

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 31
Number 1
Jan. 2013

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2013 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida
July 25 – 28, 2013

Hosted by Region Seven, the Florida Secretariats

On behalf of the National Lutheran Secretariat and the Host Committee from Region 7 – Florida, **YOU** are officially invited to attend the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, FL, July 25th through July 28th!

The NLS 2013 Annual Meeting theme, Streams of Living Water, is based on John 7:37-39, emphasizing that it is through Christ alone that we find the strength needed for our Fourth Day. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Streams of Living Water enable us to evangelize our environments, expand Christian community, and celebrate our lives built on the tripod of Piety, Study and Apostolic Action. We hope you will join us in bring rejuvenated and refreshed in the fountain of grace which flows from our heavenly Father!

Palm Beach Atlantic University (www.pba.edu) will be the site of this year's annual meeting. The campus is located on the beautiful intra-coastal waterway in downtown West Palm Beach; a ten minute walk across a beautiful bridge will put you in famous Palm Beach with its beaches, Worth Avenue, Flagler Museum and Coconut Row. A committee member will greet you at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI), just a ten minute drive from the campus. We strongly encourage you to arrange flights into and out of PBI to avoid the traffic delays often associated with I-95 and Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL). However, if necessary, we will be providing transportation to and from FLL.

You may also want to consider spending a few extra days exploring the diverse areas of Palm Beach County! Along the Gold Coast, of course, you can find a variety of activities and sights to see and enjoy – from the Jupiter lighthouse and Blowing Rocks beach on the north end of the county to Mizner architecture of Boca Raton. Traveling an hour to the west provides you with experiences such as Lion Country Safari and the shores of Lake Okeechobee!

The dorm rooms on the compact Palm Beach Atlantic campus share a bathroom with one other adjoining room, so no more than four people will be sharing. No smoking and no alcohol are permitted on campus. The facilities are entirely air-conditioned for optimal comfort in South Florida's summer heat and humidity. (Continued on page three)

NLS Annual Meeting - Florida 2013



On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

John 7:37-39



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Rev. Ronald G. Qualley**

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NLS Executive Committee

President - Ed Broestl
 1420 Glenview Drive
 Berthoud, CO 80513
 970-481-3827 (C)
ebroestl@comcast.net

Spiritual Director - Pr. John Bradford
 10550 Georgetown Pike
 Great Falls, VA 22066
 703-638-9522 (C)
pastorjohn.bradford@gmail.com

V P of Administration - Carolyn Hawkins
 2410 Kings Farm Way
 Indian Trail, NC 28079
 704-651-4230 (C)
carolyn.nls@carolina.rr.com

V P of Outreach - Steve Gielda
 7509 Cannon Fort Dr.
 Clifton, VA 20124
 703-266-7667 (O) 703-927 4443 (C)
sgielda@cox.net

Secretary - Magdala Ray
 2655 Monaco Terrace
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
 561-602-1639 (C)
raywm248@bellsouth.net

Treasurer - Steve Barnett
 5091 Oley Turnpike Road
 Reading, PA 19606
 610-301-9900 (C)
sgb121266@aol.com

NLS Appointed Positions

NLS Executive Director - Nancy Peterson
 1237 St. Clair Ave., #3
 St. Paul, MN 55105
 651-249-7897
execdirector.nls@gmail.com

Archivist/Historian - VACANT

Distribution Center - John Bradford
 6992 South 160 East
 Midvale, UT 84047-1207
 801-561-0122 (H)
joab@xmission.com

Financial Advisor - Diane Purcell
 651-459-7249 (H)
 651-768-0624 (FAX)
dspurcell@msn.com

Newsletter Editor - Judy Laabs-Foss
 4495 Margaret Street
 St. Paul, MN 55110-3773
 651-429-6762 (H)
jer2911@comcast.net

Palanca Coordinator - Paul Sabatier-Smith
 5026 Log Cabin Drive
 Lakeland, FL 33810
 863-603-9044 (H)
dcolor9@attglobal.net

Web Page Coordinator - Rick Hanzlik
 10276 Ashley Hills Circle
 Sandy, UT 84092
 801-631-4518 (C)
rickh@specialty-art.com

2013 Host Committee Chairs

NLSAM in West Palm Beach, FL

Beverly Abt
 Pompano Beach, FL
 954-933-7960 (C)
coveagle@comcast.net

Watson Ray
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL
 561-308-9438 (C)
raywm248@bellsouth.net



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

E-Mail Notification — execdirector.nls@gmail.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 31
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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.

