was then discussed. Larry said he would turn the nomination process over to Tracy since he is a nominee for the office of president. The nominations for the three offices should be taken one at a time.

There was a discussion of how much information should be included on the name badges, *i.e.*, showing the various locations covered by a secretariat. This was tabled for discussion at the Board meeting on Sunday morning.

Lucy asked about the status of the proposed DVD that has been in the planning stage for several years. Larry stated that there had been difficulty in finding a qualified person to do the project within the parameters of the designated funds. Ron then said that he had had a discussion with a qualified person who had indicated interest. Ron then made a cell phone call and got a verbal agreement from David Hullinger. He plans to attend the annual meeting next July and will be making film clips then. Target date for distribution of the DVD's is shortly after July 2006. This information will be reported to the assembly at the Thursday business meeting.

Voting will be done on Saturday as necessary. Ron distributed a list of recommendations from the Visionaries Group; this report will be presented at the business meeting on Saturday. Their recommendation of hiring a paid staff person was discussed. A lengthy discussion of the pros and cons ensued. The main concerns were 1) source of funding; 2) the \$10,000 salary would hardly be enough to cover the listed duties 3) additional funding would be required to cover expenses for this person; 4) what would be accomplished by a paid position that is not already being accomplished; 4) 12-15 hours per week would not be sufficient. One benefit would be continuity and accountability. There was a discussion of what we might be doing that we are not doing and what can we be doing better. The idea of shepherding new and/or struggling secretariats was also discussed.

The meeting was recessed until Thursday morning in order to discuss this issue more fully.

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**Thursday Morning, July 28, 2005, 9:00 AM**

Larry reconvened the meeting, and Pastor Joe opened with a prayer. The discussion centered on the eight-point document that Ron had presented on Wednesday afternoon along with the notes from the Visionaries Group of the Long Range Planning Committee. As items 1, 4, and 8 have already been implemented, there was no discussion of these items.

**Recommendation #2: Allot Time for Regional Meetings at the Annual Meeting**

Jerry stated that Florida has been doing this on an informal basis for quite some time. The purpose is to encourage unity within the state and to form new secretariats as necessary. They also hold regional meetings in Florida where approximately 250 people attend. This meeting is somewhat like an Ultraya. They have fellowship and a meal.

Pastor Joe felt that the Board should designate the regions. Tracy felt that we should schedule some time next year and encourage the regions to meet to discuss various issues. NLS Board agrees with this concept and will encourage it. This opportunity will be built into the schedule at next year's meeting.

**Recommendation #3: Covenant to Indemnify against Losses Incurred by Host Committee**

The Board felt that this seems unnecessary. For the last three years the Host Committee has been able to turn over a surplus to the incoming Host Committee. Hosting has been clarified in the guidelines; when these are followed, there have not been any problems. The Host Committee has to "own" the meeting. Tracy said that the 2006 contract is on the table and 2007 and 2008 already have three possible groups ready to go.

**Recommendation #5: Establish Paid Position**

The discussion of duties and how to finance continued. The Board wrestled at length but was unable to see how we can accomplish this recommendation without more time and study. In looking at the notes from the Visionaries Group, the Board felt that they were unrealistic and more than a part time person could handle. Volunteers are currently and adequately handling the duties listed. The Board would like to defer voting on this issue until some of their concerns are clarified and a financial plan developed.

**Recommendation #6: Establish**

**Schedule for Periodic Re-signing Affiliation/Constitution**

The Board discussed the time and expense involved in the constitution re-signing process and felt that this is not necessary. Possibly a "covenant" or affiliation agreement might be developed and sent out along with the annual survey. This should be a one-page document and is something the Board might consider developing.

**Recommendation #7: Delegate Apportionment**

The Visionaries Group recommends that this committee be continued (possibly with new people) with the primary task of reworking the delegate apportionment. No discussion at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Hightower, NLS Interim Secretary  
+++++

On July 31st, at 10:01 a.m. Larry Witham, president, called the meeting to order. Others present were Pastor Joe Nilsen, Dave Erdman, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, and Tracy Ziemke. Brief introductions were made (VdC style).

Upcoming conference call dates were discussed and set for Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. (EST) on September 18, 2005, February 26, 2006 and May 21, 2006. A fourth conference call may be needed and announced at a later date. Jerry will send the toll free phone number and room number to enter the conference room to Dave and Jan.

An explanation of what to expect at the mid-year meeting was given to benefit the newly elected persons. Judy Laabs-Foss and Bob Northrup will join the mid-year meeting at the board's request. We will begin our meetings on Friday at 1:00 p.m. Location to be determined. The board is on their own for lunch and the host committee will supply the rest of the meals for the weekend. The board will meet with the host committee on Saturday to discuss details and answer questions at which time we will all tour the facility. Saturday evening we will have a board meeting. Worship Sunday morning after breakfast (with host committee if possible) and we may meet afterwards before traveling home.

The weekend dates for our mid-year meeting are set for November 4-6. Travel arrangements to be made by each individual. The board is requested to plan a flight with an arrival time into Burbank Airport (BUR) to be close to 11 a.m. on Friday, November 4. Tracy will be traveling in on Thursday, November 3. The females are comfortable rooming together; the

males will pick up the difference in the room cost if they wish to have private rooms. Suggested departure time of 3:00 p.m. to return home was made.

Letterhead will be updated by Jan. Tracy to send Jan the e-file.

\$1,751.50 was received in Saturday night's offering.

Newsletters are printed four times a year – January, April, August and November with the deadline being the 15<sup>th</sup> of those months. Articles, minutes, reports, etc. should be sent to Judy as soon as available instead of waiting until the deadline date.

Our rosters will be cleaned up with official names of movements. Lucy Hightower will send updated e-files to Jan. Lucy also gave Jan files containing signed constitutions and amendments from each secretariat, 2005 annual meeting registration forms, telephone, recorder, earpiece, and NLS envelopes. Prior years files will also be reviewed with Ron Millard to see what he needs for the archives.

