

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 29
Number 4
Sept. 2011

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC



*NLS 2011 Annual Meeting
July 28 – 31, 2011
Hosted by Western North Carolina VdC*



“The Way of Christ” John 14:6

This year’s annual meeting was held at Queens University in Charlotte, NC. It was an anniversary year and many of our guests shared their history in the birthing of the NLS and VdC. This culminated at the Saturday’s evening meal when we were surrounded by the cloud of witnesses during the serenade. If you attended and have not yet sent in our evaluation, please complete and send to Carolyn Hawkins, VP of Administration (info on page 2)

If you were unable to be with us this year, the articles and pictures in the daily newsletter (found on the web) will give you an idea of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future. I know many of you use this information to share in your renewal groups, at Ultreyas and in your secretariat meetings. A big **Thank You** to all of the North Carolina Cursillistas for your hospitality, graciousness, and giving us this time to be refreshed and renewed through this movement we call Via de Cristo.



2012 NLS Board
Pastor Doug Givan, Steve Gielda, Magdala Ray,
Carolyn Hawkins, Ed Broestl and Steve Barnett

LOST & FOUND

Contact Larry Witham if you are missing a pair of sunglasses, Cantamos CD or a Carved wooden cross.
lwitham@carolina.rr.com



Welcome NLS Board

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Write in large letters - be very clear, computers rely on EXACT information

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Volume 29
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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.

WELCOME- Newly Elected NLS Board



My name is Ed Broestl and I worship at Faith Community Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO with my wife Diane. I entered the Cursillo community via Northern Virginia Walk to Emmaus #30 in May, 1989 where I sat at a rectangular table named Joy. Diane and I have two grown sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren.

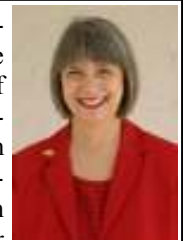
My Walk to Emmaus experience came as I was grappling with a decision to retire from the Air Force. Through my weekend, I came to know “the peace that passes all understanding.” The community knew I was moving to Colorado later in 1989. They also knew there was not an Emmaus community in Colorado. They did everything they could to prepare me to start a Colorado community. God had other plans!

In the mid-1990’s, a friend asked if I was familiar with Cursillo. We had a long conversation about starting a Lutheran expression in Colorado. The result - I was blessed to be part of the group that formed Colorado Via de Cristo. I attended my first NLS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in 1998. The experience brought back so many memories of my Walk to Emmaus weekend. I knew this was where I belonged.

During the 2003 NLSAM, held in Columbus, OH, I discovered God calling me into Diaconal Ministry. From January 2004 through June 2007, I completed the necessary course work at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in December 2008. In September 2007, I began full-time Christian ministry as the Parish Associate and later as a called Diaconal Minister at Faith Community Lutheran Church. This experience once again affirmed the saying we all have heard: “God doesn’t call the equipped...He equips the called!

I am honored to serve as the President of the National Lutheran Secretariat. God has wondrous things in store for your Board. I am excited to see exactly what and how it will all come together. I humbly request the prayers of all those reading this - prayers that God will lead us (our affiliated secretariats, the Executive Board, and all those that will attend our weekends)! With your prayers, I am certain that what we do...what we say...and...how we relate to one another will be God pleasing. May God empower and encourage each of us as we take the God’s love for all of creation, along with our love of the Lord, into the environments where God leads us.

God Loves You - and - so do I.
Ed Broestl,
NLS President



My name is Magdala Ray. In God’s perfect timing, I attended Gold Coast Via de Cristo #48 in 1995, where I sat at the table of Johanna. My husband, Watson, and I worship at Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, FL. Since 1987, I have been employed at Palm Beach State College (then Junior), and I currently serve as a professor teaching Strategies for College Success on the Palm Beach Gardens campus. Watson and I are blessed with two sons and two daughters-in-law: Stephen and Bonnie living in Charlotte, NC, and David and Amanda in West Palm Beach, FL, whose two beautiful daughters have given us two new and thrilling roles in life – Grandpa and Grandma!

As an only child growing up in Chicago, my bedtime prayers often included the heartfelt request, “Father, please send me a brother or sister!” Little did I know that our Father’s answer to that plea would be made known thirty years later on a Via de Cristo weekend – which I attended with a very suspicious mind and hardened heart! And despite my resistance, God, true to His prodigal nature, provided me with not just one brother or sister but *thousands* – all of you! I thank and praise Him for sending the Way, the Truth, and the Life to more clearly reveal to us that lavishly abundant love, grace and life that is ours through our Savior and Brother, Jesus Christ!

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms into the national Via de Cristo community when we started attending the NLSAM in Knoxville, TN, in 2004! And thank you for entrusting me with the honor and privilege of serving as your executive board secretary for the next two years! I look forward to discovering God’s further vision and direction for this wonderful Christian renewal movement.

While God has blessed me through a variety of roles on many local weekends and during two terms on the Gold Coast secretariat, He has blessed me most through Watson and our family, my reunion sisters, our church, and community – the loving Christian relationships founded on and nurtured by the Cornerstone, Christ Jesus. May God our Father grant each of us, my brothers and sisters, the mind and heart of Jesus, that through the fire of the Holy Spirit we may influence our environments for Him through piety, study and action!! Amen!

Magdala Ray,
NLS Secretary



NLS Board Minutes — NLS 2011 Annual Meeting

Wed. & Thurs., July 27 & 28, 2011

The Executive Board met at Queens University in Charlotte, NC at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Present were Tracy Schmidlin, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Giolda, Steve Barnett, Pr. Doug Givan, Katie Sistar, Judy Laabs-Foss, and Diane Purcell.

Pastor Doug read from II Chronicles and led in prayer.