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, Steve Barnett, 5091 Oley Turnpike Road Reading, PA 19606 or contact him at; 610-301-9900.(C)

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.

(Continued from page one)

The short walks between events are palm tree-lined and on level terrain, and elevators are available in all multi-level buildings.



In this edition of the newsletter, you will find the Registration Form and the Transportation form to provide us with your reservation information. These forms are also available on the website itself, www.viadecristo.org. Please note that you may take advantage of a special “Early Bird” discount if you register by April 30th. The full registration fee will be paid by attendees registering after May 1st. Also note that the registration form offers options for arriving early, thus requiring an extra night in the dorm and additional meals. Be sure to include the cost for the extra night and meals with your total payment when you submit your reservation.

Please plan to attend this year’s NLS Annual Meeting! We encourage members from all Secretariats to send your full complement of eligible representatives plus non-voting visitors. The annual meeting experience is not just for elected or appointed secretariat members but also for community-at-large. Each year the meeting proves to be an exciting, uplifting and wonderful forum in which we can exchange information, share ideas, make new friends, and renew old friendships. You will be led, fed and encouraged with music, worship, the Eucharist, meals, laughter, and God’s love together with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the United States! (If funds are an issue for your Secretariat, please contact NLS VP of Outreach Steve Gielda at sgielda@verizon.net regarding possible scholarships.)

On behalf of all six of the Florida Secretariats, we want you to know that we have been lifting all of you up in prayer during these months of preparation, and we are so excited to be welcoming you back to Florida once again! Come, let the Streams of Living Water flow!

Your 2013 Host Co-Chairs,
Beverly Abt and Watson Ray



NLS President’s Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

Right now my desk is a disaster. There are way too many projects and not enough surface area to have them all spread out. Things are reasonably well collected into file piles and somewhat prioritized [that portion of my desk is known as my “job jar”).

Then, the phone rings, receive an email, or receive a text message and off I go in a different direction! I thought somehow 2013 was going to be different! Well, it is...it ends in 13! No, I don’t suffer from triskaidekaphobia (fear of the number 13). We all suffer from the life and times of mania. How did life get so hectic? Might it be self-inflicted?

Recall the theme of the last talk on a weekend: Security in the Fourth Day. What does that “security” look like? It looks like small groups of Christians: sharing their lives together; being honest with one another; caring for one another; encouraging one another, holding one another accountable; bringing Christ into the places where they find themselves. As I recall the saying goes: “An isolated Christian is an ineffective Christian.” There is no question that God’s grace is sufficient for each of us. However, I am convinced that God’s grace is “lived into” in community.

None of the projects on my desk will be completed through only my actions. My job jar will be re-prioritized several times this week based on a variety of inputs. But, my relationship with God and with a small group of brothers and sisters in Christ that know me so well, is what keeps me reasonably steady.

If you are not active in a Reunion Group and your desk (workbench, garage, sewing area, etc.) is a shambles, may I suggest finding a couple of three brothers or sisters in Christ and work together to bring Christ back into your life and the lives of those around you in a real and tangible way.

Ed Broestl,
NLS President



NLS Spiritual Director's Report



Happy New Year!

Can you believe 2012 is over – I can't! Where did the year go? So, I'm sitting here in my office this first week of January thinking that it's time to seriously consider all the brand-new possibilities open to me in 2013. Have you done the "resolution" thing – you know, committing yourself to a whole new healthy lifestyle – better diet, more exercise and of course more reading of the Bible?

But I've figured out what problem is with making resolutions – they're too safe, too sensible and way too self-centered. We resolve to make tiny cosmetic changes in our lifestyles -- but refuse to consider restructuring our lives and changing the paradigms by which we live.

