

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2008 Annual Meeting: July 23 — 26, 2009 Hosted by the Secretariats of Florida

The Secretariats of Florida invite you to join us in coming together as a **“One in the Son”** community and look forward to welcoming you to the campus of Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. So, get out your calendars, open them to the month of July 2009, and block out the dates from July 23 to July 26 as you start making plans now to attend the next National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting (NLSAM).

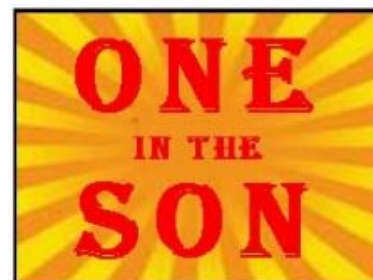
Barry University's 122-acre campus is located in the village of Miami Shores, seven miles north of downtown Miami and fourteen miles south of Fort Lauderdale. Transportation will be provided from both the Miami and Fort Lauderdale airports, although we do recommend using Fort Lauderdale when possible.

You can take a virtual tour of the campus and learn about the history of this Catholic university by visiting their web site at <http://www.barry.edu>. Plans are being finalized on all the locations we will be using on the campus. Our dorms, Benincasa Hall and Kolasa Hall, are almost brand new. You'll enjoy meals in the Rousell Dining Hall located in the Landon Student Union, which is also where you will register. We know you will find the Cor Jesu Chapel a wonderful place in which to praise and worship our Lord. Other locations, Broad Center, Andreas Building, Lehman Hall and Landon Student Center, are only steps away from each other. An on-site computer lab will be available. For those bringing their own computer, Internet access will be available in the dorms, if you indicate your request on the registration form and submit it by July 1st. You will also need to provide your own Ethernet cable.

As the gateway to Latin America and an international trade center, South Florida offers a dynamic cultural environment. Our tropical climate, which will be hot and humid at the end of July, invites you to enjoy the outdoor life year-round. You can watch any number of professional sports teams or attend a variety of cultural events. The beautiful Atlantic coast beaches and Florida Keys are just minutes away. You can check out some of the local events and attractions by visiting the <http://www.thingstodo.com/states/FL/se.htm> web site. If you are driving to the meeting, there are hundreds of things to do in the state of Florida. Just “Google” Florida Attractions and you will be overwhelmed with the choices you have to expand your vacation time in The Sunshine State, or as we like to call it, the “*Sonshine*” State.

It's not too early to begin making preparations for your trip to Florida next July. Registration and travel forms will be in the next *Conexiones*. In the meantime, the Florida Secretariats are praying for you and ask that you pray for them as plans are finalized, reservations made, and suitcases packed. Come, and join with us to celebrate as a community that we are indeed **“One in the Son.”**

The Florida Secretariat's Host Committee
Dave Rankin, Don Armbrust, Dottie Schwartz—Co-Chairs



NLS FLORIDA 2009



Cor Jesu Chapel



Spiritual Director's Report

Page 3

NLSAM Minutes

Pages 4, 5 6, & 7

Words of Encouragement

Page 5

Financial Advisor's Report

Pages 8-9

Palanca Report & Weekend Dates

Pages 10-11

Barry University Pictures

Throughout publication

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

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 26
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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 84,000 who have participated in 44 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, Jerry Lemcke, **2121 Sunbird Ct. Oviedo, FL 32765; 407-977-7568.**

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.

Spiritual Director's Report

"Trust in the Lord and lead not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5

Your National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board (NLSEB) just met the first weekend in November and I have returned more fired up and excited about what God is doing in our movement than ever before. I just kept to my little spot here in Indiana and never even knew what the Lord was and is doing around the country under the banner of Via de Cristo or Cursillo. The joy of our work was so present as we laughed and prayed together and worshiped Jesus Christ.

We worked hard over the weekend, and since I am the new kid on the block and because we were 20 minutes from the beach in North Miami I did what I could to disrupt the meeting. I suggested a time of spiritual renewal could be had at the beach near the outdoor bar. I suggested we pray and move the meeting to the side of the pool at our hotel. But nooooo.....I was that close and could only look at it from afar.