Lois Witham and Host Team members are busy assembling the Notebook. Carolyn said they were working with a new facilities manager and that housing is now in two buildings instead of one. The head of the Audio Visual team had a heart attack this morning. They were working through the challenges.

Steve G. was not able to get videos from Papua New Guinea or Latvia, but he has a video from past Spiritual Director and Newsletter Editor, Carroll Lang and past secretary, Judy Lang.

John McKinny, the Executive Director of Tres Dias, will be here to lead one of our seminars bringing information on the vision Eduardo Bonnin had for Cursillo© when it started. Another bit of information is that we helped start Emmaus, and it has really grown.

We have hand held mikes and are paying for video taping of the seminars, forums and keynote speaker to record in better quality than years past.

We discussed the schedule and items that are in the notebook. We are excited to have the early pioneers here to help tell about the origins of our movement.

The Board discussed the lack of a National Coordinator. Other movements are calling that position Executive Director. The term coordinator is being used in many areas. *Steve G. moved that the National Coordinator position for NLS be called Executive Director. Pr. Doug 2nd. Motion passed.*

The Board discussed the need to sign signature documents on Sunday for our files and for Thrivent and Wells Fargo since there will be a new president.

We discussed presenting a possible change in the fees structure at Business Meeting #1 and discussing it the next day. The current structure is no fees the first year, \$50.00 the second year, up to \$150.00 the third year, \$250 after the third year. Steve B. presented a new structure. It would be the same for the first three years, then instead of \$250.00, jump it to \$300.00. But if a secretariat only had one or less weekends a year they would only pay half the cost. We are on a fiscal year from June 1 to May 31, and most of the dues have been paid by then. We had a deficit budget, but we have \$17,000 in a designated Outreach fund which has helped.

We discussed the nominations process for President, Secretary, and Vice President of

Outreach and when to schedule the nominations and votes.

We discussed the numbers of eligible delegates for NLSAM. There was a question of what eligible meant. It was suggested that the next Board needed to have a lawyer look at the constitution and by-laws to see if the wording regarding delegates is sound.

There was discussion regarding the National Coordinator/ Executive Director position.

Diane moved that we recess for dinner at 5:15 P.M. and Katie 2nd. Motion passed.

Larry Conway joined the Board when the meeting reconvened at 7:15 P.M. Tracy announced the agenda for the first Business Meeting. She will announce groups of past officers by years. Steve G. will introduce special guest, John McKinny, who knew Eduardo Bonnin. Then Katie will seat the delegates.

The History Book is in all the attendees' bags. We decided that the price for additional History Books will be \$10.00. All the Board reports are included in the Notebook. The Newsletter and Website need to start using the term Executive Director for the National Coordinator position.

We discussed who would do the reports for the appointed Board members who were absent from the meeting. The Board reports are recorded in the blue section of the Notebook. Any who bring banners will get them to the Business Meeting area. There will be an anniversary forum with a panel of speakers. There will be a 5th day poster for people to sign to remember people who have gone on to heaven. There will be a first timers' picture as usual and in addition some past officer photos and an everybody photo.

Katie has worked on a History presentation from all the places that NLS has met. The power point has missing photos. She would like to have people see it and try to locate pictures to fill the gaps for a presentation next year. We need pictures of the church or university, theme, bag or document, first timer photos, etc. for each year since 1981.

We discussed website communication ideas, including a possible Facebook page. Steve commented that even Latvia has a Facebook page. We need better ways to link secretariats and get out information for secretariats. There seems to be a problem getting updated information from secretariats on the website. Perhaps a link to their websites would be more efficient.

Carolyn described the seminars and how to get to them if someone wasn't registered for one. Small groups will meet after two forums and one other time.

We continued going over the schedule for the weekend. We discussed hosting.

Hosts need to read the Host documents and Honorable Serving page then do lots of fund raising and requests from Thrivent. It costs \$35,000 to \$50,000 to host a weekend. The biggest expense for the 2011 NLSAM was the food. Registration fees cover much of the cost. Look at seeing who might be interested in hosting in 2014 or 2015. Next year is CO, then A/OK.

Pr. Doug moved that we recess till Thursday morning. Steve B. 2nd. Motion passed. Board recessed at 9:45 P.M.

The board met briefly Thursday morning at 8:30 A.M. We continued going over the schedule for the weekend. Tracy wants to ask several special guests to share some of their history with the delegates and visitors. The seating with delegate names and power point slides were readied so names could be placed on the seats after the Orientation at noon. Board recessed at 9:20 A.M.

Thursday 28, 2011-Business Mtg. #1

The 2011 NLSAM in Charlotte, NC was called to order at 3:30 p.m. with Tracy Schmidlin welcoming the delegates and visitors and making introductions. President of Queen's University, Dr. Pamela Davies, welcomed the VdC Community to the university and told about the school's history.

A Thrivent representative, Glenn Deal, welcomed the group and told about Thrivent funding and announced that it is a faith based Fortune 500 company. He is Publicity Chairman for this NLSAM Host Committee.

Tracy began introductions by asking all the first timers to stand. Then she introduced past leaders of the Lutheran Cursillo/Via de Cristo community. Present were 4 pioneers from the first meeting in Atlanta in 1981. Past board members from 1981-1990, then 1991-2000, were asked to stand and be recognized. Past and present Board members from 2001-2011 were also recognized. Tracy explained that in 1986 the National Lutheran Secretariat Cursillo© body voted to change the name to Via de Cristo to allow us to be interdenominational by including other Christian denominations being invited to the weekends. We kept our Lutheran theology.

Secretary Katie Sistar explained the seating process and had each delegate stand to be recognized. She seated the 86 delegates with a power point presentation.

Each Board member explained where their report was in the Notebook and pointed out a few items that needed to be stressed.

