

CONEXIONES

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

Volume 26
Number 1
January 2008

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

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

The Cursillistas of the Lutheran Cursillo Movement of Arizona and Southern Arizona Via de Cristo invite you to attend the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, **July 24-27, 2008**. Explore with us the gift of God as our spiritual leaders develop the theme verse, 2 Timothy 6:1, during our morning and evening worship services. Attend seminars planned by the National Secretariat to expand your leadership skills, along with region to region sessions designed to share resources and information. Relax in the evenings as local Christian bands share Christ's love through song. Enjoy the fun and merriment as the puppets seen during last summer's invitational skit show their cute little food faces, along with a few new puppet faces throughout the weekend.

Grand Canyon, a small, centrally located University about twenty five minutes from Sky Harbor Airport, you will find all the comforts of a four star hotel. The double occupancy, air conditioned, dorm rooms share a bath and a sitting room suite. Bring your swimsuit, and relax in the campus pool at the days end! Do you like to work out? Well, you can do that, in our Student Union's fitness center which has state of the art treadmills, and other work out equipment. Catch up with the national news on the fitness center's overhead TV's while you work out. Then, stop off next door and unwind at the Student Union's coffee shop which is open into the late evening hours. Check your email anytime during the day from our computer lab which will be open to all. While there you can check out local tourist websites and plan your after meeting site seeing excursions.

Last month's newsletter included a website, <http://www.arizonaquide.com> for you to find interesting facts and information on Arizona. Did you check it out? And did we mention that there would be a quiz? It's not too difficult, and to ensure that everyone gets an A+, the answers can be found on page 8.

1. What MAJOR sporting event is coming to Arizona in February, 2008?
2. Arizona is also called?
3. What would you like to see if you are an "underground" buff?
4. Want to know more about the first inhabitants of Arizona?
5. Want tips on how to shop for Native American crafts?
6. Want to be a cowboy/cowgirl "dude" for a day?
7. Are you an art connoisseur?

Our Host Team continues to keep you in prayer as we meet and plan for your time with us. We want your stay in our "town" to be a wonderful, spirit filled time as you meet with old friends, make new friends, and attend to the duties of being a delegate for your secretariat. Come early, or stay late. Relax, unwind, and enjoy our western style hospitality. You'll be glad you did.



CONEXIONES

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

E-Mail Notification — bhigh922@aol.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: & State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Name of Secretariate _____

Position on Secretariate: _____

E-Mail Address: _____@_____

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

Connecting National and Local Secretariats



Volume 26
 Number 1
 Jan. 2008

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 a member of the board 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 brothers and sisters in Christ,

A recurring theme has been placed on my heart lately and I wanted to share it with you as I feel it is so conducive to what we the Via de Cristo Community are all about. That theme is being a servant and what it really means to be a servant of Christ.



A number of us went through our pilgrim weekend and had an amazing opportunity to be renewed in our faith and most importantly in our calling. When Jesus called the twelve and the 72 others he did not just call them and send them out he spent 3 years training them, giving them examples, setting the stage for what they were about to enter. We often times think that the weekends are all about getting pilgrims there and getting them through the weekend with a renewed focus of what their calling is from God. Well the other aspect of these weekends that we hold which may not come to most of our minds is that when we come back and work a weekend it is not just to be a servant to the pilgrims or the rest of the team. It is an opportunity for us to come back and work on our leadership and servant skills. If you follow the Essentials you are giving everyone an opportunity to come back and work and be in different positions hopefully with some sort of a progressive increase in responsibility each time. Very few people can just go out there and perform a task without proper training. Jesus took the time to train and that is the focus of our Annual meeting for 2008.

Think about what it can do for the local church. What Via de Cristo does for the local church is that it gives them a training ground for their leaders to grow and mature in their skills as a leader in an encouraging and loving community. Through track records in our own churches we can see where this has helped even the most shy of people to step out of their place of comfort and move on to do some extraordinary things for the Lord. This extraordinary is at different levels for each person, and then we do not always stay around to see what God has done with the task he has given us.

The most extraordinary thing that I see happen in this community is the number of participants who have gone beyond their volunteer ministry to move on to full-time or part-time ministry either as a pastor or as another type of paid servant in the church. This is a great opportunity for you to invite others to come and share in what their calling is for the church. This is what our ministry does for the larger community of Christ. This is the message to share with other congregations. This is the message that I see in our ministry.