Dave met with Ron to discuss the duties of VP of Outreach at which time Ron handed over his notes, etc to him.

Monies will be settled with the 2005 host committee. Jerry is to contact Carol Westervelt. He will also be proactive next year with paying monies up front to the host committee. The board would like Jerry to bring the checkbook next year and make all the necessary unpaid (authorized) requests, on site.

Motion was made for the NLS Board to cover annual meeting room expenses for board members for an extra night if we come in on Wednesday night. Motion/Support by Tracy Ziemke/Jerry Lemcke. Motion was approved unanimously. Note – spouses cost to be paid by the individuals.

Suggestion was made to request expense reimbursement for mileage and items needed to perform your job duties. Expenses need to be tracked. Donations to cover the cost of the expense may be made if so desired. Current IRS suggested mileage reimbursement is at 40.5¢ per mile. Some board members feel uncomfortable asking for that much and request a lower rate, which is all right.

A thank you letter will be sent to the speakers of this year's meeting.

Dave and Jan were given job descriptions for their position and constitutions will be sent to them.

The Rainbow secretariat had an insurance policy in force for their secretariat and provided that information to Mount Saint Mary's University. We have a copy that may be passed on to other Secretariats that need insurance for events.

More discussion and job description needs to be drafted for the National Coordinator position. Article 2 of the constitution addresses this issue.

Agenda items for Sunday, September 18 conference call to be:

Visioning for National Coordinator position – (to be put onto paper before September).

Survey results preliminary.

Update of everyone's areas.

Youth weekends – Note: committee to be formed to review this concern. Susan Barry, Randy Mullin and Judy know someone regarding a national organization for teen weekends.

The following items were discussed regarding the 2006 annual meeting:

Host committee from California already has a registration form done that will need to be revised. Tracy to revisit areas with them.

Pastor Joe will contact Pastor Charlie regarding worship. Host committee suggested that their bishop give the keynote; however, he had not attended a VdC weekend. It was suggested that the bishop preach at a worship service. The board would welcome any other speaker recommendations they have.

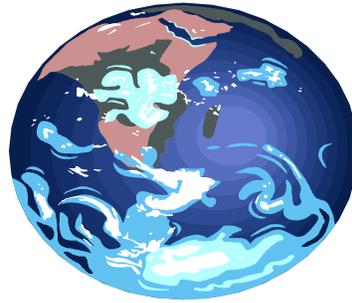
At mid-year meeting we will be getting names of committee chairs. We need to be redundant on the important matters.

The 2005 annual meeting in Maryland was wonderful. The teams worked well together even though they were from separate secretariats.

Larry gave personal thanks to all who worked so hard to make this weekend a success.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long  
NLS Secretary



## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe that the past two years have gone by so quickly. While serving NLS as your president does require many hours of meetings, correspondence, and communications; it is a blessing to be able to work for Our Lord, through this gift of His, we know as Via de Cristo.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you for a second term. I will continue to represent you, the 4<sup>th</sup> day community, to the best of my ability. Please keep me in your prayers as I daily try to discern God's will in all that I do for our movement.

We have been blessed to see continual, steady growth of our movement. During the past two years, NLS has grown by 4 secretariats. This brings the total to 42 secretariats, operating in 30 states. We also grew by 7,019 new Cursillistas, bringing the total to 82,598. Thanks be to God!

It was great to see so many of you in Emmittsburg, Maryland. We were blessed to have Bishop Leonard Bolick from the North Carolina Synod, deliver a wonderful keynote address. We were also blessed to have wonderful speakers for all of our forums and seminars. The comments coming in are very positive. Everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves and felt that the Holy Spirit was certainly with us. Special thanks go to our hosts from Rainbow and Vineyard VdC's for all of their efforts to provide us with another memorable annual meeting. As the number of attendees continues to grow, so do the challenges for the Host Committee. To the Co-Host Chairs, Cathy Glumac & Diane Foor and your entire Host Committee, thank you for rising to the occasion.

We are excited about having our first annual meeting next July on the west coast. The Host Committee is already well on it's way to planning a memorable time in Los Angeles. Mark your calendars now for July 27-30, 2006 and don't miss this opportunity to spend three days with your VdC friends from all across the country.

My prayer for the next two years is very similar to one I shared with you in August of 2003. I pray that many more new secretariats will be started as we continue to grow. I pray that 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.

As we face the challenges before us throughout the year, let us always remember, that *Christ is Counting On Us*, and we know that we can count on Him. God bless each one of you.

Peace and joy,  
Larry Witham,  
NLS President



## IMPRESSIONS

Question: What event lasts 72 hours in an atmosphere of love, servant-hood and praise to God? Answer: A National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting. Of course, if you answered a VdC weekend you would also have been correct. Our recent meeting at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland was just such an experience for me. About 200 of us gathered, representing 80,000+ VdC folds from across the nation. Our hosts, the Rainbow and Vineyard secretariats, could not have been more loving and generous to us.

Elsewhere in this issue you will learn from others about the business and elections conducted during our time together. I would like to share with you just a few impression of our movement, gleaned from numerous conversations with my brothers and sisters in Christ around the dinner table, on walks, and in some of our meetings. Here goes:

We are very diverse. Our local movements are "organized" in many different ways. Team selection and training, leadership requirements, guidelines for sponsorship, and 4<sup>th</sup> Day activities all vary from place to place. Newcomers (52) to the annual meeting were amazed that other local movements could possibly do things so differently from their own and still actually provided for dynamic, Spirit-filled weekends and an active 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community. I guess "organization" is not the key to our success.....I hope we never think it is.

We are so much alike. I can't get over the sense of "family" that pervaded our time together. Persons were only strangers momentarily. Just as soon as we were introduced, shared the passing of the peace, sat at table, or opened our mouths in song, we recognized the same Christ in one another who encountered us on our weekends. Our common aspiration to grow in the life of Grace and to share it with others creates a powerful bond between us.....this is the work of the Spirit of God.

