

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 25  
Number 3  
September 2007

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

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



## Thank You INKY

The race has been completed for this year and the engines are quiet. Our 2007 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting in Indianapolis now holds memories for all who attended.

If you were unable to be with us this year, the articles and pictures in the daily newsletter (found on the web) will give you a flavor of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future.

This newsletter contains some of the NLSAM pictures, introductions of our newest board, lots of minutes, board member's reports, plus a look ahead to next year's annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

Thank you to *Lynn Ryan*, Host Committee Chair, plus the hardworking teams from Indiana and Kentucky, (who make up the INKY Secretariat) for hosting yet another successful and grace filled meeting. We were truly blessed, renewed and filled! As our theme, **Hebrews 12:1 & 2 (the New King James version)**; we learned how to **Run the Race set before us**. We did all of this through our worship and fellowship, along with completing the necessary business.

*"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

## CONEXIONES

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**NLS Executive Committee**

**President - Tracy Schmidlin**  
 11461 Sylvania Avenue  
 Berkey, OH 43504-9774  
 419-829-6463 (H)  
[tzvdc@aol.com](mailto:tzvdc@aol.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 Farralone Avenue  
 Woodland Hills, CA 91303-2411  
 818-535-9980 (C)  
[vdc12nanu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vdc12nanu@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 - Katie Sistar**  
 1996 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33702-4834  
 727-521-2374 (H)  
[wc2ks@verizon.net](mailto:wc2ks@verizon.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@xmission.com](mailto:joab@xmission.com)

**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)  
[bobnorthrup@mindspring.com](mailto:bobnorthrup@mindspring.com)

**2008 Host Committee Chair**

**NLS Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ  
 Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo  
 Joyce Dickerson**  
 5203 W. Columbine Drive  
 Glendale, AZ 85304-1917  
 602-843-1084-1643  
[joyceearlene@excite.com](mailto:joyceearlene@excite.com)

**Rick Knopf**  
 910 E. Desert Flower Lane  
 Phoenix, AZ 85408-4453  
 480-460-5506  
[richard.knopf@asu.edu](mailto:richard.knopf@asu.edu)



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

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Volume 25  
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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.

# WELCOME

My name is **Katie Sistar**, and I am a southern girl, born in Mississippi, grew up primarily in Louisiana, married a man from Georgia, and worked and reared our four children mostly in Florida. I have been married for 46 years and have four grown children who scattered as they met their spouses in the military or National Security office. It has been fun visiting them in many different places. We now have eleven grandchildren, nine boys and two girls.



Education is my background; I taught Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, mostly Kindergarten. I retired from teaching in May, 2006, after 38 years. I am currently assisting my sister in writing a handbook on teaching, based on how the brain learns.

My husband, a retired Presbyterian pastor, and I have lived in St. Petersburg, FL, for the past nineteen years and have been active in the Sonbeam Via de Cristo in that area. We have attended many National Lutheran Secretariat meetings and love meeting and talking with people from different parts of the country. I got involved with the Talks Revision Committee chaired by Karen Schneider and was thrilled to work with such a fine team over a five year period.

I am excited about being elected as secretary for the NLS. It looks like a challenging position, and I am looking forward to working with the board.

DeColores! My name is **Tracy Schmidlin**. I worship with my husband, Paul, at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Sylvania, Ohio. I made the Good News! Via de Cristo #3 in Ottawa Lake, Michigan in the fall of 1987 where I sat at the Table of Deborah.



Through the years I have been involved in many aspects of this wonderful movement, serving on teams and Secretariat. I attended my first national meeting in Hickory, North Carolina in 1997 and did serve 2 terms as VP Administration. Now, ten years later, I am privileged to serve you as President. A little daunting, but definitely exciting!

INKY did a great job of hosting this year's annual meeting. The theme was appropriate to our movement and our lives. It is a timeless consideration - the race that is set before us and it is nothing short of a full time marathon. However, we can be assured that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and therefore encouraged, strengthened and inspired to persevere until we get to go "home." I want to thank all those who worked so hard to make this year's annual meeting so meaningful.

