

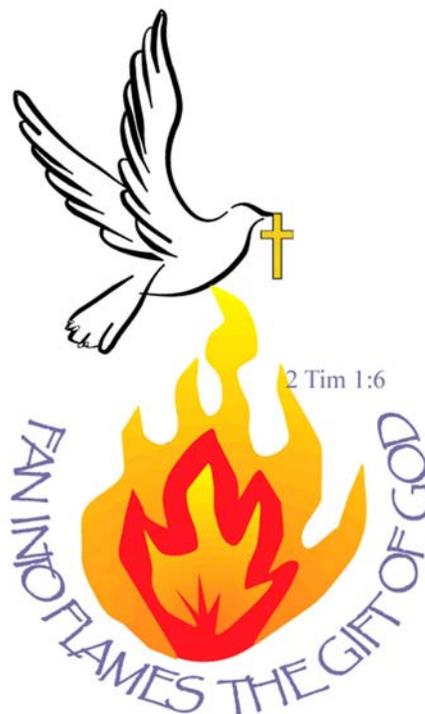
# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 25  
Number 4  
December 2007

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

**NLS 2008 Annual Meeting: July 24 — 27, 2008**  
**Hosted by Phoenix Arizona**



## **Get HOT, Stay HOT, be on FIRE for the LORD!**

We are SO EXCITED to be hosting the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting in Phoenix! Yes, Phoenix is hot in July. But, it is also air conditioned everywhere you go. The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held at Grand Canyon University, a beautiful Christian campus in central Phoenix. You will be comfortably housed in the spacious dorm rooms, which are located near the dining hall and meeting rooms. For a sneak peek at the campus, visit Grand Canyon's website at [www.gcu.org](http://www.gcu.org).

There are lots of fun and interesting things to see and do in addition to the annual meeting. You might want to see a baseball game in the Chase Field, a covered arena where the Diamondbacks will be playing the Chicago Cubs. Ticket information for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday's game is available at <http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com>. Or, enjoy the theatre district, fine dining, and the fountains of the Arizona Center in downtown Phoenix. Or visit the beautiful grounds of the Heard Museum, which is rich in Indian heritage and artifacts. Or plan a train ride to the Grand Canyon before or after the annual meeting.

Or,.... well as you can see we could go on all day. So, instead we will give you one more website to learn a few facts about Arizona. (Pay attention, there may be a quiz in the next newsletter!) Here's where you can find all sorts of interesting facts about Arizona. <http://www.arizonaquide.com>

It's the Arizona Office of Tourism where you can order a free guide that shows a map of Arizona and our attractions in the State. The website has options that will direct you to activities, attractions, etc. and the prices of going to those places in Arizona.

But, most important: it will be a wonderful, spirit-filled experience as you get on fire for the Lord along with the Cursillo Community of Arizona. We are praying that you are drawn to come to the Annual Meeting and visit our state, but especially that you will get ON FIRE FOR THE LORD as you participate in praise with us! The registration form for NLSAM 2008 will be in January's newsletter. Make travel plans early for the best prices!

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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)



**National Lutheran Secretariat  
 Conexiones-on-the-web  
 E-Mail Notification Request Form**

**E-Mail Notification — [bhigh922@aol.com](mailto:bhigh922@aol.com)**

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

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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*

Connecting National and Local Secretariats



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.

## NLS Vice President of Administration

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

As I start my second year as your Vice President of Administration, I am grateful for all of you and your participation in filling out the surveys this past summer. Your input is what is most needed as we come together to conduct our mid-year meetings. The board took the time to thoroughly review the surveys and had some great discussion surrounding them. We thank you for your input and you can look forward to a great NLSAM in 2008.

A lot of thought and time was spent on the seminar topics this year and your input really was key in developing our seminar topics and discussions. Those are being developed and will provide some great topics for you to attend at this upcoming annual meeting. Another of the key areas we concentrated on was the visitors and their input this year. You will see on the schedule this year some specific areas that are optional sessions for anyone to attend when they do not have another item on their schedule that they need to be attending.