We are strongest when we concentrate on the "Essentials". This movement of God has survived and flourished for more than 60 years because we have not drifted from the basics of the "Cursillo" (short course) of the weekend, or our emphasis on living the 4<sup>th</sup> Day in union with Christ and in support of one another. The talks and meditations, the silent retreat, the worship, the sharing and discussions, the loving community, Palanca (intercessory prayer, sacrifice, acts of mercy), Reunion Groups and Ultreyas all have remained as pillars of the Via de Cristo process. Several of the forums reinforced this again for me. All of these elements combine to create a climate in which the Holy Spirit works to renew our spirits and enrich our environments and the Church.

We are in this together. It is God's Grace and Christ's love that unifies us. It was God's intention all along that we live in community as His children. Piety, Study and Action can not be exercised in isolation. These are the unifying forces that

sustain the Church, our national movement, and our local secretariats. I experienced that wonderful sense of unity and connectedness in Maryland, and it inspired me to return to my own secretariat and congregation to be more of an agent of bonding. "See how they love one another" is still a powerful witness to the presence of Christ and the working of the Spirit among us.

Grateful for your place in my family,

Pastor Joe Nilsen  
NLS Spiritual Director



### The 23rd Psalm --- Explained

The Lord is my Shepherd ----- *That's Relationship!*  
 I shall not want ----- *That's Supply!*  
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ---- *That's Rest!*  
 He leadeth me beside the still waters ----- *That's Refreshment!*  
 He restoreth my soul ----- *That's Healing!*  
 He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ----- *That's Guidance!*  
 For His namesake ----- *That's Purpose!*  
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ----- *That's Testing!*  
 I will fear no evil ----- *That's Protection!*  
 For Thou art with me ----- *That's Faithfulness!*  
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me ----- *That's Discipline!*  
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies ----- *That's Hope!*  
 Thou annointest my head with oil ----- *That's Consecration!*  
 My cup runneth over ----- *That's Abundance!*  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ---- *That's Blessing!*  
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ----- *That's Security!*  
 Forever ----- *That's Eternity!*

# NLS Annual Meeting Minutes — July 28-30, 2005

Larry Witham, president, called the business meeting of **July 28th**, to order at approximately 2:30 PM; Pastor Joe Nilsen opened the meeting opened with a prayer. Larry announced that the first order of business would be the seating of the delegates. He explained the process, and Lucy Hightower seated the delegates alphabetically by state.

**Introductions:** Larry then introduced the current officers: Tracy Ziemke, VP of Administration; Ron Millard, VP of Outreach; Lucy Hightower, Interim Secretary; Jerry Lemcke, Treasurer; and Pastor Joe Nilsen, Spiritual Director. He then recognized others in appointed positions as follows: John Bradford, Distribution Center; Diane Purcell, Financial Advisor; Judy Laabs-Foss, Newsletter Editor; Palanca, Paul Sabtier-Smith; and Fred Schneider, Parliamentarian.

**New Secretariats:** At this time Larry asked Ron Millard to step forward to handle recognition of the newly affiliated secretariats. Ron asked the following to come to the podium: Judy Mowery, Notes of Grace Via de Cristo of Middle Tennessee; Erl Barsness, Yellowstone Via de Cristo of Montana; and Marlen Sterud representing Heart of America Via de Cristo of Kansas. After welcoming these new secretariats, he that asked others in attendance from these new secretariats stand and be recognized.

**Past Officers Present:** Larry then recognized the following past officers of NLS: Doug Burrows and Randy Mullins, both past presidents; Pastor Larry Llewellyn and Pastor Ed Simonsen, both past national spiritual directors; Diane Purcell, past treasurer; and Lucy Hightower, past secretary and database coordinator.

**Host Committee:** Larry then introduced the co-chairs of the host committee, Cathy Glumac and Diane Foor. They each made a few comments and then introduced the host committee. Diane went over some specifics about such things as the smoking/non-smoking areas, return of the meal tickets and keys at the end of the weekend, Internet access and the location of evening fellowship.

**Nominations:** Larry then called Dottie Schwartz to the podium to give the report of the nominating committee. She announced the following nominees: President, Larry Witham; Vice-President of Outreach, Dick Volker; and Secretary, Bob Quam. Larry then announced that the floor would be open for nominations at tomor-

row's meeting and reminded the delegates of the requirements to be a nominee and how to submit. "Bio" forms are available and must be completed for distribution to the delegates.

**Officers' Reports:** The next order of business was the presentation of the officers' reports. Both Ron Millard, VP of Outreach, and Tracy Ziemke, VP of Administration, referred people to their printed reports. Pastor Joe Nilsen encouraged all pastors in attendance to come to the Spiritual Director's dialog.

Lucy Hightower, Interim Secretary, asked people to look at the far right hand column of her statistical report. This column contains the number of **lay delegates** each secretariat is entitled to have present at this year's assembly. She explained that, historically, these numbers remain pretty much the same but will change as a secretariat's membership grows or number of weekends changes. She encouraged people to look at these numbers to avoid confusion when registering for the next annual meeting. Jerry Lemcke referred people to his published report but also asked the secretariats to please furnish him with names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of their treasurers.

**DVD/Video Project:** Larry then made a report on progress of the DVD/video project. He explained that while the storyboard had been written, there had been difficulty in finding a qualified person to do the work for the amount designated by NLS. He was happy to report that the service of such a person, David Hullinger, has been secured; David plans to attend the annual meeting in California next year to do the final film clips and hopes to be able to have the materials ready for distribution shortly thereafter.

**Small Group Breakouts:** Ron Millard then explained the small group process for the evening. He will explain the topics for discussion each day. In each group there was one "ticket" that contains a butterfly in addition to the fish. That person is the designated group leader. He encouraged the groups to begin and end their meetings with the prayers on the green card. There will be anywhere from 10-13 in each group and they will meet at 7:00 PM. Each group will choose its meeting place.

**Reminders:** Tracy reminded attendees about the evaluation forms. They are located behind the yellow sheet in each notebook and are lavender in color. She en-

couraged participants to return them because they are extremely helpful to the board in the planning of future meetings.

