

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 24  
Number 4  
December 2006

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

**NLS 2007 Annual Meeting: July 26 — 29, 2007**  
**Hosted by Indiana and Kentucky (INKY)**

**Schwitzer Student Center**



**Schwitzer Student Center**



## **JOIN THE RACE – ALL ROADS LEAD TO INDY**

Make your plans now to attend the **2007 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting (NLSAM)** in Indianapolis, the crossroads of America. Our theme is *“The Race Set Before Us”*. Enjoy Hoosier Hospitality both at the NLSAM and in Indianapolis.

The 2007 NLSAM will be held at the University of Indianapolis, a small Methodist school on the south side of Indianapolis. The university is only fifteen minutes from either the airport or downtown. Most of our meetings will take place in the Schwitzer Student Center which houses the dining hall, most conference rooms and the beautiful chapel. We will also use the auditorium in an adjacent building for a few sessions. The dorm facilities (air-conditioned, double accommodations with community bathrooms) are located a short distance away in Cory Bretz Hall. For more information about the campus you can visit the university website at [www.uindy.edu](http://www.uindy.edu).

Come early to tour the revitalized downtown Indianapolis with its Canal Walk, White River State Park, NCAA Headquarters, Indiana State Museum and Circle Center Mall. Visit the Indianapolis Zoo with its one of a kind dolphin area (where you can actually walk under and next to the dolphins as they swim!) and see the new baby elephant. Sport lovers can watch the AAA Indianapolis Indians play baseball at the acclaimed Victory Field or see the WNBA Indiana Fever play at the Conseco Field house. Race fans may wish to make plans to visit the Indianapolis Speedway & Museum—home of the Indy 500.

After the NLSAM, stay a while longer and attend the Allstate 500 at the Brickyard—NASCAR at its finest! It will be held this year on Sunday, July 29. Make your travel plans early!

**University of Indianapolis**



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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](mailto:lwitham@carolina.rr.com)

**Spiritual Director**

**Rev. John Propst**  
39 Oakhurst Road  
Arden, NC 28704-9540  
828-713-4646 (C)  
[propst@twilightdesigns.com](mailto:propst@twilightdesigns.com)

**Vice President of Administration**

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

**Vice President of Outreach**

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

**Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**NLS Appointed Positions**

**Archivist – Ron Millard**

309-444-4225  
[ron@ssi.net](mailto:ron@ssi.net)

**Database Coordinator – Lucy Hightower**

843-884-4276 (H)  
[bhigh922@aol.com](mailto:bhigh922@aol.com)

**Distribution Center – John Bradford**

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

**Financial Advisor – Diane Purcell**

651-459-7249 (H)  
651-768-0624 (FAX)  
[dspurcell@msn.com](mailto:dspurcell@msn.com)

**Newsletter Editor – Judy Laabs-Foss**

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

**Palanca Coordinator – Paul Sabatier-Smith**

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

**Web Page Coordinator – Bob Northrup**

919-872-6754 (H)  
[bofnorthrup@mindspring.com](mailto:bofnorthrup@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](mailto:Lynn815@aol.com)



**National Lutheran Secretariat**

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

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Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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Volume 24  
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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 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.

## NLS Vice President Administration Report

Greetings Fellow Cristoistas,

My first experience as Vice President of Administration for the Mid-year meeting was such a blessing. The host committee is really on track with their plans despite a change in venue just before our visit. It is always God's plans that we seem so awed by and I am sure Lynn Ryan and the rest of her team at INKY are just as amazed at what God can do when you are pulling together plans to host the NLSAM as we were last year in LA.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2007 NLSAM. The Keynote speaker, forum and seminars sessions will all be such great learning opportunities for all of us. This is an opportunity to bring all of your secretariat members to help focus on what VdC is about. Last years speakers gave us a lot of inspiration and the host committee got a big opportunity to learn and grow from that experience. They have set their focus back on the essentials and intentional leadership training of their teams.

LA's neighbors over at Light in the Desert VdC of NV/AZ went home with a renewed spirit and the opportunity to refocus on the essentials. They brought almost all of their secretariat members and a few other members from their community. Before they left they had a meeting where they all covered the things that they had learned and they took back tools with them to restructure the weekend using the essentials. It has been a great blessing for them and for their community as they have already instituted some of those changes for their VdC#7 which they just held in October.

