

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES

Volume 30  
Number 3  
Sept. 2012

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

*NLS 2012 Annual Meeting  
July 26 – 29, 2012  
Hosted by Colorado VdC of the Rockies*



*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit’s fire . . . .”  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-19*

This year’s annual meeting was held at Regis University in Denver, CO. It was our 40th anniversary year of weekend in the United States. This culminated at the Saturday’s evening meal when we were surrounded by the cloud of witnesses during the serenade. If you attended and have not yet sent in our evaluation, please complete and send to Carolyn Hawkins, VP of Administration (info on page 2)

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 an idea of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future. I know many of you use this information to share in your renewal groups, at Ultreyas and in your secretariat meetings. A big **Thank You** to all of the Colorado Cursillistas for hosting yet another successful and grace filled meeting. We were truly blessed, renewed and spirit-filled!



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Position on Secretariate: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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 97,500 who have participated in 48 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.

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**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 — Newly Elected SD**



Following a twenty-five year career as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps, I began the journey to the ordained ministry in July of 1993. During my Marine Corps service I found myself stationed at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, DC and that is when I made my Via de Cristo weekend – with Rainbow Men’s #6 in 1982 where I sat at the Table of John.

I completed my seminary education in December of 1996 at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. While on internship in Davenport, Iowa, I became deeply involved in the Living Water Via de Cristo community and remained committed until 2002 when relocating to the Washington DC area, where I became involved in Rainbow Via de Cristo again.

Upon leaving Seminary I was appointed a mission developer by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shortly thereafter, the Northern Illinois Synod Council called me to start a mission congregation in Plainfield, Illinois (40 miles south of Chicago) -- Abundant Life Lutheran Church. We moved to Plainfield in February of 1997 and I was ordained that same month at St. John Lutheran Church in Joliet, IL. I was privileged to be called as Pastor of Abundant Life when it organized in 2000.

In March of 2003 I was called to be Senior Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA. I accepted the call to be the Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota and began that call in January of 2009. I returned to the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod in June of 2010 and began an interim position at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. I accepted the call to my current position as Senior Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Virginia on February 27, 2011.

In addition to my current call, I also serve as Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod and. I also serve on the Board of Fellowship Square and continue to serve the Rainbow Via de Cristo as a Spiritual Director.

My wife, Dorann, and I have two grown children; our daughter, who lives in Joplin, Missouri with our two grandsons; and our son, who currently lives in the Chicago area with his wife and our three year old granddaughter.

Pastor John (Bradford) NLS Spiritual Director

**NLS President’s Report**



At our recent NLS Annual Meeting we celebrated 40 years of Cursillo weekends based on Lutheran theology. It was again my honor to work with the Executive Board and the assembled delegates and visitors while guiding the meetings to accomplish the necessary

work. It was a time of coming together to worship God, share experiences, and learn from one another. Pastor Joe Nielson’s keynote reminded us “it is the journey – and – not the experience.” Pastor Paul Schmidlin’ forum called us “to keep the “main thing the main thing.” Pastor Carroll and Judy Lang’s reminder “return to the basics.” Greg Engroff, International Director of Walk to Emmaus, provided methods to strengthen the Fourth Day Community. Magdala Ray, our NLS Secretary, explained “Why weekend Dynamics Work: The Wheel Leading the Way.” The information either is or soon will be available on our website.

The Annual Meeting theme verse was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 that provided a daily focus: Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks. I cannot begin to thank the Host Committee for their dedication and hard work...bless you all!

Rocks were a physical take away from the meeting. You know those things we label as palanca that are really reminders for us to pray. Some of the rocks had “Pray” written on them. Others “Rejoice”. Still others “Give Thanks”. In a table conversation, someone said how wonderful it was that these words were written on them. In jest, someone responded that many had to be discarded because it was really difficult to find rocks with whose specific words on them!

Yet, I am curious, how many times in the process of flipping over rocks do we really *rejoice*? How many rocks do we flip over rather than taking time to *pray*? How many times do we even consider *giving thanks* for the opportunity to flip rocks over? In our busyness, e.g., whatever form rock flipping takes, I remind the reader to pray, rejoice, and give thanks.

In the next six to nine months there is much for your Board to accomplish! May each of us daily: rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice for as Christians our destiny is assured – eternal life with the creator of the universe; pray that we flip the rocks that need to be flipped; and give thanks that God has created it all for our stewardship and as a witness to His goodness.

We serve a loving God that gave each of us gifts and talents – not for hiding under a rock but for advancing His kingdom. May we be ready to use them to advance His kingdom...and...bring Him glory. Be strong in Him...rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks on your journey.

Ed Broestl, NLS President



**NLS 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes****Thursday, 26 July 2012 – 3:45 PM****Welcome, Prayer and Greetings from Regis University**

Ed Broestl opened the 2012 National Lutheran Secretariat for Via de Cristo meeting, noting that this weekend we are celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lutheran weekends being held in the United States. He then asked Pr. Doug Givan to begin with prayer. Ed then introduced Carol McGill, 2012 Host Committee Chair, who introduced Bonnie Fruland, the events coordinator for Regis University. She gave welcoming remarks and a history of the university.

