

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 24
Number 3
September 2006

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2006 Annual Meeting: July 27 — 30, 2006
Hosted by Southern California and the Central Valley, California



As you read this, our annual meeting has concluded and except for the pictures and our daily newsletter (found on the web), it is but a memory. If you were unable to be with us this year, the articles in this edition will try to give you a flavor of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future.

This newsletter contains some of the pictures, introductions of our newest board, lots of minutes and our financial information, plus a look ahead to next year's annual meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

We thank the Southern California and Central Valley, California Secretariats, for hosting yet another successful and grace filled meeting. *Bob Pflieger* and *Max Turner*, Host Committee Chairs, plus *Nanette Helgager*, Asst. Co Chair/Registrar and their teams. We were truly blessed, renewed and filled! As our theme, from 2 Peter 3:18 stated; we learned how to **Know Grow Go**. We did all of this through our worship and fellowship, along with completing the necessary business.

CONEXIONES

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NLS Executive Committee

President

Larry Witham
5211 Rounding Run Road
Charlotte, NC 28277-7651
704-541-7252 (H)
704-282-2244(O)
lwitham@carolina.rr.com

Spiritual Director

Rev. John Propst
39 Oakhurst Road
Arden, NC 28704-9540
828-713-4646 (C)
propst@twkightdesigns.com

Vice President of Administration

Nanette Helgager
6504 Faralone Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91303-2411
818-535-9980 (C)
ydc12nanu@sbcglobal.net

Vice President of Outreach

David Erdman
5120 Archwood Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46825-5602
260-484-4466 (H)
derdmanvdc@verizon.net

Secretary

Jan Long
12161 Waiteley Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48313-2473
586-914-2118 (C)
jlong7@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jerry Lemcke
2121 Sunbird Ct.
Oviedo, FL 32765-8688
407-977-7568 (H)
jerry.lemcke@gmail.com

NLS Appointed Positions

Archivist – Ron Millard

309-444-4225
ron@ssi.net

Database Coordinator – Lucy Hightower

843-884-4276 (H)
bhigh922@aol.com

Distribution Center – John Bradford

6992 South 160 East
Midvale, UT 84047-1207
801-561-0122 (H)
joab@aros.net

Financial Advisor – Diane Purcell

651-459-7249 (H)
651-768-0624 (FAX)
dspurcell@msn.com

Newsletter Editor – Judy Laabs-Foss

4495 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55110-3773
651-429-6762 (H)
jer2911@comcast.net

Palanca Coordinator – Paul Sabatier-Smith

5026 Log Cabin Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
863-603-9044 (H)
dcolor9@attglobal.net

Web Page Coordinator – Bob Northrup

919-872-6754 (H)
bobnorthrup@mindspring.com

2007 Host Committee Chair

NLS Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN

INKY—Lynn Ryan

7108 Woodgate Drive
Fishers, IN 46308-1773
317-570-1643
Lynn815@aol.com



National Lutheran Secretariat

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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 84,000 who have participated in 44 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, Lutheran Bishops and District Presidents about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above named positions are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving CONEXIONES, call Larry Witham at 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, 2121 Sunbird Ct. Oviedo, FL 32765; 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 Sisters and Brothers of VdC,

I am so blessed to be given the opportunity to come and serve this wonderful community as the Vice President of Administration. I pray that you will keep me as well as all of our board members in prayer throughout the year, that God will continually guide us, provide for our needs as we conduct the business of the National Lutheran Secretariat.

Let me introduce myself to you. I am one of 13 children born to the same two parents; five brothers and seven sisters. I'm married to a life long Lutheran John Helgager and we live in the San Fernando Valley in the city of LA. I have a 20-year-old son, Ryan Brajevich who resides in San Diego CA studying to become a chef. I have been active in the church growing stronger in my faith since 1993 when I lived in Florida. My son and I moved to CA in 1995 where I met John in the Air Force Reserves and a year later we were married. John and I attended VdC #12 of VdC of Southern CA and the Central Valley in June 2001. I served on the local secretariat from 2002 – 2006. Four years as secretary and this past year as Ultreya Coordinator. I was blessed to be part of the organizing team who worked for almost two years to host the 2006 NLSAM. I have met so many wonderful people through this community in the local and national areas who have helped to keep me strong in my faith and assist in the process to help me grow as a leader in all my environments.

I have already jumped in and started my job as the Vice President of Administration by reviewing the evaluations from the 2006 NLSAM. The preliminary review of the evaluations shows that the Host committee did a super job in hosting the NLSAM this year. For those who have not submitted your evaluations and would like to please get them to me in the mail ASAP (6504 Farralone Ave, Woodland Hills CA 91303). I am working to put a report together for the board and need this information to help the Host committee for 2007 before our mid-year meeting in November. I know the Host committee would like to say that they appreciate our Spirit of Charity as we dealt with the much-unexpected humidity the first two days.

I look forward to this opportunity to share with this National Community the gifts that God has given us to share this movement with the world. I am always available my email vdc12nanu@sbcglobal.net any comments, questions or information you would like to share with me just send it through email. It is the best way of getting information back and forth with me.

Continue to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory now and forever. Amen
2 Peter 3:18

Nanette (Nu) Helgager, NLSAM
Vice President of Administration



“Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.” (“Family of believers” in the Today’s NIV)
(Galatians 6:10 from *The Message*)

Greetings!!

Ahhhh.... a first note to my national Via de Cristo family of believers!

First ... thanks Pr. Joe (and all the NLS board!) for your ministry the last two years! Yours will be difficult shoes to fill! AND what a **JOY** to represent Western North Carolina VdC at the NLS gathering in Los Angeles (my third NLS meeting!)

A bit about your new SD ... I made Arizona Lutheran Men’s Cursillo #7 in April 1984. What an incredibly Spirit-led, Jesus-centered weekend in the desert that was for me! I had been ordained for 8 years at that time – never in those 8 years or even before had I experienced Christian community like I did that weekend – *oh my!*

God has blessed me tremendously with Liz, my wife of 35 years; a daughter, Jenni (who aspires to work for NASCAR!); son Brian, daughter-in-law Emily (who blessed Liz and me with our grandchildren Keaton & Nola!); and son Austin (Assistant Program Director at Camp Lutheridge).

A graduate of Southern Seminary 31 years ago, I’ve served God’s people at St. Paul’s, Fullerton, California; Augustana, Phoenix; Developing Pastor of Desert Cross, Tempe, Arizona; Developing Pastor of Spirit of Joy, Weddington, North Carolina. Three years ago Liz and I moved to our new home at Lutheridge Camp & Conference Center in Arden, NC. Aside from doing what I love the most in life: being a husband, father **AND** granpops (!) I am serving as Interim Pastor for two wonderful North Carolina mountain congregations; I also lead non-summer month retreats for Lutheridge and others (Marriage, Congregation Council, “SecondHalf,” Mid-week Adults, Confirmation and others). TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is also a Spiritual joy of mine!

As your newly elected SD for the NLS, I am praying for the Holy Spirit’s continued showering of GREAT grace upon God’s glorious gift we call Via de Cristo! I want to be faithful to the Lord Jesus in whatever way I am called to serve. If I can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

As a child of God, husband, father & granpops, I love being a part of family. I love being a part of **your** family too! And what a Spiritually alive family we have!