Tracy also explained where and when the various seminars would be held. She said that the lists of names were provided in order to ensure adequate seating for participants. Palanca posters are available for signing on the upper level of Knott Auditorium—and remember to pray for the secretariats as you sign. Immediately after worship this evening, a group photo of first time attendees will be taken. The weekend offering will be lifted at Saturday evening worship and will be designated for Outreach. The keynote address will be held here, in Knott Auditorium at 4:15 PM.

Pastor Olin Knudson adjourned the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Hightower, NLS Interim Secretary  
+++++

Larry Witham, President, called the meeting to order on **July 29th**, at 11:00 AM. Pastor Laurel Bobb (OH) opened the meeting with a prayer.

Diane Foor and Cathy Glumac of the Host Committee then introduced George Gelles, the representative from Mount St. Mary's University. In addition to welcoming us, he told the assembly some of the history of the University and that there was also a seminary here.

**Announcements:** Diane and Cathy explained that there were 15 computers in the Knott Academic Center available for use by attendees. Transportation has been arranged for those who find it difficult to walk the necessary distances between buildings. Transportation will also be provided to and from the evening worship services up in the chapel. Worship will be in the chapel every evening.

**Nominations:** Larry then reminded everyone of the requirements, as spelled out in our constitution, for election as an officer of NLS. He then turned the podium over to Tracy to receive the nominations as Larry, himself, is a nominee for the office of president.

Larry Witham was announced as the nominating committee's selection for the office of president. No second was required since his nomination came from committee. Upon call for nominations from the floor, there were none. Bill Hass (INKY) moved

that the nominations for president be closed; Larry Llewellyn (GA) seconded. Motion carried.

Tracy announced Dick Volker (Taste of Grace-IL) as the nominating committee candidate for the office of VP of Outreach. She then called for nominations from the floor. Diane Purcell (MN) nominated Dave Erdman (INKY) and Maurie Lockley (E. NC) seconded. Tim Johnson (TX) moved that the nominations be closed. Bill Hightower (SC) seconded. Motion carried.

Tracy announced that Bob Quam (MN) was the nominating committee candidate for the office of secretary. Debbie Grazier (Good News-MI) then nominated Jan Long (Good News-MI) and Chris Veres (Good News-MI) seconded. Donna Gough (OH) moved that the nominations be closed. Second was by Nanette Helgager (CA). Motion carried.

Larry Llewellyn (GA) then moved that Larry Witham be elected by acclamation since there was no opposition. Jim Ryan (INKY) seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Witham thanked everyone for their support and reminded the nominees to turn in their "bios" so they can be distributed prior to the elections.

**Small Groups:** Ron explained that everyone should remain with the same small group for the entire weekend and announced the topics for the day.

**Miscellaneous Announcements:** Tracy recognized the representatives from Southern California and Central Valley VdC who will be hosting the meeting in 2006. INKY VdC will be hosting in 2007; she advised that she would be holding a meeting this afternoon for any groups who might be interested in hosting in 2008 and 2009.

She also said that two of the seminars are full: "10 Ways to Kill a Secretariat" and "What's So Apostolic about Action?" The other seminars may or may not have space for additional people. If anyone is interested in purchasing a cookbook, the cost is \$10 and the proceeds will go to help the Host Committee with expenses. The attendee rosters will be available for distribution Saturday morning.

**Other Business:** Larry asked if there was any other business to come before the assembly at this time. There being none, the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Jim Frankowsky.

Respectfully submitted,

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Larry Witham, president, called the meeting, of **July 30th** to order at approximately 1:30 PM; Derek Brown opened the meeting with a prayer. Larry asked the nominees for office to come forward so he could introduce them to the assembly. The nominees were Dick Volker and Dave Erdman for VP of Outreach. Jan Long and Bob Quam were the nominees for Secretary.

Ballots were distributed to all delegates, and other business continued while the ballots were being collected and counted. Larry asked if there was any unfinished business. Since there was none, he then continued with the committee reports.

**Hosting an Annual Meeting:** We have a letter of intent from INKY for the 2007 meeting. Arizona, Florida, Colorado, Atlanta and Living Water (IL/IA) have also expressed an interest in hosting an annual meeting in the future.

**Lay Director Dialog:** Bill Byrd (W. NC) said that their gathering had not only provided a great forum for sharing and learning, but also a productive way to make contacts.

**Palanca and Banners:** Bonnie Lanes (MN) reported that their group had made three banners—one for each new secretariat. She wanted these secretariats to know that, in addition to the love that went into making them, prayer was lifted for each one. Representatives from Yellowstone (MT), Heart of America (KS) and Notes of Grace (Middle TN) then came forward to receive their banners.

**Spiritual Director's Dialog:** Pastor Joe Nilsen reported that, although their group had been small, it had been lively. They have been dealing with issues such as a job description for Spiritual Directors on the secretariat as well as on the weekend and how to maintain spiritual integrity on the weekends. In addition, they are working on some revisions to the Spiritual Director's manual and hope to make it more "user friendly."

**Newsletter:** Judy Laabs-Foss, editor, reported that she had nothing to add to her original report that she had presented on Thursday.

**Financial Advisor:** Diane Purcell reported that the seminar on the 501-C had gone well. The group had requested that she continue with a follow-up session on the IRS 990 form. She reminded everyone that

the rules for IRS Form 990 reporting have changed for 2005; all secretariats need to be attentive to this change. The need to report will be based on a rolling average of the previous three years.

**Financials:** Jerry Lemcke reported that he and Diane had worked together very closely on the books and that they were in good shape per the audit. He and Diane presented the fiscal year report and went over the various funds. Diane reminded the assembly that, as of the 2006 meeting, delegates would not be seated unless their annual dues have been paid. In response to a question from the floor, Jerry explained that he sends out the notices in February, and they are due on or before May 31. It was noted that gifts (Palanca) income to the general fund are down substantially.