Filling out the surveys is one of the best ways to give us input on putting together the schedule for future NLSAM. This survey is your voice to the board and we really do have a hard time putting together the Annual Meetings when we do not get lots of input from you. The practical input that you gave us this year was quite valuable in our planning for 2008. So remember that as you attend the NLSAM have your thinking cap on and give us your most constructive input.

All delegates will attend all business meetings and everyone will be invited to attend the first business session as we seat the delegates and welcome everyone to the NLSAM 2008. In addition during the business session and seminar time there will be something else in the schedule to attend for visitors not wishing to attend the business sessions or seminar sessions.

For everyone as you make your travel arrangements you will want to look at **arriving before 11:00 am. It is about a 15-20 minute ride from the airport. The first items on our agenda will be orientation scheduled for 11:30 am and lunch at 12:30pm., which means start looking at your flight plans now. Opening Worship will start at 1:30pm. So put the dates of July 24th - July 27th on your calendar now and start making those plans.**

Our campus for the 2008 NLSAM is on very level ground and the Dorms are right next to the dining facility and student center. There will be a short walk over to the classrooms and a little longer walk over to the Main Meeting and Chapel area. It is very hot in Arizona during the summer so you will definitely want to bring

your sunscreen, sunglasses and possibly a light over shirt to keep the sun off of you as you walk between the buildings. Even at the end of October the sun was hot on the skin. The campus will also be very conducive to visitors as there will be an exercise facility, coffee house area and a brand new swimming pool that will be available for your use when you are looking for something else to do.

Look for the Registration form in the January Newsletter and start making your plans. The room assignments this year are two bedroom suites with a shared bathroom. You will see your housing options once the registration form is included in January's newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all next year at the NLSAM.

Nu (Nanette) Helgager  
NLS VP of Administration



The Arizona team, Welcomes us to NLSAM 2008

### "Thoughts on how to observe Thanksgiving"

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.

--- Anonymous



## NLS Board Minutes — Conference Call September 16, 2007

### Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, John Propst, Nanette Helgager, Dave Erdman, Katie Sistar, Jerry Lemcke, Judy Laabs-Foss, and Bob Northrup

Tracy welcomed everyone and John opened with prayer.

#### Secretary's Report – Katie Sistar

Jan Long has been very helpful in the transition, and is available for additional help if needed. The letterhead has been updated. Dave added that he needs to send Katie his new address. Katie noted that in the minutes of the Host Committee meeting on July 28, 2007 that next year's meeting is listed as July 24-28, and it was intended to be written July 24-27, 2008. Nu made a motion to accept the minutes; Jerry seconded it. It was approved.

#### Treasurer's Report – Jerry Lemcke

The balance in Wachovia as of 9/12/07 is \$4733.00. The balance in Thrivent as of 9/14/07 is \$24,414.90 with that amount paying about \$100.00 a month in interest. He noted that it takes about a week for a check to go through. We collected from the NLS offering for Outreach \$3185.00 plus another \$100.00 check that had since been sent to Jerry. Jerry has begun using online bill paying to save on postage. Jerry stated that he had sent a check for \$100.00 to Bob because of extra expense with Bob's flight being canceled on the way home from NLS. Bob said that he had not received the check. Jerry will look into it and make sure he is paid. Jerry requested that all going to the mid-year meeting in Phoenix send him confirmation of their flight expense so he could pay those amounts. Jerry will bring the checkbook to Mid-Year as usual.

#### VP Administration Report – Nu Helgager

Nu reported that the surveys from the Indiana meeting were very favorable. There was good input and many positive remarks concerning their hospitality, region to region meetings, small groups and the puppet show. People requested that the puppets be included in next year's meeting, so it would be

good to work on an appropriate way to include them in the worship next year. People requested the key topics for next year include Table Leader/Table Professor training. They also requested more selections or seminars and possibly address having things for lay visitors to attend during business meetings. It was mentioned that one forum didn't follow the guidelines. There were a few comments about the beds and bathroom locations which we had no control over.