God’s blessings upon you all,

Pr. John Propst
828-713-4646 (cell)



NLS Board Minutes

Conference Call — May 21, 2006

Present: Larry Witham, Dave Erdman, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, Pastor Joe Nilsen, Bob Northrup, and Tracy Schmidlin.

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Joe Nilsen at 9:13 p.m.

Secretary's Report – Jan Long: Working on completing the annual survey results. 5 secretariats have yet to return their annual survey; follow-up will take place this week. Updated database was received from Lucy Hightower. All prior minutes have been approved and posted.

Treasurer – Jerry Lemcke: 13 secretariats have not yet paid their annual dues. Jerry will call them next week. Notes of Grace is not expected to pay this year. Northern Lights in Northern Wisconsin have just signed the constitution. Several bills have been paid. Balance is now \$13,906 after \$494 in checks. Thrivent account balance is at \$15,000+.

VP of Administration – Tracy Schmidlin: Preparations of the annual meeting are in good shape. Registrations have been received from 80 – 85 registrants at this time. June 1st is the deadline for registrations; late fees will be applied after that date. Registration fees for board members have been paid. All officers were requested to turn in an annual report for publication at the annual meeting. Deadline is June 30th. The Mission Statement will be posted on the web site. Plans are being made to encourage region-to-region groups. Status of annual meeting speakers was given. Status of planning of the future annual meetings in 2007 and 2008 was given.

Web-Site – Bob Northrup: Discussion was held regarding the annual meeting seminar on web sites.

VP of Outreach – Dave Erdman: A motion was made to accept Northern Lights Via de Cristo. Motion was approved unanimously. They have signed the constitution and are being encouraged to attend the annual meeting in California. Discussion was held regarding several other groups (Oregon, Northern California, and North Dakota)

who are interested in starting a movement. They have all been encouraged to send a representative to the annual meeting. A suggestion was made to have Palanca Posters for Latvia. People in the Bahamas, Nassau are talking about having their first weekend. One movement contacted Dave regarding lack of attendance at their Ultreyas, late registrations to weekends and other issues. Suggestions were given to him and he will follow-up with them in the future.

Spiritual Director – Pastor Joe Nilsen: The new Spiritual Director's Manual is about 75% completed. 6 people are ready to proof read it. We will need to be sure the Rollo outline is as clear as possible. Contact will be made to John Bradford in the Distribution Center to discuss the manuscript's publication.

Newsletter Editor – Judy Laabs-Foss: Nothing new to report. Newsletter was prepared, distributed and posted on the web site.

Old Business:

Discussion was held regarding the National Coordinator Position letter and job description that was sent to the secretariats. This item will be on the agenda. Plans are in the process to have a recommendation of a fund raising campaign if the position of National Coordinator is accepted by the secretariats at the annual meeting.

Discussion was held regarding Dave Hullinger who is on board to do the video project this year. He is planning to set a date to go to North Carolina to interview Bishop Bolick in Charlotte, and then he will travel to Berkey, Ohio. He will also be videotaping in Los Angeles at the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee (Lucy Hightower, Brad Alexander and Don Armbrust) is now prepared with nominations for Treasurer, VP of Administration, and Spiritual Director.

New Business:

The format for the Seating of Delegates at the Annual Meeting will be similar to last year.

Small Group Breakout Sessions to be handled by Dave. Approximately 6

persons will be assigned to a group with a format similar to last year. Suggestion was made for the leader of the individual groups to have a large sign with assigned locations.

Discussion was held regarding Region-to-Region Groups. Possible formations might include the following:

- 1 Western Washington, Yellowstone Montana.
- 2 Utah, Colorado, Light in the Desert Nevada, California, Arizona
- 3 South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska
- 4 A-OK, North Texas, Texas Lutheran, Louisiana, Heart of America Kansas
- 5 IN/KY, Wisconsin, Living Water in Illinois/Iowa, Heart of Illinois, Rivers Edge in Illinois/Missouri, Prairie Illinois, Taste of Grace Illinois
- 6 Damascus Road New York, Central Michigan, Good News!VdC in Michigan/Ohio, and Ohio
- 7 Vineyard, Rainbow, Eastern and Western North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Atlanta Georgia
- 8 Florida

Suggestion was made that those participating in these groups have a couple of starter questions to begin discussions with. Purpose is to help support each other. Suggestion was made to have a leader lined up ahead of time for each of the groups.

Discussion was held regarding newsletters on what could be done to improve communication within the secretariats. Larry agreed to have it as one topic at the lay director dialogue.

Suggestion made for someone to be our Parliamentarian at the annual meeting.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26 at 1 p.m. at Loyola in the Board Room of the dormitory. Sunday's Board Meeting in LA will be as soon as possible after worship hopefully by 10 a.m. We will try to be out before 12 noon.

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer by Larry at 11:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

**Annual Meeting
July 27—30, 2006**

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Attendance: Larry Witham, Pastor Joe Nilsen, Dave Erdman, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, Bob Northrup, Diane Purcell, Tracy Schmidlin.

Meeting opened with prayer at 2:42 p.m. by Larry.

The schedule for the annual meeting located at Loyola Marymount University was distributed and reviewed. There are a total of 167 registrations with 73 persons attending as either clergy or lay delegates. 44 of those registered are attending for the first time.

A total of 2 hours will be designated for the explanation and time in the Region-to-Region group breakout discussions.

Discussion was held on the National Coordinator Position job description and the presentation of it. The job description was updated and will be sent for printing as a handout at the end of Friday's Business Meeting. Diane Purcell thanked the board for taking action on this issue and for all of the time spent in preparation so this suggestion that had been made by the Long Range Planning Committee could be presented to the secretariats nationwide.

Dave explained the process for implementing the Small Group Breakout Sessions.

The 2006 Non-Profit Corporation Annual Renewal paperwork was received from Diane.

The trademark papers are ready for renewal. Jerry will contact the lawyer who has the affidavit to affirm that we do wish to renew and a check will be sent.

The first draft of the Spiritual Director's Manual is complete. Recommendations and suggestions have been received from SD proofreaders. The final copy should be ready for printing by August of this year. A handout from Pastor Gilbert was distributed with the request that the board review and take action on items presented within the document.

The Video Project is in process. Dave Hullinger has interviewed Pastor Bolick and Larry. He plans to be in attendance at this annual meeting to continue working on the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Larry Witham, president, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m., and Pastor Joe Nilsen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jan Long seated delegates with assistance from Tracy Schmidlin during a PowerPoint presentation showing all of the movements and the delegates represented at the meeting.

Past officers of the Executive Board were recognized. The Host Committee made announcements.

Lucy Hightower gave the report of the nomination committee, which consisted of herself, Don Armbrust and Brad Alexander. The committee nominated Nanette Helgager for Vice-President of Administration, Jerry Lemcke for Treasurer, and Pr. John Propst for Spiritual Director. Larry stated requirements for persons being nominated with the explanation that the floor would be open to nominations at tomorrow's business meeting.

The Board's annual reports are in everyone's binders. None of the board members had anything to add regarding their reports.