What would it mean if we were to act in a similar fashion? I mean, to live not according to human expectations or cultural patterns, but according to what God required of us? What does it mean to be about God's business, rather than other people's business, or even other people's definition of God's business? Jesus discovered at this early age that answering God's expectations can get you in trouble -- even with your own family. In fact, focusing on God's business may put an unexpected crimp in the family business. "Business-as-usual" may not be the way God does business. And the world and the church find that **u n n e r v i n g a t t i m e s .**

Do you see where I'm going here? The ultimate New Year's resolution doesn't challenge us to cut fat grams, or quit smoking or get to aerobics class twice a week. The ultimate resolution a Christian can make is to live in the light of divine intentions, not human inventions. The New Year's resolution to end all resolutions is to live under the umbrella of God's expectations and to make it my business and your business to be a part of God's business. But this just begs a bigger question: What is God's **b u s i n e s s**? God's business is transformation. An electrical transformer takes high voltage and transforms it into energy that we can use in our everyday lives. Without a transformer, there could be no light in the darkness, no safety in the storm. At Bethlehem, God came to us and gave us Jesus the Christ, who transforms in his life the love and power of God into the impulses of grace and salvation that the world desperately needs.

So what does the Christian who resolves to be a part of God's transforming work in this New Year do?

We get out our three-legged stool – piety, study, action. We recommit ourselves to a strong relationship with our Savior, we go deeply into God's Word, and then we get out of our pew or off of our couch and DO something.

We simply cannot be a part of transforming the world unless we stand in its midst. That's the trouble with our traditional New Year's resolutions -- they rarely step outside the confines of our

own self-centered existence. Your life, your commitment to the ultimate resolution can bring the love and grace of Jesus Christ to transform the world – that's what Via de Cristo is all about, right? Well, you really didn't need a Spiritual Director to tell you that – this is, after all a lay-led movement. So, what are we waiting for? A brand new year is ahead of us – what will you resolve to with it?

Happy New Year! Happy New Life!

Pastor John Bradford,
NLS Spiritual Director



**PALM BEACH
ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**



NLS 2012 Conference Call Minutes

Sunday, November 11, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, November 11. Present on teleconference: Pr. John Bradford, Ed Broestl, Steve Gielda, Rick Hanzlik, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell, Magdala and Watson Ray. Steve Barnett and Nancy Peterson were excused.

Ed led the group in the prayer to the Holy Spirit. He thanked Carolyn for sending out the travel information and asked everyone to read the materials he will be sending out before next weekend's mid-year meeting. He also asked everyone to review the "open" and "closed" action item lists.

As each ministry report was presented, Ed asked for prayer requests.

Secretary: Magdala will update the action items list and have hard copies for review at the mid-year meeting. She reminded everyone to complete the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) before traveling to Florida so she can have the profile reports ready.

Newsletter Editor: Judy reminded all that November newsletter articles are due, and she is especially looking for one from the 2013 HC. She is looking forward to taking photographs at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Financial Advisor: Diane reported that she will have the tax forms requiring EB signatures with her at the mid-year meeting.

Spiritual Director: Pr. John sent a newsletter article for November. He is developing the Study Rollo reading list and would like EB feedback at the mid-year meeting.

VP-Outreach: Steve G sent a newsletter article for November. The 4th Day T-shirts have been mailed out by Alice Allison in TX. Steve has been working closely with Wendy Showalter on the facilitator's manual for the regional training, and he will have a teleconference with all the regional coordinators on December

2nd. He has also been in contact with Pr. Scott Nims of Virginia Beach, who is still interested in starting a new community there.

Website Administrator: Rick regrets that he will be unable to attend the mid-year meeting. He has learned that we have the capability of sending up to 1,000 emails/day with the newsletter link. He asked whether we would want to send a link or a pdf file; the link is better because there would not be the concern of a maximum size of an attachment.

VP-Administration: Carolyn announced that Good News Via de Cristo is interested in hosting the 2016 NLSAM. She has emailed the mid-year travel plans to the 2013 HC.

Host Committee Chair: Watson reported that all is ready for the mid-year meeting, and the HC is looking forward to meeting with the EB and touring the PBAU campus together.

Executive Director: Ed has conversed with Nancy regarding her trips to Northern Lights, Sunrise, and the international Emmaus conference. She will update us all at the mid-year meeting.

President: Ed asked the EB to think about how we measure "success" for the NLS secretariats. Right now we use data such as the number of people who have gone through weekends. Are there other things we should be measuring? How do we say a weekend was "successful?"