Tracy gave the President's Report. It is on page B4. We were excited when we have added new secretariats and saddened when some have stopped participating. We have been trying to have a National Coordinator now to be called Executive Director for many years. That process has been stymied for

various reasons. We will talk about a way to get the position started this weekend. We need to emphasize essentials, and we hope that you enjoy our double anniversary. It is important and your responsibility to share what you learn here with your secretariats back home.

Steve Gielda, VP of Outreach, discussed the 4th Day Conference, the Wellness checklist from last year and the importance of keeping the movement on track and true to the essentials as we expand. His report is on page B7. He is planning training to go beyond the 101 and 102 training to a 300 Level Leadership Training Course. He explained that on page B40 there is a job description for the 7 Regional Outreach Coordinators that are needed.

Carolyn Hawkins, VP Administration, discussed learning her job this past year. It was helpful to be part of the Host team as she worked at the new position. She spent a lot of time on last year's evaluations. We learn from them so she wanted everyone to be sure to fill out the revamped evaluation form this year. Her report is on page B6.

Pr. Doug Givan, Spiritual Director, has a report on B5. The scripture was from Isaiah 42. He told about the devotional booklet that will be used as a help as the pilgrims' Fourth Day begins.

Steve Barnett, Treasurer, presented the financial report on B9-B12. *Larry Schone moved that we accept the financial report. Alice Allison 2nd. Motion passed.*

Katie Sistar, Secretary, gave her report and highlighted items on B2 and B8. She called attention to the need for surveys of the previous year's weekends to be sent to the secretary promptly when the request is sent out Feb 1 each year. People have asked what kind of weekends secretariats are having. There have been 137 weekends in 2010 with 45 Men's, 51 Women's and 41 Coed/Mixed. From the beginning through the year 2010, there have been a total of 99,960 pilgrims who have attended our weekends.

John Bradford, Distribution Center, stated that it is harder to pay for items so there has been an increase in prices. Pilgrim's Guide is \$1.00, Red Brochure is \$5.00, Clergy brochure is the same, 4th Day is \$1.00, Reunion Card is .10 each, Large Print and S.D. Manuals are \$5.00 and DVD audio disk of the Pilgrim's Guide and the new History Book each are \$10.00.

Larry Conway, Web Servant, talked about the importance of updating communication. His report is on page B 15. This position is open for a new leader.

Judy Laabs-Foss, Editor of the Conexiones, has enjoyed doing the Newsletter for the past nine years. The past year's report is on B16. Most newsletters now are received by

e-mail which has saved money.

Ron Millard, Archivist/Historian, is absent. Carolyn told how for the past 1 ½ years he had been working on our 25th year History Book which everyone received in their bag. He and John Bradford put it together quite professionally. Additional History Books are available for \$10.00.

Diane Purcell, Financial Advisor, stated that she was Treasurer for 4 years then was appointed to be Financial Adviser since 2004. Her report is on B13. She is available to help any secretariat with 501c3 applications or other financial information.

Jim Ryan, Database Coordinator, is absent. Carolyn Hawkins gave his report and noted that there are application forms available for the appointed offices of Database Coordinator and Web Page Coordinator.

Paul Sabatier-Smith, Palanca Coordinator, is absent. Carolyn stated his report is on B14. There is a form that can be used to update weekend information for the palanca list.

Tracy explained the nominating process. Judy Lado reported the committee's nominees for elected offices this year: Ed Broestl, from Colorado, as president, Magdala Ray, from Florida, as Secretary and Steve Gielda, from Virginia, for VP of Outreach. Any nominees from the floor need to be nominated in the morning and get bio forms filled out.

Tracy spoke of the importance of a National Coordinator who is to be called Executive Director. The National body has been talking about it for the past 10 to 15 years. We had a committee that tried to plan how to fund the position, but with the economy and people's concerns about privacy in using the data base to seek funding, it has not been established. As representatives from the Fourth Day movements have met each year, Tracy and Steve G. have observed that we are the only Fourth Day movement that does not have an Executive Director.

The Board's recommendation is to fill the position with a volunteer and provide expenses. Tracy asked those in attendance to pray about this, review the material in the book and talk with others about it before the next business meeting where it will be open for discussion.

Steve B. presented a possible way to change the fees structure. Dues haven't been changed in 11 years. He suggested this change would help smaller secretariats, increase the fees income by \$2200 and be a step toward not having a deficit budget. New secretariats do not have to pay dues the first year. The second year they would pay \$50.00. The third year they would pay \$150.00 and after 3 years pay \$300.00 (up from \$250.00) or \$3.00 per candidate/pilgrim on a weekend, whichever is higher. If a secretariat has only one or less weekends a year and submits their survey, they would only have to pay ½ of

\$300.00. This structure will be discussed on Friday.

Carolyn made an announcement about the first timers' photo and a photo of everybody to be done after the forum on the steps. Tracy gave a tip regarding signing posters. Steve explained small groups. Carolyn told about the seminars. They are full in a tight space, so be sure to go to the ones you signed up for.

Carolyn moved that we recess the session. Doug 2nd. Motion passed. Pr. Doug closed with prayer and asked a blessing for our meal at 5:37 P.M.

The Board met Thursday evening immediately following worship. Present were Tracy Schmidlin, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Gielda, Steve Barnett, Pr. Doug Givan, Katie Sistar, Diane Purcell. *Diane moved that we go to executive session. Steve G. 2nd. Motion passed. Diane moved that we adjourn executive session. Steve B. 2nd. Motion passed.*

The board discussed the process of presenting the recommendation for Executive Director and how to follow through if approved.

1.) Vote yes to create the position or no to stop the process.

2.) If the vote is to continue,

A.) Candidates will submit a consideration form to Carolyn Hawkins by Saturday morning before worship.

B.) A committee consisting of 3 current board members and 3 past NLS officers will be formed.

C.) The committee will review the applications, interview candidates and vote on who will fill the position.

D.) If possible, the decision could be made at this meeting.