**Greetings from Thrivent**

Ed next introduced Roberta Wentworth (HC Fundraising Chair and Thrivent Representative), who introduced Jackie Hinz, Vice President of Member Engagement, and Laurie Wilkinson, Director of Church Relations, from Thrivent, Appleton, WI. Roberta gave some background about Thrivent, including its updated mission statement and an explanation of what a fraternal membership organization is. She also informed the body about Thrivent Choice, a program in which Thrivent members can direct funds to organizations they care about.

**Introductions**

Ed continued the welcoming remarks by asking newcomers to stand, those who had attended four or more NLSAMs, and then former board members. He encouraged everyone to take the time to exchange ideas and learn from the rich history present at this weekend. Ed thanked God for His amazing grace and the attendees for their commitment to the Via de Cristo movement. He then asked the board members to introduce themselves.

Ed explained that the meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order and introduced Diane Purcell, NLS Financial Advisor, as the parliamentarian for this NLSAM. He also explained how a quorum is reached according to the NLS constitution and bylaws.

**Seating of Delegates**

Secretary Magdala Ray explained the seating process and had each of the 87 delegates stand to be recognized as a PowerPoint presentation provided the names.

**Board Reports**

Ed officially opened the business meeting by inviting all to pray the "Come, Holy Spirit" prayer. Referring to page 3-1 in the 2012 NLSAM notebooks for the flexible agenda of the four scheduled business meetings, Ed briefly explained the structure of the meetings before asking the board to present their reports by indicating how he or she benefited the movement this year and one thing he or she would like the members to take away from this NLSAM. Each board member referred to his or her report page in the notebook.

Ed (President's Report on p. 3-5) thanked the board members for their dedication, service and prayers in the past year. His hope was that 2012 NLSAM participants would leave this weekend with a pocketful of "nuggets" – ideas gleaned from this weekend's worship, dialogues, seminars, forums, and small group sessions.

Nancy Peterson (Executive Director's Report on p. 3-15) reported on her efforts this year to reach out to the lay directors of the local secretariats to improve communication and offer her support as a resource. Her prayer was that all those attending would embrace the urgency of strengthening our 4<sup>th</sup> Day communities.

Carolyn Hawkins (Vice President of Administration's Report on p. 3-7) highlighted her participation on the selection committee for the ED position and also her work with the 2012 Host Committee. She expressed her prayer that all attending this weekend would return to their secretariats inspired, encouraged and focused on one specific action item.

Steve Gielda (Vice President of Outreach's Report on p. 3-8) thanked the assembly for participation in the leadership survey distributed through a Zoomerang link and mentioned that results would be shared throughout this weekend. The leadership survey report is also available on the NLS website's front page: [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org). Steve then introduced the Regional Coordinators, who have been working with him this past year to prepare a new seminar which they will be bringing to the local secretariats. He wanted this year's participants to walk away

with "your heads full of ideas and your hearts on fire", to realize that Via de Cristo is not just about a weekend but a life that's living, and to understand that as Pr. Joe Nilsen said, "It isn't about the experience; it's about the journey."

Pr. Doug Givan (National Spiritual Director's Report on p. 3-6) invited the group to stand for a stretch. He then asked Jim Ryan, INKY Via de Cristo, to announce the weekend being held in Sweden this same weekend and request prayer palanca. Pr. Doug thanked John Bradford, Distribution Manager, for his assistance in producing the devotional booklet newly published and available for the first time at this 2012 NLSAM. He also thanked Magdala Ray, Secretary, for her assistance in creating and summarizing the pastor survey, the results of which he will present later in the weekend. Pr. Doug next invited the assembly to reflect on the question, "Who is Jesus to you?" as a takeaway from this weekend.

Magdala Ray (Secretary's Report on p. 3-9) highlighted the honor and privilege of following in Katie Sistar's footsteps as secretary and working with the entire board, especially the two surveys which help the NLS take the "pulse" of our organization to determine the needs and areas where support is needed. Her prayer was that everyone would take away a new or renewed appreciation, enthusiasm, and at least one new understanding of why this movement works.

Steve Barnett (Treasurer's Report on pp. 3-10 to 3-14) began his report by opening the floor to any questions members had about the report. John Klein, Sonshine North, FL, asked how the board could help individual secretariats access Thrivent support and resources. Ed responded that we are in the process of working on a national-to-national understanding, and Steve indicated that he is learning the online application process this weekend. Steve continued by highlighting and explaining several specific items in the treasurer's report. His hope was that all participants see the blessing of keeping The Essentials at the core of VdC weekends.

Diane Purcell moved to accept the financials as presented by Steve Barnett; the motion was seconded by Chris Rasmussen. There was no discussion, and

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the motion was approved unanimously.