The National Board had some great discussions on what it is that you our communities want from us and from that we built the forum and the seminar sessions. The seminar sessions will focus on specific topics from the forum and get a bit more in-depth. You won't want to miss this and you will want to do your best to bring as many from your communities as possible, bring enough people so you will have a few people that can attend each of the sessions.

Watch the next newsletter for registration forms and the topics for the seminars. But don't delay in your planning. Start planning now to attend the 2007 NLSAM.

Our schedule will look a bit different as we listened to the surveys and a majority of you were interested in more small group time. We have put small group time as one of our priorities for the NLSAM and discussion topics in the small groups will center their focus on the themes of the forums and seminars.

We also discussed the region to region session that was held at the 2006 NLSAM. Most of the responses

from that were very positive and some have already set dates to get together and plan an event together. There was an area of concern where one community's next closest community in their region was over 1,000 miles away. The Board has tasked me to make contact with the communities of Regions 1 & 2 to discuss re-drawing the region lines to make it a bit easier for support with in the regions. No decision on changing the regions will be made until all communities involved have had the opportunity for input.

Continue to pray and lift up the NLS Board and INKY our host team for 2007 NLSAM as our plans come together for July 26-29, 2007. Put it on your calendars now.

L1A – John 13:34-35  
Nanette Helgager  
NLS Vice President Administration



### National VdC Coordinator in Process

As mentioned in the last newsletter and in this one, our community is beginning the process towards the idea that we establish the position of a National VdC Coordinator. The minutes from the August Conexiones reflected 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, *"The Board is asking for 8 to 10 additional people to help on a fund raising committee for the National Coordinator position. We have already had two volunteers, but hope that you will feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit to serve in this capacity. 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 - see if God is nudging you to be on this Ad-Hoc Committee. Then contact any board member with your positive response.**

## NLS Board Minutes

### **Conference Call — Sept 24, 2006**

**Present:** Present: Larry Witham, Dave Erdman, Nanette Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, and Pastor John Propst.

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor John Propst at 9:14 p.m.

**Secretary's Report** – Jan Long: Updated database was received from Lucy Hightower. All prior minutes have been approved and posted. Letterhead was updated.

**Treasurer** – Jerry Lemcke: \$12,927.46 in checking account. There is \$15,469.50 in the Thrivent account. We are receiving \$45-57 a month in interest. The fee for our trademark has been paid and is good for 15 years. Dues payments are pretty much up-to-date. We are in good shape with payments. No dues have been sent in yet for this year. Information regarding the Pilgrims Guides in Spanish is to come soon from Diane Purcell.

**VP of Administration** – Nanette Helgager: Evaluation Results from the 2006 annual meeting were received by all present on the board's conference call. Good comments on surveys. Comments and recap on region-to-region discussions are being sent via e-mail. People liked the seminars on leadership and getting back to the essentials, and the spiritual direction forum. We will be staying at a Days Inn for our mid-year meeting. A conference room will be available for us to use. INKY had their first team meeting for the annual meeting.

**VP of Outreach** – Dave Erdman: Have been in contact with Colorado VdC. A group of people has decided to form a new movement. Discussion followed. The new group will focus on northern Colorado. It's important that local movements are ecumenical. We are Lutheran in theology, and we welcome all denominations.

Contacting people who have contacted him last year to see how they are doing.

21 pilgrims from Sweden attended the weekend held in Latvia. The pilgrims talked about how they can bring Via de Cristo to Sweden. Half of the men were seminary students. Some of the women were deaconesses.

**Spiritual Director** – Pastor John Propst: New SD Manual is available in hard copy and online. 50 manuals were received from John Bradford. Pastor Joe Nilsen did a great job in the preparation of the manual. Outlines will be easier for pastors to follow. The manual makes the suggestion for Spiritual Directors to give their talks during team meetings for critiquing.

**Newsletter Editor** – Judy Laabs-Foss: Last newsletter went out. Looking forward to the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the next issue.

**Web Page** – Bob Northrup: Larry reported that Dave Hullinger hopes to be done with the video production process by the end of October.

### **Old Business:**

Long Range Planning Committee addendum items had been discussed at the Board meeting on Sunday, July 30.

National Coordinator Position – 2 people have expressed an interest in assisting with the process of this position.

A link to Symbols, Inc. on the VdC web site was tabled and will be discussed when Bob Northrup is present.

**New Business:** Motion/Support for an account for National Coordinator to be set up with Wachovia who has a new interest-bearing program for non-profit organizations. Motion was approved.

