

2013 Pre-NLSAM Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU) – Riley Sims Conference Room -- 1:20PM

Present: Beverly Abt, Steve Barnett, Pr. John Bradford, Ed Broestl, Steve Gielda, Rick Hanzlik, Carolyn Hawkins, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell, Magdala Ray, and Watson Ray.

Ed called the meeting to order at 1:20PM and led the group in the “Come, Holy Spirit” prayer.

Watson and Beverly gave an update for the Host Committee (HC). Ed led the group in a prayer for the HC. Watson and Beverly then returned to their duties as HC co-chairs.

Ed asked for where we saw God’s presence in our lives this past week. Each member of the EC shared a “God sighting” in his or her life.

Ed then asked the group to finalize plans for the Business Meetings.

An introduction of PBAU President William M. B. Fleming, Jr. will be made by the HC co-chairs and/or Cynthia Lamerson.

The Regional Coordinators (two year terms) and the Archivist positions are to be appointed, as well as the trustees/directors for NLS Fund and Capital Campaign Task

Carolyn asked what the Saturday morning offering will be for because she will need to announce it at orientation and business meetings. After discussion, the EC agreed that the offering will be collected to fund the Executive Director (ED) expenses during the coming year.

The group took a ten minute break from 2:35 to 2:45pm.

Ed reviewed delegate numbers (93 registered), and it was determined that we have a quorum for the business meetings. Ed suggested that in the future we set firm deadlines for survey results to be returned and for each secretariat to also provide the names of the designated delegates. Ten secretariats are not represented this year. The ED discussed how we might link secretariats for mentoring and training, to help grow and strengthen those which are struggling. Another possibility would be to use the National Representative positions to assist the Regional Coordinators and help unify the secretariats across the country. Magdala mentioned that Gold Coast’s National Representative is the person who has served two years as assistant lay director and two years as lay director consecutively. This might be a best practice to share.

A discussion continued on how we can encourage more attendance on weekends. Ed plans on connecting personally with each of the major national groups.

To this date, the following nominations have been received for this year's elections:

Vice President -- Outreach – Stephen Manasco and Wendy Showalter

Secretary – Alice Allison and Terry Sanders

President – Ed Broestl

Nancy will make up the ballots.

If time is available, we will ask delegates to fill out cards with questions so they can be discussed during the meeting. This will encourage open dialogue.

Rick mentioned that we should ask the delegation to tell us their preferred method of communication with the NLSEC – website, emails, newsletters, etc. The NLS Facebook account currently has 314 “friends,” but there are only 10-14 “followers” on Twitter.

The group took a ten minute break from 4:00 to 4:10pm.

With the proposed changes to the bylaws, elected positions will now be serving three years. This body of delegates will be “approving” the changes to constitution and bylaws, and then at least 2/3 of the local secretariats must “ratify” the changes. Constitution changes presentation is at Friday's 11:15am business meeting. In the second business meeting, Ed will present the bylaw changes.

2014 Host Committee Presentation – Since no 2014 NLSAM host has been identified, this needs to be announced at the first business meeting. Several EC members updated the group on local discussions by various secretariats and regions. The discussion included several points about the essentials of an annual meeting and how traditional expectations are not essential. This 2013 weekend is simpler and deliberately more like a “regular” weekend. The 2014 NLSAM can be even simpler and return to the way it was done originally – using a church, having attendees find their own room and board. We need to continue the discussion of developing “the essentials” for the NLSAM.

The group took a dinner break at 5:30pm. The group will resume meeting immediately after dinner. Tomorrow's morning meetings and worship will be decided after dinner.

The meeting resumed at 6:45pm. Ed checked with each EC member for outstanding questions or updates. Judy reminded the EC members of her need for help in proofreading newsletter articles.

Rick reported on website progress.

Steve B asked about the official name for the capital campaign fund. It is currently named the Leadership Fund. Ed suggested "NLS Leadership Endowment," and the group agreed. Steve B also asked about the naming of the Outreach Funds in the budget line items.

Diane checked for IRS Publication 78 and could not find one for seven of the secretariats. She recommended contacting the secretariats for the legal and DBA names. These could go out with the ratification forms to the secretariats.

Carolyn led the group in a discussion regarding the procedures for the 2013 NLSAM forums -- how to facilitate reporting out from the small groups and how to do the best practices forum.

After 20 minutes of small group discussion in the best practices forum, 15 minutes has been allocated for three selected groups to report out. Nancy and Steve G will record best practices provided in other forums, and then implementing those best practices will be the subject of the best practices forum. Steve G will ask the groups what the challenges would be for their secretariats and then how they can convert those challenges into opportunities. Questions for the first forum lend themselves more to asking for volunteers to offer.

Carolyn also discussed the 2014 hosting with the current HC. The group agreed that simpler expectations be communicated to the entire NLS body this year so that the 2014 HC would not feel as if they would have to duplicate 2013 or earlier NLSAMs. One of the changes in expectations could be that the HC would only pick up from one airport. If attendees choose a different airport, they would be responsible for getting themselves to the meeting site.

Commissioning worship is at 9am tomorrow at the DeSantis Chapel and will be about 20 minutes in length. Afterwards, the group will discuss Carolyn's "Considerations for Hosting" document so she can share with the entire body at one of the business meetings. Carolyn will present her board report first, explaining how the NLSEC will work with the HCs in the next years to simplify the expectations and process and provide parameters/boundaries.

Steve G led the closing group prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Magdala Ray, Secretary