In response to a question about money for Outreach, Diane responded that Ron had been very frugal and had been able to stay within or under the budget. Since he mostly travels by auto, his expenses have been quite low. This situation may change with the new VP of Outreach. If expenses over budget are incurred, the designated Outreach funds can be used help cover any shortfall; this money is also being used to help new movements. Brad Alexander (W. NC) moved that we accept the financial report. Seconded by Pastor Olin Knudsen (N. TX). Carried.

**2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget:** Diane and Jerry pointed out and explained changes to the 2005-2006 Budget. A motion from the floor to accept the proposed budget was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the budget was approved.

**Election Results:** At this time Larry announced the election results: VP of Outreach is Dave Erdman; Secretary is Jan Long. Diane Purcell (MN) made a motion that the ballots be destroyed. Chuck Ott (FL) seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Larry explained that Ron Millard would go through all of the items on the handout and then will go back to those items that need action from the assembly. He also explained that the Visionaries Group had worked separately from the entire Long Range Committee and then made their report to LRP.

Minutes continue onto the next page.....



## NLS Annual Meeting Minutes — July 28-31, 2005

**July 30th** business meeting continued.....

After going through the eight recommended items, Ron invited Tim Johnson (TX) to come forward to explain his TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) proposal that was outside of the Visionary Group's recommendations to the Long Range Planning Committee. Tim explained that, in regard to TEC, he would like to see NLS take a shepherding role and assume accountability over these movements. He would like NLS Board to study what it can do to help and how they can help provide stability. Tim then made a motion as follows: "That the NLS Board consider a means to surround the Teenage Cursillo Method movements, (such as Happenings, TEC and others that utilize Lutheran form) to provide guidance, encouragement, and assistance with resource production and acquisition, and accountability. Have the board (or people assigned by the board) complete this by next year's meeting." Seconded by Nanette Helgager (CA). A lengthy discussion followed.

Bonnie Lanes (MN): What if we say yes and they do not want our help?

Harry Taylor (MD), Visitor: How does our methodology compare with Emmaus's?

Tim Johnson: Both Emmaus and Cursillo are under their bishop so perhaps we need to look at our structure.

Pastor Olin Knudson (N. TX): Their charter says they have governing supervision over them, that's why.

Susan Berry (GA): They have a mutual agreement connection.

Tracy Ziemke (VP Admin.): Is this how the assembly wants NLS and the NLS Board to spend its time, or is this an issue that should be left to the individual and/or state level secretariat?

Diane Purcell (MN): Are we to be financially responsible for resources and how do we separate accountability from governance?

Tim Johnson: This is not a financial issue but assistance is needed with things like materials; accountability would provide standards to agree to.

Diane Purcell: Would this not be a part of the governance structure?

Tim: They need a place to hook onto.

Tom Kirk (FL): Our secretariat can't handle TEC. Possibly a new Board position could be appointed to handle this.

Glenn Joki (AZ Cursillo): In AZ we have two movements: our own secretariat with a representative that sits on their secretariat.

You don't want to get into either the legal or financial responsibility.

Paul Sabatier-Smith (FL): This appears to be a local issue. Walk to Emmaus/VdC/Chrysalis can form their own secretariat and have an advisor. Responsibility lies with the local secretariats, not NLS.

Nanette Helgager (CA): TEC is faltering for lack of leadership. I support looking into the possibilities.

Harry Taylor (MD-Visitor): Favors looking at the broader level picture.

Dottie Schwartz (FL): Where do we get information? Would NLS have authority and be able to give guidance?

Donna Gough (OH): At what level and how much involvement would be expected? Do we have a venue for this ministry within the NLS structure? How does it fit into our structure?

Debbie Grazier (MI/OH): Is this just intended to be a study?

Susan Berry (GA): Could interested people possibly form a committee?

Upon a call for the question, voice vote was "No." Bob Conrad (FL) called for a hand count. Yes, 26; No, 44. The motion was defeated.

**Item #6 Constitution Re-signing:** Larry Witham then asked Ron Millard to re-read Item #6 in regard to establishing a schedule for re-signing an affiliation agreement/constitution periodically. Ron then made the motion from the LRP committee. Fred Schneider, parliamentarian, raised a point of order. He said that we would need a change in the by-laws because at present, re-signing is not required by the constitution. Bill Sistar (FL) made a motion to send this proposal back to committee. Julia Shaw-Fuller (VA) seconded. Fred said that his intent was not to stop discussion, and the discussion continued. Ron explained that rather than re-signing the constitution on an annual or bi-annual basis, they were looking for a simple method to ascertain that secretariats are abiding by the essentials. Larry pointed out that this would provide a means of orderly transition when secretariat rosters change. It would help avoid a breakdown in communication and provide new secretariat members with an awareness of what should be happening. Paul Sabatier-Smith said that at the moment there is no vehicle for re-signing without going through the whole process. Donna Gough reminded everyone to read the constitution and re-read The Essentials document. There seemed to be a consensus that this idea was good and to send it back to the committee. It was suggested that

NLS create a one-page document that would be sent out along with the yearly surveys. By signing, each secretariat would acknowledge a continued agreement to honor the Via de Cristo essentials and methodology.

**Item #5 Establishing a Paid Position for NLS:** Larry asked Ron to read the recommendation and motions as stated in the handout. No second was necessary because it came from the committee. It stated as follows: "Recommend the NLS board develop a job description for this position. Position would be called National Coordinator. Set aside a \$5,000 budget during the next 12 months. Board will send letters to secretariats asking for financial support. Hire person by next year's annual meeting."

Larry Witham stated that this was a very important item and he realized that there were many different opinions. He saw the need to talk it through and assured the assembly that the Board would do whatever the assembly directed the board to do in this matter. He emphasized the need to stand together as a body just as Christ would have us do.

Pastor Joe Nilsen then went to the podium and led the assembly in a prayer for guidance. The floor was then opened for discussion.

Maurie Lockley (W. NC): How is it possible to budget for a position without a job description? Develop a job description and then decide the salary.

