

NLS Executive Committee: Regional Coordinators and Appointed Chairs

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 26, 2026

Meeting Type: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendance

E. C. In Attendance:

Brian Comeno, Pastor G. Karl Gaston, Carolyn Witham, Jerry Gray, Karen Weires, Tom Kirk, Heidi Schneiter

E.C. Absent

Brian Schwarz

Regional Coordinators and Appointed Chairs In Attendance:

Janet Crouch-Region 3; Randy and Marcia Poisel-Database Coordinators; John McCay-Region 6; David Leverenz-Archivist; Jeanne Gaston-Pastoral Support; Cindy Kirk-Region 7; Marcia Newman-Region 1; BobbieJo Koski-Region 5; Steve Barnett-Compliance; August (Augie) Calsyn-Region 4; Kimberly Brownlow-NLS Palanca

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order following confirmation of attendance and resolution of technical connection issues. Brian Comeno welcomed participants and acknowledged the absence of Mr. Schwartz due to a recent family bereavement.

Opening Prayer

Pastor G. Karl opened the meeting with prayer.

Appointed Positions-Term Continuation

All RCs present confirmed their willingness to continue serving for another term. Appreciation was expressed for the continued dedication of RCs and appointed leaders.

Kim Brownlow confirmed her willingness to remain in her role as Palanca coordinator for another year.

Jeanne Gaston confirmed her willingness to remain in her role as Pastoral Support for another year.

Archivist Report-Dave Leverenz

Dave reported significant progress in archival work, including receipt of materials from the late Ed Simonson's widow, Sandy Simonson. These materials filled critical gaps in historical records.

Key updates included:

- Completion of one-page history sheets for all 60 past and present local secretariats
- Identification of archival gaps, particularly from 2009–2015
- Improved access to Google Drive and executive meeting minutes

Dave requested the creation of a read-only Google Drive folder to make historical materials accessible to leadership and members. Karen agreed to create this folder.

Secretariat Status and Communications

Carolyn reminded RCs that annual Secretariat reports are due by June 15. RCs were advised to check spam or trash folders for related communications.

Discussion addressed inactive or unresponsive secretariats, including Heart of America (Kansas), which was confirmed inactive in 2023, and Prairie Sonshine, whose status remains unclear.

RCs were encouraged to use phone calls in addition to emails when attempting to contact unresponsive secretariats.

Wisconsin Sonrise Secretariat Update

BobbyJo reported on developments with the Wisconsin Sonrise Secretariat. Although disbanding had been considered, renewed discussion refocused the group on community building rather than solely hosting weekends.

As a result, eight individuals volunteered to form a new board, and the decision was made not to disband.

The National leadership agreed to suspend dues until Wisconsin Sonrise is able to host a new weekend, while maintaining the Secretariat in good standing.

AG Registration and Financial Update

Randy Poisel reported that national registration is functioning well, with over 100 registrants and continued steady participation. Some issues were noted where payments were received without completing online registration.

Jerry and Randy will follow up with affected individuals to ensure registrations are completed properly.

Discussed modifications to registration form for AG 27.

Compliance and Governance Update

Steve Barnett provided an update on ongoing discussions regarding the compliance coordinator role. His focus remains on federal and state reporting, bylaw compliance, and advising leadership on governance matters.

Secretariat Applications

Concerns were raised regarding consistency and transparency in the application process for new Secretariats; referencing procedures developed during the Louisiana application process.

Brian C. committed to reviewing prior decisions, addressing inconsistencies, and following up directly with those raising concerns.

RCs as Delegates and Bylaws Discussion

Discussion clarified that RCs do not automatically hold delegate voting rights. Any change to delegate status would require a bylaw amendment approved by the full body.

It was reaffirmed that each individual may hold only one vote, regardless of multiple roles.

Administrative and Communication Improvements

Bobby Jo introduced a standardized Google Form for updating Secretariat contact information. Data will populate automatically into a shared Google Sheet.

Karen will integrate updated information into national records and the website. Leadership committed to acknowledging receipt of submitted updates.

Closing and Adjournment

With no further business, appointed leaders were excused. Brian thanked all participants for their time, transparency, and dedication.