Ed announced that starting with this teleconference, at the end of each meeting he will ask everyone to state the action items he or she would like included on the list so Magdala can add them. The items from this meeting will be completing the MBTI, reviewing the action item lists, and working on the Study Rollo reading list (already listed).

Ed led a prayer based on the group's prayer requests.

The mid-year meeting will begin at 1:00pm on Friday, November 16th, at Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, Florida.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, December 9th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The November 11th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



**PALM BEACH
ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**





Meeting and Registration Form
 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013
 Thursday July 25 Through Sunday, July 28 2013
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 West Palm Beach, FL

Hosted by Region 7 Secretariats—Florida: Indian River, Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North, & Gold Coast Via de Cristo

ONE FORM PER PERSON ATTENDING * PLEASE PRINT * PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY

First Name	Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Name for Name Tag
		<input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Address		City, State, Zip	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
E-mail Address			
Home Secretariat		Position, if on Secretariat	
Please check all that apply:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NLS Board Member		<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Host Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Delegate		<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Visitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor
<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Delegate		<input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
First time attending NLS Annual Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If no, please indicate last year attended _____		Position attended as _____	
I am active in a reunion group <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
I will need on-site transportation assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
I require special accommodations for the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Dietary <input type="checkbox"/> Physical			
Please Explain:			

Travel to NLS Annual Meeting will be by Auto Air I will need to be picked up: Yes No
 Transportation will be provided to NLSAM site from Palm Beach Int'l airport **PBI** and Fort Lauderdale Int'l **FLL** only.
 Are you renting a Car: Yes No
You must submit the separate Travel Information Form to make reservation for airport pick up
 Yes, please send a map with driving directions to Palm Beach Atlantic University
 What day will you be leaving the annual meeting? Saturday PM Sunday by Noon

\$ 200.00 Registration fee includes meals, housing, and material for Thursday 11:00 a.m. thru Sunday 11:00 a.m.
 \$ _____ Early Bird discount (-20.00 if mailed before May 1st)
 \$ 0.00 Double Rooms—Roommate requested: _____
 \$ _____ Single Room fee, additional \$45.00
 \$ _____ Extra Night on Wednesday—Per Person Double \$30.00, Single \$45.00 (does not include meals)
 \$ _____ Extra Meals (mark each extra meal) Wed. Lunch - \$9.00 Wed. Dinner - \$9.00 Thurs. Breakfast - \$6.00
 \$ _____ Total Payment ****PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Gold Coast Via de Cristo ****

Complete Forms, Mail Registration Form, Travel Form & Payment To:
 NLS Registration % Janet Vigilante
 6742 Forest Hill Blvd #274 West Palm Beach, FL 33413
 Home Phone: 561-433-6434 Fax: 561-433-6435 Janetplanet2@bellsouth.net

REGISTRATION USE ONLY Date Rec'd: _____ Check No. _____ Confirm. Sent: _____
 Travel info Rec'd: _____ Registration No. _____



Air Travel Information Form

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013

Thursday July 25 Through Sunday, July 28 2013

Palm Beach Atlantic University

West Palm Beach, FL

Hosted by Region 7 Secretariats—Florida: Indian River,

Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North,

& Gold Coast Via de Cristo

- PLEASE PRINT -

Personal Info: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Phone _____	Cell Phone _____	Work Phone _____
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Fax _____	E-mail Address _____
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****Host Committee will arrange Transportation between Palm Beach Atlantic University and only Palm Beach Int'l Airport PBI Preferred (10 minute drive) or Fort Lauderdale Int'l Airport FLL (1 Hour drive)**.**

Do you need ADA accessible transportation? Yes No

If yes, Please Explain _____

Any changes to your travel itinerary after submitting this form should be sent directly to : Janet Vigilante

Flight Itinerary is as follows:

ARRIVAL: Pick up location: PBI FLL Rental Car Lot _____

Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight # _____

Departing City: _____ Departing Airport _____

Connecting City: _____ Connecting Airport _____

Number of people traveling on this flight: _____

Names: _____

DEPARTURE: Drop off location: PBI FLL Rental Car Lot _____

Date: _____ Departure Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight #: _____

Number of people traveling on this flight: _____

Names: _____

Complete Forms, Mail Registration Form, Travel Form to:

NLS Registration C/O Janet Vigilante

6742 Forest Hill Blvd #274

West Palm Beach, FL 33413

Home Phone: 561-433-6434 Fax: 561-433-6435

Email: Janetplanet2@bellsouth.net

V.P. of Outreach Report

Peace and joy to you all, dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

At the beginning of a new year, many people look back at what they accomplished, what opportunities did they miss and what their plans are going forward. Many people evaluate where they are in their lives and begin to establish New Year resolutions. I think New Year resolutions are good as long as you develop a plan to stick with the resolution and make the change. Stepping back and looking at ourselves from many different perspectives is a good thing. At the beginning of a new year many people establish goals of wanting improve themselves by losing weight, quitting smoking, reading the bible, spending more time with family, being more discipline with finances, etc... Not many will argue that these are not good ideas. We know what is healthy for us and what's not, yet we still fall into our sinful self and avoid focusing on the fundamentals of what God has called us to do.

As many of you know, one of my goals for this year is to help each Via de Cristo Secretariat and their communities to get back to the fundamentals and essentials we know are good for us. Many of us have strayed away from our core mission of building and strengthening our Fourth Day communities and put too much focus on just hosting weekends. Therefore, with the help of our Regional Coordinators we have developed a ½ day workshop titled; Rediscover & Recommit. This half-day workshop will be rolled out in each Region in the spring of 2013. We will encourage multiple communities within a Region to come together and participate in this workshop sharing ideas from across Secretariats. We have a talented group of Regional Coordinators that have a vast amount of experience in Via de Cristo. To help cross-pollinate ideas we will most likely have a Regional Coordinator from another Region come facilitate your Regions workshop.

Your Regional Coordinator will contact you to identify a set of dates that will work best for the multiple communities in your Region. We encourage you to get your ENTIRE community together, NOT just your Secretariat leaders. We are hoping to have hundreds of people from across your Region come to the ½ day workshop to share ideas and Rediscover & Recommit themselves personally to what was shared with each of us on Sunday afternoon of our weekend...The Christ is Counting on YOU...and whom or what are you counting on?

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



Love is a Verb

by Rev. Ronald G. Qualley

Anyone who has attended a Via De Cristo weekend is very familiar with the terms piety, study, and action. However, knowing the terms is not same as living them out in daily life and becoming the 'light' and 'salt' to others.

It has been 40 years since my first Via De Cristo weekend. As a pastor over these same years, I have had the privilege of seeing how the VdC influence is manifested in the congregational life. It is the lubricant of daily life.

I have watched many people be renewed in their faith through Via De Cristo. It is a never-ending story-men and women making a Via De Cristo weekend and returning to the parish as renewed people. They have become faithful in worship; significant financial contributors; teach Sunday school; serve in leadership roles in the congregation; and have become better employees and employers in their daily life. I see uncommitted folk suddenly become partners in sharing the gospel, such as Frank, who never went to church. After a weekend, Frank went to church the following Sunday. Not only that, but he became an usher, greeting the folks with his big smile and the picture of Jesus he kept in his wallet. The joy in the hearts of these participants, and the spring in their steps, fosters an environment for the whole congregation to be loving, caring, and generous.

For example, an eight-year-old girl in our congregation, Makayla, expressed the influence best. This fall, I asked all our children who plan to go trick-or-treating if they would give 10% of their candy to the church. I am teaching the children the joy of tithing. I asked that when they got home from trick-or-treating that they dump their candy and sort it out, and don't give away the junk candy. "Give the good stuff like the Snickers, Skittles, and so forth. Bring it to the church and we will give all the candy to a homeless shelter where children would not be able to enjoy Halloween."

When Makalu started divvying up her candy, she asked her mother if she could give away more than 10% percent. "Of course," said her mother. Makayla proceeded to put about one third of her candy in the church pile. Then she asked, "Can I just give it all to the church?" And she did.

Makayla lived out Jesus' commandment – show your love. By your love, they will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action packed love.

An action-packed faith is the power of love in action. It is the power of Christ incarnate in each one of our lives. So, stop reading - and - act like Jesus to someone today!

Conference Call Minutes

Sunday, December 9, 2012:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm Sunday, December 9. Present on teleconference: Steve Barnett, Ed Broestl, Steve Gielda, Rick Hanzlik, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell, Magdala and Watson Ray. Pr. John Bradford was excused.