Nu has contacted the Host committee for 2008. The treasurer of the 2007 host committee returned the overage after all expenses were paid to the board treasurer, Jerry, for discretionary use for NLS expenses connected with the annual meeting. It is more than they had received. The meetings for the past few years have been in the black. We're seeing good stewardship. Joyce told her the host chairs had read the hosting documents and a majority of the team was in Indiana. They have been doing team building exercises and are well prepared. Nu will e-mail the Arizona host committee to see what they have done about meeting Judy's newsletter needs.

At Mid-Year there are two options for staying in Phoenix. We could room by twos in a hotel or stay with a community member about an hour away. Nu needs a count of all going to Phoenix and if they are willing to room with someone. Bob is encouraged to come to Mid-Year also since they should have information set up for him. We need to be there by mid-morning on Friday, October 26. Everyone needs to get travel plans to Nu with the airline, arrival and departure times. Departure should be mid-afternoon on Sunday so we can all go to church together before we leave. All need to send Nu their cell phone numbers with their flight information.

Jerry and Katie will bring their laptop computers. Nu will arrive early Friday morning to get things started. We will eat lunch at noon and meet at 1:00. On Saturday we will do about a three hour tour of the facility and try to accomplish everything by Saturday night.

Several regions have indicated an interest in hosting the National meeting during the next four years. We would be in different places across the country. They are definitely Florida for 2009 and tentatively, Minnesota for 2010, North Carolina in 2011 and Colorado in 2012

#### VP Outreach Report – Dave Erdman

People in Lakeland, FL, Northern California, Western Michigan, Western Wisconsin and Pennsylvania have expressed an interest in starting a VDC secretariat. Dave Erdman is in contact with these groups. Dave met with Region 5 at the NLS Annual Meeting and discussed outreach interest with Region 5. Outreach to the Shenandoah Valley and Eastern Pennsylvania came out of that discussion.

#### Spiritual Director Report – Pr. John Propst

During the last service on Sunday the method of distribution of the communion elements was changed from intinction to a choice of common cup or intinction. John suggested that we keep it the same way for all of the worship.

There was a discussion about whether we should address issues, and whether it was appropriate to get involved in particular issues or church politics since our emphasis is the Via de Cristo method. We will discuss it further at Mid-Year.

John was asking Joe Nilsen how we as a board had responded to issue oriented concerns in the past to help him frame his response to a person who had questions about issues.

#### Newsletter Editor – Judy Laabs-Foss

We discussed equipment needed at the Annual Meeting. Nu proposed that we purchase a laptop computer for the board's use. We will further discuss it at mid-year. The amount of printing at Nationals was discussed. We need to try to do as much ahead of time as possible.

Judy and Bob need to meet with the communications person for the host committee to let them know all the communication that is needed.

Web Page Coordinator – Bob Northrup

The newsletter went on the web today. He has the forms from the host committee. We can discuss if we need to do the web differently at Mid-Year. We need an area on the web site to update Region to Region information in the newsletter.

People had trouble finding the agenda on the web. If Bob can get the information in January, he can put it on the web. As he gets the forms for the agenda, housing and transportation, he'll put them on the web.

It was suggested that Bob get to the national meeting early to see that everything is in place. Bob has met two hours already with the person from Phoenix.

Old business

Tracy told us that there are nine people on the committee working on the National Coordinator position funding. She would like to see two chairs; we have one and are waiting for confirmation of the second person.

We need to honor our deadlines and get reports in on time. We can show good leadership by working together as a team.