Mid-Year Meeting plans are going well. We will be arriving into Indianapolis on Thursday, Nov 3. The Board Meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

The Spiritual Director Manual is available at \$5.00 each. Large print copies of the Pilgrim's Guide are also available at \$5.00 each. Audiocassettes of the Pilgrim's Guide have been copied onto

CD's. The Distribution Center will be on vacation Jan 15 – Feb 9, 2007.

The new secretariat - Northern Lights - needs to be put onto the web site.

Final bill from the university (in California) was \$34,007.10 bill. More monies are coming in and some bills still need to be paid. Final figures to come. Approximately \$3,000.00 will be available to INKY.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long, NLS Secretary  
\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mid-Year Meeting Nov. 3—5, 2006**

#### **Friday, November 3, 2006**

Board members Larry Witham, Pastor John Propst, Dave Erdman, Nanette (Nu) Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke and Jan Long arrived safely in Indianapolis on Friday, November 4. Nu and Jan traveled with Lynn Ryan to tour and evaluate the rooms that will be available at the University of Indianapolis where the 2007 NLS Annual Meeting will be held. Jim Ryan drove the rest of the board members to the university and all viewed the facility. We then traveled to the Days Inn motel to check in and begin our meeting.

The Board Meeting opened at 12:45 p.m. with prayer requests, a prayer and devotion by Pastor John from *Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado.

Discussion was had regarding possible challenges that may need to be faced with the university; however, this one may be a blessing as it is close to the airport and all daily activities will be centrally located. The agenda was reviewed that Larry had prepared.

Nu reviewed and highlighted the Evaluation Survey Overview. There were a lot of good comments regarding the 2006 NLSAM. The comments and suggestions that were made will be

taken under consideration as we plan for next year's meeting. Discussion was had regarding improvement of the evaluation form. We discussed the physical layout of the university.

The theme will be *The Race Set Before Us* with Hebrews 12:1b-2a as the key verse. Banners from local secretariats will be encouraged and welcomed. Forum and seminar topics were discussed.

At 6 p.m. we were taken to King of Glory Lutheran Church for a delicious dinner served by several members of the host committee. We then returned to the motel and continued our meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Discussion continued on the forum and seminar topics and possible speakers. Brainstorming was held for the Small Group Breakout Sessions.

The Registration and Evaluation forms were looked at for improvements. Larry reported that Dave Hullinger has the video almost done. It is approximately 17 minutes long. He is currently looking for background music.

It was reported that the contract for the university was signed. The meeting closed with prayer at 9:20 p.m.

#### **Saturday, November 4, 2006**

Saturday, November 4 at 9 a.m. we traveled to the university where we met all of the chairs from the host committee. We then toured, reviewed and studied the rooms available to us for the annual meeting. Lunch was enjoyed at the university. Copious notes were taken, as well as a lot of pictures! We then traveled back to the motel to continue meeting.

Pastor John opened the Board and Host Committee Meeting at 1:17 p.m. Larry welcomed all attendees. Introductions were made around the room. Floor plans of the university were distributed. Job position guidelines were reviewed with committee members by Nu.

Seminar/Forum Ideas were distributed to board members and Lynn by Nu and reviewed by Larry. Speakers will need to be identified. Larry asked the host

committee to let us know if there are suggestions of local speakers. Titles of the seminars and the forum will have the NASCAR theme. Small group breakout sessions will use different race cars to designate the different small groups. The meeting concluded with the host committee at 2:16 p.m.

We continued meeting on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Copies of suggested group discussions given to us by Wes Bucher were reviewed. Nu will take suggestions and share with the host committee. The host committee is to discuss possible speakers as they meet and will make suggestions to the board. Seminar topics were reviewed and discussion was held regarding speakers. Phone calls will be made to the names suggested for prospective speakers.

The daily schedule for the annual meeting was reviewed and times were adjusted for consistency. Rooms for the different committees were discussed. Possible names to be given for the Nominating Committee were discussed.

The positions that are coming to a close in 2007 are President, VP of Outreach, and Secretary. Larry's second term as President is up. Dave is planning to run for a second term as VP of Outreach. Jan will not be running for a second term as Secretary.

Calls will be made to the names suggested for a prospective Nominating Committee.

A new movement in Colorado was discussed. *Via de Cristo of the Rockies* has scheduled an organizational meeting and is reviewing the NLS Constitution and the Essentials. Both movements in Colorado will be personally invited to bring 4-5 people to the annual meeting.