The recommendations from the board are these:

1. Executive Director will be a volunteer with expenses paid until such time as funding can be procured.
2. Funding to be actively pursued.
3. Need a chair person to work on funding. Job Description for the Executive Director is on P. B42.

Doug moved to accept the process as outlined for NLS Executive Director and recommend to the body that they accept the process as outlined. Steve. G. 2nd. Motion passed.

Doug moved that we recess the board meeting at 10:30 P.M. Steve G. 2nd. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar
NLS Secretary



NLS President's Report

Grace, peace, and mercy from God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

I am humbled to be your President for these are truly exciting times. Don't you just love it when someone is elected to an office, or running for an office, says: "These are truly exciting times!" Well, of course they are - for them - because they are starting a new journey. But, what about for the



organization or constituency? Times when only time will tell how exciting it might get! I believe and know that God is doing mighty things through His people and through the gifts and talents He has given His church. Our three day weekends, our spiritual renewals, are a reminder of our continual walk with God and an opportunity for us to discover anew, or reminded again of God's unfailing love.

Our recent annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina was amazing! Again, don't you just love it when someone says a meeting was amazing! Except it truly was because once again we witnessed God touching lives. The Host Committee and their team did a fantastic job making us feel welcome and taking care of us during our time on the campus of Queens University of Charlotte. The Executive Board prepared a wonderful program providing insight into where we have been (it was the 25th Anniversary of Via de Cristo) and how that history prepares us for the future. Through it all, God was present: in worship services, in forums, in small group activities, and in gatherings of people: large and small.

Several "threads" ran through the annual meeting. God's love for His people was ever-present. One I found very telling was relationship. We all know there are three important things in real estate: location - location - location. I was once again reminded that there three words vital to ministry: relationship - relationship - relationship. Our first relationship is with God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Thank you Lord for being part of our lives and for being part of every Via de Cristo activity. The second relationship is with our family: physical and spiritual. As we more fully grasp God's love for us, we come to love those relatives that may not be so easy to love and our brothers and sisters in Christ that may not appear to be so easy to love. The third relationship is we grow in God is our ability to take love and grace into the places and spaces where we find ourselves. Often times that is difficult - but - we trust God has gone before us. Thank you Lord for your assurance.

Thanks to the Host Committee and the past NLS Executive Board for a wonderful reminder of how much God has prepared us for our coming journey. I am confident in God's promise that He will never leave us or forsake us. Through this promise we can be certain that God loves us. Blessings -

Ed Broestl,
NLS President



Friday
5:00 – 5:30 PM
Frank & Delynn Torrey
Kannapolis, NC



Spiritual Director's Report

Listen, God is calling.....

The story goes that a woman was waiting at the airport and decided to go and buy herself a package of cookies. She came back to her seat and there was a man next to her reading the paper. She began to eat her cookies and every time she ate one, the man next to her ate one!

She was fuming mad! How dare he, she thought. But sure enough each time she reached for a cookie, so did he until they got to the last cookie. The man took that cookie and broke it in two and gave it to the woman. He didn't say anything but just continued to read his paper. She grabbed her things and huffed off really mad at that guy. How could someone be so rude she thought!

She boarded her plane and was getting settled into her seat. She reached into her purse....and there on top of her things sat her own bag of cookies! She had been eating the gentleman's cookies!! Wow, what a story. Put yourself in their place... would you have been as patient as that guy? When it comes to cookies I'm not very eager to share!

This past week while I was surfing channels on the TV I came across a show called "Boiling Points!" They intentionally try to make people mad in various situations (a little like candid camera) and if they can hold their temper they win \$100. It is very funny to watch people and how they react to situations in public.

How about you and me? Are you patient? Can you wait very well? How about as it relates to God calling you? Can you be patient while God works on your heart to receive and hear God's call in your life??

Have faith today, friends, that God has a call for you to "come" and follow the Lord. Come and give money or food donations to help the poor, come and serve on a weekend and sponsor pilgrims! Or come and bring clothing or donations.....come and follow me and I will lead you! Don't look down at the waves or the wind, look up to Jesus Christ who has given his life for you and me! That's worth listening for the call...and having faith in God that it will all work out. So....have a cookie and relax, God's in charge!



Pastor Doug Givan,
National Spiritual Director

NLS Board Minutes — NLS 2011 Annual Meeting - continued

Friday 29, 2011-Business Mtg. #2

The second NLS business meeting opened on Friday, July 29 at 11:15 A.M. with the Holy Spirit Prayer, then Pr. Doug led in a prayer.

Tracy immediately went to the business of electing officers. She asked if there were nominations from the floor for president. There were none. *Diane moved that Ed Broestl be elected to the position of president by unanimous acclamation. Larry Schone 2nd. Motion passed.*

Tracy asked if there were nominations from the floor for secretary. There were none. *Diane moved that Magdala Ray be elected to the position of secretary by unanimous acclamation. Judi Lado 2nd. Motion passed.*

Pr. Doug thanked Tracy and Katie for their years of service on the Board.

Tracy asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Vice President of Outreach. There were none. *Chris Rasmussen moved that nominations be closed and Steve Giolda be elected by unanimous acclamation. Alice Allison 2nd. Motion passed.*

Tracy brought up the Executive Director position and temporarily stepped down for the VP of Administration to chair this discussion and vote, since she stated it was her desire to be one of the people considered for the position. Carolyn set forth the Board's preferred starting point for this topic to vote yes to create the position or no to stop the process. She stated that the first decision is to go down the path that was set before us a decade or so ago or to stop.

Carolyn Karl moved that we continue to work toward making a position for Executive Director. Mark Carson 2nd. Doug Burrows moved to amend the motion to create a position of Executive Director on a volunteer basis with expenses paid, for 24 months. After discussion the motion to create the position was voted on and passed.