To focus now on the plans for 2008 NLSAM. We are providing three sessions for Region to Region this year as there were a couple of regions that decided to meet three times. This is a reminder to the regions out there,

that, we will have an opportunity for you to share what your communities have been doing at our first session with the larger community. You will also have the opportunity to turn in a report of what actions you took at the national meeting for inclusion in the final business session reports.

Our region to region sessions have been an opportunity for our established communities to look at what they can do to bring this ministry to areas nearby to their own communities. It is also a way of some regions to get help in growing their own communities.

We will be offering four sessions for our seminars. We still want your priority of what seminar you want to attend due to classroom size we want to make sure you get to experience what you are most interested in. Our key focus for this years annual meeting will be on TRAINING. Training our trainers; and training our communities on sponsoring. We are going to look at pastoral involvement and of course we will be looking at the Essentials. The focus of our forum this year is on "Who really belongs"?

In this newsletter is the 2008 NLSAM Registration form, travel form and a tentative basic schedule to help you prepare for your travel arrangements. The board has set the registration fee at **\$170.00**. All your additional options are listed on the registration form and their associated costs. Please make sure that you total everything correctly and get it postmarked no later than June 1. If it is not postmarked by this date please ensure that you include a **\$25 late fee**. I know that Arizona would appreciate your support with their T-Shirt sales and they have a variety of colors available with their logo, information for this is also included on the registration form. You can look for me in the lime green t-shirt.

The Arizona team is working hard with monthly meetings now to prepare for your arrival so get busy making your reservations to fly or drive and get your registration forms in as soon as you can.

Nu (Nanette) Helgager
NLS VP of Administration



Grand Canyon University



NLS Board Minutes — Midyear meeting October 26 –28, 2007

Friday, October 26, 2007

Present for all the meetings: Tracy Schmidlin, Rev. John Propst, Nanette (Nu) Helgager, Dave Erdman, Katie Sistar, Jerry Lemcke, Judy Laabs-Foss, Bob Northrup.

Pastor John opened with prayer at 1:10 p.m. Friday, October 26, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona. Each person told something about themselves to get better acquainted.

Nu went over the final report from Inky. Discussed the need for secretariats to bring banners to Nationals. Possibly need guidelines for what kind of banner, size, and the way to hang them.

Reviewed and discussed the 125 evaluations from 2007 meeting. Some key positive comments dealt with Region to Region, small groups, and music. There was a discussion of the suggestions from the evaluations to help with next year's seminars and forums.

The board discussed possible speakers and presenters. An outline might aid them in carrying through on the theme and what is trying to be accomplished. Discussed breakout sessions and how to work them into the schedule.

Discussed ways to make the National meeting more meaningful to attendees, including visitors. Showing the recent video tapes would be an additional media. These might be run during committees, seminars and business meetings - Is Christ Calling You? and Are You Listening?

Discussed the purchase of a laptop computer in order to always have necessary equipment available at the National Meeting.

Worked on scheduling events for 2008 Nationals using the past two years schedules. Also used evaluations to help with time frames for events.

Discussed arranging to seat delegates when the list is available. Bill and Betty Thompson, registrars for 2008, will send a list of delegates to Nu, Tracy, and Katie. Then Katie will send a copy to Lucy Hightower

to update the database.

Jerry closed Friday night's meeting with prayer.

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Saturday morning the board met with the host committee at Grand Canyon University and toured the facility, noting the sizes of the rooms and the equipment available.

(The board and the host committee ate in the banquet room adjoining the cafeteria.)



The board and the host committee met after lunch as a group. Tracy had everyone introduce themselves, then went over expectations and thanked them for all their work so far. Nu talked about the basic schedule. Then small groups met with board members to discuss needs and ask questions.

The board meeting reconvened at the hotel at 1:40.

The board worked on scheduling events for each day of the 2008 meeting and worked on a tentative schedule.

Discussed needing Diane Purcell to be there for the Finance Committee meeting. It was agreed that her registration and transportation costs should be covered.

Discussed the use of the national trademarked logo. Dave moved that the following policy be approved: *The National Logo for profit will not be allowed. Any and all use of the logo must be approved by the NLSEB.* Jerry seconded it. Motion carried.

Discussed the long range planning committee. It needs to focus on goals for five to ten years from now.