Cursillistas in the "pan handle" area of Florida are recruiting people and are considering starting another movement. They also will be invited to the annual meeting. Contacts have been made with Cursillistas in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut who have inquired about starting a movement in their area. Two movements in Ohio are considering birthing new movements.

Region-to-Region designations were discussed. The time of the conference call will begin at 8 p.m. EST on February 18, 2006. Newsletter articles are due November 15. The meeting closed with prayer at 5:25 p.m. Board members traveled to Jim & Lynn Ryan's home for dinner at 6 p.m. where an excellent dinner with fellowship was enjoyed by all.

#### **Sunday, November 5, 2006**

Sunday morning, November 5 we traveled to King of Glory Lutheran Church for worship, some members of the board stayed for lunch afterward. All were transported to the airport for their departures home and all arrived safely at their designations.

Our INKY hosts blessed us with their amazing servant hearts. God blessed us with a very productive weekend that was filled with His presence. He truly was with us this entire weekend!

In His Service,  
Jan Long, NLS  
Secretary



***And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. .... And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.*** Luke 2:12 & 16 RSV



## President's Report

Brothers and Sister in Christ, DeColores!

As I sit here in my home on this beautiful fall day, I can't help but to think about all the reasons we have to be thankful. Seeing the many beautiful colors of the leaves, glistening in the sunshine, with that Carolina blue sky is spectacular!

Thanksgiving is coming soon and hopefully we will all be with family or friends to share in the blessings of the season. A time to give thanks and share, just as the Indians did with the Pilgrims so many years ago. We have so many reasons to be thankful. Just look around you at all of the blessings God has given to you. May you find or create the opportunity to share with your brothers & sisters in Christ on this special day; being truly thankful for all the gifts that our Lord has given to you.

With Advent just around the corner, we'll prepare for another reason to be thankful. As we plan and prepare for the Christmas season, we'll celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of a baby; God's own son, born unto us over 2000 years ago. He lived, taught us, died and rose again and is still alive today in each one of us. The greatest gift ever given! May the real reason for the season be in your heart and mind every day. May each day be filled with joy and happiness this Christmas season.

The New Year will quickly follow and the hosts for our Annual Meeting are busy preparing for your arrival in July. Host Committee Chair, Lynn Ryan and her team of gracious workers are putting the final touches on their plans for our meeting. What a great job they are doing!

The NLS Board just spent three days in Indianapolis viewing the facilities at the University of Indianapolis and I believe you are going to love this campus. All of the facilities are close to each other and will work well for our gathering. The auditorium is large and has very comfortable seating. Right next door is the main facility where we will worship, eat, have our seminars, committee meetings, Region to Region session, and enjoy some fellowship. The dorms are air conditioned, have shared restroom facilities on each floor, and space for fellowship and gathering. The college folks are friendly, accommodating, and are looking forward to our stay with them.

The Board is asking for 8 to 10 additional people to help on a fund raising committee for the National Coordinator position. We have already had two volunteers, but hope that you will feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit to serve in this capacity. 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 contact any board member with your positive response.

Please mark your calendars for July 26-29, 2007 and make your plans early to join us in Indianapolis. It's also a race weekend, so bookings for airlines, hotels, etc. will fill up fast. Encourage other members of your secretariat to attend, as it promises to be another grace-filled experience. I look forward to seeing you in Indiana! Thanks be to God!

Peace and joy my friends,  
Larry Witham, NLS President



*Merry Christmas*

## Treasurer's Report

I have recently returned from the "MID YEAR MEETING" in Indianapolis IN, the sight of next years national meeting. Our host committee has done a great job in setting things up for the meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you all next July and to being with our hosts again who truly have SERVANT HEARTS.

Please remind your treasurers to remit membership fees by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2007. I do not send invoices but will send an email reminder in the early part of 2007 to treasurers that I have an email address for. Please make sure that you have my current address which is posted on the national website and to send changes to your secretariat to the database coordinator.

I have been authorized to open a separate bank account for depositing funds collected for the position of "National Coordinator" approved at last years meeting. We are still working on the finding people to head up the fund raising effort but I see no reason for not sending funds in now for those wishing to do so.

By the time Conexiones is printed and distributed, Thanksgiving day will have come and gone and it will be "Advent", a time to remember the events leading up to our Saviors birth and the true meaning of Christmas. I wish you all a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" in advance.