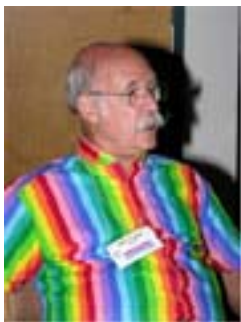
We say good-bye to two wonderful, hard working servants for the Lord: Larry Witham and Jan Long and welcome Katie Sistar to the board!

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you who held Paul and I in thought and prayer as we left the national meeting due to the death of Paul's sister. She is now in a better place and it has been comforting to feel the grace of God through the family of God.

I have a passion for what the Lord is doing through people just like you all over this country. I love to hear the stories behind each new movement including the struggles, the triumphs, the visions, and especially seeing the Lord's hand in it all.

We have much to do, much to look forward to, and we begin immediately! Several people have stepped forward this year to follow up on funding a permanent national position, the region to region plans have sparked new interests, we have hosts for NLS lined up for a couple of years and I already have requests from people with new ideas.

Let's do this together, you and I, with God. *Please* keep our movement in your prayers seeking where God would lead us. *Please* keep the whole board lifted in prayer as we look to the future of the National Secretariat and coordinate with those who would serve at this level. God Loves You and So Do I! Tracy

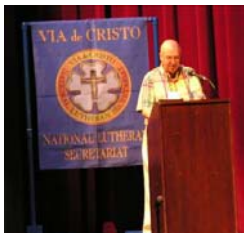


## NLS Board Minutes — Annual Meeting July 26—29, 2007

### Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Present: Larry Witham, Pastor Jon Propst, Dave Erdman, Nu Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, Bob Northrup, and Diane Purcell.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Larry Witham at 1:35 p.m. Agendas were distributed and a warm welcome was given to all present.



Nu Helgager reviewed the schedules for the annual meeting stating that the plans are in place. Rooms can seat more people than we originally thought and seminars are filled up. A cookout is planned for Friday. Registration is at approximately 210 persons. The Keynote will be in the chapel with 225 seats to be set up. All nametags have a number on the back to designate the breakout group that persons will be in. Dave reported that the dining room tables will have numbers on them and everyone will meet at their designated table then choose the place where they want to meet. They will be instructed to meet at the same place for all breakout sessions. Nu stated room numbers where the different committees would be meeting. Mike Clifton will oversee Sound/PowerPoint. Jan stated that a PowerPoint presentation is ready for the Seating of the Delegates at the first business meeting.

Pastor John gave worship service plans. Nu reported that the speakers are all set. She also gave some suggestions for questions, which would correlate with the forum, to talk about during the Small Group breakout sessions.

Agendas and plans for the business meetings were reviewed and highlighted by Larry. Nu will extend a warm welcome to all first time attendees at their orientation and again at the Friday morning business meeting. She will also make an announcement regarding cell phones during worship, and the no smoking/no alcohol policy on campus grounds. Dave will welcome all new affiliates into NLS. Past officers will be recognized. Most Board

members reports are copied and are located in the pink section of the binders, with the Treasurer, Web Site and Finance reports to come. These reports will be given to the delegates and will also be available at the back door of the auditorium. *Christ is Counting on You* DVD will be shown during the business meeting. Dave Hullinger will be recognized and thanked.

Addresses of registered attendees will be checked during registration. Updates will be printed and distributed with the *Daily Conexiones*.

A motion/support was made by Jan/Nu to authorize \$100 for Bob Northrup to oversee converting videos from the forum, seminars and the DVD for the web site. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nu reported the several movements who have proposed to host future annual meetings. Contacts will be made during the weekend to secure the location for 2009 and 2010.

Larry stated that he spoke to several fund raising companies who would be beneficial in helping us raise the money needed for the National Coordinator Position. Diane stated that there is a new law for persons 70 ½ years of age and older who make a contribution to a charity from their 401k. She will research the details and publish them in *the Conexiones* for persons who desire to make a contribution to our fund raising campaign. The board found no conflict of interest if Ron Millard assisted with the campaign due to the fact that he is interested in applying for the position.

A request was made from someone who is interested in selling items with the NLS logo on them. Discussion was tabled, as the board must discuss granting permission to use our registered trademark. If the board agrees, a policy must be set and monitored.

The board agreed that there would be an offering taken at the Saturday evening service only which would go into the Outreach fund.