Reviewed the Teleconference minutes and made corrections. Nu moved *that the minutes be accepted as presented for the September Teleconference.* Seconded by John. Motion carried.

Discussed Region to Region ideas. This seems to be an important way to aid growth and for secretariats to help each other. At 2008 meeting during the first Region to Region gathering, we should: 1. Restate the purpose. 2. Give every region a chance to share what they are doing. 3. Schedule a speaker from Florida to describe a way or process of working together effectively.

Nu named the twelve secretariats that were not in attendance last year at the National meeting. Discussed ways to encourage them. Dave will contact them.

Discussed ways to help smaller communities with training, sponsoring, possibly using a list of people who could travel to help. This would involve training the trainers.

Discussed what to do when other groups want to use Via de Cristo materials and what our relationship should be with other movements.

Discussed the subject of registration fees for Nationals. Concerned that if the registration is too high, people won't be able to attend.

John closed the meeting with prayer.

(The board had supper with the host committee at Peace Lutheran Church.)

The board reconvened after supper at the hotel at 7:30.

Several positions need to be filled next summer. We will need to appoint a nominating committee.

Tracy updated the board on the fundraising campaign for the National Coordinator position. There are nine on the committee. There are two co-chairs. Discussed working with secretariats to get database information to help with fundraising. We would be working toward an endowment that would last many years into the future. Need to have a win-win situation for Nationals and local secretariats. We will be needing representatives from every secretariat later.

Tracy informed us about Thi Har-

Spiritual Director's Report

ris, a fundraising consultant with excellent credentials and reputation who has said it's possible. The committee will meet in January by teleconference and will later be getting trained to help with the fundraising effort.

Discussed that there is concern about issues. The Board agreed that we need to emphasize the fundamentals of Via de Cristo.

Discussion about the rooms and halls and how to best use them. Nu went over the tentative schedule, making some adjustments in time frames and rooms to be used. Focus of the scheduling is on leadership training.

Discussed how best to use the extra funds from 2007 Nationals in Indianapolis. Jerry moved the following statement be approved: *Due to Inky's stewardship, the NLSEB has decided to give an additional \$3000.00 to the Arizona host committee to offset the registration fees. The board has determined to set the registration fee at \$170.00 per person. The board feels this reduced fee will encourage attendance by more secretariats.* Seconded by Nu. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussed possible speakers and presenters.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor John.

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Board reconvened Sunday morning at 8:40.

John moved the following be approved: *that Bob Northrup be authorized to buy a computer, software and printer to be used by the board.* Seconded by Nu. Motion carried.

Discussed possibility of Nu meeting with Florida to go over guidelines on a more personal level. It was decided that wasn't necessary at this time.

Mid-Year meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar
NLS Secretary



"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:13-15 from Today's NIV)

Dear Via de Cristo Friends,

The words above provide quite a Spiritual challenge to us, don't they!? It's easy to say, "I'm not a preacher – how can I share the Good News with someone?" But wait – listen to this: "God has given us the task of telling everyone what He is doing. We're Christ's representatives." (2 Corinthians 5:20 from The Message.)



And listen to the very first question under the "Action" panel of our reunion cards: "What have you done this week to share Christ with the world so that others might know His saving love?"

OK, so what do I tell others about Jesus? (I'm so glad you asked!) Here's a thought from The Lutheran Handbook, pages 89-90 "How to Share Your Faith with Someone"

Be Authentic – Relax and be honest. Share what God has done in your life – not made you perfect -- just loves you for who you are!

Be a Listener – It's a conversation, not a sermon. Listen carefully to where another is on their Spiritual journey.

Leave the Results to the Holy Spirit – you plant the seed; the Spirit does the cultivating.

Expect God to Use You – Pray for the Spirit's direction and watch what God does. Always speak to God about another person before you speak to another person about God. (Ummm...I think I've heard this in a rollo!)

Here's a final thought ... "A four-year old girl was overheard whispering into her newborn baby brother's ear, 'Baby,' she whispers, 'tell me what God sounds like. I am starting to forget.'" (Between the Dreaming and the Coming True, Robert Bensen)

Perhaps God's Spirit is about to place someone in your path who is beginning to forget what God sounds like. And maybe you are the one who God is about to use to remind him/her about God's eternal love in Jesus!