Jerry Lemcke,  
NLS Treasurer



## Spiritual Director's Report

*"Jesus called over a child, whom He stood in the middle of the room, and said, 'I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom.'" (Matthew 18:2-4 from The Message)*

A preaching theme that God has encouraged me to use over the last years has been one of a "childlike journey of faith." Now that I have been blessed with the title, "Granpops" by my grandchildren, Keaton & Nola, childlikeness really flows through my blood!

But then, maybe God had children in mind when He gave us the gift of Via de Cristo. Think about it....

**Piety** – a child is drawn to God in prayer & praise! Watch & listen closely the next time the children's choir sings at Church. **JOY!** Uninhibited joy! Listen as a child (or more!) claps after the prelude. Grandson Keaton is in awe during worship; there is great wonder in his eyes and heart as he waits for what comes next! When is the last time that you've been in awe over the greatness and goodness of our Creator God?!

**Study** – "read it again" a child will beg. "Wow! Look at Jesus walking on water!" a child will exclaim as he/she looks at the children's Bible. "Tell me about it, child" you ask, and the child gives you every detail you could ask for – and more! When do you get so excited about God's Word that you can hardly talk!?

**Action** – "Can we go see great-Grammy in her care home again this week? I loved talking to her friends," a child will say. "Jesus loves all her friends, doesn't He?!" Do we get excited about our witness and service as much as a child does?

One of my favorite books (you'd do yourself a Spiritual favor by buying and reading it!) is **Dangerous Wonder – the Adventure of Childlike Faith** by Michael Yaconelli. In a line from the book, here's what can happen to an adult with a childlike faith ... *"you're never quite sure if you are chasing Jesus or if He is chasing you. In my experience, the good news is that when Jesus is near, who is chasing whom never seems to matter much."*

Enjoy your Spiritual chase today, my friends. As you contemplate your piety, study & action, contemplate them with the heart of a child. And then be in awe and wonder at what God's Spirit will do in your heart.

God's blessings upon you all,

*John*

Pr. John Propst,  
NLS Spiritual Director



## Secretaries Report

What a wonderful mid-year meeting we had in Indianapolis. The host committee and others had wonderful servant hearts and made sure that our every need was met. The university was beautiful and will accommodate our every need. The Holy Spirit was felt during the entire weekend. A lot was accomplished during our meetings and plans are going extremely well for the upcoming 2007 NLS Annual Meeting. Thanksgiving and praises to God for all who had a part in making the trip so successful.

Minutes of the meeting are in this newsletter and will be available on the website as well.

I hope and pray that you are blessed with the upcoming celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory, honor and praise to our Lord God, Heavenly Father, together with His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Jan Long,  
NLS Secretary



## NLS Distribution Center

Please note: The **Distribution Center will be on VACATION January 17 through February 9, 2007**. We will not be shipping during this time, please tell your friends.

**Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



John & Carol Bradford [joab@aros.net](mailto:joab@aros.net)

## Palanca Coordinator Report

### You are Invited

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Some of you may have heard the song "The Party's Over". The music was written by Julie Styne and the words by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. It was first performed in 1956 in a Broadway Musical "Bells are Ringing" and later in a 1960 movie of the same name. You may have also heard this quote "Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated." (The original quote was "The report of my death was an exaggeration"). That is a quotation of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by his "nom de plume", Mark Twain. He was an American author, humorist, narrator, and social observer, born in Florida, (Florida, MO that is :o) Well, contrary to popular belief, the Party is not over, and the reports are an exaggeration! It is still going and you are invited.

Funny thing about "invitations", some of us wait to be invited before participating. Others of us though, just show up. Ever had the friend or relative, just show up at the door knocking? Some of those surprise visits are the best and most meaningful. There are several places in the Bible where invitations are discussed. "Go to the street corners and invite anyone you can find." (Matt 22:9) "I was a stranger and you invited me in .." (Matt 25:35) "He has consecrated those He has invited" (Zep 1:7) "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9) There are other places where someone just showed up, sometimes contrary to the customs. Esther came into the presence of King Xerxes twice, both times uninvited – to save her Jewish kinsmen. (Esther 5:2 8:3) Jesus, Paul, Peter and others went to the Temple and other places uninvited and faced prison, beatings and even death, but they showed up.