I am not complaining, I am teasing because I was so touched by the work we did while we were together. More than that, I was touched by the stories we all have to share on your national board. One of us on the board has 14 grandchildren (I think I have the number right). One of us on the board is a psychologist! One of us on the board serves a population of Indians in regard to their health and well being. The list could go on. Bottom line, the National movement is alive and well because saints like Tracy, Nu, Judy, Katie, Bob, Dave, Diane and many others love this movement and love to serve the Lord and live that out in so many ways in their lives.

We continue to covet your support and your prayers as we move quickly toward our annual meeting in July. I pray many will come and be with us this year and let's challenge each other, neighboring Secretariats and blow past our anticipated 200 registrants. Let's come together to worship, fellowship and to grow our movement. It's simple...we just follow the words of this Proverb and trust in the Lord and not on ourselves!

While the national weekend is still some 7 months away there is much to do and much to pray about. I am so very thankful for the great team of folks down in Florida who are hard at work on the details of our weekend. I am so thankful for the love, care and special work they did to host the Board over the weekend of November 7-9th for the Mid-Year meeting.

I invite you to join me as we rush into the Holidays and a New Year ahead with much on our minds and much to pray about and be concerned about...join me in simply trusting the Lord and to lean not on ourselves, but the

arms of the Lord. Jesus encircles us with love, care, grace and peace! Blessings on your Holidays and New Year.

Serving You in Christ!

Pastor Doug Givan
National Spiritual Director
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**Images from
Cor Jesu
Chapel**



NLSEB touring Barry University



NLS Board Minutes — NLS Teleconference Minutes

Tracy Schmidlin called the September 14, 2008 meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Dave Erdman, Nanette (Nu) Helgager, Pr. Doug Givan, Bob Northrup, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell, Pr. Larry Bowman, and Katie Sistar.

We welcomed Pr. Doug Givan and Pr. Larry Bowman to their first conference call with us. Pr. Doug opened with prayer.

Website Coordinator - Larry Bowman: He is still working on connection to the internet. Judy let us know that Bob has posted the newsletter to the website. We will send him the minutes.

Action Items discussed:

Tracy has processed the speaker cards collected at Nationals. She has put together a packet of information for the National Coordinator and sent it to Ed Broestl. He is taking the leadership role and has created a whole plan of action to move forward with it.

Diane stated that the renewal of the domain name was taken care of in the spring, and Bob should be getting information on this soon. Checks were issued for this to be done last spring.

Tracy will be contacting lay directors to touch base with them.

Diane is writing an insurance article and has completed the 501c and insured parts. She would like Fred Snyder to ensure that the wording is correct. She will also send it to Light in the Desert to ensure that things are being stated correctly. She will have it ready at our Mid-Year meeting for the board to review.

The copyright papers are downloaded and ready for the book.

VP Administration Report – Nu Helgager:

Communication with Florida is going well. The use of the rooms at the college will not be settled until May 29. The board can work on

the agenda without room assignments at the Mid-Year meeting. We can put out the detail agenda with locations in June.

Nu is contacting the present lead person from each region to ascertain if they are willing to continue to do that job for the coming year.

She is processing the evaluations from Phoenix, and overall they look good. It was suggested that the evaluation forms be included in the notebook so people could write comments all along. It worked out well to complete the forms and turn them in at Saturday's business meeting. The business meetings were good time-wise.

Florida is working on the registration forms for 2009 Nationals.

Secretary's report – Katie Sistar:

The board discussed adding a short teleconference after the National meeting and the Mid-Year meeting for the board to review the minutes all at one time since for those meetings there are quite a few pages to go over. This would eliminate sending minutes back and forth several times through e-mail for corrections and additions, and it would be more efficient. *Bob Northrup moved that the board add a teleconference after the Annual Meeting and the Mid-Year meeting to review the minutes. Katie Sistar seconded. Motion approved.*

Packets of information from the Annual Meeting were mailed to absent secretariat lay directors in August.

The letterhead is updated.

Katie still needs the reports from Joe Nielsen and the Regions reports to file.

There is a notebook with the original signed constitution and by-laws from 1987, and she will locate the signed revised constitution and by-laws that have been filed. We have a disk with the past minutes and records from 2005 in the secretary's records.