God's blessings to you in your witness & action,

Dr. John Propst

Propst@TwilightDesigns.com





Meeting and Registration Form

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2008

Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27, 2008
Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona
Hosted by Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona

One form per person attending

Payment Must accompany registration

Name - First	Last	Male / Female	Name for Nametag
Address		City, State, Zip	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
Work Phone		Fax	
email address			
Home Secretariat		Position on Secretariat	
Please circle one NLS BOARD MEMBER SPEAKER Lay Delegate Lay Visitor Clergy Delegate Visiting Clergy			
First time attending NLS Annual Meeting? Yes ___ No ___ If No, please indicate last Year attended _____ Position attended as _____			
___ I require special accommodations for the following: Medical ___ Dietary ___ Physical ___ Please explain _____ Please contact Betty Thompson if you need additional assistance with any housing or transportation concerns.			
Travel to NLS Annual meeting will be by: Auto ___ Air _____. I will need pick up. Yes ___ No ___ Host committee will arrange pick up from Phoenix International Airport (PHX) only to Grand Canyon Univ. Please use Travel Information form, if applicable, so Transportation Committee can accommodate your needs What day will you be leaving the annual meeting? Saturday pm ___ Sunday by noon _____.			

Payment and Fees Include:	
Meals, Housing, NLS Annual Meeting materials from Thursday noon thru Sunday 11:00 am	
\$170.00 Registration per person for NLS Annual Meeting 2008	Double Room - Roommate requested: _____
Single room requested, additional \$60.00 (\$20.00 per day)	
Extra night on Wednesday - double \$15.00; single \$30.00	
Extra dinner Wednesday only, add \$10.00 DINING HALL CLOSES AT 6:30 PM	
Extra breakfast Thursday only, add \$5.00 DINING HALL HOURS, 7:30-9:30 AM	
T-Shirt, specify size and color: _____	
Late fee of \$25.00 if postmarked after June 1, 2008	
Total	
Make all checks payable to LCMA 2008	

Refunds (Less \$25.00) will only be considered if postmarked/mailed no later than July 3, 2008

T-Shirts with meeting logo \$15 for sizes S-XL plus \$1.00 for each size larger; i.e., 2X=\$16, 3X=\$17, 4X=\$18. T-Shirts should be ordered with registration and will be held in PHX. 50/50 cotton polyester, available in teal, purple, light and true gray, southwest blue, southwest green, kelly green, baby blue, lime, royal blue, maroon.

Seminars please indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice
____ Training (incl. Table Leaders) ____ Essentials Are Always Essential ____ Pastoral Involvement ____ Sponsorship - What it really means.

Complete form and mail with check to:

**NLS Annual Meeting 2008
Betty Thompson
7608 W. McRae Way
Glendale, AZ 85308-5943
e-mail: billandbetty@att.net
Phone: (623) 561-1163**

2008

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Basic Schedule

THURSDAY

11:00 am Orientation
12:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm Opening Worship with Communion
2:30 pm Keynote
3:15 pm Break
3:30 pm Business Meeting
5:00 pm Dinner
6:00 pm Region to Region
7:45 pm Worship
Hospitality to follow

FRIDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
8:45 am Worship with Communion
10:00 am Business Meeting
11:30 am Forum
12:15 am Lunch
1:15 pm Seminars 1- 4/Optional Videos
2:15 pm Repeat Seminars /Optional Videos
3:15 pm Break
3:30 pm Committee Work, S.D. Dialog, L.D. dialog
Hosting a National Meeting
5:00 pm Dinner
6:00 pm Small Group Breakout Time
7:00 pm Region to Region
8:15 pm Worship
Hospitality to follow

SATURDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
8:45 am Worship with Communion
10:00 am Region to Region Program
11:15 am Repeat Seminars
12:15 am Lunch
1:15 pm Repeat Seminars
2:15 pm Business Meeting
4:00 pm Small Group Breakout Time
09 Host Committee meets with Board
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Worship and Installation of officers
(*offering taken for outreach*)
Hospitality to follow

SUNDAY

7:30 am Breakfast
8:45 am Worship with Communion



Arizona Answers



It is time to find out how you did with the questions from page one.

#1 Super Bowl XLII

#2 In Arizona, the [Grand Canyon](#), one of the Seven Wonders of the World exists among lush desert landscapes, crystal-clear waters and breathtaking mountain peaks. From small communities to one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, Arizona offers travelers unique experiences packed with hospitality, adventure, and stunning sights.