Doug LaFauci moved to amend the motion that the position will not be filled for 6 months. Carolyn accepted. Mark Carson 2nd. There was much discussion about possible conflict of interest and bias. Diane explained that there would be a 3rd recommendation once this motion has been put to a vote. It is not an automatic appointment. The Board would

present a procedure for filling the position. They can amend that if they are not happy with the layout. We would be filling the position as volunteer with expenses for 24 months. It would be reviewed at 90 days, 180 days, and a year. Mike Fisher called the question to close the discussion on the 2nd amendment on the floor. The motion to close discussion passed. The vote on the amendment to delay for 6 months failed.

We went back to the motion as amended by Doug Burrows. Discussion followed. It kept being said that we create the position of Executive Director as a volunteer with expenses paid for 24 months. Tracy asked the body to follow through on what the board tried to come up with. Tracy asked the body to allow the board to present its recommendation. There was more discussion. *Mike Fisher called the question to close discussion. The motion to close discussion passed. Ed Broestl called for division. There was a hand vote. Motion passed by 2/3 majority.*

Then came the vote on the original amended motion. It was clarified that the 24 months would begin at the time of appointment. *The motion is to create a position of Executive Director on a volunteer basis with expenses paid, for 24 months. Motion passed with cheers from the delegates.*

The selection procedure that the board recommended was outlined.

A.) Candidates will submit a "consideration for appointment" form to Carolyn Hawkins by Saturday morning before worship.

B.) A committee consisting of 3 current (2011-2012) board members and 3 past NLS officers will be formed.

C.) The committee will review the applications, interview candidates and vote on who will fill the position.

D.) If possible, the decision could be made at this meeting.

There was discussion regarding the procedure laid out. Several spoke in favor of it.

Mike Fisher called for the question to vote on the recommendation of the procedure as provided by the Board. Motion passed by majority.

With the Executive Director discussion and votes completed, Carolyn turned chairing of the meeting back to Tracy. Then Steve Barnett presented the proposed changes to the dues fee structure.

Steve Barnett showed the current fee structure and recommended the fee structure as proposed by the Board. It looked like this: Year of Affiliation \$0, After 1 full year \$50, After 2 full years \$150, After 3 full years \$300 or \$3.00 per Candidate/Participant, whichever is higher, and dues would be ½ the regular rate if 1 or less Weekend per year and if Survey results are submitted. There were questions and discussion on the purpose and necessity for the change. Watson Ray called for the question. *The vote on the fee schedule passed unanimously.*

Tracy asked people to add to the names of Bev Applebee and Bill Sistar on the 5th Day poster that was by the podium to remember special people in our lives and our movement. She read a tribute to Pr. Bill Sistar who passed on in April, written by Pr. Betts Huntley. Bill was the husband of our secretary.

Tracy reminded people that "consideration for appointment" forms were available for Database Coordinator and Website Coordinator, and any who are interested in the volunteer Executive Director position.

Steve G. gave information on the Region meetings. It is a time to talk about best practices, the wellness checklist, things that work, and things you try to get to work. A series of questions may help the discussion. Check page C3 to see what region you're in and where it is meeting. He asked that any who wish to talk with him about the regional outreach positions eat lunch with him.

Carolyn announced that Symbols Inc. had arrived and where they were set up. Katie's Corner will be by Symbols Inc. Carolyn explained that Katie has been working on a History Power Point presentation on her computer looking at all the past NLS meeting locations. Steve G. added that Katie needs more pictures from people who have been to past NLS meetings and may have some pictures of the location, theme, or other memorable photos that could be added for a presentation next year in Denver. Carolyn gave room numbers for the seminars and named them. The Way (History) is led by

Pr. Ed Simonsen. The Truth (Cursillo's Charism - Essentials) is led by John McKinny. The Life (Music) is led by Janet Cunningham. The Law (Tax Law) is led by Diane Purcell. Carolyn also relayed that Dialogue/Committee lists are on page C8 in the notebook.

The Business meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:20 P.M.

Saturday 30, 2011-Business Mtg. #3

On Saturday, July 30, 2011 the third business meeting opened at 11:10 A.M. with the Holy Spirit prayer.

A Thrivent representative, Terry Halverson, reminded delegates that Thrivent is a charitable organization. He pulled a name out of the box who won a Musical Heritage CD.

Tracy invited secretariats to think about hosting the NLSAM in 2014 or 2015, reminding all that Thrivent is available to help financially. She reminded attendees that the History Book in their bags was a free gift, but that any other History books need to be bought for \$10.00 from John Bradford at the Distribution Center table. Also the offering taken during each NLSAM is on Saturday night for Outreach. Other reminders were that evaluations need to be filled out and turned in, pictures are scheduled to be taken before the worship at 8:00 tonight, and appointed board positions of the Web Page Coordinator and Database Coordinator still need to be filled.

Committee Reports began. Elaine Mount read the minutes from the Budget Committee meeting. Adjustments were made to finalize the proposed budget. *Virginia Reymer moved the recommendation from the committee that the proposed budget be approved.* The discussion included the timing of the fiscal year which is June 1 to May 31 each year. *Motion passed.*

Lisa Milzarek read the Vision and Values report. In 2010 the committee had worked on 7 core value statements that described Via de Cristo. These led to the top 2 statements they tweaked and chose this year. They are intended to stand the test of time and to help those who do not understand Via de Cristo to have a clearer picture of who we are.

1.) Via de Cristo is a Christ centered Lay Ministry for faith renewal. In partnership with pastors, we focus on God's grace to build Christian

community. Via de Cristo leads individuals to a close relationship with Christ by experiencing God's grace so that they may go forth and serve others with their God given talents.

2.) Via de Cristo leads individuals to a closer relationship with Christ by experiencing God's grace so they go out and serve others with their God given talents.