Treasurer – Bob Northrup:

At the Annual Meeting there was

\$4260 in unpaid dues to the National Lutheran Secretariat. He put together a new database with a current list of Treasurers and requested payment. \$3250 was collected. There are four secretariats that still need to pay last year's dues.

Jerry Lemcke will provide paperwork concerning finances from June and July by the November Mid-Year meeting.

The Thrivent account has \$21,084 and the Wachovia account has \$5660 with a total cash balance of \$26,744. He did not have the current balance for the Distribution Center.

Jerry sent the remote deposit machine which will make it possible to make deposits from his home as needed.

The board discussed the \$1000 amount that Florida may need for the Mid-Year meeting. According to the Host documents, after the expenses for the meeting are spent, they can request up to \$1000 to be reimbursed from the board.

VP Outreach – Dave Erdman:

He is beginning to contact the secretariats that weren't at Nationals. Dave brought up that there is a potential new secretariat in Michigan. They want to use the materials and do it with a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod outlook. The board discussed the ramifications of this. We decided to think of questions that the board could ask them to clarify and what needs to be done to be part of the Via de Cristo framework.

There have been feelers from N. Michigan, Utah, and Germany as well. He has sent a copy of the Essentials and the Constitution and By-laws to Oregon and will follow up.

Spiritual Director – Pr. Doug Givan:

He has gone through the folder that John gave him. He would have liked to have had more time to talk with other pastors at the Annual Meeting after he was elected. He

would like a list of Spiritual Directors to get a database of pastors and where they are. He is emailing weekly devotions to the board. He hopes to encourage ministers and bishops to be active in VdC.

Newsletter Editor – Judy Laabs-Foss: The newsletter is online now.

Financial Advisor – Diane Purcell: Northern Lights has corporation documents. Arizona called to say that they passed a resolution at Council to tithe 10% of all income from the secretariat to go toward the National Coordinator position.

Old Business:
National Coordinator position – Tracy sent a packet of information to Ed Broestl. The committee is ready to go forward.

The trademark and copyrights are up to date.

Bob is backing up the website.
Pr. Doug plans to work with Carlene Lemcke concerning worship at 2009 Nationals.

Bob found a less expensive company to do our conference calls. *Nu moved that the board change the conference call company from Quest to ACCU Conference Company. Bob seconded. Motion approved.*

Diane asked for prayers for Minnesota. We want to let the convenors know the National Board is supporting them in prayer as they plan for hosting in 2010.

Board discussed the airfare to Miami and Fort Lauderdale and plane schedules. The board decided we needed to arrive at the Fort Lauderdale airport on Thursday, November 6 instead of Friday to be able to get our planning done before flights leave on Sunday, November 9.

Pr. Doug closed with prayer. Meeting closed at 9:35 PM.



Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar

GOD'S WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you (John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5- 6)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Roman 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I Forgive you (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)



Mid year Planning with the FL Host Teams

NLS Board Minutes — Midyear meeting November 7 — 8, 2008

The NLSEB met at Barry University at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 7, 2008.

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Bob Northrup, Judy Laabs-Foss, Nanette (Nu) Helgager, Dave Erdman, Katie Sistar, and Diane Purcell. Pastor Doug Givan arrived at 11:00 a.m.

Tracy opened with prayer. Nu read a devotional that Pr. Doug had sent.

The board reviewed the September 14 Teleconference minutes. *Bob moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Nu seconded. Motion carried.*

Bob presented a Treasurer's report. All but \$500.00 of the delinquent dues has been paid. Two secretariats reported that they were unable to pay at this time. The two groups stated that they could pay a portion of the amount due. *Bob moved that Tennessee VdC's money due for March 2007 be palancaed. Dave seconded. Motion carried. Bob moved that River's Edge dues for 2007 be reduced to \$100.00. Dave seconded. Motion carried. Bob moved that Prairie Sonshine dues for 2007 be palancaed down to the payment of \$100.00. Nu seconded. Motion carried.* Wachovia account has \$4,980; Thrivent has \$21,171; Restricted Funds amount is \$1,437; and Outreach has \$6,515. He received a check from Arizona for \$6,000.00 that has not been deposited yet.