Announcement was made that at Friday's business meeting we would be presenting the position of National Coordinator for discussion. A statement was read that explained the position and where we are at in the process. The assembly was asked to pick up a handout of the job description for the position as they departed from the meeting. Everyone was also asked to pray about this important issue that was presented to the board at last year's annual meeting. Discussion will then take place at the business meeting on Friday.

A description of the seminars that will be taking place on Friday and Saturday

were explained and their locations were given.

The announcement was made that secretariat banners may be brought in and hung up in St. Robert's Hall. Announcement was made regarding the small group sessions that will start on Friday.

The explanation of the delegate's voting cards, which may be used at Friday's meeting, may be found in the front pocket of the binders.

Pastor Steve Hartten closed the meeting in prayer at 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 27, 2006—Called

Attendance: Larry Witham, Pastor Joe Nilsen, Dave Erdman, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, Bob Northrup, Tracy Schmidlin.

Meeting opened with prayer at 9:13 p.m. by Larry. Larry reviewed the presentation for the National Coordinator Position. Discussion was held regarding some of the questions that may arise at Friday's business meeting. All members of the board agreed to answer questions that were asked while being open and honest.

Review of the agenda for Friday's business meeting was discussed.

1. Open the floor to nominations of the 3 open board positions. If no nominations, the assembly would be asked for a motion to close the nominations - Larry.
2. Acknowledgement of TEC and Chrysalis brochures/handouts that were brought in by Tom & Cindy Kirk and Nanette Helgager - Tracy.
3. Availability of the Pilgrim's Guide that is now printed in Braille and on audiocassette tape - Jerry.
4. National Coordinator Position - Larry
5. Small Group Breakout Sessions information and explanation - Dave. Announcements - Larry

Region-to-Region segment will take place on Saturday. The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Joe and adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

NLS Board Minutes Annual Meeting — Continued

Friday, July 28, 2006

Larry Witham, president, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Dave Damien opened the meeting with a prayer.

Larry stated the requirements of a nominee for the open positions. The floor was then opened for the following positions:

Vice-President of Administration – no nominations from the floor were given. Motion and second to close the nominations were made. Motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer – no nominations from the floor were given. Motion and second to close the nominations were made. Motion was approved unanimously.

Spiritual Director – no nominations from the floor were given. Motion and second to close the nominations were made. Motion was approved unanimously.

Motion/Support by Pr. Gerry Olsen/Pr. Gil Gilbert for the election ballot to be cast by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously. Nanette Helgager is the new Vice-President of Administration, Jerry Lemcke will remain as Treasurer, and Pastor John Propst is the newly elected Spiritual Director.

Tracy explained that the board listened to the suggestions from last year's assembly and we have taken action on the following items:

Persons involved with youth movements, such as TEC and Chrysalis, were contacted so that brochures and information could be brought to this year's annual meeting. Tracy explained that this is not who we are; however, we can support them by bringing awareness to the local secretariats for their support if they so desire.

Steps have been taken for producing the Pilgrim's Guides for non-sighted pilgrims. Jerry explained the process for which new resources are now available. 10 copies of the Pilgrim's Guide have been printed by a Braille transcriber and are available for \$15 each. Audio cassette tapes of the Pilgrim's Guide are also available for purchase through the Resource Center. Plans are

in progress for making large print copies of the Pilgrim's Guide. A question was raised if there are Spanish speaking resources. Diane Purcell knows of availability and will forward that information on.

Tracy presented and explained the Position of National Coordinator. Copies of the job description were handed out at the end of Thursday's business meeting for all to review and pray about. The board believes that this is the direction where God is leading us. There will be a lot of details that need to be worked out and this is where we stand at this time.

Larry explained the financial area of the position stating that we believe this to be God-directed and it would be a blessing to this organization. National fundraising campaign companies were very expensive. An individual from one of the companies suggested that they would assist us with the process to train persons internally for a lower fee. Larry asked the assembly to empower us to move on with this idea. This process may take a year to more to implement. Therefore, the Board unanimously recommends and moves that we establish the position of a National Coordinator to provide day-to-day oversight of our movement. (This motion did not require a second as it came from the board.)

The floor was then opened for discussion and questions. Some of the highlights follow. There are a number of movements who have a national coordinator and/or executive director who manages the office which we have taken suggestions from. This person would not be an executive director, nor be a replacement for any position on the NLS Board. This person would be both professional and clerical, and would answer to the board. This person would work out of their home. The details of a salary package have not yet been determined. Consideration will need to be given to all areas of paying a full-time employee with benefits.

Diane Purcell highly commended the board stating that we have the answers that we (the assembly) required of them. Tim Johnson also commended the board and encourages the board to look into

funding for this position. He also suggested that we consider the publication of a national magazine to promote the movement.

Bob Veres, a member of the Long Range Planning Committee, apologizes for the chaos at last year's meeting. A very thorough job description has been presented and the board has bitten off something very tangible. He encourages moving forward. Doug Burrows seconded what Bob stated. The subject has been on the floor many, many times. The money may not be isolated or identified yet; but he also encourages us to move forward.

The suggestion was made that we pray about where we are going to put this person (geographically).

A concern was raised regarding the spirit of volunteerism and cooperation. Sometimes a person in a paid position may lose some of that spirit. We need to always be sure that the sense of spirit is kept high. Another suggestion was made that this person be from within our community who has a sense of volunteerism.

There were gaps within the movement that needed to be filled. There are many members of the community who have issues that we want to respond to. This will not take over any of our jobs. Some of our volunteers are being over-tasked.

The suggestion was made that we please research into the expenses that we will incur regarding salary, FICA, Social Security, retirement fund, office supplies, upgrades to computers and office equipment, etc. Regarding financial funding, there will be a line item for this position that will go into the budget. We realize that funding will need to be done professionally and we will go into our community searching for someone who will be willing to train others in a fund-raising project.

Two of the three elected officers had been a part of the discussions regarding this position. Jerry Lemcke had been a part of the discussions and Nanette Helgager stated that she was in attendance at last year's meeting and is aware of

the task that was presented to the board.

Regarding finding the right person for raising the money, we realize that we can't have the position without the money. We need to protect the position first and we don't know the timetable yet for acquiring the money.

Regarding the new regional concept, we could have the national coordinator working with regional people. We plan on the job description changing and being updated during yearly review and will take that into consideration.

A comment was made that the compensation should not drive this person. A nominal salary may be do-able in our existing budget.

Regarding this position's level of authority, Larry stated that he is aware of coordinators who attend yearly meetings with the president of their organization. The national board still operates, as the governing body and this position would be support to the board. This is a good idea to have a national coordinator facilitating the regional, 2 links in a chain.

Jim Caldwell called the question of a vote with Pr. Gil Gilbert in support to end the discussion. Motion was approved unanimously.

All lay and clergy delegates present voted on the motion that was on the floor. The motion was approved unanimously. Larry expressed his heartfelt thanks to the assembly.

Dave Erdman explained the Small Group Breakout Sessions that will begin after dinner.

There was no unfinished business.

A more thorough explanation of Region-to-Region groups would take place on Saturday.

Announcements were made.

Motion/Support by Pr. Gerry Olsen/Jim Caldwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

Saturday, July 28, 2006

Larry Witham, president, called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. Deb Grazier opened the meeting with prayer.