Doug Burrows represented the committee to select the Executive Director. The other members are Leona Fox, Pr. John Propst, Ed Broestl, Steve Barnett, and Carolyn Hawkins.

Motion from the committee to select the Executive Director:

We move to extend the time established to allow an extra 30 days.

We additionally feel that in fairness to this body and the greater VDC community that we also allow this 30 day extension to be used to allow for additional applications.

The reason is to acquaint ourselves with the needs of the position and to establish questions to interview the applicants. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact members of the committee. *Motion passed.*

Judy gave the Newsletter committee report. They discussed hard copy newsletters versus electronic copies. They looked at the NLS website and its links that are available to be shared. She is available to help secretariats throughout the year with their communication needs.

Larry talked about keeping up with methods of communication like Facebook and Twitter. Linking to Secretariats' websites from our website or sharing a website if needed, might be a more accurate way to have updated information available. However some secretariats block access to the web. That would need to be adjusted.

Several past officers shared about our history. Nate Lundgren shared what VdC meant to him. In 1984 he attended MN #33. It is important for pastors to encourage pastors to be involved and to keep to the essentials. Ed Hansen from SD attended in 1983. Faith and friendship are important for those going on a Via de Cristo weekend. Martha Erickson, the first secretary, was there and prayed for them 30

years ago when Via de Cristo got started in MN. She was happy that the vision from the starters has come so far. Joe Nilsen attended in 1972 and shared the story of the first weekend. He was thankful for the Catholic men who understood grace so profoundly that they helped Lutherans attend their weekends.

It was announced that Colorado, next year's host team, needs to meet in the lobby with the Board after worship to night.

The business meeting recessed at 10:40 A.M.

Saturday 30, 2011-Business Mtg. #4

The fourth Business Meeting began with prayer at 4:40 P.M. and Tracy requested the Committee and Region Reports be given.

Pr. Doug Givan gave the Spiritual Directors' Report. There were 20 pastors and attendees in attendance. It is important to surround people and events with prayer. He had copies of the Devotional Booklet he had worked on to be used after the weekend, and some other pastors added a contribution to it. It is to be made into a Pilgrim's book size and be ready for next year.

Kathy Cooper from the Palanca and Banner committee noted that 6 people made 2 butterfly banners. They were given to the 2012 Colorado Hosting Committee and the 2013 A-OK Hosting Committee.

Diane reported as Financial Advisor that the books have been checked over, and they are in order.

Tracy led the Lay Directors Dialogue. Twenty-five people from 20 secretariats discussed important issues facing secretariats today: the importance of insurance, questions about sponsorship, who can attend a weekend, Spiritual Directors, rules and guidelines and how decisions need to be made carefully and prayerfully on a case by case basis. Our movement is about grace. She read items from Eduardo Bonnin's vision for Cursillo© from a written interview she has. She plans for the interview to be in electronic format by next year.

Nancy Peterson gave the report from Region 2. Four secretariats met with 18 individuals. They focused on best practices they had experienced during the past year. Minnesota had a mentorship program for new team members. All are struggling with leadership training and

sponsorship follow through. They discussed the essentials and alternate ways of presenting material such as power points, handouts on team building, and acting out scenarios. They plan to meet to continue discussions and to share and evaluate time schedules.

Pam Gross from Region 4 gave the report. Heart of IL has a once a year celebration of many different movements in Peoria. All have web sites for communication. Some have problems getting the newsletter out. Some are struggling with getting people to training or having training times. They discussed the length of the talks and note taking. They would like time for more personal sharing in the talks.

Chris Rasmussen from Region 6 gave the report. Atlanta set up a booth at the Synod convention with much success in reaching pastors. Spiritual Directors need to invite pastors and make it known that it will make more involved leaders in their churches. Retired pastors are a good pool for SD's. Holding Family picnics in addition to Ultreyas is a way to strengthen community. They also discussed the essentials of Ultreya, Reunion and Sponsorship.

Pr. Steve Hartten from Region 1 gave the report. They discussed their support strategies and possibly having bi-annual or quarterly meetings at a location or using conference calls. Utah had a well accepted community-building one day seminar with a speaker, discussion, and worship. Donations given then went to a charitable organization in the area. Lay needs to build relationship with lay, and clergy needs to build relationship with clergy. They discussed how they did training and the importance of liability insurance. They want to work together to start new movements.

Alice Allison from Region 3 gave the report. On June 11, 2011, N. Texas held a Grand Ultreya which was very well attended with 3 secretariats and 3 past Lay Directors in attendance. In A-OK communication between members has increased. They are hoping to help nearby secretariats. Leadership Training is conducted 2-3 times yearly and has to be attended to be eligible to be on a team.

Pat Nicolai from Region 5 gave the report. A Grand Ultreya included Journey in Faith, Rainbow and Vineyard. They want to help and support each

other. They have seven communities in the region and a possible future secretariat. They discussed the need to stick to the basics, the essentials. It is helpful to have a list of pastors making week-ends as contacts for churches.

Magdala Ray from Region 7 gave the report. Thirty-six Florida delegates and visitors attended with Don Armbrust facilitating. Last year's Grand Ultreya didn't occur, but plans are being made to host at least one during this next year. The relationship-building accompanying hosting the annual meeting has produced meaningful and enduring fellowship among the Florida Secretariats. All are using Leadership Training resources. They discussed helping to revitalize Heart of Florida. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Essentials and sponsorship and leadership training to build stronger individual and regional communities for Christ Jesus our Lord.

After the last report, many members of the North Carolina Host team marched in as we stood up and thanked them wholeheartedly with much clapping for the wonderful job they have done. Tracy thanked the host team verbally as they stood around us.