Tracy brought up the request from Ed Caputo to add his booklet for sale as an NLS resource. Judy provided copies of the book for the board to read. *Nu moved that in light of previous policies regarding the sale of items and resources that are not specific to VdC, the board is declining Ed Caputo's request to include his booklet in our resources. Dave seconded. Motion carried.*

Nu presented the board with printed copies of a chart showing the 2008 NLS evaluations. The board discussed them. A copy of this is to be on file with the minutes.

We discussed possible seminars for July.

The board reviewed the Arizona Host Committee final reports. We agreed that reports need to be in sooner than in the past so they can be gone over far ahead of the next Mid-Year meeting. It was agreed that the final reports are to be sent to the NLS board by September 1 each year. The final financial report is to be sent to the board by September 15. The board will pass on information from the reports that will be useful or helpful in planning future annual meetings.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. The board reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

The board discussed Arizona's financial report and had some questions regarding it. *Nu moved that Tracy Schmidlin be authorized to consult with Arizona about their report. Dave seconded. Motion approved.*

The board reviewed Florida's proposed budget. Bob will discuss it further with the leaders. We want to keep the price affordable for delegates and visitors to attend. *Bob moved that registration for NLS 2009 be set at \$175.00. Nu seconded. Motion approved.*

We looked up the verse for "One in the Son" theme and read John 17:21.

The board discussed possible changes in the daily agenda for the NLS annual meeting. We will add another small group breakout time; look at having the elections earlier on Saturday, and have business meetings earlier in the day to help with announcements and communication.

We discussed the need to have the delegate list from the registrations by July 1 to better plan the seating of the delegates and power point presentation. Any delegates that have not registered by that date will still be seated but will be at the end of the list.

The board recessed for supper at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

We discussed mealtimes and the extra effort for the breakfasts being provided in July. It requires extra staff time. We worked out a tenta-

tive schedule for the NLS meeting. It is on file.

We continued the discussion of possible topics for the seminars and forum. There needs to be an emphasis on what we can do in our fourth day to better enrich the lives of ourselves and the people in our communities.

Tracy informed us that Joe Nilsen has written a novel entitled Lost and Found. The board expressed gratitude that he has stated that the proceeds are to be donated to the National Coordinator campaign fund.

Pastor Doug led us in prayer. The meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m.

The board reconvened on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Doug led us in prayer. Tracy recapped the suggested seminars and the forum suggestions. We discussed descriptions and titles for them. Leaders and speakers will be asked to provide a list of resources regarding their handouts. We need to update our DVD and resources in the NLS library.

Nu presented the tentative registration and travel forms from Florida. The board discussed changes.

The board listed the forum and seminars to present in our combined meeting this afternoon. Forum – Spiritual Direction – What's stirring in you?

The seminars will include the following:

1. The Training Panel
2. Growth – the Big Picture
3. Focus – the Fourth Day
4. Corporate Nuts and Bolts – Benefits and Necessities of 501(c)(3).

The board recessed for lunch. The Host Committee for NLSAM 2009 and the NLSEB met together at 1:30 p.m.

Dave Rankin greeted us. Pastor Tom Slager gave a message using John 17:21 as the scripture verse. We celebrated communion.

Nu asked everyone to introduce themselves. All have been very involved in their fourth day. Some have been in reunion groups for over 20 years with the same peo-

NLS Board Minutes — Midyear meeting November 7 — 8, 2008 Continued

ple.

Tracy read "Hosting Is Honorable Serving." Then the Host Committee broke into small groups according to committees and met with board members for questions and discussion of things needed to prepare for the National weekend.

Tracy closed with prayer at 3:45 p.m. The board reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

We discussed ways to advertise funding for the National Coordinator position.

Nu reported that the transportation form will have a place for people to indicate their need for on site transportation. Posters will be in a convenient place to make them easier to get to and sign. The banners will be hung in that room.

Chip Spears showed us the blue and green T-shirts they will be selling at the annual meeting.

Tracy has received the corporate book with all the national corporate documents. The corporate book will remain with the office of president.