There was no old business, nor any new business to be called for.

Committee reports were as follows:

Hosting an Annual Meeting – Tracy Schmidlin. A written report was submitted with the following highlights: It was wonderful to have INKY people in attendance at this year's annual meeting as well as at the committee meeting. INKY will be our 2007 hosts and the theme will be "The Race Set Before Us." It was equally wonderful to have representatives from Arizona who are preparing to host in 2008!

We reviewed some of the key sections of the hosting document and fielded some questions and then spent some time talking about funding. We were fortunate to have Tom Edelen, a community service team member, from Thrivent Financial. He gave some ideas for fund raising and writing for grants. He also shared information about special grant programs that national organizations may take advantage of. He invited all of us to visit their website at www.thrivent.com. Florida expressed interest in hosting for 2009. Tracy stated that it has been an honor serving this committee for the last few years and she looks for great things to come as Nanette Helgager takes the lead.

Lay Director Dialogue – Bill Byrd. It was wonderful to meet with people who share with other secretariats.

Long Range Planning – Bob Veres. A written report was submitted with the following highlights: The focus of discussion was on the subject of healthy on-going long term "Fourth Day" growth at both the National and local secretariat levels. "How do you define healthy long time growth both in local secretariats and nationally?" They agreed that having "quantifiable" measures were needed to: 1) Determine where we are, 2) Identify what areas require improvement and 3) Have a method for measuring progress over time. The committee encourages delegates to engage their local secretariats

to discuss, define and assess their level of Fourth Day vitality over the next year. The committee will use feedback provided over the next year and at the 2007 annual meeting as it moves forward. Secretariats are also encouraged to consider the following question as they assess their level of Fourth Day vitality and continue to provide on-going feedback to the Board and Long Range Planning Committee - "What else can be done on the National level to strengthen Fourth Day activity?"

Newsletter – Judy Laabs-Foss stated that her formal report is in the binders. We are looking at publishing less hard copies of the newsletter and using the Internet more.

Palanca and Banners – Tim McCoy. Three butterfly banners were made and will be given to 3 new movements, Northern Lights Wisconsin, Venezuela and Latvia. The making of the banners were bathed in prayer.

Spiritual Director – Pastor Joe Nilsen. The committee talked about concerns within our movement, the new Spiritual Director Manual which will be available in print, online and on CD's. Concerns discussed were: 1) A perennial concern – not having enough pastors to serve on weekends. 2) Our desire to encourage all head Spiritual Directors to review talks before they are presented at the team meetings for theological concerns. We also encourage Spiritual Directors to give their talks at team meetings. Problems could be greatly reduced if talks were reviewed prior to the meetings. 3) Regarding political and social issues, we are not a church within a church. We are more of an organism as opposed to an organization. 4) Relationship with Synods in local areas was suggested. It could improve the weekend attendance of bishops, pastors, deacons and deans.

Finance – Jerry Lemcke with report given by Jim Ryan. A written report was distributed with the following highlights: 1) The Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Fiscal year ended May 31, 2006 noted there were no significant fluctuations between the adopted budget and the actual results for the fiscal year.

NLS Board Minutes Annual Meeting — Continued

2) Review was made of the draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year. There was minimal variance between actual and budgeted expenditures last year many of the line items were carried forward without change.

3) Two particular expenditures were discussed at some length. a) The first was an increase in the line item for the video project. The \$1,200 budgeted when combined with the designated fund of approximately \$2,800 is anticipated to provide adequate funding to enable the project to be finalized within this current fiscal year. b) The \$7,000 allowance to cover training and implementation of the fundraising effort discussed at Thursday's business meeting. This project will be undertaken to establish an endowment fund, which will be used to fund the National Coordinator's position. In conclusion, there were no other significant financial issues brought to the committee's attention and, as such, no other significant discussion or actions were necessary.

Budget – Jerry Lemcke. Three handouts were distributed and reviewed 1) The Comparative Statement of Financial Position. 2) Statement of Activity. Motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. 3) Proposed Budget. Motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as proposed. Motion was approved unanimously.

Diane Purcell submitted a written report highlighting that she was appointed by the board at the 2004 annual meeting to be the Financial Advisor to NLS. She is here to assist with matters such as incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation, application to the IRS for 501 (c)(3) status, completion of Form 990 Information Return to the IRS, IRS correspondence, state issues and anything else you may need some friendly help with. She may be contacted at 8303 Ingleside Avenue South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016; phone (651) 459-7249, fax (651) 768-0624, dspurcell@msn.com. Anyone who had attended the Tax Time Seminar who

would like to receive updates may send her your e-mail address if you had not already given it to her.

Tracy made a brief review of the new Region-to-Region discussions. Everyone was in agreement that they would like to do this again next year. Some highlights were as follows: Region 1) Pastors are needed in their area. They also desire to have more active Fourth Day groups and Ultreyas. 2) Leadership Training seminar was very helpful, and will work on more outreach. 3) Need to expand to those who weren't at the meeting. 4) Will contact leadership of other areas to assist in leadership training, share pastors, get assistance with legal issues, and hold a mid-year meeting. 5) Will be reaching out to others in their region. 6) Will be reaching out east, and will start in the middle. Will pray for the region and want to meet during the year. 7) Have planned to meet at Lutheridge and are commissioned to convince other movements to attend. 8) Have planned to hold a grand Ultreya and will consider hosting a lay directors meeting.

A poll of the assembly was taken to see how many people were receiving partial or full reimbursement from their local secretariats to attend, which most delegates were.

Larry Witham announced that as we move forward with the position of National Coordinator; if you feel the nudge for stepping forward to help with this project to please let us know.

Gifts of appreciation were presented to Pastor Joe and Tracy for their dedication and efforts while serving on the board.

Nanette made announcements regarding posters & banners, annual meeting evaluations, checkout of room, and the Agape Meal that evening.

Tracy made announcements regarding committee work, (which may need to continue) and new movement start-ups.

A presentation from the 2007 Host Committee was made.

Kim Brownlow gave the closing prayer. A motion with second was

made to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

Host Committee Meeting:

The meeting was opened with prayer by Tracy Schmidlin at 4:10 p.m. Members of the INKY host committee in attendance were: Jim & Lynn Ryan, Linda Erdman, Karen Goldstein, Ken & Julie Huff, Joan Klotz, Marcia Poisel and Dawn Zion. Members of the board (past and present) in attendance were: Larry Witham, Pastor Joe Nilssen, Pastor John Propst, Tracy Schmidlin, Nanette Helgager, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, and Bob Northrup. Joyce Dickerson from the 2008 host committee in Arizona was also present.

Tracy stated that the hosting document had been reviewed by the members of the INKY host committee during the Hosting an Annual Meeting committee meeting. The theme will be "The Race Set Before Us" and the dates of July 26 – 29, 2007 have been set. An article has already been prepared for the Sunday edition of *The Conexiones*. The primary set of financials is to come. Jim Ryan inquired as to what this year's host committee spent. Their secretariat has Event Liability Insurance coverage. They are assuming that the cost for next year's meeting will be approximately \$175.00 per person. They will have a firm amount by the mid-year meeting. They have seed money for front-end travel and plan to do fund-raising with possible supplemental funding from Thrivent. Karen will send Larry some information on grants and fund-raising that she has from Thrivent. Joan and Ken are also involved in separate chapters of Thrivent as well. Karen stated that she has done local, federal and state funding before. A separate bank account has already been set up for income and expenses relating to next year's annual meeting.