Diane reported that all movements who have filed a 501(c) 3 are going to have to report on a 990n form by October 1 in order to prevent paying a fee to the IRS. Diane will prepare a newslet-

ter clip and state that in her Finance report.

Meeting closed for dinner with a prayer by Jan at 5:40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m. with all board members present.

Discussion was held regarding the Long Range Planning recommendations from last year's annual meeting. The board believes that several of the items have been addressed with seminars and forums. We provide resources and encourage secretariats to share at the annual meetings and learn from other secretariats as well as the seminars that are planned based on results from the surveys. We also believe that a scheduling of a re-affirmation of the NLS constitution may not be needed as much as a commitment from the secretariats to accepting and using the Essentials. A forum regarding Secretariat term expirations and the Essentials would be supportive. The board believes that the delegate apportionments formula works well for fair representation from each secretariat and chose to not make any changes at this time. Nu would like to assist with surveying the congregations.

The board agreed to ask Doug Burrows to chair the Long Range Planning Committee.

The *Guidelines for Hosting an Annual Meeting* is in process of being updated. The Board will review for approval once the document has been completed.

Board positions whose terms will be open for election this year are President, Secretary, and Vice President of Outreach. Karen Schneider has agreed to give the report from the Nominations Committee. Dave Erdman agreed to run for a second term. The nominees will be asked to stand to be recognized.

The meeting closed in prayer at 8:04 p.m. by all present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long

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### Friday Morning, July 27, 2007

The meeting of the delegates opened with a prayer from Pastor John Propst

at 9:40 a.m. Attendees of the meeting were asked to be seated upon arrival into the auditorium.

Larry Witham introduced Lynn Ryan, chair of the Host Committee. Lynn then introduced Dr. Beverly Pitts, President of the University of Indianapolis. A very warm welcome was received.

Larry continued introductions of Rev. Mark Wilhelm, the members of the Board and the Board's Appointed Positions. Jan Long was called forward to seat the delegates assisted by Jim Ryan. Dave Erdman gave recognition to the new affiliates with a warm welcome. Past officers were recognized.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Karen Schneider, Michael Zenner and Cindy Kirk was recognized. Karen came forward to give the report of the committee. Their report stated the following nominations for: President – Tracy Schmidlin, Secretary – Katie Sistar, VP of Outreach – Dave Erdman, and Treasurer – Jerry Lemcke. Larry stated that the floor would be open for nominations at the business meeting later that afternoon. The by-laws were read to ensure that the nominating process was clearly explained to all present.

It was explained that the reports of the Board officers might be found in the binders. Additional reports were distributed and highlighted. Jerry Lemcke highlighted the Treasurer's Report and Diane Purcell, Financial Consultant for the Board reviewed her report, highlighting that all secretariats need to file Form 990 or a Form 990-N for the year ending December 31, 2007. The Form 990 is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month following the close of the fiscal year end. For most Secretariats, this will be May 15, 2008. If the Secretariat does not file a Form 990, the Form 990-N will need to be filed regardless of income amounts. The instructions and due date for the new Form 990-N have not yet been released. Failure to file for three years will result in the Secretariat's not-for-profit status to be revoked permanently.

The new video, *Christ is Calling on You* was shown and was well received. Recognition was made of all persons who worked on the new video and many thanks to Dave Hullinger and the

good work that he did. An announcement was made that DVD's are available from the distribution center. A low-resolution version of the video is also available on the web site.

Announcements were made regarding the procedure for the upcoming Small Group Break-Out Sessions, Seminars and Palanca posters.

Lynn Ryan made "housekeeping" announcements.

Motion was made with support to adjourn at 10:47 a.m. Motion was approved unanimously. Pastor John Bradford said a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long

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### **Friday Afternoon, July 27, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. with an opening prayer from Pastor Dave Hendrix.

The requirements and procedures for the election of officers were explained. The floor was open for nominations. No additional nominations were made. The names of the nominees for the following positions were stated three times.

President – Tracy Schmidlin, with a motion made by Pastor Gil Gilbert, seconded by Nelson Cox. Motion was approved unanimously. Election for president was closed.

Vice President of Outreach – Dave Erdman, with a motion made by Wes Bucher, seconded by Woody Barthel. Motion was approved unanimously. Election for VP of Outreach closed.