Ed led the group in the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Secretary: Magdala will update the action item list by Friday, December 14th, and send out on December 15th. The final update will be December 20th. She also has sent out the draft November teleconference minutes for approval. Mid-year minutes will follow shortly.

Newsletter Editor: Judy has made a few small corrections to the newsletter and will resend to Rick for posting on the website.

Treasurer: Steve B has sent out the profit/loss statements and is examining the travel accounts. Diane answered a question about the proper posting for the sale of 4th Day t-shirts at the 2012 NLSAM. Steve also has questions concerning his responsibility for the research on EC insurance and also video conferencing. Ed confirmed that he and Rick will be conducting that research and reporting on it. Steve G had some questions about the use of the restricted Outreach fund for the Regional Coordinators' training; Diane and the EC agreed that this was appropriate use of that fund. Ed requested that Steve B provide the EC with a spreadsheet of the restricted fund usage.

Financial Advisor: Diane reported that she has submitted the tax forms signed at the mid-year meeting.

VP-Outreach: Steve G reported that he and the Regional Coordinators are very close to finalizing the training curriculum; the facilitator's manual and draft workbook are completed. Pilot training will take place in two regions in January or February. An ultreya will be held in Vir-

ginia Beach in January or February to encourage the development of a new VdC community.

Website Administrator: Rick reported that the EC website email addresses have been finalized, and they have been configured for Outlook. All will have automatic forwarding capability. The EC agreed that although it has not been a problem, this feature will be very helpful. The EC members were eager to access and utilize these email addresses. Rick also reported that with the next newsletter, he will be able to send out a link in a mass emailing. Rick and Ed will discuss the possible use of Skype for future teleconferences.

VP-Administration: Carolyn noted that clear assignments need to be made for calling the prospective 2013 NLSAM speakers. She will be finalizing the registration form with Steve B and the HC; no credit cards will be used for payment purposes for the 2013 registration. Ed will contact Pr. Al Sager this week; Magdala has contacted Marva Dawn. Diane and Steve B will follow up on the 2012 NLSAM accounts.

Host Committee Chair: Watson reported that all mid-year meeting receipts will be sent to Steve B this week. Although the HC will not be meeting face-to-face in December, he and Beverly are phoning each sub-committee chair for updates. The registration form is being developed. Gold Coast VdC will be holding a 2013 NLSAM fundraiser spaghetti dinner on January 19th. Monthly HC meetings commence in January on the second Saturday of every month at Prince of Peace Anglican Church in Viera, FL. The HC is planning on holding the June meeting in West Palm Beach, preferably on the PBAU campus, and that meeting will include a training session for all NLSAM volunteers, similar to a Leaders School work-

shop or team meeting.

Executive Director: Nancy asked for input on any changes or new information which should be requested on the annual survey of the local secretariats, which will be sent out in January. She will be attending the MN VdC council meeting.

President: Ed is working with the ED Funding Task Force in revising the job description and developing foundation documents; drafts are due the end of this month for an early January meeting. Steve G will provide Ed with information for the January Musings to the LDs; Nancy noted that many LDs forward the Musings email to their communities, so the articles should be focused for that purpose.

Ed led a prayer based on the group's prayer requests.

The next teleconference meeting will be on Sunday, January 13th, at 7:00pm EDT.

The December 9th teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdala Ray, Secretary



PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



DID YOU KNOW?!?!?!?

Our NLS website has links to many materials, including past issues of Conexiones, various articles, and videos from past NLS meetings. These may be found under the Archives link. Topics to be found include some keynote talks, seminars, and much more. All very helpful and informative. On the Archives page, notice a link for Via de Cristo Online Videos. There you will find some videos.

I would like to mention the abundance of videos and pictures you may also be interested in by visiting the Heart of Illinois web site: www.heartofillinoisviadecristo.org. There the Albums link directs you to 2004 Knoxville, 2005 Emmitsburg, 2007 Indy, 2009 Miami, and 2010 St. Paul. Here's what you will find there:

2004 Knoxville

30+ pictures of the pretty grounds, the late Pastor Larry Llewellyn, small groups, evening vespers, and more.

2005 Emmitsburg

Almost 70 pictures including campus buildings, serenade, small groups, snacks, passing of the banner, evening vespers, and more.