Rose Lundquist (MN): Suggested that NLS contact Minnesota for guidance as they already have a paid position.

Jan Klein (FL): Suggested that we raise annual dues.

Bob Veres (MI/OH): Stated that after two and a half hours of discussion within the committee, the words in this motion have taken on a different flavor from the committee discussion. He would put forth four points to the board: 1) position nomenclature has changed to coordinator; this was different from the original position; 2) there is a need for funding; commit something; then ask for help; 3) if all goes well, make an effort to get a person in place.

Diane Purcell (MN): MN needed a coordinator because their present organization is so large. Volunteers are presently running their organization. Although this issue has been discussed for a number of years she would like for NLS to move cautiously and not take too much from the volunteers.

Julia Shaw-Fuller (VA): Did not want to replace volunteers.

Pr. Joe Nilsen (Board): The Board has been

looking at what we might be doing better. What are we not covering? Shepherding secretariats? Some of us got excited about something like that. Perhaps that would be the basis for starting. This is not an "either/or" situation—but a "both/and."

Larry Armbricht (NE): If it isn't broken, don't try to fix it.

Jerry Nelson (MN): LRP is looking down the road for long term. Also, if a secretariat is having problems, this might be a resource for them.

Tracy Ziemke (Board): The way we're set up, we can appoint positions as needed. If you have a need, let us hear from you.

Tim Johnson (N.TX): He would like to amend the motion to develop a needs list and a job description and then appoint someone. He encouraged the recommendation for next year. Sometimes we have to step out in faith. He then offered a substitute motion: "I recommend that NLS Board study and develop a needs list to provide support for the local secretariats and administrative board and also to create a structure to commit funds as needed." Seconded by Pr. Olin Knudson (N. TX).

A motion was made to substitute the new motion in place of the committee's motion. Seconded and passed by hand count.

Debbie Grazier moved that we have a short recess; seconded by Donna Gough. Carried.

After reconvening, Bonnie Lanes (MN) asked if she might clarify the duties of MN's Coordinator position. He does not have a vote or control the secretariat although the secretariat does value his opinion. He handles a volume of paperwork and sends reminders. Someone from INKY VdC commented that the portion of the motion that says, "create a structure to commit funds" was a problem for him.

Doug Burrows (OH-Visitor): He felt that the revision dilutes the intent of LRP. The original motion was made in order to give the Board authority to ask for financial support; the idea behind the time parameters was to get the Board to move on an issue that has been on our agenda since 1994. It may even be possible to do this without a vote. The original intent was to "step out of the box," make the request and see what happens. This revised motion may take it back to planning rather than action. He wanted to give the Board the authority to move.

Diane Purcell (MN): She had no problem with LRP. The problem is that the motion includes the phrase "hire by next year." The motion should have stopped before that. The one-year parameter is the problem without the body knowing what's going on. Although this idea has been discussed since 1994, this is the first time it has actually come before

the body for action.

Someone called for the question.

Fred Schneider (Parliamentarian): A call for the vote is not official and must be made through a motion, a second, and passed by two-thirds majority. Nanette Helgager made the motion to stop debate; Dave Rankin seconded. Motion failed to reach two-thirds by hand vote; debate continued.

Doug Burrows (OH Visitor): Doug said that he was against the sub-motion to hire someone by next year. This is not necessary.

Diane Purcell (MN): Since we have a deficit budget, the Board cannot commit funds without the vote of the body.

Dottie Schwartz (FL): Said she was confused by the discussion of funds in the original motion that had been replaced. Should we not be discussing only the current motion?

Fred Schneider: Reminded us that if we add a paid position, it would require a constitutional change that would require us to re-write the constitution.

Tracy Ziemke: Again reflected that the board has the authority given to them by the body to appoint positions as needed and raised the question of whether we really need to pay someone to fill gaps. As we have grown and evolved through the years, we have added positions as necessary. We just need to know exactly what we are looking for.

Maurie Lockley (E.NC): Felt that the job description needed further analysis and the issue should be brought back to the floor next year.

Fred Schneider: Recommended that the issue go back to the executive committee; let them study it and come back with a recommendation next year.

Randy Mullin (IL): We need to study and take action or just take action.

Donna Gough (OH): The committee is looking at things that the rest of us have not considered. We do need more information, but also need to start the process. The sub-motion did that.

Paul Schmidlin (MI/OH-Visiting Clergy): We need to be attentive to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Paul had been able to sit in on some of the Board's discussions. Using a phrase from Joe Nilsen, he challenged us with two things: 1) whether we want to be an organism or an organization, and 2) using the Old Testament example of the kings, do we want to be like another organization for the sake of organization? We need to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All of us want Via de Cristo to grow, and he en-

couraged the board to form a task force.

Tom Kirk (FL): Do we need to increase the size of the board or re-distribute their duties? Or have we already given them that ability?

Tim Johnson offered to strike the last part of his motion. It now reads: "I recommend that NLS Board study and develop a needs list to provide support for the local secretariats and administrative board." Seconded by Pastor Olin Knudson. Motion carried. There will be no commitment of funds at this time. Carried.

**Other Business:** Tracy announced that committees may continue as necessary. Posters will be in the dining area during this afternoon and evening for last minute signing and pick up later in the evening by attendees so they can take the posters back to their home secretariats. Ron then announced the topics for tonight's small group breakouts.

Larry thanked all for their participation and patience. Cindy Kirk (FL) closed the meeting with a prayer and Larry adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Hightower, NLS Interim Secretary  
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**Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.**



**Be ye fishers of men -- you catch them & He'll clean them.**

## NLS Distribution Center

We (my wife Carol & I) just returned from the Annual Meeting in Emmitsburg Maryland where I met many of you. We sold out of some of the NLS material items we brought, thanks. We are selling all the usual items you are familiar with as well as a few new items that I'll describe for you now.