Secretary – Katie Sistar, with a motion made by Susan Berry, seconded by Judy Mowery. Motion was approved unanimously. Election for Secretary closed.

Motion was made by Diane Purcell with support from Donna Gough to accept the elections with unanimous acclamation. Motion was approved unanimously.

Larry explained the proposed status of the position for National Coordinator and the process that has taken place since its inception. Position descriptions were distributed to those who needed a copy. The responsibilities of the position were highlighted. Larry

also explained the board's plan to continue the process with a fund-raising campaign to start as soon as 10 – 12 persons were willing and available for training. 3x5 cards were distributed to all secretariats with the request that a name (or names) be written on the card of someone who may be willing to assist with the campaign.

Announcements were made that the Long Range Planning Committee wants to continue meeting in Room 12 beginning at 7 p.m., Palanca Poster signing will continue in Room 11 through 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. There will be only one offering taken during worship and that will be at the Saturday evening Vespers. The offering will go towards the Outreach account. There are new lay talk outlines, a new Spiritual Director's manual as well as the Essentials Manual, workshop guidelines and other resources available at [www.viadechristo.org/share](http://www.viadechristo.org/share).

Motion with support was made to close the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously. Pastor Gil Gilbert said a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long



## NLS Board Minutes Annual Meeting — Continued

### Saturday, July 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. with an opening prayer from Chris Veres.

An announcement was made to state that a total of 11 persons have signed up to be on the committee to assist with the fund raising campaign for the National Coordinator position.

Committee reports were given as follows:

Finance – Ed Litman reported that the fiscal report was reviewed and the budget was prepared for delegates to review for approval. The committee stated that there might be a need to review the national annual membership fees if the net assets continue to decline. They also want to set a policy wherein the treasurer of the annual meeting reconcile the books within 90 days and forward any monies on to the treasurer of the next year's annual meeting. Jerry Lemcke reviewed the proposed budget that was distributed to all delegates. Jan Long made a motion to accept the proposed budget for June 2007-8. Motion was approved unanimously. The question was asked regarding the monies received from the offering at the annual meeting. Jerry responded that the monies go directly to Outreach and is not a part of the General Fund.

Host Committee – Nu Helgager highlighted the distributed report.

Lay Director Dialogue – Tom Scott reported that it was the best dialogue of similar and different issues.

Long Range Planning – Doug Burrows highlighted the distributed report.

Newsletter – Judy Laabs-Foss reported that items were shared with the small group in attendance and that she remains available for all secretariats that have questions.

Palanca and Banners – Carol Westervelt and the entire committee came forward to present the banners that were made for the three new movements. Nelson Cox served on the committee and ac-

cepted the banner for Northern Light Wisconsin.

Spiritual Directors Dialogue – Pastor John Propst reported that there were 22 Spiritual Directors in attendance. They talked about inviting new pastors, issues that arose during rollos, and non-ordained Spiritual Directors.

Committee reports were accepted as submitted.

A presentation of gifts was made to Larry Witham and Jan Long in appreciation of their service as Board officers.

A presentation was made by Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo inviting everyone to the 2008 annual meeting.

The National Lutheran Secretariat Via de Cristo banner was passed from Lynn Ryan of INKY Via de Cristo to Joyce Dickerson and Richard Knopf of Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo.

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:18 p.m. Marsha Gevers said a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long

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### Open Discussion:

The meeting opened with a request to call a Business Meeting to take care of a few items.

The Business Meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. The secretariats of Florida have given the Board a bid to host the annual meeting in Florida in 2009. Motion was approved unanimously. Diane Purcell stated that the books of the General Fund and the Distribution Center are in order following the audit. The Business Meeting closed at 3:47 p.m.

Open discussion began with the secretariats of Florida announcing that they have had a steering committee meeting and will begin to make plans for hosting the annual meeting in 2009.

How does a secretariat go about obtaining songbooks? Public domain music and resources that is available for copyrighted songs information was given. NLS web site refers people to G.I.A. with a link. C.C.L.I. is another useful company for using copyrighted songs. Both companies charge for a

license, which would provide permission to print their available, copyrighted songs.

How do we set up the training sessions? Surveys provide the board with common issues that secretariats are experiencing. At our mid-year meeting, the board puts together seminars that are most requested. We then use the theme of the weekend to title the seminars. Speakers are recruited from the local secretariats when possible. Region-to-region reports received by Nu are also helpful in determining what the most common issues/interests are.