Diane Purcell (Financial Advisor's Report on p. 3-16) answered a question about the review of our financials and explained her position on the board. She reviews every transaction of the board and of the distribution center. She also offered her assistance as a resource for financial matters to all the secretariats of the NLS.

Rick Hanzlik (Web Servant's Report on p. 3-21) urged all to read and make use of the NLS website: [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org). He has created Twitter and Facebook accounts (viadecristonls) and offered his assistance in setting up websites or answering any questions about the use of social media.

Ed encouraged all to read and review all the reports in the notebook. Raleigh Sandy moved to accept all reports as presented, and the motion was seconded by Lynn Ryan. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.

### Explanation of the Election of Officers Process and Positions Available

Ed explained that three positions were open for nominations – Vice President of Administration, Treasurer, and National Spiritual Director. One appointed position, Archivist/Historian, is vacant. Job descriptions for those positions and the submitted nominee information forms may be found on pages 3-23 through 3-53 of the notebook. Additional nominations will open tomorrow morning, Friday. Nominees must be present at the meeting, and a completed form must be submitted for copying and distribution in time for the 11:15 AM Business Meeting #2.

Carolyn Hawkins and Carol McGill made announcements pertaining to the group photos following dinner, the location of posters for signing, and parking. Carolyn also encouraged all attendees to read their notebooks thoroughly to be able to take advantage of all the offerings of the weekend.

A motion was made by Diane Purcell to recess this meeting until Friday morning at 11:15 AM. Pr. Sharon Walked seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 5:15 PM.

### Friday, 27 July 2012 – 11:15 AM

Nancy Peterson, ED, re-opened the meeting by leading all in the "Come, Holy Spirit" prayer.

### Presentation of Nominees for NLS Board

Ed introduced the nominees for the three positions open for election this year – Vice President of Administration (Carolyn Hawkins), Spiritual Director (Pr. John Bradford), and Treasurer (Steve Barnett). Ed also introduced John Bradford of the NLS Distribution Center as the "original John Bradford" due to some confusion concerning the identical names.

Following Robert's Rules of Order, Ed asked three times for SD nominations from the floor.

A motion to elect Pr. John Bradford as NLS Spiritual Director by acclamation was made by Molly Sessions and seconded by Larry Schone. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ed asked three times for Treasurer nominations from the floor.

Larry Schone moved that the nominations for Treasurer be closed; Pr. Sharon Walker seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

A motion to re-elect Steve Barnett for a second term as Treasurer was made by Mark Carson and seconded by Steve Manasco. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ed asked three times for Vice President of Administration nominations three times.

Larry Schone moved that the nominations for be closed; Scott Sievers seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

A motion to re-elect Carolyn Hawkins for a second term as Vice President of Administration was made by Elisha Barnett and seconded by Dick Link. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ed congratulated the newly-elected board members and led the assembly in applause.

### Vision Casting: What's Next for the 2013 NLSAM

Ed provided a PowerPoint presentation on the vision for the future of NLS. He reviewed the selection process which followed the 2011 NLSAM

in which the delegates passed a motion to create the position of NLS Executive Director on a volunteer basis, with expenses paid for 24 months. The selection was to take place by the end of August 2011. The selection committee was composed of three past board members – Doug Burrow, Pr. John Propst, and Leona Fox – and three current board members – Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins and Steve Barnett. The committee met in person at the 2011 NLSAM and via teleconference into August, interviewing many well-qualified candidates and being affirmed that this was truly a God-led process. Nancy Peterson was selected for the position and joined the Executive Board (EB) at the end of August.

With the addition of the ED position and the transition and changes which accompanied that, the EB began meeting monthly by teleconference for approximately 60-90 minutes; it also met in Denver in October for the mid-year meeting and Host Committee (HC) meeting. At that time, it was determined that an additional face-to-face meeting would be very helpful in light of the size and importance of this transition year. Since Ed, Nancy and Steve Giolda had agreed to attend the annual 4<sup>th</sup> Day conference in Winter Park, FL, in January, it was decided that the other EB members would join them at the conclusion of the conference. The EB also met before this 2012 NLSAM began and will meet again after worship on Sunday morning. The EB has been working constantly to integrate Nancy and her position into the operation of the NLS. Ed thanked every person in the NLS who in the past has ever uttered the words "executive director position," because these people were the catalyst for what he referred to as a "forcing function" – the decision by this body to move ahead with an ED position to better understand the importance and impact of such a position. The NLS is at a crossroads period of time, emerging from a chrysalis, and this marks a significant step in our history.

Ed then reviewed the six stated purposes of the NLS – supporting, strengthening, and guiding secretariats in building up Christian leaders to evangelize their environments, coordinating information flow, encouraging the use of liturgy and Rollo outlines in keeping with

## NLS Annual Meeting Minutes — Continued

Lutheran practice, and expanding the movement across the United States and in the world. All these purposes have been fulfilled in the role of the ED.