In our lives there are times for invitations and times for just showing up. Our Via de Cristo Community is about being in relationship with Jesus, being Christian Leaders in our environments. It is also about friendships, family and showing up to be of service and support one another. So if you were waiting for an Invitation, consider this it! This is a standing (never expiring) Invitation to come, join us at all functions and celebrate the "party" we throw for Jesus. He told us "Whenever two or more are gathered in my name, I will be there amongst you" (Matt 18:20) This applies to us whether we are at a Via de Cristo function, praying with others or alone, or being a friend – making a friend ... in our Churches, work environments, with family, friends or soon to be friends.

Allow me to return to Samuel Clemens for a moment. His pseudonym, Mark Twain, was taken from Mississippi river-boat terminology; it's a measure of depth. How deep is your river, your spiritual life? We demonstrate our depth through our Piety, Study and Actions. Mark Twain was also quoted "A habit cannot be thrown out the window; it must be coaxed down the stairs one step at a time." If habits have kept you from Him or from joining the "Party", now is the time to start taking those steps – one at a time to participate in Via de Cristo Community. If you haven't been out for a while- **YOU ARE INVITED!** One last quote from Mark Twain "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover"

I thank you all those who have sent information on the 2006 and 2007 VdC Weekends. Changes occur in our Communities, please review the names and address information shown on the Palanca email Contact page and Secretariat Locator page for accuracy. Please send any corrections or updates. We encourage you to send in the information from your Secretariat, regarding Weekends and Palanca Coordinators, so it may be added to the Palanca pages of the National Lutheran Secretariat Website. Also, we encourage you to communicate with one another concerning the Weekends, offer Prayers and send the visible expressions of those prayers and sacrifices. Through these "levers" of prayer, the Lord will be faithful and bless us to be a blessing to others :o)

In His service,  
Blessings, YBIC and Ultreya!  
Paul Sabatier-Smith <><  
NLS Palanca Coordinator



## CALLING ALL BANNERS

We have all seen the beautiful banners at our Annual Meeting and now want to strongly encourage each community to bring theirs in 2007. We will be using these as a means of seating the delegates for our business meeting. Don't have one? You now have 7 months to create one. Need ideas on what to do? Call Lois Witham at **704-541-7252**. Can you just imagine the array of color as the banners and the delegates enter into our auditorium?



# Palanca!!!

## Future weekends

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

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### 2007 WEEKENDS:

Jan. 2007 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #97: Jan. 18-21, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

Jan. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #480: Jan. 18-21, Women's #481: Jan. 25-28, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Jan./Feb 2007 - Michigan: **Lutheran VdC of Central Michigan**, Men's #67: Jan. 25-28, Women's #481: Feb. 8-11, Send palanca to: Priscilla Killingbeck 960 W Prevo Rd Linwood MI 48634

Jan./Feb 2007 - New York: **Damascus Road VdC**, Men's #8: Jan. 11-14, Women's #8: Feb. 15-18, Send palanca to: Ken Haven 4871 Thornwood Dr. Liverpool, NY 13088

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 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men #25, Mar. 1-4 & Women #25 Mar. 8-11 Send palanca to: Paul Bunker 9395 W Friend Dr. Littleton, CO 80128

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 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #57: Mar. 1-4 & Women #58: Mar. 8-11, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511

Mar. 2007 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, (coed) Mixed #23: Mar. 15-18, Send palanca to: Judy Zander, 304 Amity Cir. Belmont, NC 28012-9523

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 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Women's #96: April 12-15, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

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 - Florida: **Sunbeam VDC**, Men's #49: April 19-22, & Women's #49: April 26-29, Send palanca to: Skip Young 2885 10th Ave. No. St. Petersburg, FL 33713

April 2007 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #40: April 19-22, & Women's #49: April 26-29, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 30748 E River Rd. Perrysburg, OH 43551

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 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Women #51 May 3-6, Send palanca to: Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnlyn DR. Orange Park, FL 32073

May 2007 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Men's #58: May 3-6, & Women's #58: May 17-20, Send palanca to: Judy Zander, 304 Amity Cir. Belmont, NC 28012-9523

May 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Single Men's #486: May 17-20 & Single Women's #487: May 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

June 2007 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Coed #6: June 21-24, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511

July 2007 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Coed #26: July 12-15, Send palanca to: Paul Bunker 9395 W Friend Dr. Littleton, CO 80128

July 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #488: July 12-15, & Women's #489: July 19-22, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

July 2007 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #98: July 19-22, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

*“And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night... And the Angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:8-11 RSV*



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



**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. 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.



Judy Laabs-Foss  
 4495 Margaret Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55110-3773

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