The core committee is in place for the 2007 annual meeting. Marcia is the registrar. Larry stated that it was very

important that copies of the registration forms be sent to Nanette, Jan, and himself as soon after they come in as possible. The schedule from this year will be used to put a tentative schedule together for next year. The board will notify the host committee of the numbers of seminars that we will be having at the mid-year meeting. Nanette will process this year's evaluation surveys and send to the board members as soon as possible. Any and all communications will be done through Nanette (VP of Administration) and Lynn Ryan (Host Committee Chair). Nanette will e-mail the transportation form to Lynn and a registration deadline date and late fee will be set for next year's meeting. Jan will send a list of all secretariats to Marcia.

Larry explained the board's schedule and needs of the mid-year weekend. The host committee will receive a \$1,000 stipend for mid-year meeting housing and food costs. The board will pay for the travel costs of the board members to and from Indianapolis.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

Sunday, July 30, 2006:

In attendance: Larry Witham, Pastor John Propst, Nanette Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, Bob Northrup, Diane Purcell, and Tracy Schmidlin.

Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer at 9:35 a.m. An agenda was distributed. A roster was distributed for updating the letterhead. Introductions were made around the room VdC style.

Diane stated that an audit was performed of the treasurer's books. A report is to come. All is in good order and funds are secured. She also stated that the funds for the National Coordinator Position would need to go into a separate bank account. The board will need to pass a resolution giving Jerry the authorization for the opening of the new account.

The date of the mid-year meeting in Indianapolis was set for November 3 – 5, 2006. Our first meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Plans should be made to arrive in Indianapolis on Friday by 10 or 11 a.m. so that we can have lunch prior to

the first meeting. We will plan on having meetings as a board throughout the weekend. We will meet with the host committee on Saturday and tour the facility, then return for more planning. We will worship with the host committee on Sunday morning then return home after. All were encouraged to make their mid-year travel arrangements and notify the entire board of their plans.

Conference calls were set for Sunday evenings at 9 p.m. EST on September 24, February 18 and May 20.

The Long Range Planning Committee addendum was distributed and reviewed with more discussion to follow during our teleconference call in September. There are 7 proposals for the board to review:

- 1) Begin to shift NLS focus to "Fourth Day Vitality". The Spiritual Direction forum was an excellent step in this direction.
- 2) The need for effective leadership training to enhance VdC member communication and teamwork was discussed. It was suggested that there is an unbalanced focus on "doing jobs/tasks" vs. the interpersonal/management skills needed to be effective leaders in volunteer and non-volunteer organizations.
- 3) Increased Pastoral participation in terms of growth of new pastors involved in VdC was cited as a need.
- 4) NLS Board to establish a schedule for re-signing the affirmation agreement/constitution in a periodic fashion remains open to the board for disposition.
- 5) Reworking delegate appointments.
- 6) What metrics would the NLS board suggest be used to measure its role in long-term growth of VdC?
- 7) Appoint a task force to visit fourth day movements around the country for study of the practices (organization, policies, support, nuts & bolts, etc. ("competitive benchmarking").

Nanette will process the survey results and have them available for the first teleconference call.

Tim Johnson and Vicki McCombs have offered their assistance as we look into the raising of funds for the National Coordinator position. Discussion was held regarding the next steps

needed to move forward with this process. An article will be prepared to go into the next newsletter.

Upcoming newsletter deadline dates are the 15th of the following months: August, January, April and November.

We were blessed to receive videotapes of the forums that will be put onto the website. Videos will also be available from the Resource Center. Motion with a second was made by Jerry and Nanette to make available \$100 for the web-based video production of the annual meeting's forums. Motion was approved unanimously.

Dave Hullinger was able to obtain a lot of video footage while attending the annual meeting and should be able to complete the video soon.

Tracy reported that there is talk of a new secretariat that may be forming in northeast Ohio.

Updates were given for the roster. Jan will update and send the revised letterhead for 2006-7 to all.

Motion made by Nanette, seconded by Jan to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting closed in prayer at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Long, NLS Secretary



One of the Banners created at the NLSAM and given to the new movements.

Help Us to Help You

In the past, we've sent out database update reminders to each secretariat on an annual basis. This year we're trying to send reminders to each secretariat around the time each secretariat holds its elections. In order to be effective we need your help.

Please check the list below to see if we have the correct information for your secretariat. If your election month is missing, please send me the information, and I will be glad to send you a reminder. My email address is Bhigh922@aol.com, or you can send it by good old US Mail to **Lucy Hightower**, 404 Church Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

Thanks for your help.

State	Secretariat	MO		State	Secretariat	MO
A-OK	Arkansas-Oklahoma Via de Cristo	JAN		LA	Louisiana Lutheran VdC Secretariat	JAN
AZ-1	Lutheran Cursillo AZ	NOV		MD	Vineyard Via de Cristo	APR
AZ-2	Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo	FEB		MI-1	Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central MI	FEB
CA-1	Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California			MI-2	Good News! Via de Cristo	MAY
CA-3	VdC of Southern Cal. and Central Valley			MN	Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota	JUN
CO	Colorado Via de Cristo	SEP		MT	Yellowstone Via de Cristo	JAN
FL-1	Gold Coast Via de Cristo, Inc.	FEB		NC-1	Eastern NC Via de Cristo	FEB
FL-2	Heart of Florida Via de Cristo			NC-2	Western NC Via de Cristo	FEB
FL-3	Indian River Via de Cristo	SEP		NE	Nebraska Lutheran Via de Cristo	NOV
FL-4	Lighthouse Via de Cristo	MAR		NV	Light in the Desert Via de Cristo	JUL
FL-5	Sonbeam Via de Cristo	JUN		NY	Damascus Road Via de Cristo	
FL-6	Sonshine North Via de Cristo	DEC		OH	Via de Cristo of Ohio	JAN
FL-7	Sonshine Via de Cristo So.			SC	South Carolina Via de Cristo	NOV
GA	Atlanta Via de Cristo Movement			SD	Lutheran Secretariat of SD	NONE
IL	Ecumenical Cursillo Community of IL	JUN		TN	Tennessee Lutheran Via de Cristo	NOV
IL/ MO	River's Edge VdC of Metro St. Louis/So. Illinois			TN-2	Notes of Grace of VdC of Middle TN, Inc.	
IL-1	Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo	JUN		TX-1	North Texas Lutheran Secretariat	OCT
IL-2	Living Water Via de Cristo	JUN		TX-2	Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo (South)	JAN
IL-3	Prairie Sonshine Via de Cristo			UT	Utah Via de Cristo	MAR
IL-4	Taste of Grace Via de Cristo	JAN		VA	Rainbow Via de Cristo	JAN
IN/ KY	INKY Via de Cristo	JAN		WAS	VdC of Western Washington	FEB
IW	Iowa Lutheran Secretariat			WI	Sonrise Via de Cristo	MAY
KS	Heart of America Via de Cristo					



Agape Singing at NLSAM in California

REGION-TO-REGION



Region-to-Region was a new program this year for those who attended the National Meeting.