In the coming year, the next steps will be continued leading by God through the collective prayer of the affiliated secretariats. At the 2013 NLSAM, delegates will be asked to amend the NLS constitution and bylaws to incorporate the ED position and to fund the ED position through a combination of endowment and support by the affiliated secretariats. Ed emphasized that there must be a balance between reliance upon an endowment and a “let the staff do it” mentality and the building up of lay leadership and the full cooperation and support from the NLS body. There will be continued communication with the local secretariats informing all of progress toward these goals and prayer needs. Ed promised that the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws will be in the hands of the local secretariats at least 60 days before the 2013 NLSAM.

### Executive Director Presentation

Nancy reviewed the process of being selected and asked to serve as ED. Her decision was made after much prayer. During this first year, her focus has been on getting to know board members and connecting with every LD, and she was able to connect by phone with about 90% of the LDs. Communication with her can be done by her official NLS phone number and email address. Her connections with the LDs enabled her to build relationships and update the NLS database. She found the 4<sup>th</sup> Day conference in Winter Park to be encouraging and enlightening as the NLS transitions with this new ED position.

Ed introduced Greg Engroff, Executive Director of Walk to Emmaus, and thanked him for setting aside this time to present his seminar and share this weekend with the NLS.

Ed announced that the Saturday morning worship offering will be to offset the cost of funding the ED position.

### Financial Presentation

Diane Purcell presented a PowerPoint with the financial activities report and updates on federal and state filing requirements. She stressed the importance of transparency – all information should

be available to anyone requesting it. She announced a new IRS search option at [irs.gov/charities](http://irs.gov/charities). IRS is also requiring two changes to be incorporated into constitution and bylaws whenever an organization amends its constitution and bylaws. These changes are in the Purpose (2<sup>nd</sup> article) and in the Disclosures & Dissolution. Awareness of these changes will ensure that local secretariats have the right language in their constitutions and bylaws.

Diane also reminded the body about politically-related activities which are prohibited for charitable organizations. Faith-based organizations can endorse a topic but not a specific person.

All of the items covered in today’s presentation will be in a handout provided at tomorrow’s meeting.

### Regional Coordinators’ Presentation

Steve Gielda and the new Regional Coordinators marched forward in camouflage attire with T-shirts reading “On the Front Line in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day” to launch the new outreach training program which the coordinators will be bringing to the local secretariats. Steve and the team have worked this past year to develop a plan and curriculum. Steve and the team asked the assembly to pledge to “Rediscover and Recommit.”

Carolyn Hawkins and Carol McGill made announcements concerning the prayer chapel, poster signing, the 5<sup>th</sup> Day memorial sheet, hydration, the pink Friday edition of Conexiones, and evaluations. Carol also announced that the Regis University bookstore would be open until 5:00 PM today. Carolyn urged all to attend their assigned rooms for seminars since they will be very full.

Ed announced that the 2013 NLSAM will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida, and he asked regions to consider sponsoring the 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meetings.

A motion was made by Nancy Peterson to recess until the Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM meeting. Gerald Stout seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Roberta Wentworth led all in singing a before meal prayer. The meeting was recessed at 12:30 PM.

### Saturday, 28 July 2012 – 11:00 AM

Ed called the meeting to order and asked all to write down their electronic NLS “911” – the ED’s phone number and email address. 651-249-7897 [Execdirector.nls@gmail.com](mailto:Execdirector.nls@gmail.com)

Ed encouraged all to communicate with Nancy and to utilize all the resources available on the NLS website page [www.viadecristo.org/share](http://www.viadecristo.org/share).

He also responded to a question from the body regarding to whom the ED is accountable and how he or she will be evaluated. Ed referred to the official ED job description which states that the position reports to the executive board. He explained that in the board’s discussions about evaluations, it was agreed that any evaluation should be first about the person’s individual growth. In her first year as ED, Nancy has met each goal set by the board – to contact the LDs individually, to build relationships with the local secretariats, and to update the database. As the transition continues toward a fully funded position, the evaluation process will also continue to evolve.

Ed recommended book, *The Rest of God* by Mark Buchanan as an excellent resource for understanding God’s desire for each of us to experience “Sabbath” and “be still” in Him.

Ed then asked Carolyn to lead the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer. The meeting was officially reconvened.

Due to a delegate’s concern that concern about the previous motion approving the financials had been made by the person conducting the financial review, Ed requested a motion to rescind the approval of the financial books. Tedd Smith made the motion, and it was seconded by Alice Allison. The motion was unanimously approved.

A new motion to accept financials as presented was made by Watson Ray and seconded by Susan Berry. The motion was approved by majority vote.

### Approval of 2012-2013 Budget

Ed invited Steve Barnett to present the proposed budget, which was distributed to the body. Steve explained that there are three funds – a general fund and two restricted funds -- outreach and distribution center; only the general fund is

budgeted. He also explained travel expenses for the board to the mid-year meetings and to the NLSAM. Video conference calls are a possibility for this coming year for the board, the 2013 host committee, and the regional coordinators. Board and officer liability insurance has been budgeted. Today's offering to offset the cost of funding the ED position was about \$2700 with an additional \$100 specifically marked for outreach.