Next was the Colorado presentation. With the help of Colorado Via de Cristo, Via de Cristo of the Rockies is hosting the NLSAM in 2012. Carol McGill, Host Committee Chair, introduced a beautiful slide show of the Colorado sights. The team introduced themselves and named their position on the team. They invited everyone to attend the next NLSAM July 26-29, 2012 at Regis University in Denver, CO. They presented a welcome bag to each one as they left the meeting room.

Steve G. had a present for John McKinny, Executive Director of Tres Dias, who led the Truth seminar to thank him for coming. Going away presents were given to Larry Conway – a lovely cross, Tracy, the outgoing president – a large colorful stained glass cross and Katie, outgoing secretary- a beautiful hand crocheted prayer shawl.

Lois and Larry Witham passed the Via de Cristo banner from the WNC Host Committee to Carol McGill of the Colorado VdC of the Rockies.

Larry Witham made closing an-

nouncements.

Bob Quam moved that the 2011 NLSAM meeting be adjourned. Chris Rasmussen 2nd. Motion passed. The business meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar
NLS Secretary

NEW NLS ANNIVERSARY BOOK



I'm sorry I missed the annual meeting this year. It is only the third one I have missed since Hickory '97. I read the daily Conexiones to stay in touch with all the happenings and it looks like I missed a great NLS meeting this year. Nice job North Carolina!

I hope those in attendance enjoyed the 30-year anniversary book they received. In spite of just a few missing entries, I feel it turned out very good. It will give us a good nucleus on which to build for the 2016 annual meeting when we celebrate 35 years.

Thanks to Leona Fox for sending me three more boxes of archival and historical documents. I have not yet categorized them for entry into our archival database but will be working on that soon. Meanwhile, if anyone has any items for possible archiving please get back with me. Together we can discuss whether they should be archived or not.

God's blessings to everyone as we continue to do His work through this wonderful ministry called Via de Cristo.



Ron Millard
NLS
Archivist/
Historian



V.P. of Outreach Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What I joy is was to see so many of you at the 2011 National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting in July! It was definitely a year to celebrate! I can't believe that this year we crossed the 100,000 number. There have been more than one hundred thousand people attend a Via de Cristo weekend. This happens because of disciples like you. You heard the call and said..."Here I am Lord" and made a friend, became a friend and you brought that friend to Christ.

We need to continue to hear His call. We need to continue to find ways to strengthen our local communities 4th Day activities. What percentage of your community is attending your Ultreyas? What percentage of your community is in an active Reunion Group? What is your Outreach strategy? Christ has called everyone one of us to live our 4th day and to live it LOUD. When I see challenges within one of our communities it often stems from the fact that the focus has shifted from the 4th day to the Weekends. Via de Cristo isn't about the Weekends. It's about the 4th day.

Living an active 4th day sometimes requires us to shake things up. I recently decided to make a change to shake up my own life and how I was living my 4th day. I elected to leave my reunion group and start a new group. This was a very difficult decision. I have been 'grouping' with the same guys for almost 9 years. However, I felt a strong call to start a new group with three new members of the Rainbow VdC community. My new reunion group has been going strong for two months. I have found new excitement in grouping and I am challenged in a new way to live my faith. Yes, I miss my old reunion group brothers dearly, but God has called me to bring others into their 4th day. I encourage you to think about doing the same.

I have a goal to birth two new communities in the next 12 months. I encourage you to think about building a team to help me make this goal

come true. I know that if this is God's will it will happen.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for electing me to remain your VP of Outreach for another two year term. I promise I will continue to work hard to help you strengthen your local communities and find ways to expand.

Your servant in Christ,

Steve Gielda
VP of
Outreach.



COME TO THE LAND "WHERE THE COLUMBINES GROW"

Even as we are reminiscing about the Southern hospitality that greeted us in Charlotte, NC, your Colorado brothers and sisters are busy creating a big western HOWDY for you at Regis University in Denver.

Those of you who were in Charlotte saw the slide show of things to see and do in Colorado before and after the 2012 annual meeting. We hope that you are putting your plans together to visit our beautiful state.

The theme verse for 2012 is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."

We ask for your continued prayers as the 4th Day members of Via de Cristo of the Rockies and Colorado Via de Cristo prepare to host you all (meet and greet you). We are brainstorming about offering exotic foods (Rocky Mountain Oysters) and exciting events (a cattle drive), but rest assured that the only thing we can guarantee is that the tea will not be sweetened! We hope to see you next year "Where the Columbines Grow".

God loves you and so do I,
Carol McGill
2012 Host Committee Chair

Palanca Coordinator Report

PALANCA Which comes first?

Planning – prayerprayer – planning ... which comes first? In our daily lives and when involved with Via de Cristo activities, how many of us make the plans, look at the schedules and then seek His approval and guidance? Reading some of the devotionals from Boyd Bailey, Wisdom Hunters and Infusion, prompts me to ask the question. So often, I have come up with what I thought were good ideas and then asked Him "Is this what you had in mind?" Sometimes His response has been "is it good that you want or great?"

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Over a long period of time, trial and error, I have learned that Prayer should come before planning. Prayer puts us in a place of being totally dependent upon listening for God's purposes and plans. After all, Via de Cristo is His Ministry – shouldn't the process of teams, Weekends and the Fourth Day all be within His overall Plans and will? How better to understand and carry out His purposes and plans than to talk with Him ahead of time. This type of prayer is a process. One that includes asking the Lord to purify our motives, set us apart from worldly influences, align our wills with His and bring us into a place of no hidden agendas. We need to listen careful for His guidance and then intentionally carry out his plans. Being intentional about the prayer is the key to seeking His purposes and plans which bring blessings, favour and Glory in the end to Him.

There is Power in Prayer – the first step in planning is Prayer.

As the Palanca Coordinator, active and timely participation of the local Palanca Coordinators is critical in disseminating information. The local coordinators have been excellent in providing the critical link to the local Secretariats. The 2011 and now

Palanca!!!