We asked a few people ahead of time to moderate the regional breakouts to help facilitate discussion. The task set before the regions was to get to know people geographically close to you (this was relative), figure out if there were ways that you could support one another and come up with something that was of interest or importance to your region. Importance might be to strengthen one region while growing in another. Leader training, tax and insurance issues would be discussed, sharing the resources of a bountiful Secretariat with one that is struggling or possible hosts for the national meeting and so on.

This was a time to think outside the local Secretariat to a bigger picture. Moderators were temporary and the group was asked if anyone would like to be a contact person to keep the lines of communication open. The regions are not set in stone and do not represent a governing body. They are meant to enhance and support.

After about ninety minutes each group was to bring back to the assembly a few thoughts, questions, comments or focus for the future. This is what we heard:

Region 1 WA, OR, ID, MT, WY was moderated by Blake Ozias from WA. Since this is a relatively new area of the country there are very few Secretariats. In fact, Blake let us know that the nearest one was 1000 miles away! Blake is willing to remain the contact person – sees this time as beneficial and brought three concerns back to the assembly. 1) Training 2) the need for pastors on weekends 3) active 4th day groups and Ultreyas, especially when people live so far apart. This group is asking if there are any Pastors willing to travel.

Region 2 CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM moderated by Virginia Reymer from AZ, stated their first concern was targeted to leadership training. Bob Ricci from Utah has volunteered to organize with Phoenix, and others in the region, to attend the leadership training in Phoenix. The second target was outreach: to provide assistance to all secretariats of VdC who wish to expand to new areas within this region.

Region 3 ND, SD, NE, MN, WI moderated by Vi Christiansen from MN set 2 goals for this upcoming year. 1) Reach out to Nebraska Lutheran VdC and ask how can we help? 2) Make contact with South Dakota and re-establish communication. Advise them that the NLS has begun the regional program and others in their region are interested in working with them to help as needed/ able.

Region 4 KS, Western MO, OK, AR, TX, LA moderated by Tim Johnson from Texas, expressed a desire to engage the other Secretariats in dialogue even though they were not present at the NLS. Their goals included 1) contacting the leadership of other communities within 1 month to ascertain interest 2) sharing a pool of pastors 3) sharing legal resources 4) sharing the ideas

from NLS annual meetings with those not present 5) be open to other movements ideas 6) hold a mid year meeting within the region. They also suggested that the NLS president contact the missing lay directors encouraging them to look at region-to-region benefits.

Region 5 IA, Eastern MO, IL, IN, KY moderated by Lynn Ryan, from Indiana, wanted to concentrate on reaching out to who was not in attendance this year. Their focus will be to host the national meeting next year and get as many Secretariats from their region to attend. They would like to try to contact all the Secretariats in January or February and are hoping to find a regional contact from Living Waters.

Region 6 MI, OH, PA, WV, VA, DC, MD, DE, NJ, CT, NY, RI, MA, VT, ME was undertaken by Jim Caldwell, OH. The group agreed that each of the Secretariats, within the region, needed to begin praying: for the region, praying for God’s blessing and praying for His direction. This region is willing to take on the task of what their understanding of this program is. They are willing to meet during the year and Debbie Wasillus is willing to be the contact person.

Region 7 TN, NC, SC, GA moderated by Lucy Hightower, from S Carolina, plans to have a regional meeting at Lutheridge. They will try to convince all Secretariats to attend and present the region-to-region ideas at that time. They will plan this one event to see how it works and Vicki McCombs will be the contact person.

Region 8 MS, AL, FL moderated by Penny Klein from Florida. Since Florida already has a system in place, they will be meeting in the Jacksonville area in February of 2007, at a Grand Ultreya. Penny Klein will continue to be the contact person and she will take this information, along with ideas to the lay directors at the meeting in February. They will also, at this meeting discuss possibly hosting the annual meeting in 2009.

Now the ball is in the regions courts, what each region does is up to them. The hope and desire is that everything they do will be a positive reflection on the whole movement. Strengthening and expanding our movement regionally will just make us that much healthier nationally. It is not meant to take the place of anything or give carte blanche to change Via de Cristo in any way. In fact, the hope is that it will create consistency in such a way that if you attended an Ultreya, reunion group or weekend anywhere in the United States you will recognize the essentials – you will know you’ve been on a Via de Cristo weekend and by that, hold Via de Cristo’s integrity in tack.

We hope you enjoyed this year’s meeting as much as we did and the region-to-region time becomes another “favorite” part of the national meeting.

Tracy Schmidlin,
Past VP Administration



President's Report

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

What a wonderful time we had in California. Loyola Marymount University was a beautiful setting for us to experience this year's meeting. From our dormitory that sat high on a bluff overlooking the city of Los Angeles in one direction and the Pacific Ocean in another, to the beautifully groomed and well kept grounds of LMU, our 2006 Annual Meeting will be fondly remembered.

The theme for the weekend, "Know, Grow and Go" was woven throughout the three days. Each day we witnessed and shared in wonderful worship services that exemplified piety, study, and action. Outstanding pastors made each worship service a special treat. Thanks be to God!

Our host's, Via de Cristo of Southern California and Central Valley could not have been more gracious. They were truly there to serve and I believe that a great time was had by all. Thank you all for your hospitality!

We elected and welcomed two new officers to the Board, Nanette Helgager, VP of Administration and Pastor John Propst, Spiritual Director. We also re-elected Jerry Lemcke to another term as Treasurer. This of course meant we needed to say thank you and goodbye to their retiring predecessors; VP of Administration Tracy Schmidlin and Spiritual Director Pastor Joe Nilsen. The entire assembly joined in a special tribute to both of them for a job well done.

We introduced something new into our meeting this year by having what we called a "Region to Region" breakout session. This session provided an opportunity for each of us to meet with attendees from other secretariats that are geographically located near our homes. From the early reports I have heard, this was well received and some states are already making plans to have a regional Ultreya. I'm sure you will see more on this in the future.

Another big step we took at this year's meeting was that the delegates in attendance voted to establish the position of a National Coordinator to provide day-to-day oversight of our movement. It was the opinion of the Board that this could be done if we held a national fundraising campaign with a goal of establishing an endowment fund to pay for this position. The Board was empowered to seek, find, and have trained some individuals that would like to work on this fund raising campaign.

Here's where we really need you help. If you have some previous experience in non-profit capital campaigns or fund drives, and/or have the ability and talents to help us make this happen, we want to hear from you. If you have some experience raising large sums of money in the corporate world or your business and would like to be a part of this campaign, we want to hear from you. Please contact any member of the Board. We are already in the process of establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee to make this happen. This is a project well worth our time and efforts that can make a difference to Via

de Cristo for many years to come. Please pray about it and see if God is nudging you to step forward.

The Board will be meeting in Indianapolis this November to plan next year's annual meeting. Please mark your calendars for **July 26-29, 2007** and make your plans to join us. Encourage other members of your secretariat to attend. It promises to be another grace filled experience.