#3 A mining tour or cavern tour! You'll hit pay dirt at Arizona's famous gold mines, rock museums and gem and mineral shows.

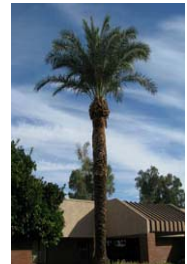
#4 That would be any number of the many Indian tribes that first lived here! Follow the trail of legendary Apache leader Geronimo during a four-day drive through the rugged, beautiful country around Apache Pass in southeast Arizona.

Don't have the time for a long drive? Check out the Heard Museum right here in downtown Phoenix! The scope of the museum emphasizes the life ways of indigenous people of the southwest, but the museum collection and exhibitions cover the living cultures and arts of all contemporary Native peoples. Throughout the year, the museum hosts popular events like the Heard Museum Indian Market, Spanish Market and World Champion Hoop Dance Contest.

#5 Open www.arizonaquide.com and find a whole article with helpful hints!

#6 Stay at a dude ranch for a night or two and get a taste of what dude ranching is like. There are lots of them in Tucson, just a few hours south of Phoenix.

#7 You'll want to see Sedona, two hours north of Phoenix in the pine country. As well as having a solid reputation as an artists' enclave, Sedona offers visitors a wealth of trails ranging from leisurely jaunts to long, challenging backpacking treks. Among the state's most photographed backdrops is Red Rock Crossing, where immense sandstone cliffs are reflected in the waters of Oak Creek.



DATABASE FOIBLES

What's a *foible*? The dictionary describes it as a minor weakness or a persistent fault. The biggest foible our database has is keeping it up-to-date, and you'd better believe it's also pretty persistent.

This is the time of year when many secretariats are holding or have recently held elections, and we'd really like for YOUR secretariat to remember to send the latest and greatest information so we can foil the foible.

We try to send reminders to each secretariat at least annually--if we have your election month in our records. Check the table on the next page to see if we have the correct month listed for your secretariat. If no month is listed, we do not have that information (and we'd love to have it.)

If we have the wrong month, please contact Lucy at Bhigh922@aol.com.

And remember if you have changes in your secretariat roster during the year, please send them to Lucy. If you don't remember her email address, you can find it on the NLS website (www.viadecristo.org) on the VdC Locator Page.



And PUH-LEASE: Help Us Foil the Foible! Thank you! Lucy Hightower

List of Secretariats 2007-2008

STATE	NAME	Election	
			Month
A-OK	A-OK Lutheran Secretariat (Arkansas/Oklahoma)		Jan
AZ-1	Lutheran Cursillo Movement of Arizona		Nov
AZ-2	Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo		Feb
CA-1	Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California		Jul
CA-3	Via de Cristo of Southern California and Central Valley		Jan
CO	Colorado Via de Cristo		Sep
FL-1	Gold Coast Via de Cristo, Inc.		Sep
FL-2	Heart of Florida Via de Cristo		Sep
FL-3	Indian River Via de Cristo		Sep
FL-4	Lighthouse Via de Cristo, Inc.		Varies
FL-5	Sonbeam Via de Cristo		Jun
FL-6	Sonshine North Via de Cristo		Dec
FL-7	Sonshine Via de Cristo of South Florida		_____
GA	Atlanta Lutheran Via de Cristo		_____
IL	Ecumenical Cursillo Community of Illinois (ECCO)		Jun
IL-1	Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo		Jun
IL-2	Living Water Via de Cristo		Jun
IL-3	Prairie Sunshine		_____
IL-4	Taste of Grace		Jan
IL/MO	River's Edge Via de Cristo		Dec
INKY	INKY (Indiana Lutheran Via de Cristo)		Jan
IW	Iowa Lutheran Secretariat		_____
KS	Heart of America Via de Cristo		_____
LA	Louisiana Via de Cristo		Jan
MD	Vineyard Via de Cristo, Inc.		Apr
MI-1	Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan		Feb
MI-2	Good News! Via de Cristo		May
MN	Via de Cristo of Minnesota		Apr
MT	Yellowstone Via de Cristo		Jan
NC-1	Eastern North Carolina Via de Cristo		Jan
NC-2	Western North Carolina Via de Cristo		Feb
NE-2	Nebraska Lutheran Via de Cristo		Nov
NV	Light in the Desert Via de Cristo		Jul
NY	Damascus Road Via de Cristo		_____
OH	Via de Cristo of Ohio, Inc.		Jan
SC	South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo, Inc.		Nov
SD	Lutheran Secretariat of South Dakota		_____
TN-1	Tennessee Lutheran Via de Cristo		Jan
TN-2	Notes of Grace Via de Cristo		Jan
TX-1	North Texas Lutheran Secretariat		Oct
TX-2	Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo		Jan
UT	Via de Cristo of Utah (Bob Ricci)		Mar
VA	Rainbow Via de Cristo Christian Community		Jan
WAS	Via de Cristo of Western Washington		Feb
WI	Wisconsin (Sonrise) Via de Cristo		May
WI-1	Northern Light Via de Cristo		_____