Also, Ron Millard has a DVD too large to post on the site. It contains some of the opening ceremony, new movements recognitions, the famous JAMES AND JOHN skit with Randy Mullin and Doug Burrows, and the theme song Cast Your Nets Into the Sea.

If anyone desires a copy of this DVD contact him: ron_norma_millard@frontier.com or [309-444-4225](tel:309-444-4225).

2007 Indy

17 pictures including poster signing, vendor tables, small groups, evening entertainment and serenade.

2009 Miami

Included here are a dozen or more pictures. They are morning worship, the main conference room, hall of flags, book signing, posters signing, serenade, passing of the banner, and evening worship. There is also a short video of The Ragman. I would appreciate it if someone can tell me the name of the song that was sung during the ragman video!

2010 St. Paul

Shown are 20 pictures and 11 videos. There are campus pictures, first timers group, forum, worship services, North Carolina presentation, vendor tables, Minnesota sky, serenade and passing the banner. Short videos include 4 worship services, 4 North Carolina presentations, and 3 of the Stations of the Cross presentation.

People who attended these years and locations may find some very interesting pictures they never knew existed. Feel free to download whatever you wish.

Ron Millard, NLS Archivist/Historian

True Palanca is Fervent Prayers

Another year is completed and we look forward to what God has planned for us in the coming year of 2013, the blessings, the revelations the start of new projects and completion of others. Moreover we anticipate the revelation and fulfilment of His purposes for our lives. Prayer is our way of talking with our Lord, Saviour, Provider, best friend, confidant. In Via de Cristo and other three day movements,

In the beginning of the three day movement (Cursillo) true Palanca was prayers for love, encouragement, inspiration and support along with a dedicated Mass which were offered to Him. As the three day movements have grown and diversified, several things have stayed consistent – known as the essentials. Prayer (Palanca) is one of those essentials. Palanca is defined in the NLS Essentials Manual (NLSEM) as “The heart and lifeblood of the movement – deep, intentional, selfless and sacrificial prayer.” (pg. 31) We have, over a period of time come to call the small gifts and even contributions “Palanca” – but true Palanca is prayer. There is an excellent expansion of what true Palanca is and how it can be furnished in the NLSEM on pages 26 & 27.

Since we are at the beginning of the year, a review of what tools are available for Palanca Coordinators might be in order. In the NLSEM, the following items are found describing the Palanca Position on a local Secretariat:

1. Coordinates / communicates with the NLS and other movements on matters relating to Palanca
2. Receives and sends Palanca gifts and letters
3. Assists weekend Palanca Coordinator
4. Prepares newsletter articles re: Palanca

We suggest that each Palanca Coordinator not only send a Palanca Letter from their Secretariat to others but at the same time request one in return.

For the NLS postings for both the NLS Weekend Calendar and the Palanca Coordinator's eMail Address Pages, an eMail sent to me (DCColor9@attglobal.net) will result in the posting of the information on the NLS Site. There is an additional site that is **NOT** affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat which could be considered for prayer requests -

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Palanca!!!

2013 WEEKENDS:

- Jan. 2013 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Men #109: Jan. 17-20, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Jan. 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #588: Jan. 17-20 & Women #589; Jan. 24-27, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Jan. 2013 - SD: **South Dakota Lutheran VdC**, Men: Jan. 17-20 & Women; Jan. 24-27, Send palanca to: Deb Burmeister 26375 399th Ave. Mt. Vernon, SD 57363
- Jan. 2013 - AZ: **Southern AZ Lutheran VdC-Tirosh**, Coed #15: Jan. 24-27, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 Clemons Way Tucson, AZ 85749
- Feb./Mar. 2013 - IN/KY: **Indiana-Kentucky VDC**, Men #69: Feb. 28-Mar, 3 & Women #70; Mar. 7-10, Send palanca to: Barb Ankenman 814 Brittany Tr. Florence, KY 41042
- Feb./Mar. 2013 - WI: **WI Sunrise VDC**, Men #83: Feb. 28-Mar, 3 & Women #84; Mar. 7-10, Send palanca to: Richard Pettit 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511
- Mar. 2013 - NV: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #19; Mar. 7-10, Send palanca to: Todd Rush 7524 Bush Garden Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89129
- Mar. 2013 - AR/OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #30: Mar 14-17, Send palanca to: Patti Johnson 11510 W. Westport St. Wichita, KS 67212
- April 2013 - FL: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men #42: April 4-7, & Women #42: April 11-14, Send palanca to: eMail; kconfred@gmail.com
- April 2013 - MD: **Vineland VDC**, Men #25: April 4-7, & Women #42: April 25-28, Send palanca to: Jim Stottlemeyer 13043 Mt. Zion Rd. Sabillasville, MD 21780
- April 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #590; April 4-7 & Women #591; April 11-14, Send palanca to: Mary Arfmann 2333 4th Ave. NW Owatonna, MN 55060-1209
- April 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #592; April 11-14 & Women #593; April 18-21, Send palanca to:

- Nancy Barker 6699 Industrial Rd. Saginaw, MN 55779-9434
- April 2013 - MI/OH: **Good News VDC**, Men #52: April 11-14 & Women #53; April 18-21, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- April 2013 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #61: April 11-14 & Women #65; April 18-21, Send palanca to: Julia Shaw-Fuller email = juliashawfuller@gmail.com
- April 2013 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #108; April 18-21, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- April 2013 - MO: **Rivers Edge VDC** Men #20; April 18-21, Send palanca to: Laurie Hensley 7704 Stonebridge Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- April 2013 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Men #86: April 25-28, Send palanca to: Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486
- April 2013 - MD: **Vineyard VDC**, Women #25: April 25-28, Send palanca to: Jim Stottlemeyer 13043 Mt. Zion Rd. Sabillasville, MD 21780
- April 2013 - WA: **VDC of W. Washington**, Coed #9: April 25-28, Send palanca to: Deanna Oeffner 7631 120th Place SE Newcastle, WA 98056

- May 2013 - FL: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #61; & Women #61, May 16-19, Send palanca to: Dana Marquart at dmarquart@sonbeamvdc.org
- May/June 2013 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #594: May 23-23 & Women #595; May 30-June 2, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

- June 2013 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Women #86: June 20-23, Send palanca to: Mike Dattolico 50 SW 11th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33486

- July 2013 — **NLSAM**; July 25-28 in West Palm Beach Florida

- Aug. 2013 - FL: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Men #110: Aug. 15-18, Send palanca to: Bonnie Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

NLS Annual Meeting - Florida 2013



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www.3dayol.org We would suggest each Secretariat evaluate the site and decide whether to use or not.

Active and timely participation of the local Palanca Coordinators is critical in disseminating information. Several weekends have been added to the 2013 Calendar already and we look forward to the list growing. Updates are provided in many forms. On the web page there is a button that when clicked will open an eMail addressed to me or send by US Postal Service any updates you wish to be made. Also, if a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet would help in managing letters, one is available upon request (DColor9@attglobal.net). If any of the Coordinators would like to discuss Palanca, please contact me.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support, and 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 <))>>>
 NLS Palanca
 Coordinator



Check Web for the latest updates for the upcoming 2013 weekends

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE EXPEDITE



Blessings to you this day! Ahhh, it is a new year, a time of beginnings, all over again. Just as we all start again every time we take communion, having been washed clean by the body and blood of our Risen Savior. Just as it is a new life when we are baptized. New beginnings. . . .

On Christmas Eve, in my family's little church in northern Minnesota, my great nephew, Camden, was baptized. It was wonderful, being part of this new beginning for him and having this sacred ceremony completed when we celebrate the birth of our Lord – well, very meaningful for me. Then in January we celebrated the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. I visited Israel a year ago and we had our baptism reaffirmed in that same water. Another day of new beginnings.

In Via de Cristo we have a new tool to help each of our secretariats with a new beginning. The Rediscover Recommit program gives you and your secretariat time to look at how your ministry is doing and discover, all over again, the gift of VdC. Please take the time to pray for this program as it is launched. Utilize it to help with an exciting new

beginning for your ministry.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the NLSAM in July in West Palm Beach, Florida. We are looking at new beginnings in Via de Cristo and pray you will be there with us as we move along this road of transitions and new beginnings. May God be with you.

Nancy Peterson
NLS Executive Director



Visited our Web Site Lately?

www.viadechristo.org

Webmaster: Rick Hanzlik