What is the formula for secretariat's fees? The Secretariat Dues Policy was explained stating that fees are based on the number of Cursillistas that have attended a weekend for each secretariat.

Do we have any affiliated movements in Canada or other countries? We are a national movement. If a movement in another country wishes to attend our meeting, they would certainly be welcomed.

Has there ever been an article regarding Via de Cristo in *The Lutheran* magazine? 6 years ago there was an article publicizing VdC in the magazine. The comment/suggestion was made that a Thank You to Thrivent could be sent to *The Correspondent* magazine for their support.

Jim Ryan brought up a comment/suggestion that was made at one of the sessions of the seminar *Refueling your Fourth Day*. Maybe reunion groups' locations and schedules could be put onto the website for travelers wanting to reunion while they are out of town. The national's web site currently offers links to secretariat's web sites. They could be contacted for more information. It would be helpful if secretariats could have that information available.

Session ended at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long

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### Host Committee Meeting:

Board Members Present: Larry Witham, Pastor John Propst, Nu Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke,

Jan Long, Bob Northrup, and Katie Sistar. Also present were members of the Southern Arizona Lutheran Cursillo Host Committee for NLSAM 2008.

The meeting opened at 4:43 p.m. with a prayer said by Pastor John Propst.

Introductions were made around the room. Sign in sheet went around the room and is now in Nu's possession.

Joyce Dickerson and Rick Knopf are co-chairing the host committee. Joyce reported that the Host Committee has been meeting for two years now. A list of chairs will be sent to Nu.

Drafts of the registration and travel forms including room and board options will be completed soon. An initial contract with the university was proposed and will be adjusted with cost to stay around \$178. Plans are to have forms available that may be filled out directly online with the option of payment by credit card for ease in registering.

Dates were proposed for the board's mid-year meeting. Joyce will check with Grand Canyon University to plan a tour when the board members are in Arizona. Larry explained what the board's requirements would be for meetings and housing. Access to 1 laptop, printer and copier will also be needed.

Nu stated the urgency of the host committee needing to read the Host Committee document. Joyce assured the board that all members of the committee have read it through at least once. An updated version will be coming soon.

Date of the weekend will be July 24 - 28, 2008. Joyce informed the board of the layout of the university stating that the dorms have 2 double rooms with a shared bathroom. There is a large meeting room for seating up to 250 with audio/video equipment. There is classroom seating in 10 different classrooms for up to 60 persons in each room.

Plans are for the annual meeting to begin with registration at noon and orientation for first-timers at 1 p.m. The rest of the schedule will most likely not change much from this year's schedule. Nu and Judy will arrive Tuesday; the remaining board members will

arrive Wednesday.

The Board agreed to lift the Host Committee up in prayer daily.

Larry stated it is important to remember that the NLS Board is responsible for the annual meeting and the Host Committee is the support team for the meeting. Nu stressed the importance of keeping the lines of communication open through her.

The meeting closed in prayer by Joyce Dickerson at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long and Katie Sistar

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**Host Committee Meeting:**

Present: Larry Witham for Tracy Schmidlin, Pastor John Propst, Dave Erdman, Nu Helgager, Judy Laabs-Foss, Jerry Lemcke, Jan Long, and Katie Sistar.

The meeting opened at 7:51 p.m. with a prayer said by Jan Long.

Introductions were made around the room. Newly elected officers were recognized. Letterhead was printed so that updates of the new board members and host committee could be made. Jan will assist Katie in updating the letterhead at a later date.

Larry contacted Tracy and she was congratulated on her newly elected position. Tracy gave a warm welcome to the members of the board and expressed gratitude to Larry and Jan.

Mid-year meeting dates were proposed for October 26 - 28. The board will make plans individually to arrive in Arizona around 11 a.m. on Friday, October 26 with the meeting to begin at 1 p.m. Plans are to have lunch together around noon. The host committee will plan to pick officers up from the airport. Nu will make plans to arrive on Thursday.

Tentative dates for tele-conference calls were proposed for September 16, February 10, April 6, and June 1 at 8 p.m. EST (Daylight savings time when applicable). Tracy will confirm the dates with the board.