Steve responded to questions concerning specific line items and concern about moving forward with deficit amounts each year. Steve B responded that the dues structure may have to change – possibly next year.

Ed explained that the “task force” to create the ED funding plan will consist of the board and those members of the NLS body who are interested in working alongside the board. Ed invited interested persons to write names on cards and submit them to the board.

Watson Ray moved to approve the 2012-2013 budget as presented, and Mark Carson seconded. Ed opened the floor for discussion. With no additional discussion, Phil Meuser called the question. The vote on calling the question passed by majority. The vote was then held, and the 2012-2013 budget was approved unanimously. Ed led all in prayer.

Region Reports

Region 1 – Gerry Boulet: Discussions and work focused on strategies for strengthening their 4<sup>th</sup> Day community.

Region 2 – Dawn Renquist: Their discussions were concerned with the need for a more active 4<sup>th</sup> Day community, and they are working on a plan to assist that goal.

Region 3 – Ann Lunday: The focus in their discussions was also on getting people more involved in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community following weekends.

Region 4 – Jim Ryan: Their discussions focused on The Essentials, reconnecting with neighbor secretariats, and the possibility of regional hosting of the annual meeting. Living Waters is considering hosting in the Quad Cities in 2015; prayer was requested.

Region 5 – Donna Gough: They discussed strengthening the 4<sup>th</sup> Day, the new regional training, and the possibility of hosting in 2016.

Region 6 – Steven Manasco: Their

discussion focused on what is working and not working in the region. There were some good ideas for bringing young people into the movement. Prayers are requested for Carolyn Karl, who has been invited to present Via de Cristo to the Crossville, TN, ministerial association on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Region 7 – Lannie Kremin asked Watson Ray to explain the region's discussion on hosting the 2013 NLSAM in West Palm Beach, FL. Watson provided a brief background into the planning which has occurred since early June when FL offered to host 2013 in light of the technical difficulties A-OK VdC was experiencing. More information will be forthcoming in the FL presentation at dinner this evening.

Steve B asked for prayer for a region or secretariat to step out in faith to host the 2014 NLSAM.

Dialogue Reports

Rick Hanzlik reported that the web dialogue focused on three main points concerning social media and the internet: privacy, security, and currency.

Ed reported that the LD dialogue focused on making sure information flows back and forth between the NLS and local secretariats, including constitutional changes and names and contact information for officer changes. All secretariats were encouraged to use the “911” – call on Nancy as ED and on the board members.

Pr. Doug presented a PowerPoint with the 2012 pastoral survey results. He encouraged secretariats to invite and host their local pastors to an NLSAM and also to invite pastors to serve in other capacities on a weekend before serving as an SD.

With all business complete, Ed asked for a motion to adjourn the 2012 business meetings. Ann Lunday moved to adjourn, and Emily Boleyn seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements were made by Carolyn Hawkins, Carol McGill and Steve Gielda. Carolyn announced that the seminar presenters have agreed to offer their presentations a third time during the time slot reserved for a fourth business meeting. Several secretariats have

not used their \$10 credit at the NLS store, and travel plans should be confirmed at the registration desk. Carol announced a silent auction for the bird house chapels which have been used during this weekend for prayer requests; signed posters will be ready for pick-up tomorrow morning. Please check for a red sheet placed under dormitory doors for checkout instructions. Attendees may keep the lanyard ID card holders, but please return the cafeteria and dormitory cards. Steve announced that many people have requested the opportunity to purchase the “On the Frontline 4<sup>th</sup> Day T-shirts, so he will be taking pre-orders for them at \$15 each; they will be mailed to each secretariat. The quote on the shirts is from the sixth chapter of The Essentials manual.

Roberta Wentworth led the group in singing grace. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM. Respectfully submitted, Magdala Ray NLS Secretary



**REGIS UNIVERSITY**



## V.P. of Outreach Report

**“Rediscover Recommit...All for God I’ll do my bit!”**

Brothers and sisters in Christ I hope this message finds you all well. What a wonderful time we had at this year’s National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting. For those of you, who made it, thank you for making this one of the best meetings ever! For those of you who were not able to attend...you missed a fun and blessed weekend and I hope to see you in Florida next July.