If you've never attended a NLS Annual Meeting, you're missing a treat. During the time we spend together, we experience some very uplifting worship services, take care of some business, share ideas from our different secretariats, and enjoy fellowship with other Cursillistas from all over the country. If you have attended in the past, you already know this.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to seeing you next July in Indianapolis!

Peace and joy,
Larry Witham, NLS President



Vice President of Administration

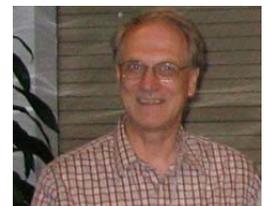
Swedish Via de Cristo

I had the joy and pleasure of being part of the first Swedish Via de Cristo weekend.

This summer Latvia Via de Cristo invited 19 people from Sweden to attend a Via de Cristo weekend in Latvia. This weekend was held in Burtniki, Latvia August 3 – 6, 2006. The team included 12 Latvians, 1 Swede, and 22 Americans from Indiana and Ohio. The reason for so many Americans was that the language for the weekend was English.

Latvia VDC held their first weekend in the summer of 2002 and now felt called to reach out to Sweden. Latvia and Sweden have many natural connections. They are both predominantly Lutheran and are located across the Baltic Sea from each other. As a result there is much travel between the two countries for both business and pleasure. Congregations in Sweden have been helping congregations in Latvia with church renovations, which are much needed after the neglect suffered when Latvia was part of the old Soviet Union.

DeColores
Dave Erdman
NLS Vice President of Outreach



Secretaries Report



The Race Set Before Us

Dear VdC community,

As you can see from our logo, our theme for the National Lutheran Secretariat annual meeting in 2007 is **The Race Set Before Us.** Our theme is taken from Hebrews 12: 1b-2a -

Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The dates for this awesome event are July 26-29, 2007 and the location will be the Butler University campus on the near North side of Indianapolis. The campus is conveniently located just 14 miles from the Indianapolis International Airport and 5 1/2 miles from the center of downtown Indianapolis. Butler is a private university located in the historical Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. It is a small campus housing less than 5,000 students. All buildings, including the dormitories are air-conditioned, and sleeping arrangements consist of two double rooms with a shared bath.

The INKY steering committee for this event is very excited about the opportunity to host a continuation of the fabulous 2006 NLSAM in California where we learned to KNOW Christ, to GROW in Christ, and to GO with Christ. Now we are going to put all this to work in THE RACE SET BEFORE US. Registration and the opportunity to register for this exciting event will be in the January Conexiones.



What a wonderful annual meeting we had in Los Angeles. The entire host committee and team had servant hearts and made sure that our every need was met. The university was beautiful and the view overlooking L.A., the mountains and the Pacific Ocean was breathtaking, especially during sunset. God's creation was displayed in all His glory for our pleasure.

This has been a very busy yet very rewarding time in my life. Preparations for the annual meeting consumed a lot of my time prior to my departure; but it was essential as the time in L.A. went smoothly. God has been working in me so that my procrastinating tendencies have been turning into a more proactive nature, which has been a blessing in more ways than one.

It was great to see such a large group make it out to the west coast to attend the meeting. There were many that were missed though and it is our hope that we will see you in Indianapolis next year. Minutes of the meeting are available on the website plus in this newsletter.

My thanks and praise to our Lord God, Heavenly Father for all He is doing. I'm just delighted to be one of the many vessels in this great movement that He uses.



God loves you and so do I.
Jan Long, NLS Secretary

Venezuela VdC Mission Opportunity:

The previous announced Venezuela weekends have been postponed. According to an email from Sheldon Groff, he has learned that the coordinator in Venezuela, has requested that the weekends be delayed until next year.

Shel stated, *"Please pray against the work of the enemy because it seems the enemy wants to destroy the Camino de Cristo movement here. When a person attends Camino de Cristo it appears he is signing up to do spiritual warfare big time. Please pray for discernment for us in how to proceed with the Venezuela plans."*

Continue to pray for the possibility of these weekends and watch for future updates in the Conexiones.



NLS Distribution Center

Greetings from the NLS Distribution Center, we have a few things to report to you.

1. We now have a Braille version of the Pilgrim's Guide for \$15.00. Order this on the NLS Web Page order form.

2. We also have the Pilgrim's Guide in audio format on a CD ROM Disk. The disk has three formats of the same spoken booklet.

First is AUDIO, it is an audio CD Disk that plays in audio CD machines.

Next, with the disk in a computer, you will be able to access both WAV and MP3 formats of the spoken booklet. These two formats can be transferred to a portable playback device. We believe the three different formats on the disk will cover almost all requirements.

Order this disk on the order form's "comments" line, the cost is \$5.00. Cassette tapes could be created on special order, contact me for details.

3. A large print version of the Pilgrim's Guide is being planned but we aren't sure when this will be ready.

4. The new version of the S.D. Manual is closer to being ready to distribute, it is expected that it will be first made available as a download from the NLS Web Site.

5. Please note: The **Distribution Center will be on VACATION January 17 through February 09 of 2007**. We will not be shipping during this time, tell your friends please.

John & Carol Bradford joab@aros.net

National VdC Coordinator Process.....

Throughout this newsletter you will find information about the process our community is beginning towards the idea that we establish the position of a National VdC Coordinator. The minutes (7/28) reflect the discussion and then unanimous support and approval to continue with the process. So what's next?

First., we believe this is a possibility by holding a national fundraising campaign with a goal of establishing an endowment fund to pay for this position. Second, we need individuals who have some previous experience in non-profit capital campaigns or fund drives, and/or have the ability and talents to help us make this happen. The Board was empowered to seek, find, and have trained some individuals that would like to work on this fund raising campaign. Third, the board is already in the process of establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee to make this happen.

President Larry shared in his report, *"This is a project well worth our time and efforts that can make a difference to Via de Cristo for many years to come. Please pray about it and see if God is nudging you to step forward."*

Treasurer's Report

Like Paul, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. I constantly remember you in my prayers at all times.

What a joy it was to see old friends and meet new ones at our annual meeting in Los Angeles. We had a great time worshipping, catching up on events since our last meeting and doing business. I am excited to get going on our fundraising for the new "NATIONAL COORDINATOR" position for the NLS that was approved at the meeting. I have been busy checking out setting up a separate account to deposit moneys collected for that purpose. I truly believe that our organization has grown to a point where extra help is needed for the growing number of secretariats we have.

The offering we took that was designated for OUTREACH was more than hoped for. Your generosity was overwhelming and the total came to \$1707. This money will help to start new movements in many places that Dave Erdman, (outreach chair), will be telling you about. Thank you all so very much for your continued support.

Your representatives to the annual meeting received copies of the complete financial reports. If you are interested in knowing where we stand financially be sure to talk to them or have them give a report at your next secretariat meeting or ultreya. If you need more information or have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. My complete addresses are on page two of this newsletter. Below you will find a summary of our financial position.

I look forward to seeing you at our next annual meeting in Indianapolis IN; until then, May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

Jerry Lemcke,
NLS Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of May 31,2006

ASSETS

Cash – General fund	\$18,976
Cash – In Transit	0
Cash – Distribution Center	\$4,916
Investment Thrivent	\$15,469

TOTAL ASSETS

\$39,361

NET ASSETS

Restricted	
Video Fund	\$2,860
Outreach Fund	\$10,050
Unrestricted – General Fund	\$22,481
Unrestricted – Distribution Center	\$3,970

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$39,361

Palanca!!!