Judy gave newsletter deadline dates of August 15, November 15, February 15 and May 15. New officers should send an article of introduction (with photo if possible) to Judy.

Motion/Support by Jerry/Dave was

made to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Long  
and Katie Sistar



## NLS Vice President Outreach

DeColores,

It has been an honor to serve as your NLS Vice President of Outreach this year and thank you for reelecting me. It has been wonderful experience filled with many blessings.

This year, two new secretariats have joined the NLS. **Via de Cristo of the Rockies** is located in Northern Colorado. They are planning their first week for September 2008. **Emerald Coast VDC** is located in the Florida panhandle.

There is interest in new Via de Cristo movements in Wisconsin, Northern California, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. I am in contact with leaders in each of these areas.

There is also considerable interest in Via de Cristo outside the United States. There is activity in Venezuela and the England. This past August the first Swedish weekend was held in Latvia, with the help and sponsoring of Latvia Via de Cristo and Inky Via de Cristo.

If you move about the country and want connect with the Via de Cristo near you new home let me know and I will give you contact information in there is a Via de Cristo nearby.

Another function of the NLS Vice President of Outreach is helping existing secretariats in any way I can. I have been in communication with several secretariats this past year. Most communication can be done by e-mail and phone, but I am also willing to travel to the secretariats.

Your Brother in Christ,

Dave Erdman  
NLS Vice President of Outreach



## NLS Vice President of Administration

Greetings Cursillistas,

What a wonderful experience for all at the 2007 NLSAM. It was a joy to have INKY as our host this year and from the surveys you all appreciated the job that INKY Host Committee did to support us this year. We thank you Lynn Ryan and your team for a job well done.

I want to thank everyone who filled out a survey and especially those who mailed theirs to me after they got back home. Thank you for all your input. Our Mid-year meeting should go along quite well as there were plenty of input on various topics we can focus on for the 2007 sessions for you. As we said at this past meeting we count a lot on what you fill out on those survey forms. It lets us know what is important to you and what we offer you.

One key thing on the surveys is the availability of things for visitors to do. We will take a good look at that at our mid-year meeting and I would ask that if you were one of the visitors who made this comment that you would email me with some ideas of what you think might be of interest for you. I have some ideas but I would really appreciate your input as this is what you are asking for. Our mid-year meeting will be held Oct 26-28, 2008 in Arizona, so get me any ideas you have by this date. Our hope is that you would participate as fully as possible in the sessions we offer and if there is a certain topic that you would like to hear about please let us know.

The region to region this year was very well received gain, each region used their time effectively. From your input and reports there was more commit made to getting together as regions by all of the regions. Look for updates on what the regions are doing in the newsletter. The board will be looking at how we can support the regions in the ways that were suggested.

Don't forget to put on your calendar for next year the 2008 NLSAM, at Grand Canyon University, Arizona, **July 24-27, 2008**. Arizona's Host Committee is well under way with some good plans for Hosting and serving your and the board for next year. Don't wait on your flight plans as they seem to soar as you get closer to

Thank you all for your support and encouragement as I served you all this first year on the board you all made it worth the effort and I look forward to serving you again this next year.

IHG  
Nu (Nanette) Helgager  
NLS Vice President of Administration





## Spiritual Director's Report

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses (pioneers who blazed the way and these veterans cheering us on – from The Message), let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."* (Hebrews 12:1-2 from Today's NIV)

Dear Friends,

I recall with wonderful memories the 2007 NLS Annual Meeting in Indianapolis a few weeks ago – and what a great theme God gave our host committee. Speaking of our host friends, what an incredible ministry they performed. Thanks Lynn and your amazing pit crew! The hospitality was awesome! Thanks Pr. Doug and your worship team – what a joy!

Thanks Larry & Jan, who are stepping down (and the other NLS board members) for your years of service to our Lord Jesus, the "pioneer and perfecter of faith."

As I sat at the *Allstate 400 at the Brickyard* race that Sunday afternoon (I do love NASCAR!) with Jerry & Carlene, I thought how so many people let their lives go around in circles, seemingly going nowhere. No sense of God's direction or purpose; no sense of others cheering them on; getting wrapped up in wrecks along the way; no sense of God's calling; no real relationship with Jesus, **the** driver and champion of life's race here on earth and life to come.

