



National Lutheran Secretariat

Executive Committee and Appointed Committee Chairpersons Meeting

Minutes of June 25, 2024 Meeting

Present: Steve Barnett, Brian Comeno (BC), Pastor G. Karl Gaston, Karen Weires, Jane Winge, Carolyn Witham, Sue Bathe, Brenda Brown, Kim Brownlow, Jeanne Gaston, Jerry Gray, Pam Gross, BobbiJo Koski, Bob Lewis, Marcia Newman, Marcia Poisel, Randy Poisel

Not Present: Brian Schwarz, Amanda Hunter, Dave Leverenz, Sylvia Meister, Eric Needle

Call to Order and Opening Prayer: BC called the meeting of executive committee and appointed committee chairpersons of the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) to order and Pastor G. Karl opened the meeting with prayer.

Book Study: In preparation for the 2024 NLS Annual Gathering (NLSAG) in July, G. Karl led the NLSEC through an overview of the key points of the final chapters of Dr. Mark Wickstrom's *The Gospel of Grace*. Dr. Wickstrom will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 NLSAG.

Old Business

Minutes

The May 30, 2024 NLSEC meeting minutes were accepted as amended by acclamation.

Scholarship Program

BC shared the thought of a Via de Cristo supported scholarship at the Lay Director roundtable. The topic generated good conversation and the feedback was positive. Pastor G. Karl suspects that the Spiritual Directors (SDs) would also be in favor of this idea. The Region Coordinators (RCs) also responded positively to the idea.

In the event this moves forward, Carolyn suggested creating two different committees. One committee would be tasked with designing the program itself, including the application form. The second committee would be a selection committee that reviews applications and selects the scholarship recipient(s).

2024 NLS Annual Gathering (NLSAG)

Jane reviewed the status of items needed for the NLSAG. As 5th Day slides have been received by just five secretariats so far, another communication will be sent for 5th Day slides. This request will include a sample slide and an adjusted deadline. Topics to be discussed will include the proposed scholarship program and region boundary adjustments.

Nominating Committee

Kim will gladly still accept nominations for the positions open this year. If you know of someone that is gifted and would be well suited to a position, she is open to contacting them if provided their contact information.

Appointed Positions

Region Coordinators

Marcia shared that the Utah lay director plans to move to Arkansas. She is working on arranging for a new lay director. Some secretariats continue to struggle to restart following Covid. The disbanding of Atlanta is especially sad for Region 6 given that all other secretariats in the region

were started by Atlanta either directly or indirectly. BobbiJo has been encouraged by website requests for how to get involved in the area. She held a meeting for the lay directors in her region. She hopes for better participation in the future.

Database / NLSAG Registration Update

Registration for NLSAG is going well. There was nothing more to report.

Non-Profit Compliance Coordinator Update

Sue stays in regular contact with the Treasurer. There was nothing more to report.

Palanca Coordinator

There will be an EOI on this during the NLSAG. Kim requested that wall palanca letters be shared with her via email or be brought to the NLSAG to be shared with other communities.

New Business

Secretary

Carolyn asked if we will enforce payment of annual dues to allow voting. The decision was made to not enforce this during this NLSAM.

President

As part of the dissolution of the North Dakota secretariat, the North Dakota trailer is being donated to Light in the Desert. After the NLSAG, BC is going to pick up the trailer and meet with the Nebraska 4th day community. Dr. Skoglund, interim lay director, has invited BC to come and encourage the Nebraska community to persevere.

Spiritual Director

The June SD roundtable went very well. There is a very positive attitude from those participating. Pastor G. Karl plans to have a Zoom meeting with the NLSAG Spiritual Direction forum panelists. If he needs contact information for any of the panelists, he will reach out to Jane to get details. Pastor G. Karl expressed great appreciation for Ken Larson and the work he has done as the Coordinator of SDs for the Host Committee. It would be great to get another person involved as the NLS SD so that he can focus his attention on starting a new secretariat in Southwest Florida.

Treasurer

Steve walked the NLSEC through the year-end financial reports to be presented at the NLSAG. To date, 28 of the 38 secretariats have paid their dues or the amount that they are able to pay. Steve is continuing to reach out to the other 10 secretariats. By consensus, an agreement was made that contributions received during worship will go to the General Fund. \$600 per trip (e.g., mid-year, NLSAG, is the amount included in NLSEC travel budget. In the past, we published a list of dues paid by secretariat. Steve asked about re-starting this.

Closing Prayer – Pastor G. Karl closed the meeting with prayer.

Annual NLSEC Meeting – July 24, 2024 at 1:00pm PDT for NLSEC members

Next Regular Meeting – August 27, 2024 at 7:30pm EDT for NLSEC members

Next Regular Meeting with Appointed Positions – September 24, 2024 at 8:00pm EDT for NLSEC and all those filling NLS appointed positions

Summary of Action Items

1. Carolyn to research and update settings for BC in Constant Contact to insure that he receives the Conexiones and other general interest emails being sent through this communication tool.
2. Kim to work with Amanda to send to all known secretariat palanca coordinators (per Constant Contact) the request for secretariat participants to bring a wall palanca letter to share with other secretariats.

3. Carolyn to send draft list of delegates to BC, per his request.
4. Pastor G. Karl to reach out and ask Pastor Tom Dunham to consider being nominated for NLS SD position. He will also discuss this during the SD roundtable at the NLSAG.
5. Jane to send draft monthly update to be reviewed then sent out by Amanda. Update will include the following:
 - a. NLSAG registration link, dates and prices
 - b. answer to question about 'what will delegates be voting?'
 - c. how to submit nomination for an open position
 - d. slide template with request to complete and return in order to remember 5th day cursillistas at the NLSAG
 - e. general request for NLS annual meeting topics
 - f. reminder that the \$300 annual dues are payable by May 31st to the NLS Treasurer
 - g. requests from NLS Secretary
 - i. submit annual activity reports via Constant Contact survey or by contacting the NLS Secretary (secretary@viadecristo.org)
 - ii. request for updated secretariat rosters
 - iii. share delegate names with the NLS Secretary
 - h. palanca links: 1-upcoming weekends, 2-how to list your community weekends, and 3-tools to use for palanca vigils as well as a link to the rollo outlines

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Witham