Distribution Report

Preparing for your next weekends:

We here at the N.L.S. Distribution Center expect that most of you are planning some terrific spring 2008 VDC Weekends and we want to offer some suggestions that will help everyone involved.

Place your orders early for the materials you need such as Pilgrim's Guides, Brochures, Renewal Cards, DVD Disks, & Spiritual Director's Manuals. We always have people calling in a panic needing material to be shipped "overnight". This usually works but is very expensive for you. The best way to order is from this web page:

<http://www.viadecristo.org/resources/supplies/index.htm>

Be assured that we check this web page every day. I will send email to you with a confirmation that we have your order and an estimated shipping date. We ship via USPS "Media Mail" rate (less costly) unless otherwise specified.

We still have a good supply of the newest DVD Video Disk title, "Is Christ Calling You?" which is an excellent tool for explaining what to expect at a VDC Weekend. Everyone needs access to one of these.

We ask each of you (or your local treasurer) to please be prompt in mailing us a check to cover the cost shown on the invoice that is sent with each order.

Thank you,
John & Carol Bradford

Treasurer Report

There has not been much activity since my last report with the holidays and all. A reminder to treasurers that membership fees are to be in my hands by **May 31st**.

The balances in our accounts are as of December 31, 2007:

Wachovia Non-Profit Checking	9,072.97
Thrivent Mutual Fund	16,752.83
Total	25,825.80

I hope you are blessed as you prepare to celebrate Easter being constantly reminded of what He has done for us all that we ourselves could not do.

God bless,
Jerry Lemcke, NLS Treasurer

President Report

INSURANCE NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY! Each community must protect itself.

In the last few months we have received several requests on how to get insurance for the events that are part of the 4th day, for weekends, and for Secretariats. To date we at National have only said that each state is different and you need to check with a local insurance agent. While that is quite true, here are some items that I am providing to you as examples of what you might discover for your own secretariat's activity. Please understand, I am not licensed to give out insurance advice and I am not an attorney. You need to make the effort to find a competent professional who understands your situation to give meaningful advice for your specific Secretariat! What follows is meant to stimulate discussion and encourage local action. I do believe that the environments we live in, work in, play in and yes, worship in need to be insured. There are too many situations that arise requiring us to make sure coverage is available when it is needed.

- A general business policy may be available with business property coverage included for the items used on the weekend, ie: equipment, cots, tables, etc. and include business liability protection.
- Look into medical payment coverage – some companies exclude volunteers from medical payments unless negligence is found. Some offer the coverage, but the expense may be too great. In either situation, it is always best to let the team members know that they may be serving at their own risk; meaning that their own health insurance will be covering them and not VdC.
- Via de Cristo weekends can get "event" coverage, but this may not be the best route due to cost and exposure.
- Some churches are partnering with the Via de Cristo and may wish to re-think this route because of how it may put the church at risk.
- Most church policies cover the church and what happens on the grounds of the church, but you may find that your group is not covered, or not covered sufficiently. The same may be true of a campground or any other facility that you use for weekends.
- Look into what the local churches are using for policies
- Event coverage is more in line with an annual meeting, or a one time event.
- Coverage should be year round to cover any Secretariat sponsored activities – Ultreyas, workshops, etc.
- If you are incorporated, the Secretariat may be named as the entity to be insured, so that individuals are not named specifically. The corporation is the person and this puts a level of protection between the individuals and the potential loss.
- It is most likely to be helpful to have your 501(c) 3 established
- Spiritual Directors and those in lead positions on a regular basis may want to look into abuse and molestation supplemental insurance
- Look into social services organization supplemental insurance
- Background checks may be required
- Counselors Insurance, Social Worker professional liability insurance may also be available
- Look into deductibles to help with premium dollars.
- Ask for someone in your community to offset or underwrite the premiums if your Secretariat does not have the available funds.
- Get more than one quote. If you do not know where to start you can "Google" church insurance. Two possible companies I found are *Philadelphia Insurance* and *Church Mutual*