There was a discussion concerning control and use of the NLS logo. There was a discussion of leadership concerns from several secretariats. We want to help them and are to bring ideas to Mid-Year. Nu noted that 12 secretariats were not at the national meeting this year. We will discuss at Mid-Year a way to follow up.

Lucy may have more information about secretariats. Nu will get information as of the last NLS, and the board will discuss it at Mid-Year.

There was a discussion of the duties of the Long Range Planning Committee.

The board is to review the points of NLS meeting dated July 27 and discuss them further at Mid-Year.

New Business

There was discussion about using the electronic list of attendees.

The board should think about speakers and topics and bring those names to Mid-Year.

It was noted that Tracy e-mailed Lucy Hightower, John Bradford, Paul

Sabatier-Smith and Diane Purcell to see if anything else needed to be brought up today, and they wished us well.

John Bradford is taking a Quick Books class. We will offer to pay for that.

Tracy and Dave are going in early February to a Fourth Day meeting to help with the bookkeeping of the distribution center.

It was noted that the Arizona host committee asked for \$1000.00 to help offset the Mid-Year meeting expenses.

Pr. John led in a closing prayer. The meeting ended at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Sistar



**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**



And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them; and they were terrified. And the angel said unto them,

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:7-12

Grand Canyon University



**Music Copyright Licensing Update**

Music is a big part of our weekends including our Annual Meeting. The following information was recently shared with the board. OneLicense covers numerous publishers such as Augsburg, Concordia and many others. GIA is now covered under OneLicense. Another resource, in addition to CCLI, is [LicenSingOnLine.org](http://LicenSingOnLine.org). This group covers OCP Publications, John Ylvisaker (who wrote Borning Cry), Northern Liturgy Resources and many other publishers. Included in this group is "Abba, Father" (by Carey Landry) which has been incorrectly identified at annual meetings as being under CCLI. Also, all of these licensing agencies offer "event" licenses. Inasmuch as NLS holds their event of an Annual Meeting, NLS just might be the responsible party and could be held responsible for any violations. We understand that violations are quite costly. We encourage each community to look into their music license and update them on a regular basis. The NLS web site has a link to Music Copyright in the Resources for Secretariats section.



## President Report

DeColores!

I am excited! Your National board had a great mid year meeting in Phoenix, Arizona preparing for next summer. Hopefully you are already making plans for your local Secretariat to attend because we are planning to have more available for visitors, more time for Region to Region, a forum and seminars surrounding training for weekends, sponsorship, why the essentials are so essential, more on the fourth day and "who belongs?" The next newsletter will bring you more details. Also, in the next newsletter, we will include the registration form with a chance for you to pick which seminars you would like to attend.

All of this will be made available to you from a beautiful facility, in a gorgeous part of our country, including meals and housing for the low cost of \$170. (If you are planning to arrive early, please let the host committee know as soon as possible; extra meals and lodging are available upon request.) Last year, INKY's stewardship and willingness to fund raise throughout the process made it possible for the NLS board to supplement the Arizona registration fee this year. SO, we want to encourage you to bring more than just your delegates.

Our meetings are a great teaching tool in so many ways. The sharing from around the country; the realization that many other Secretariats do have the same concerns; learning possible solutions and the acknowledgement of the larger community is as beneficial as any Ultreya – just on a larger scale.

Are you hearing me? Come on out to Arizona, pray with us, worship with us, study with us, and most significantly use the meeting to uncover resources for your Secretariat to carry on the great work Christ has delivered to us. "Christ is counting on you."

In the meantime, I pray that you all have a blessed holiday season with a reason to celebrate Jesus everyday!

GLY&SDI TRACY  
NLS President



## NLS Archivist Report

As I have been working on categorizing our archived materials, I notice that in actuality I have very little to show for our over 30 years of existence. I'm not sure what happened, but we really need to add MANY more items to what I currently have.

If anyone has anything they feel might be a valuable addition to our archives, please contact me. I will email a list to you of what all I have, which you can look over and determine if yours would be a duplicate or not. (The list is too large to publish in the Conexiones) If not, let me know and we'll make arrangements for transferring whatever you have.

