



National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS)

Executive Committee (EC)

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Zoom Meeting

Present: G Karl Gaston, Brian Comeno (BC), Brian Schwarz (BS), Karen Weires, Jerry Gray, Sue Bathe, Carolyn Witham, Other positions joined later, see below.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer: BC called the meeting of executive committee of the NLS to order at 6:32 pm and Pastor G. Karl opened the meeting with prayer.

Old Business Reviewed minutes from 3/25/25

New Business

President- Brian Comeno (BC)

- Gave a goal to give the first scholarship at the annual gathering in North Carolina.
- BC has received a letter of inquiry from a possible scholarship recipient. We will put it out through the Conexiones with his letter. The Conexiones article will include a link to recommend a seminarian for a scholarship. Jerry will send in any names we have received. After discussion, it was decided that we should send all names to Karen Weires. We will need their name, reasoning and intentions for the future, and their VDC community.
- Bob Lewis is heading up nominations and will join us in the meeting.
- Our current need is for one website and one person to man the website. Karen will do this.
- Kudos were given to Eric and Karen for all of the hard work they have done.
- All EC members need to get registered for the AG and be there for the Wednesday Board Meeting.

Executive Director: - Brian Schwarz (BS)

- Items needed to be picked up in Utah and delivered to AG.

Treasurer: Jerry Gray

- Reviewed the financials to date \$5700 from 19 secretariats have paid their dues so far and asked that they be paid up by the end of April.
- Jerry has some recommendations from the scholarship committee.
- The ELCA fund for leaders has a record of all of their funds, their intention is to fully fund all ELCA seminarians. Jerry will get with his bishop for clarification.
- Books need to be resolved and fiscal year need to end on 5/31. This will be finalized at the AG.
- Jerry gave an update as to Region 3 to host 2026 annual gathering They have met, have most

lead positions covered, Jerry and Jang Winge to be host co-chairs. A date is needed for the mid-year meeting. Possible dates were 10/24-25, 11/7-8, and 11/14-15. The board said 10/24-25 was the best time.

Vice President for Outreach (VPO): Karen Weires

- Karen shared that Circle of Servants went out to all Regional Coordinators and that the scholarship committee has met.
- Eric, Karen, and Brian Schwartz have all met. Karen has full administration access and control of the website, and can fix all postings.
- Postings on weekend is a problem between the website and google pairing, but she is working on rectifying that issue.
- Moving forward, we no longer need the go daddy domain. Eric created a new domain with the pairing and we need to discontinue go daddy. Currently Network Solutions is hosting this domain. She is still unsure of the payment amounts but will secure this from Eric. There is possibly a 2 factor identification for Go daddy, so she is working on this. Moving forward, one person need to be in control of the google suite/pair.com set up and Karen will take control of this.
- Karen is still working with Dave Leverenz to get him what he needs for archives.

Vice President for Administration: Carolyn Witham

- Questioned if there is a plan to put scholarship information out to each community, Jerry raised a question if their would be enough time to get the information out. Sue and Carolyn inquired as to how the information would be distributed.

Spiritual Director: Pastor Karl Gaston

- Inquired about housing needs at annual gathering.

Other positions to join meeting at 8:15.

Joining meeting at 8:18 were Bobbie Jo Koski, Marcia Newman, Pam Gross, Dave Lambert, Janet Crouch, Bob Lewis, and Randy Poisel.

BC thanked everyone for joining. He is very busy right now so he appreciates everyone for their efforts. He is working with Dave Lambert to get his storage space.

- No names passed on to Bob Lewis. Tom Kirk and Kim Brownlow for VPO, Matt Wilhelm in Florida.
- BC stated a scholarship will be given for at seminarian at 25 AG, He raised a question about funds, but Jerry has a bank account set up with a QR code.
- We will try the circle of servants and see how it works, paperwork is being sent to all secretariats. If any do not feel comfortable with the idea, they do not have to participate.

- The AG was reviewed by Carolyn. Randy stated numbers are low right now.
- BC asked if a flier was available, but Carolyn said no but it was all on a Facebook post.
- Randy stated that there were 38 completely registered, with 6 incomplete. Randy encouraged everyone to get registered and put in a negative amount if paying by check.
- RC's were asked to with in if they had any information to share.
- David Deeds gave update for AG. They are working on the money trails. He is in hopes that things will pick up for 5/1 deadline. A need for publicity was expressed.
- Sue will get with Karen and Carolyn on delegate count.
- BS expressed a need for items to be picked up in Utah.
- PKG stated that if worship team planning or any worship services needs were needed, to please let him know. David will get with Pastor Conda and let him know.
- Pam raised a question about Circle of Servants. Karen will let RC's know of nominations.
- Karen said the website was still not working so send information straight to her.
- Bob Lewis asked if we can share registration by Regions. Randy will send it to Karen and RC's.

Closing Prayer – Pastor G. Karl closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 CDT.

Next Regular Meeting of Executive Committee– Tuesday, 5/27/25 at 7:30 EST, 4:30 PT for NLSEC Board,

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bathe