Bottom line? Get insured! If you are already insured, know how you are insured. Take the time to find out what the insurance is covering so that you can inform those around you and when a situation arises, you are prepared. Insurance is worth reviewing on a regular basis.

Please remember, this article is for your kick start to get insurance discussions moving. Find out and know what is true for you.

Palanca!!!

Future weekends

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

2008 WEEKENDS:

Feb. 2008 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #63 Feb. 7-10, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146

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. 2008 - Florida: **Heart of Florida VDC**, Men's #35, Send palanca to: Nancy Cifuetes c/o St. John Luth. Church 1600 S. Orlando Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

Feb. 2008 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men's #28: Feb. 21-24 & Women's #28: Feb. 28 Mar. 2, Send palanca to: Paul Bunker 9395 W Friend Dr. Littleton, CO 80128

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 - INKY: **Indiana-Kentucky VdC**, Men's South #58: Feb. 28 Mar. 2, Women's South #59: Mar. 6-9, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shoreland Dr. Cicero, IN 46034

Feb./Mar. 2008 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #61: Feb. 28 Mar. 2 & Women #62: Mar. 6-9, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 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 - Arizona: **Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona**, Men's #116; Mar. 13-16 & Women's #117: Mar. 27-30, Send palanca to: Tracy Clark 326 E. Fairmont Tempe, AZ 85282

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 - Illinois: **Prairie Sonshine VdC of Central Illinois**, Women's #7: April 3-6, Send palanca to: Chad & Stacy Thomas PO Box #436 Jacksonville, IL 62650

April 2008 - Kansas: **Heart of America VdC**, Mixed #6: April 3-6, Send palanca to: Lois Kimbrell 2130 N. Union St. Fremont, NE 68025

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 - Montana: **Yellowstone VdC**, Coed #25: April 3-6, Send palanca to: Warren Peterson 2618 Louise Ln Billings, MT 59102

April 2008 - Utah: **UTAH VDC**, Women's #38 April 3-6, and #40 April 10-13, Send palanca to: Glenice Coward 2426 Creek Rd. Sandy, UT 84093

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 - INKY: **Indiana-Kentucky VdC**, Men's North #59: April 10-13, Women's South #60: April 17-20, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shoreland Dr. Cicero, IN 46034

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 25thWay 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 2008 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #10: April 17-20, Send palanca to: Mary Jamison 290 E Delamar Dr. Henderson, NV 89015

April/May 2008 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Men's #49: April 3-6, & Women #49: May 1-4, Send palanca to: Joan Bosari 1308 Japonica Lane Cocoa, FL 32922

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 2008 - Florida: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men's #51: May 15-18, & Women's #51: May 23-25, Send palanca to: Carole Moskowitz 4711 Trout Ave. Sebring, FL 33870

May/June 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #504: May 22-25, & Women's #505: May 29-June 1, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

June 2008 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Coed #7: June 26-29, Send palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511

July 2008 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Coed #29: July 10-13, Send palanca to: Paul Bunker 9395 W Friend Dr. Littleton, CO 80128

July 2008 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC**, Men's #100: July 17-20, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

July 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #506: July 17-20, & Women's #507: July 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

July 2008 - Ohio: **Ohio VdC**, Men's #64 July 17-20, & Women's #64: July 24-27, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224

July 2008 - Illinois: **Prairie Sonshine VdC of Central Illinois**, Men's #8: July 24-27, Send palanca to: Chad & Stacy Thomas PO Box #436 Jacksonville, IL 62650

Aug. 2008 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #508: Aug. 7-10, & Women's #509: Aug. 14-17, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825





Judy Laabs-Foss
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Annual Meeting Items Available

All the material that was available at the 2007 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!

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www.viadechristo.org

Webmaster: Bob Northrup

CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

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