I think about life's racecourse and God's call to us to run the race – how will we run it, how will we maneuver the potential wrecks, how will our strategy play out? Will we use the resources God gives us wisely or will we run out of gas before the checkered flag?

My wife Liz and I just helped son Austin get settled into Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa (what a great looking seminary campus and city!) Then we put him on a plane to South Africa where he is visiting his "favorite girl" Tanya who is in the Peace Corps. I believe in my heart that both Austin & Tanya have a good feel for God's racetrack!

I think of my grandchildren, Keaton & Nola, and the race course that they have just been put on. Their pit crew (Brian & Emily, their godparents and other Spiritual mentors at Church and in their Christian preschool) – they are all ready to help ... teaching them race strategy, helping them to make any necessary adjustments along the way.

I think these examples I've shared here help me to give God thanks and praise for His gift to us called Via de Cristo, this proven method of Spiritual renewal. On the VdC weekend, most pilgrims sense an exhilarating race, only to realize on Sunday that

the race is just beginning! The weekend was just 72 hours of practice laps, only pre-race activities! Each week we allow God's Spirit to adjust our piety, study and action. On Sunday, we gather with others in the grandstand to cheer on our Lord Jesus, who lifts His trophy, the cross, high for the world to see. At group reunion, where we are refueled and readjusted for the weekly laps around the track of life, we are encouraged and cheered on by fellow race participants!

So drivers, start your engines ... we've got more laps to run! Thanks Lord Jesus, for your ever-present encouragement and hope! See you at the checkered flag, friends! God's Blessings!

*John*

Pr. John Propst,  
NLS Spiritual Director





The Arizona team praising the Lord, Welcoming us to NLSAM 2008



**Get on Fire for Jesus.** *“Fan into flames the gifts of God which are in you:”*

2 Timothy 1:6

Howdy from Arizona ...

We are very excited to be hosting the 2008 NLS annual meeting **July 24<sup>th</sup>** through **July 27<sup>th</sup> 2008**. It will be held on the beautiful campus of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix Arizona. The campus is located in central Phoenix, less than 20 minutes from Sky Harbor airport.

We have learned from our 2007 hosts, INKY, who did an outstanding job, and we have brought that knowledge back to Arizona with us. Our Arizona team is hard at work preparing for your visit. Come early and enjoy the wonders of Arizona. Please watch for additional information in the next Conexiones.

**News from your NLS Distribution Center**

We recently returned from the NLS Annual Meeting in Indianapolis where we met some new friends and shared some memories with friends from past years.

The Distribution Center is excited about some new products we found to be of interest at the meeting. We now have a **LARGE PRINT** version of the Pilgrim's Guide that is much easier for vision-impaired people to read. It is in 8.5" x 11" format and all the text is in 22 point or larger size. The cost is \$5 each. We also sell the same Pilgrim's Guide as an Audio CD Disk that can be used in any CD Disk player. This disk also has the same audio in both WAV and MP3 format for those of you wanting to it transfer it to a portable audio player. The cost is \$7.

The new "Is Christ Calling You?" DVD video-disk was a big seller. This disk is \$7 and is a wonderful way to bring interested people into an actual weekend. I have several of these available right now.

Tune your computer's browser to [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org) and place an order for some of these new items.

Peace, John & Carol Bradford

# Palanca!!!

## Future weekends

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

- Sept. 2007 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, Men's #59: Sept 6-9, & Women's #59: Sept 13-16, Send palanca to: Judy Zander, 304 Amity Cir. Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Sept. 2007 - Missouri/Illinois: **River's Edge VDC**, Women #9 Sept 13-16, Send palanca to: Laurie Dunnette 2720 Stone Valley Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- Sept. 2007 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #61 Sept 13-16, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Sept./Oct. 2007 - Florida: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Men #75: Sept 20-23 & Women #75 Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Janet Pusins 3160 NW 67 Court Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
- Sept. 2007 - South Carolina: **So. Carolina Luth VDC**, Coed #8 Sept 27-30, Send palanca to: Sherry Fowler 870 White Point Blvd Charleston, NC 29412
- Oct. 2007 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC** Men's #44: Oct. 4-7, Women's #52: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Oct. 2007 - INKY: **Indiana-Kentucky VdC**, Coed North #4: Oct. 4-7, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shoreland Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Oct. 2007 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed (coed) #4 Oct. 4-7, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- Oct. 2007 - Texas: **Texas Lutheran VdC**, Men #70, Oct. 4-7, Women's #70: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Barbara Mondel 18726 Clover Glen Houston, TX 77084
- Oct. 2007 - AR-OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #18: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Matt Milzarek 634 S Poplar St. Sapulpa, OK 74066
- Oct. 2007 - Arizona: **Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona**, Men's #114: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #115: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Tracy Clark 326 E. Fairmont Tempe, AZ 85282
- Oct. 2007 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC**, Men's #34: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #34: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Nancy Cifuentes c/o St. John Lutheran Church