Briefly, most of what I have now are board minutes, some copies of Conexiones, some survey results, some audio cassettes, and some pictures. Pictures (all digital) are from Saginaw in 1999, and mine from Knoxville 2004, Emmittsburg 2005, and Indy 2007. Additional pictures from any and all annual meetings would be most helpful. Also, I shot some digital videos at Columbus 2003 and Emmittsburg 2005 (including the complete Randy Mullin and Doug Burrows as James and John). Does anyone else have any videos that a copy could be made of and added to the archives?

Thanks for your help. I will try to provide an annual "State of the Archives" report.

In His Service,  
Ron Millard [ron\\_norma\\_millard@verizon.net](mailto:ron_norma_millard@verizon.net)  
NLS Archivist

Grand Canyon University



## Spiritual Director's Report

“Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind ... love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39 from Today's NIV)

“Therefore go and make **disciples** of all nations ... and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20 from Today's NIV)

Dear Via de Cristo Friends,

A movement within the Church of Jesus Christ that follows The Great Commandment + The Great Commission will be a Great movement! I believe that with my whole heart. Here's an interesting thought: the word **Christian** is found only 3 times in the New Testament; the word **disciple** is found 269 times! “The New Testament is a book **about** disciples, **by** disciples, and **for** disciples of Jesus Christ.” (The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard)

Here's a question to ponder as we come to the end of another year: What would it take to make Via de Cristo a **great** movement? Oh, I know – “the power of the Holy Spirit!” If you gave this answer, give yourself an “A” on question #1 of the quiz. God's Spirit **is** what makes a movement within a Church great. And where does God's Spirit manifest Himself the most? In the lives of His faithful people! Give yourself another “A” (Wow, you're doing wonderfully on this quiz!)

In my “annual report” to the NLS of VdC, I talked about having a child-like faith when it comes to piety, study & action. To have a child-like hunger for a relationship with Jesus is the first step in discipleship! Via de Cristo will continue to grow in its “greatness” as it grows in its discipleship among the thousands of Cursillistas!

David Daubert writes: “More than once I've heard it said that the average Lutheran invites someone to Church once every 23 years ... how is it that a movement founded on the idea that every Christian would be a preacher in the midst of their daily work ended up being so silent? Along with many others, I'm discovering that renewing the Church isn't likely to happen unless we give attention to renewing the Christian life – reclaiming discipleship as a way of life.”

(“A Cure for Lutheran Laryngitis” by David Daubert from The Lutheran, August 2007)

My prayer for the Church of Jesus and for Via de Cristo is that God's Spirit will continue to renew His people as we engage in intentional discipleship through piety, study & action and as we gather in reunion groups on a regular basis.

We serve a God who loves to love us & grace us. May we be graced again today as we continue to grow as His disciples!

God bless you Cursillista disciples,

*John*

Pr. John Propst,  
NLS Spiritual Director  
[Propst@TwilightDesigns.com](mailto:Propst@TwilightDesigns.com)



### Will you have a MERRY CHRISTMAS?

It is the worst of times. It is the best of times. The Christmas you have depends upon YOU.

#### The Christmas experience WITHOUT CHRIST

- C** - Credit Cards that help my spending go crazy
- H** - Headache when the house is over run by family
- R** - Remembering everyone's desire is fulfilled
- I** - Insult when my gifts are rejected
- S** - Stress while overwhelmed
- T** - Truckloads of food consumed
- M** - Massive debt that puts me behind all year
- A** - Awful feeling that I forgot someone
- S** - Sorrow from offenses received

#### The Christmas experience WITH CHRIST

- C** - Christ child who is born this day
- H** - Holy and righteous one to follow
- R** - Remember Christ who died that I may live
- I** - Inspiration to always give
- S** - Songs, Praise and Worship to the King
- T** - Thank the Lord for saving me today
- M** - Miracles that are for today
- A** - Almighty and merciful Lord I serve
- S** - Self-control, love, joy, peace, patience...