God was present throughout the entire weekend. He provided an environment for all participants to learn, grow and strengthen their personal walk with Christ. As the VP of Outreach I was particularly proud of our Regional Outreach Coordinators. This team has been working hard for the past 9 months to develop a new program that is designed to help each Secretariat strengthen their Fourth Day. The program is called **“Rediscover and Recommit”**. If you haven’t reached out your Regional Outreach Coordinator I encourage you to do so soon! If you don’t know who your Regional Outreach Coordinator is, here is the list:

**Region 1** - Kim Brownlow

[k\\_brownlow@hotmail.com](mailto:k_brownlow@hotmail.com)

**Region 2** - Wendy Showalter

[wendyshowalter@gmail.com](mailto:wendyshowalter@gmail.com)

**Region 2** - Bob Quam [dlg@prtcl.com](mailto:dlg@prtcl.com)

**Region 3** - Alice Allison [alice.fa@att.net](mailto:alice.fa@att.net)

**Region 4** - Cecil Brown [brownpeoria32@yahoo.com](mailto:brownpeoria32@yahoo.com)

**Region 5** – Mark Carson [mark@timelessglass.com](mailto:mark@timelessglass.com)

**Region 6** - Chris Rasmussen

[crasmussen@carolina.rr.com](mailto:crasmussen@carolina.rr.com)

**Region 6** - Stephen Manasco

[smnasco@bellsouth.net](mailto:smnasco@bellsouth.net)

**Region 7** - Dottie Schwartz

[Decoloresdottie@aol.com](mailto:Decoloresdottie@aol.com)

**Region 7** - Penny Klein [prklein@aol.com](mailto:prklein@aol.com)

During the NLS meeting this year, we kicked off the **Rediscover & Recommit** program in a military fashion with our theme being – On the Front Lines in the Fourth Day. Many Secretariats are struggling to reach out and find new pastors, to engage their community to actively live their fourth day or to hold Sponsors accountable. This program isn’t a classic training program like Leadership 101 and Leadership 201. Those programs are designed specifically for members of your community who wish to serve on team or sponsor a candidate/pilgrim. This **Rediscover & Recommit** program is designed for EVERYONE who has participated in a Via de Cristo weekend. This half-day program is designed to help people re-live that moment on Sunday afternoon when their

cross was first put around their neck. *We all know Christ is counting on us....and we’re counting on Christ!* This program will help people **Rediscover & Recommit** to those things that they learned on their weekend. We will focus on the importance of Piety, Study and Action in our daily lives.

I encourage you to reach out to your Regional Outreach Coordinator and speak to them about how to get your ENTIRE COMMUNITY through this program. If you want to learn more, your Outreach Coordinator can provide you with a promotional slide deck that you can share at your next Ultreya, just drop them an email and ask.

I look forward to continuing to work with each one of you as you work to strengthen your communities and fulfill the mission of VdC. We are called to reach out the churches in our community and help them to create Christian Leaders.

God loves you and so do I,  
Steve Gielda  
VP Outreach



## THANK YOU!!!

Pastor Doug Given shared, *“thank you to the Board (and whoever else) for the incredible cross I was given as a gift! It is so meaningful and so inspirational and I deeply appreciate the thought and prayer that went into purchasing that for me.*

*You all had no way of knowing but before I moved out of my church office I had over 100 crosses on my wall because I collect them! In the very near future, with a new office, I will once again display my crosses! May God continue to bless each of the members of the NLS and our beloved VDC!”*



**NLS Executive Director**

Grace and peace to you, my Christian brothers and sisters. The first year of serving as Executive Director is soon to be complete. I praise God and thank you for this opportunity to share in His work. I have learned a lot from all of you. Thanks for letting me into your Via de Cristo lives and sharing your joys and struggles with me and the NLS board. I pray that I have been and will continue to be a resource for you.



Our 2012 national meeting is over. Denver was glorious; the campus was pretty, the mountains in a distance were enticing, the kind and gracious hospitality of the wonderful host team was clearly evident (thank you, VdC of the Rockies and Colorado VdC) and the lack of humidity was a nice change from my norm. We were challenged to refocused our ministries to keep the main thing the main thing, let go of all the 'extras' and work diligently to strengthen the 4<sup>th</sup> Day. On a personal note, it was absolutely wonderful for me to meet so many of you and put faces to those names and voices. Thank you for your gracious acceptance of me and this position.

Maintaining the database is one of the tasks I work on for you. Keeping current contact information is important. As those of you who attended the NLSAM know, Via de Cristo has an official phone number: 651/249-7897 and the contact email for the executive director is [execdirector.nls@gmail.com](mailto:execdirector.nls@gmail.com). Please utilize this resource; I will call you back or email you in response to your inquiry. The VdC website has many wonderful resources for you as well.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Know that by next July, each of the NLS Board members will have prayed individually for every secretariat. Praying for you in a general sense has always been a part of what and who we are. Praying specifically for each secretariat and their individual secretariat prayer concerns is an honor. May God richly bless you in your ministries and in your walk with Him.

Go with God.  
Nancy Peterson



## Spiritual Director's Report

Greetings in the name of Christ from your new National Lutheran Secretariat Spiritual Director.

It is my great privilege, honor, and joy to serve this amazing community of grace in this capacity, even though at this point in time I do not know fully all that will be involved in and through this position. I have been involved in the Via de Cristo for 32 years now and I cannot even begin to tell you how it has touched my heart and changed my life in those years. There are countless times when I felt like I had lost my faith or my purpose in life, and it was in and through this grace-filled community that I found those important pieces of my life again.