- 1600 S, Orlando Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789
- Oct. 2007 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men's #20: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #21: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Joyce Zobrist 1326 Amanda Metamora, IL 61548
- Oct 2007 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #41: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #41: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- Oct 2007 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #9: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Randy Mitchell 2391 Goldfire Cir. Henderson, NV 89052
- Oct. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #494: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #495: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2007 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #496: Oct. 11-14, & Women's #497: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2007 - California: **VDC of So. CA & Central Valley**, Coed #31, Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: HM McKinsey 37460 Torrington St. Palmdale, CA 93550
- Oct. 2007 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Women's #97: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Oct. 2007 - Iowa/Illinois: **Living Water VDC**, Coed #36, Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Gary & Jan Morse 301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301
- Oct. 2007 - Tennessee: **Tennessee VDC** Mixed #19: Oct. 18-21, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Circle Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- Oct. 2007 - Texas: **Texas Lutheran VdC**, Coed #71, Oct. 25-28, Send palanca to: Barbara Mondel 18726 Clover Glen Houston, TX 77084
- Oct./Nov. 2007 - Ohio: **Ohio VdC**, Men's #62 Oct. 18-21, & Women's #62: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224
- Oct./Nov. 2007 - Arizona: **Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC**, Men's #23: Oct. 18-21, & Women's #24: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Joe Smothers PO Box 18349 Tucson, AZ 85731-8349
- Nov. 2007 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Women #49: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Joan Bosari 1308 Japonica Lane Cocoa, FL 32922
- Nov. 2007 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #52: Nov. 1-4, & Women #52: Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnllyn Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073

- Nov. 2007 - Kansas: **Heart of America VDC**, Mixed #5: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Lois Kimbrell 2130 N. Union St. Fremont, NE 68025
- Nov. 2007 - Nebraska: **Nebraska VDC**, Coed: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Natalee Armbright 1674 H Ave. Dakota City, NE 68731
- Nov. 2007 - North Carolina: **Western NC VDC**, (coed) Mixed #24: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Judy Zander, 304 Amity Cir. Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Nov. 2007 - Utah: **Utah VdC**, Men's #38: Nov. 1-4 & Women #39: Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Glenice Coward 2426 Creek Rd. Sandy, UT 84093
- Nov. 2007 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #59: Nov. 1-4 & Women #60: Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Nov. 2007 - Wisconsin/Michigan: **North-eastern Light VdC of WI & Upper MI**, Men's #5: Nov. 1-4 & Women #6: Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Richard Neitzel 18189 Hwy 41 W Champion, MI 49814
- Nov. 2007 - Florida: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men's #50: Nov. 8-11, & Women #50: Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Skip Young 2885 10th Ave. No. St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- Nov. 2007 - Illinois : **Prairie Sonshine VDC of Central Illinois**, Men #8 Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Chad & Stacy Thomas PO Box 436 Jacksonville, IL 62650
- Nov. 2007 - INKY: **Indiana-Kentucky VdC**, Coed South #5: Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shoreland Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- Nov. 2007 - Texas: **North Texas VdC**, Coed #73, Nov. 8-11, Send palanca to: Lilly Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209
- Nov. 2007 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #62 Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Look for weekend updates on the National VdC website — [www.viade Cristo.org](http://www.viade Cristo.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](mailto:dcolor9@attglobal.net)





Judy Laabs-Foss  
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E-Mail: [joab@xmission.com](mailto:joab@xmission.com)

**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.

**Order Forms / Conexiones Subscription**

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.viadecristo.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.