## Financial Advisor Report

At the NLS Annual Meeting in July, I made an announcement that all Secretariats who have their 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit will be required to file a report with the IRS in 2008 for the year ending December 31, 2007. You may be required to file a Form 990. If not, you will file a Form 990-N electronically with the IRS. I am providing additional information to help you be prepared to file the necessary form. The following information is from the IRS website. If you need assistance, please contact me.

e-Postcard: What is it?

### Is there a new filing requirement for small tax-exempt organizations?

Beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations, which previously were not required to file a return, may be required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ*. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006.

Small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less are not required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*. With the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, these small tax-exempt organizations will now be required to file an electronic Form 990-N with the IRS annually. Exceptions to this requirement include organizations who are included in a group return, private foundations required to file Form 990-PF, and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. In addition, this filing requirement does not apply to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches.

**What information do I need to provide the e-Postcard?** The e-Postcard will require you to provide the following information:

- Organization's legal name,
- Any other names your organization uses,
- Organization's mailing address,
- Organization's website address (if applicable),
- Organization's employer identification number (EIN),
- Name and address of a principal officer of your organization,
- Organization's annual tax period, A statement that your organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less, and if applicable, a statement that your organization is terminating (going out of business)

### What happens if I fail to file the e-Postcard or Form 990 or 990-EZ?

The Pension Protection Act requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that

fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, organizations that do not file the e-Postcard or an annual information return, Form 990 or 990-EZ, for three consecutive years will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

I wish you all **Joy** and **Peace** as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Diane Purcell  
NLS Financial Advisor

## Treasurer Report

Greetings to all in the name of our risen savior Jesus Christ:

As I sit here writing this article I am reminded that it is my final year to serve you as treasurer. It has been an honor to serve with you in Christ's church. Thank you all for entrusting me with the financial matters of the NLS.

At present, we have our money in two accounts, Wachovia Checking and Thrivent Money Market. I am able to move money from one account to another within one week which is very convenient.

The committee formed for raising funds for the National Coordinator position is hard at work and I suspect they will be asking for some money set aside at our meeting last year. We allocated \$7,000 as a budget item at last year's annual meeting. I have also received a good size check from one of our member secretariats that will be added to the \$7000 as it was written specifically for that purpose.

The balance in our Thrivent account is **\$7,416.36**. The balance in our Wachovia account is **\$17,888.86**. The reason the Wachovia account looks so high is there are outstanding checks in the amount of \$8530.00 and I put in some money from the Thrivent account in case I am directed to write checks for the fund raising campaign.

By the time you get the Conexiones, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and Christmas will be upon us. My prayer is that you thought about what you are thankful for and what God has done for us in sending His Son.

God bless,  
Jerry Lemcke, NLS Treasurer



# Palanca!!!

## Future weekends

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

### 2008 WEEKENDS:

- Jan. 2008 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #99: Jan. 17-20, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Jan. 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #498: Jan. 17-20 & Women's #499: Jan. 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Feb. 2008 - South Dakota: **South Dakota VDC**, Men's: Feb. 7-10, & Women's: Feb. 14-17, Send palanca to: Margaret Svitak 86238 559th Ave. Randolph, NE 68771-6004
- Feb./Mar. 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #500: Feb. 21-24 & Women's #501: Feb. 28 Mar. 2, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Feb./Mar. 2008 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #61: Feb. 28 Mar. 2 & Women #62: Mar. 6-9, Send palanca to: Richard Pettit 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Mar. 2008 - AR-OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #19: Mar. 6-9, Send palanca to: Becky Del Rio 18115 Fawn Tree Dr. Little Rock, AR 72210
- Mar. 2008 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Women's #98: Mar. 27-30, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- April 2008 - Florida: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men's #51: April 3-6, & Women #51: April 10-13, Send palanca to: Carole Moskowitz 4711 Trout Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
- April 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #502: April 3-6, & Women's #503: April 10-13, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- April 2008 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men's #53: April 10-13 & Women #53: April 17-20, Send palanca to: Dottie Schwartz 287 Bonnlyn Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- April 2008 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #42: April 10-13 & Women's #42: April 17-20, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E Grand