Our beloved Saint Paul says to the folks in Corinth (2 Corinthians 4:16) that we must not "lose heart" – an easy thing to say, but not always so easy to sustain in our modern, fast-paced, competitive world.

But those who are in the marketing field know all about "heart" and that it means something special to the American public. "Heart" stuff sells stuff! Just look at all the food labels that claim to be "heart healthy" or "heart smart" -- a designation that usually means the food is healthier and thus more desirable. But hearts sell other things as well. Chevrolet claims to be the "heartbeat" of America. The state of Ohio attracts tourists by advertising itself as "the heart of it all." Bumper stickers declare everything from "I 'heart' my golden retriever" to "I 'heart' my AK-47."

Why are we so heart-focused these days? Personally, I don't think it's just because of clogged arteries and cholesterol or triglycerides. I believe it has to do more with our spiritual journey – our faith life – our relationship with God and each other.

There were plenty of reasons that Saint Paul could have latched onto in order to justify "losing heart." He was persecuted by Jews, ridiculed by pagans, and often misunderstood by other new believers themselves, but Paul refused to "lose heart." Indeed, sometimes it seems the worse things got around Paul, the more reasons he found to "take heart" instead of letting his heart sink. In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Paul admits to having felt "afflicted," "perplexed," "persecuted" and "struck down" -- yet the apostle's heart remains intact, even jovial.

What sorts of things cause us to "lose heart" today? Few of us ever face the kind of pointed persecution Paul and other first-century Christians experienced -- yet our spirits sag and drag about as if our life and faith were oppressive burdens.

Fear and lack of trust are the two things that I think grab hold of us in ways that keep us from living a joyful life, full of heart and purpose. We don't feel safe and often we feel like we cannot trust even our closest friends. We aren't sure we'll have a job tomorrow, and maybe we're worried that



our marriage won't last another year. In the midst of all or any of those things, it almost sounds trite to say "don't lose heart," or in other words, "everything will be okay."

Paul knew all the kinds of fears and reasons for lack of trust that exist. He knew from personal experience the kind of heart disease that could develop from a steady diet of persecution, betrayal and failure. When Paul counsels his fellow Christians in his letters not to "lose heart," he does so knowing he has found the perfect protection from "heart failure" – faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul did not lose heart because at the center of his being, there was Christ. No matter what kind of fears assaulted or doubts assailed him in the outer world, the Christ within was "renewed day by day" and grew ever stronger. In a sense, Paul considered the nature of the outside world to be nothing more than "momentary afflictions" building him up in preparation for the "eternal weight of glory beyond all measure."

I don't know what is going on in your life in this moment in time, but I do know the One who is in control of every element of your life – our Savior, Jesus, and he will never let you go. So, don't lose heart – God loves you, always has, always will, and that is something you can put your heart into believing and living out.

God bless you richly as you live out your faith from your heart!

*Shalom,*

Pastor John (Bradford) NLS Spiritual Director

## NLSAM 2013 West Palm Beach, Florida July 25 — 28, 2013



The banner has been passed and FL says "We are very excited to be hosting the 2013 NLS annual meeting **July 25<sup>th</sup>** through **July 28<sup>th</sup>** 2013. It will be held on the beautiful campus of **West Palm Beach University**. Region 7 and the Florida Cursillistas look forward to seeing you!"

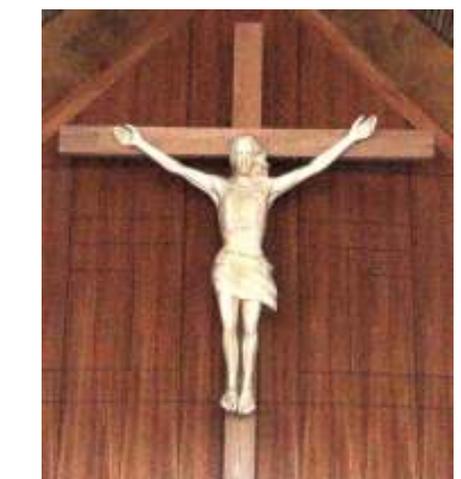
# Palanca!!!