Future weekends

Weekends for the next six months will be printed in this section. Check the Web for more updated information.

- Sept. 2006 - Maryland: **Vineyard VDC**, Women's #18 Sept. 7-10, Send palanca to: Sara McCall PO Box 254 Smithsburg, MD 21783
- Sept. 2006 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Men's #57 Sept. 7-10, Women's #57 Sept. 14-17, Send palanca to: Judy Zander, 304 Amity Cir. Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Sept. 2006 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #57 Sept. 14-17, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Sept. 2006 - Florida: **Gold Coast VDC**, Men #73: Sept. 14-17, Women's #33: Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Taura Hames 4579 NW 16th Terrace Tamarac, FL 33309
- Sept. 2006 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #7: Sept. 21-24, Send palanca to: Jeanine Grubb 1530 Duhamel Way Las Vegas, NV 89032
- Sept. 2006 - South Carolina: **South Carolina Lutheran VDC**, Coed #7: Sept. 28- Oct. 1, Send palanca to: Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lakes Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- Oct. 2006 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Men's #46: Oct. 5-8, & Women's #46: Oct. 26-29, Send palanca to: Regina de La Rosa 5520 Fishtail Palm Ave. Cocoa, FL 32927
- Oct. 2006 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men's #53: Oct. 5-8, Women's #51 Oct. 12-15, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Oct. 2006 - Indiana Kentucky: **INKY VDC**, Coed #2: Oct. 5-8, Send palanca to: Roger Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Oct. 2006 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VDC**, Men's #39: Oct. 5-8, Women's #39 Oct. 12-15, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 30748 E River Rd. Perrysburg, OH 43551
- Oct. 2006 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #476, Oct. 5-8, Women's #477 Oct. 12-15, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2006 - AR/OK: **AR-OK VDC**, Coed #15: Oct. 12-15, Send palanca to: Matt Milzarek 634 So. Poplar St. Sapulpa, OK 74066
- Oct. 2006 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #109: 12-15, & Women's #110 Oct. 26-29, Send palanca to: Tracy Clark 326 E. Fairmont Tempe, AZ 85282
- Oct. 2005 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC** Men's #33: Oct. 12-15, Women's #33: Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Jan Fry % St John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave Winter Park, FL 32789
- Oct. 2006 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #478: Oct. 12-15, Women's #479: Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2006 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #17: Oct. 12-15, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 37931

- Oct. 2006 - Arizona: **South AZ Lutheran VdC**, Men's #21: Oct. 19-22, & Women's #22 Nov. 9-12, Send palanca to: Marian Unruh PO Box #18349 Tucson, AZ 85731-8349
- Oct 2006 - California: **VdC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, Coed #28 Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: HM McKinsey 37460 Torrington St. Palmdale, CA 93550
- Oct. 2006 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #95: Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Oct. 2006 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #18: Oct. 19-22 & Women #19 Oct. 26-29, Send palanca to: Joyce Zobrist 1326 Amanda Metamora, IL 61548
- Oct. 2006 - Ohio: **Ohio VdC**, Men's #59 Oct. 19-22, & Women's #59 :Nov. 2-5, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224
- Oct. 2006 - Washington: **VdC of Western Washington**, Coed #3 Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Jan Ozias 23609 NE 25th Way Sammamish, WA 98074
- Oct. 2006 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed (coed) #2 Oct. 26-29, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- Oct. 2006 - Virginia: **Rainbow VdC**, Women #52 Oct. 26-29, Send palanca to: Jennifer Church 11904 Buttercup Lane Fredericksburg, VA 22407
- Nov. 2006 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men #24, Nov. 2-5 & Women #24 Nov. 9-12 Send palanca to: Amy Dempsey 6815 Crazy Horse Colorado Springs, CO 80917
- Nov. 2006 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men #50, Nov. 2-5 & Women #50 Nov. 9-12 Send palanca to: Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnyln DR. Orange Park, FL 32073
- Nov. 2006 - Illinois: **Living Water VDC**, Mixed (Coed): Nov. 2-5, Send palanca to: Gary & Jan Morse 301 7th Ave. LaSalle, IL 61301
- Nov. 2006 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #55: Nov. 2-5 & Women #56 Nov. 9-12, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Nov. 2006 - Florida: **Sunbeam VDC**, Men's #48: Nov. 9-12, & Women's #48: Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Skip Young 2885 10th Ave. No. St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- Nov. 2006 - Illinois: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Men #8: Nov. 9-12, & Women #8 Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Amy Prior 1910 Springside Dr.. Plainfield, IL 60586
- Nov. 2006 - Montana: **Yellowstone VDC**, Coed Nov. 9-12, Send palanca to: Warren Peterson 2618 Louise Lane Billings, MT 59102
- Nov. 2006 - Indiana Kentucky: **INKY VDC**, Coed #3: Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Roger Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Nov. 2006 - Missouri/Illinois **River's Edge VDC**, Women #7: Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Marylee Howard 1225 N. State St. Litchfield, IL 62056
- Nov. 2006 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #58 Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Nov. 2006 - Illinois : **Prairie Sonshine VDC of Central Illinois**, Women #6 Nov. 16-19, Send palanca to: Kevin & Tracy Travender 916 N. West Jacksonville, IL 62650

 Look for any weekend updates on the National VdC website—
www.viadecristo.org

Now is the time to send in your VdC Community's 2007 weekend dates to the; **Palanca Coordinator – Paul Sabatier-Smith**
dcolor9@attglobal.net

2007 WEEKENDS:

- Jan. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #480: Oct. 12-15, Women's #481: Oct. 19-22, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Feb. 2007 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #59 Feb. 9-12, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Feb. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #482: Feb. 15-18, Women's #483: Feb. 22-25, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Mar. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #484: TBA Women's #485: TBA, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Mar. 2007 - Tennessee: **TN Lutheran VdC**, Mixed (coed) #18: Mar. 15-18, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 37931
- April 2007 - Missouri/Illinois **River's Edge VDC**, Men #8: April 12-15, Send palanca to: Marylee Howard 1225 N. State St. Litchfield, IL 62056
- April 2007 - South Carolina: **South Carolina Lutheran VDC**, Men's #28: April 12-15 & Women's #29 April 26-29, Send palanca to: Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lakes Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- April 2007 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed (coed) #3 April 19-22, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- April 2007 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #60 April 26-29, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- April/May 2007 - Ohio: **Ohio VdC**, Men's #60 April 26-29, & Women's #60 :May 17-20, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224
- May 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #486: May 17-20 Women's #487: May 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825



CA Transportation Team

NLS Distribution Center

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

Annual Meeting Items Available

All the material that was available at the 2006 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?



www.viadechristo.org

Webmaster: *Bob Northrup*

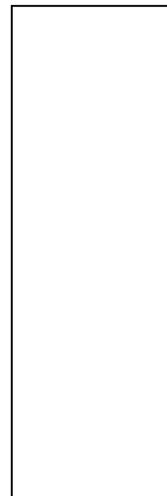
CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

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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