- River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- April 2008 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Coed #20 April 10-13, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- April 2008 - Washington: **VDC of Western Washington**, Coed #4 April 10-13, Send palanca to: Jan Ozias 23609 NE 25th Way Sammamish, WA 98074
- April 2008 - Colorado: **VDC of the Rockies**, Coed #1: April 17-20, Send palanca to: Earl Cunningham 8883 S. Miners St. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-5026
- April 2008 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men's #21: April 17-20 & Women's #22: April 24 - 27, Send palanca to: Joyce Zobrist 1326 Amanda Metamora, IL 61548
- April/May 2008 - Ohio: **Ohio Lutheran VdC**, Men's #63 April 17-20 & Women's #63: May 1-4, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224
- May/Sept. 2008 - Missouri/Illinois: **River's Edge VDC**, Men's #10: May 1-4, Women #11 Sept 4-7, Send palanca to: Laurie Dunnette 2720 Stone Valley Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- May 2008 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed (coed) #5 May 1-4, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- May/June 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #504: May 22-25, & Women's #504: May 29-June 1, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

As we approach the end of 2007 and anticipate the New Year, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both holidays involve giving thanks for blessings in our lives, reflections of the past years activities and those of others. Throughout the year we seek God's blessings and interventions for our families, churches, communities and Via de Cristo activities. We seek God's levers (palanca) to move by His powers what we cannot move on our own.

Sometimes, in our haste to seek assistance, we overlook giving thanks for what He has provided. Those offerings of thanks and praise are sometimes muted. In 1 Chronicles 16:23, we hear, "Sing to the Lord ... For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised..." From a personal note, I always sang

softly or muted because the gift of music was not one I possessed. I had a bucket but no tune. A few years ago, the Lord surprised, actually shocked, me with the gift of music. His intent was that my thanks and praises were to be sung loudly and with jubilation. I still have the bucket and now it overflows with joy and thanksgiving for Him being in my life.

There are many verses in the Word that urge giving thanks - 1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 105:1, 106:1, 107:1, 119:62, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 5:18 - as well as others. In Ephesians 5:20 it says it this way "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

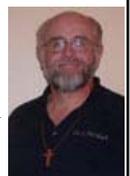
This is the season for thanks and remembering that giving thanks and praises at all times for all things should be first and primary as we seek Him for blessings and interventions.

As the Palanca Coordinator, active and timely participation of the local Palanca Coordinators is critical in disseminating information. The local coordinators have been excellent in providing the critical link to the local Secretariats. The updates to the calendar for 2008 have been flowing in due to the great job being done by the Palanca Coordinators. Updates are provided in many forms but there is an update button on the web page ([www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm](http://www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm)) for anyone to use if they wish.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support, but I would especially like to thank the Palanca Coordinators of the Secretariats. I thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve our community in this small way.

Only by His grace, He uses us as his tools to perform His work. My prayers are of thanks and praise to our Lord for blessing our Via de Cristo communities and all other three day movements.

Blessings,  
In His Service,  
Paul Sabatier-Smith  
<)))><



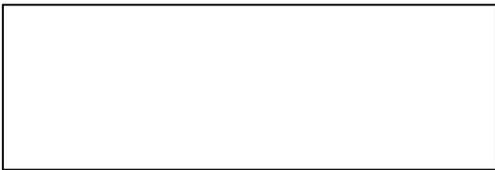


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**Annual Meeting Items Available**

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.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.