## 2012 WEEKENDS:

- Aug./Sept. 2012 - GA: **Atlanta VDC**, Men #58: Aug 23-26 & Women #57; Sept. 20-23, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Sept. 2012 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Mixed #85: Sept. 6-9, Send palanca to: Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486
- Sept. 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #80: Sept. 13-16, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323
- Sept. 2012 - OR: **48 Oregon VDC**, Coed #5: Sept. 13-16, Send palanca to: Connie Karabatsos 19428 Vincent Dr. Oregon City, OR 97045
- Sept. 2012 - KS: **Heart of America VDC**, #12; Sept. 20-23, Send palanca to: Lois Kimbrell 2130 No. Union St. Fremont, NE 68025
- Sept. 2012 - FL: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men #57; Sept. 20-23 & Women #57; Sept. 27-30, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- Sept./Oct. 2012 - UT: **Utah VDC**, Men #55; Sept. 27-30 & Women #56; Oct. 4-7, Send palanca to: Kelly Martin 5698 So. 1150 East S. Ogden, UT 84405
- Oct. 2012 - IL: **Heart of Illinois**, Men #28; Oct. 4-7 & Women #29: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Stephanie Russell 1528 Redbird Ridge Dr. Metamora, IL 61548
- Oct. 2012 - IN/KY: **Indiana-Kentucky VDC**, Men #68: Oct. 4-7 & Women #69: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Barb Ankenman 814 Brittany Trail Florence, KY 41042
- Oct. 2012 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #107: Oct. 11-14, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Oct. 2012 - MI/OH: **Good News VDC**, Men #51: Oct. 11-14, & Women #51: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- Oct. 2012 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #60: Oct. 11-14, & Women #64: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Debbie Howe 14768 Truitt Farm Dr. Centerville, VA 20120
- Oct. 2012 - AR/OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #29: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Patti Johnson 11510 W. Westport ST. Wichita, KS 67212
- Oct. 2012 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Women #85: Oct 18-21, Send palanca

- to: Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486
- Oct. 2012 - FL: **Lighthouse VdC**, Men #41; Oct 18-21, & Women #41; Oct 25-28, Send palanca to: Freddie & Maritza Gonzalez PO Box 628 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- Oct. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #582; Oct 18-21, & Women #583; Oct 25-28, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #584; Oct 18-21, & Women #585; Oct 25-28, Send palanca to: Nancy Barker 6699 Industrial Rd. Saginaw, MN 55779-9434
- Oct. 2012 - MO: **River's Edge VdC**, women #18: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Laurie Hensley 7704 Stonebridge Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- Oct. 2012 - TN: **Tennessee VDC**, Coed #29: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cir. Fairfield Glade, TN 39558
- Oct. 2012 - WA: **VDC of Western Washington**, Coed #8: Oct 18-21, Send palanca to: Deanna Oeffner 7631 120th Place SE Newcastle, WA 98056
- Oct./Nov 2012 - AZ: **So. Arizona Lutheran VDC**, Men #31: Oct 18-21 & Women #32: Nov 8-11, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 Clemons Way Tucson, AZ 85749
- Oct./Nov 2012 - WI: **Wisconsin Sunrise VDC**, Men #81: Oct 25-28, & Women #82: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Bart Olson 2218 Hillington Green Madison, WI 53726
- Nov. 2012 - IN/KY: **Indiana-Kentucky VDC (North)**, Coed #18: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Barb Ankenman 814 Brittany Trail Florence, KY 41042
- Nov. 2012 - NC: **Eastern No. Carolina VDC**, Mixed #81: Nov. 1-4, Send palanca to: Terry Park 110 Smith Landing Lane Hillsville, VA 24323
- Nov. 2012 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #60; Nov. 8-11 & Women #60; Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Linda Barnard 4700 46th Ave. No. #11 St. Petersburg, FL 33714
- Nov. 2012 - IL: **Taste of Grace VDC**, Coed #17: Nov. 8-11 Send palanca to: Susan Lacy slacy50@att.net
- Nov. 2012 - PA: **Journey of Faith VDC**, Coed #5: Nov. 8-11 Send palanca to: Patti Kline 43-2 Azalea Way Reading, PA 19606
- Oct. 2012 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Coed #586: Nov. 15-18, Send palanca to: Mary Arfmann 2333 4th Ave. NW Owatonna, MN 55060-1209

*Check Web for the latest updates of 2012 & 2013weekends*



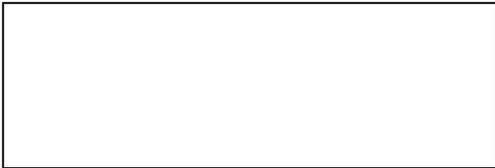


Judy Laabs-Foss  
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**Important news from the  
NLS Distribution Center**

The new NLS Devotion Booklets created for introduction at the Denver 2012 NLS Annual Meeting were entirely sold out by Saturday evening. If you would like to receive some of these booklets please contact me by telephone or email. I can have more printed and have them shipped directly to you as a way to save shipping costs. Orders of 100 or more will result in the largest savings to you. These

are wonderful palanca gifts for weekend pilgrims, family, and friends.

Also to save you even more, we have reduced prices of some items we offer for sale. The 2011 NLS History Book is reduced 50% to \$5.00 each. All CD and DVD Discs are now \$3.50 each, this is also a 50% price cut.

At the Denver meeting I was asked by several clergy about a DVD Disc called "Pastor Interviews" recorded in 2009 in Florida. I do have this disc for sale now.

Place all orders (except for the Devotion Booklet) at the NLS

Web Site: <http://www.viadecristo.org> or  
email [joab@xmission.com](mailto:joab@xmission.com) or phone **801-561-0122**.

Please share this information with your local VDC Community.

Peace,  
The Distribution Center John Bradford



Visited our Web Site Lately?

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