Future weekends

Weekends for the next five months will be printed in this section. Check the Web for more updated information.

2011 WEEKENDS:

- Aug./Sept. 2011 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Men #57: Aug. 25-28 & Women #56 Sept. 8-11, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341
- Sept. 2011 - NC: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #76: Sept. 8-11, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs 301 Cook St. Kannapolis, NC 28083
- Sept. 2011 - Colorado: **Lutheran VDC of the Rockies**, Coed #4: Sept. 15-18, Send palanca to: Loretta Hartten 5126 Alkire St. Arvada, CO 80002
- Sept. 2011 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #16: Sept. 15-18, Send palanca to: Mary Eichler 290 E. Delamar Dr. Henderson, NV 89015
- Sept. 2011 - Oregon: **Oregon VDC**, Mixed: Sept. 15-18, Send palanca to: Connie Karabatsos 19428 Vincent Dr. Oregon City, OR 97045
- Sept./Oct 2011 - Florida: **Sonshine North VDC**, Men #56: Sept. 22-25 & Women #56 Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073
- Sept./Oct 2011 - FL: **Gold Coast VDC of So. FL**, Men #83: Sept. 15-18 & Women #83 Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Ron Pusins 3160 NW 67 Court Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
- Sept./Oct. 2011 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #12: Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Send palanca to: Rusty Graves 8719 Edgehill Dr. SE Huntsville, AL 35802
- Sept./Oct 2011 - New York: **Damascus Rd. VDC of Central NY**, Men #12: Sept. 15-18 & Women #12 Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Lu Huckabone PO Box 184 Poland, NY 13431
- Sept./Oct. 2011 - TN: **Notes of Grace VDC**, Coed #12: Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Send palanca to: Rusty Graves 8719 Edgehill Dr. SE Huntsville, AL 35802
- Oct. 2011 - Utah: **Utah VDC**, Men #51: Oct. 6-9 & Women #51 Oct. 13-16, Send

- palanca to: Kelly Martin 5698 So. 1150 East S. Orgen, UT 84450
- Oct. 2011 - CO: **Colorado VdC**, Men #51: Oct. 13-16, & Women #34: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Audrey Hupp-Ellis 2755 Lavarie Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
- Oct. 2011 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #105: Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Oct. 2011 - MI\OH: **Good News VDC**, Men #49: Oct. 13-16, & Women #49: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- Oct. 2011 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #566 & #568: Oct. 13-16, & Women #567 & #568: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2011 - MO: **Rivers Edge VDC**, Women #17: Oct. 13-16, Send palanca to: Laurie Hensley 7704 Stonebridge Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- Oct. 2011 - VA: **Rainbow VdC**, Men #58: Oct. 13-16, & Women #62: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Debbie Howe 14768 Truitt Farm Dr. Centreville, VA 20120
- Oct. 2011 - AR\OK: **A-OK VDC**, Coed #21: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Palanca@aokviadecristo.org Michelle Senn
- Oct. 2011 - TN: **Tennessee VDC**, Mixed #27: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cir. Fairfield Glade, AL 39558
- Oct. 2011 - TX: **Texas Lutheran VDC**, Coed: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Ken Handley 509 Gaslight Blvd. Lufkin, TX 78154
- Oct. 2011 - FL: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men #39: Oct. 20-23, & Women #39: Oct. 27-30, Send palanca to: Freddie & Maritza Gonzalez P.O. Box 628 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- Oct. 2011 - WI: **WI Sunrise VDC**, Men #77: Oct. 20-23, & Women #78: Oct. 27-30, Send palanca to: Greg Clark 822 Broad St. Beloit, WI 53511
- Nov. 2011 - Illinois: **Prairie Sonshine VdC of Central Illinois**, Men #12 Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Greg & Anna Bergschneider 127 Westminster Jacksonville, IL 62650
- Nov. 2011 - NC: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #77: Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs 301 Cook St. Kannapolis, NC 28083
- Nov. 2011 - WI\MI: **Northern Light VDC of WI & Upper MI**, Men #17: & Women #17: : Nov. 3-6, Send palanca to: Richard Neitzel 18189 Hwy 41 W

- Champion, MI 49814
- Nov. 2011 - MN: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #570: Nov. 10-13, & Women #571: Nov. 17-20, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Nov. 2011 - AZ: **Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC**, Coed #30: Nov. 10-13, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 Clemons Way Tucson, AZ 85749
- Nov. 2011 - FL: **Sunbeam VdC**, Men #58: Nov. 10-13, & Women #58: Nov. 17-20, Send palanca to: Linda Barnard 4700 46th Ave. N. #11 St. Petersburg, FL 33714
- Nov. 2011 - TX: **Lutheran VdC of Northern Texas**, Coed 84: Oct. 20-23, Send palanca to: Barb Guinn 2832 Minosa Park Dr. Richland Hills, TX 76118

Check Web for 2011 — 2012 weekends

2012 updates have been flowing in due to the great job being done by the Palanca Coordinators. Updates are provided in many forms. Presently there is a problem with the update button on the web page so please email 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).

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 and carry out His plans. 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
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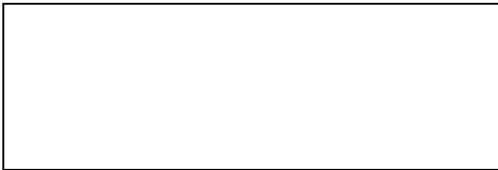


Judy Laabs-Foss
4495 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55110-3773

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www.viadechristo.org

Webmaster: Rick Hanzlik



News from NLS Distribution Center ~

We have a limited quantity of the new **NLS 2011 History Book** available to purchase. Order on the web or send a check to the NLS Distribution Center. Include your name, address, phone number, your email address plus the name of your VdC community. Send check to: NLS Distribution Center — John Bradford at 6992 So. 160 East Midvale, UT 84047