We now have a CD ROM Disk for sale named **NLS-001** that has the following on it: *All ten new Lay Talk Outlines, Suggestions for writing a talk and using the Lay Talk Outlines, Essentials of a Weekend, NLS Leadership Training 101 and 201, an Ultreya instruction guide, and a VDC Weekend Music Information file.* This disk sells for \$10.00 each. See ordering information below. Adobe Acrobat reader software is required to access these files. The disk has a text file on it that gives help in locating Adobe Acrobat free software if you need it; most computers already have this installed. The information on this disk is Acrobat text. Note: The old version of Lay Talks is discontinued and unavailable.

We are also converting all the NLS VHS Video Tapes to a friendlier DVD Disk format. Using DVD Disks avoids the problem of loss of quality during the copy process, allows for quicker copying, is easier to ship to you, and is the wave of the future. VHS tapes are rapidly becoming extinct.

The web based order form needs revising as far as the Video Tape/DVD list is concerned and we will see that this is done soon. For now, here is a list of available DVD Video disks. Stay tuned for a few more; including the 2005 material that will arrive soon. The material on these disks is audio/video, just like a rented movie. At this time we can supply the following titles only:

- 1996 Music 1st. hour, Yohann Anderson.
- 1996 Music 2nd. hour, Yohann Anderson.
- 1996 Sponsorship, Fred, Dan, & Pat.
- 1996 The Cross, Bev Appleby.
- 1997 Christian Comm. in Action, Oran Gough & Ron Walter.
- 1999 Essential, Flow, & Dynamics of the Wkend, Ed Kutay.
- 19?? Christ is Counting on You (audio is less than perfect)
- 2000 Palanca, Mark Carnes.
- 2000 Legal & Financial, Diane Purcell.
- 2000 Team Formation & Training, David Saggiser.
- 2000 Role of the Secretariat, Tracy Ziemke.
- 2003 Keynote, Al Sager (poor audio quality)

All DVD Disks cost \$15.00 each. To order please browse to <http://www.viadechristo.org/resources/supplies/index.htm> and fill in the order form. If you don't know your ID Code, order anyway but be sure to carefully complete the form. I'll send your ID to you with the order.

To order disks, state what you want in the bottom "comments" box. If it won't fit there, email me at [joab@aros.net](mailto:joab@aros.net)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,  
John & Carol Bradford

## Outgoing V. P. of Outreach

What a pleasure for me to welcome three new movements into our growing Via de Cristo family this year at NLS 2005. Folks from Yellowstone Via de Cristo in Billings, Montana, Heart of America Via de Cristo in Ottawa, Kansas, and Notes of Grace Via de Cristo in Franklin, Tennessee, received a long and loud welcome from everyone in attendance at the Thursday business meeting.

Erl and Ann Barsness from Billings were attending their first annual meeting. Judy Mowery, along with Diane DeVooght and Maureen King, were there from Franklin. Marlen and Doris Sterud of Tennessee were present, and represented the new movement from Kansas, where their daughter Deena and son-in-law Joe Rogers were instrumental in getting that movement started. All these people should be very proud of their accomplishments.

This concludes my tour of duty. I thank everyone who made this adventure so positive; past and present fellow board members, all those wonderful people I met during the past four years whether at the NLS meetings or "on the road", and my wife Norma for putting up with me during my busy periods. And most of all, I thank God for using me in this servant position.

See you next year in California...

Ron Millard



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings to all,

If you missed the NLS convention in Emmitsburg, Maryland this year you missed a Spirit filled, joy filled experience and a chance to renew relationships, and develop new relationships with fellow Christians all over the United States. WOW!

### Secretariat dues

All treasures should have received and email from me reminding them that NLS dues are to be in my hand by the end of our fiscal year, which is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Those that do not have an email address, there are only a few, would have gotten it by snail mail. This is truly a savings and also good stewardship as well. Please make sure you pass needed information to your replacement if your term of office expires.

### Corporate dues

There is no time like the present to confirm the status of your corporate registration in your state of incorporation. Many states require a yearly filing of your corporate registration.

Blessings,  
Jerry Lemcke, NLS Treasurer

# Palanca!!!

## For Future weekends

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

- Sept. 2005 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #53 Sept. 8-11, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Sept. 2005 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Men's #56 Sept. 8-11 & Women's Sept. 15-18, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 304 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Sept. 2005 - South Carolina: **South Carolina VdC**; Coed #6: Sept. 15-18, Women's #28: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, Send palanca to: Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lake Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- Sept. 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #52: Sept. 22-25, Women's #53: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Sept. 2005 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Women's #16 Sept. 22-25, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Sept./Oct. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #456, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, & Women's #457: Oct. 6-9, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Sept. 2005 - Utah: **Utah VdC**, Men's #32: Sept. 22-25, Women's #33: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, Send palanca to: Glenice Coward 2426 Creek Rd. Sandy, UT 84093
- Oct. 2005 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men's #52: Oct. 6-9, Women's #50 Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 3015
- Oct. 2005 - AR/OK: **AR-OK Lutheran Sec.**, Coed #12: Oct. 6-9, Send palanca to: Matt Milzarek 634 S. Poplar St. Sapulpa, OK 74066
- Oct. 2005 - Virginia: **Rainbow VDC**, Men's #47: Oct. 6-9, & Women's #50 Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Julia Shaw-Fuller 301 N Old Dominion Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132
- Oct. 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- Oct. 2005 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #105: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #106 Oct. 27-30, Send palanca to: Roy Heitkamp 10653 E Linder Circle Mesa, AZ 85212
- Oct. 2005 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Women's #50: Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Oct. 2005 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #16: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #17: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Natalee Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- Oct. 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #53: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #54: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Oct. 2005 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Men's #16 Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Oct. 2005 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #37: Oct. 13-16, & Women's #37: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard

- Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- Oct. 2005 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC Men's #32**: Oct. 13-16, Women's #32: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Jan Fry % St John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave Winter Park, FL 32789
- Oct. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #458 & #460, Oct. 13-16, Women's #459 & #461: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2005 - Illinois: **River's Edge VDC**, Women #5: Oct. 13-16, , Send palanca to: Marylee Howard 1225 No. State St. Litchfield, IL 62056
- Oct. 2005 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #15: Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 37931
- Oct. 2005 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin SonRise VDC**, Men's #49 Oct. 13-16, & Women's #50: Oct. 27-30, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwoods Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Oct. 2005 - Arizona: **Southern AZ Lutheran VdC**, Men's #19: Oct.. 20-23, & Women's #20 Nov. 3-6; Send palanca to: John Reeves 11058 W Motes Dr. Marana, AZ 85653-8282
- Oct. 2005 - Florida: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men's #29: Oct.. 20-23, & Women's #29: Oct. 27-30, Send palanca to: David & Laurel Stowe 2396 Palm Dr. Port Orange, FL 32128
- Oct. 2005 - Ohio: **VdC of Ohio**, Men's #57, Oct.. 20-23, & Women's #56 Nov.. 10-13, Send palanca to: Lori Hartman 7293 Phillipsburg Union Rd. Brookville, OH 45309
- Oct 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Women's #93: Oct.. 20-23, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Nov. 2005 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men's #20, Nov. 3-6 & Women's #20 Nov. 10-13: Send palanca to: Amy Dempsey 3021 Mandalay Grove #5 Colorado Springs, CO 80917
- Nov. 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #48: Nov.. 3-6, & Women's #48: Nov.. 10-13, Send palanca to: Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnyln Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- Nov. 2005 - IA/IL: **Living Waters VDC**, Men's #32: Nov. 3-6 & Mixed #31: Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Tom & Theresa Oloffson 122 E 2nd St. P.O. Box 207 Wyanet, IL 61379
- Nov. 2005 - KS: **Heart of America VDC**, Coed #2: Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Deena Rogers 1744 Labette Rd. Ottawa, KS 66067
- Nov. 2005 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Mixed #21: Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 304 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Nov. 2005 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin SonRise VDC**, Men's #51: Nov.. 3-6, & Women's #52: Nov.. 10-13, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwoods Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Nov. 2005 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #54 Nov. 17-20, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Nov.. 2005 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran VdC**, Coed #67: Nov. 17-20, Send palanca to: Lily Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209-4580

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**PALANCA**  
**Prayer, Study, Action**

Prayer, Study, Action are three words we learn about and experience in our Via de Cristo activities and personal Christian walks. On a recent Kairos (Prison Ministry) activity, I heard a speaker discuss these three words separated by

commas. It would appear they are three separate activities, when, in fact, they are all linked together – one without the other two has difficulty standing on it's own. Just a thought – take the commas out – PRAYER STUDY ACTION. The key principles of true Palanca are sacrifices and prayers. Consider spending time in prayer, prior to any Palanca activities. This period of quiet time, meditation, understanding the needs prior to any actions will prepare you, set the tone and ensure that the Palanca has the impact intended by our Lord.

What a Spirit filled experience we were bathed with in Maryland at the NLS Conference. It was a pleasure to see familiar faces and meet new ones. Praise the Lord!

There have been more than 130 Weekends scheduled this year (2005). The updates to the calendar have been flowing in due to the great job being done by the Palanca Coordinators. Updates are provided in many forms but there is an update button on the web page ([www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm](http://www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm)) for anyone to use if they wish. The Internet has become more and more important in maintaining records and especially in keeping the web site up to date. This year all updates have been communicated via email and the web. I will accept updates in any format; however, to expedite updates your Palanca Coordinator should have email access in the future if they don't already.

As the Palanca Coordinator, active and timely participation of the local Palanca Coordinators is critical in disseminating information. The local coordinators have been excellent in providing the critical link to the local Secretariats. Even with this outstanding help it is a difficult task to keep all of the information up to date. Please review your local information and make sure that any changes are submitted as soon as possible. Updates to email addresses are especially important since that is the primary communication tool.

The key in this role is communication and to that end timeliness is critical. Please make sure your dates or changes are sent as soon as possible but no later than 60 days prior to the event (to allow other communities time to respond). I attempt to update the Palanca area of the web site within 7 days of receipt and acknowledge back to the requestor. Early scheduling of dates also allows local Secretariats plenty of time to provide Palanca.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support, but I would especially like to thank each Secretariat's Palanca Coordinator. They have made my job so much easier and have always been willing to help. They have even been more than gracious when I have made errors and during a medical time earlier this year.

I thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve our community in this small way.

Blessings,  
 In His service,  
 Paul Sabatier-Smith <><

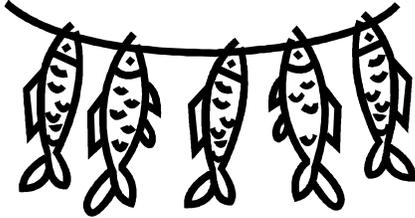


### NLS Distribution Center

**John Bradford**, Director Phone: (801) 561-0122  
E-Mail: [joab@aros.net](mailto:joab@aros.net)

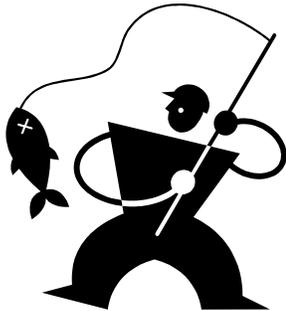
### Annual Meeting Items Available

All the material that was available at the 2005 Annual Meeting along with video tapes can be obtained from the Distribution Center. Order forms for all NLS materials can be found on the web page.



### Conexiones Subscription

About 200 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 your 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.



### Order Forms

In this newsletter you will not find order forms for our NLS materials or tapes and the numerous crosses from Symbols, Inc. Those forms can be found on the web and can be downloaded as needed. A smaller version of the email request on page two is 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!

### Visited our Web Site Lately?



<http://www.viadechristo.org>

Webmaster: *Bob Northrup*

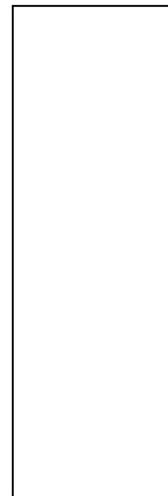
### CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

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.



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

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