The resolutions that we are reviewing were discussed at NLSAM 2008. We continued discussion on copyrighting all NLS documents and the NLS Secretariat Trademark and Logo policy. *Bob moved that we copyright all NLS documents. Dave seconded. Motion carried.*

The copyright policy that was adopted November 8, 2008 states: National Lutheran Secretariat will copyright all original documents and publish all said materials with the appropriate copyright notation, ©. National Lutheran Secretariat will register the copyrighted documents with the United States Copyright office.

In 2010 we will need to reregister the NLS trademark for an additional 10 years. *Bob moved that we adopt the Trademark and Logo Policy. Nu seconded. Motion carried.*

The following is the policy that was adopted on November 8, 2008.

National Lutheran Secretariat has registered "Via de Cristo" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and has been issued

Reg. No. 2372407.

National Lutheran Secretariat has registered the NLS logo with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and has been issued Reg. No. 2374744.

Use of the "Via de Cristo" name and the NLS logo is strictly prohibited without the expressed written consent of the National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board.

National Lutheran Secretariat requires the use of the copyright symbol © whenever the copyrighted name "Via de Cristo" is used in a document by an outside source.

National Lutheran Secretariat has registered the name and logo in order to protect the use of name and logo. National Lutheran Secretariat will pursue remedy of unauthorized use of its name and logo.

We continued discussing the vendor's policy. *Bob moved that we adopt the following policy. Nu seconded. Motion carried.*

The Vendor Policy that was adopted on November 8, 2008 is the following:

Outside vendors who wish to sell Christian based items at the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting must be approved by the National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board no later than June 1st prior to the Annual Meeting. The National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board expects that the Host Committee will benefit financially from the vendors. The Host Committee may decide the method to be used – i.e. table charge, percentage of sales, etc.

Symbols, Inc. as provider for National Lutheran Secretariat and other 4th day community crosses is grandfathered in under this policy and is not subject to the Host Committee Vendor Policy. Symbols, Inc. is an approved vendor for all National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meetings.

Joe Nilsen, who has dedicated the profits from his book to the National Lutheran Secretariat Endowment Fund is grandfathered in under this policy and is not subject to the Host Committee Vendor Policy.

Joe Nilsen is an approved vendor for all National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meetings.

The Finance Committee recommendations from July NLS 2008 have been discussed, and the board is sending the recommendations back to committee with notations. Bob reported that he plans to send a letter to secretariats with unpaid dues the information that if dues have not been received by May 31, the financial report at NLSAM will show that the secretariat's dues are delinquent.

We will continue to address host committees or other secretariats promoting materials in competition and/or in conflict with NLS copyrighted material.

Board recessed for supper at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at the hotel at 8:35 p.m.

We discussed the Michigan group that is interested in affiliating with NLS. Dave will be contacting them for further discussions.

We went over the job descriptions in the Constitution and By-Laws and compared them with the printed job descriptions that we have. They are in sync.

The constitution states that the secretary will be in charge of the Corporate Book. We agreed that the secretary should have a copy of it and should designate the president to keep the book since he/she is required to answer more questions related to the documents.

We reviewed a request from Kairos for prayer.

Tracy and Dave will attend the Fourth Day Movement meeting in Florida in February 2009.

The teleconference call to review Mid-Year minutes is scheduled for Sunday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Pr. Doug moved the Mid-Year meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Pr. Doug led a closing prayer at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sistar
NLS Secretary



NLS Board Minutes

Teleconference to review minutes was held from 7:30 to 8:20 on November 23, 2008. Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Nu Helgager, Bob Northrup, Katie Sistar, Dave Erdman, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell. Nu moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Shepard and Ruth K. Broad Center for the Performing Arts



VIA DE CRISTO IS A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION SO WHY DO WE NEED TO TREAT IT LIKE A BUSINESS?!?!

“Why?” To protect your Secretariat and you and the assets of your Secretariat and your personal assets - both those you have now and those you acquire in the future. This may sound very business-like and a little scary but it is the reality of our litigious world.

A purpose of NLS, according to its Constitution and By-Laws, is to support, strengthen and guide the autonomous secretariats affiliated with it so that the Church may more effectively Christianize its community. This information is being provided to assist Secretariats as they go about the business of Via de Cristo.

NLS strongly encourages **ALL** Secretariats of Via de Cristo to incorporate as a Not-for-Profit corporation, apply for Not for Profit status with the Internal Revenue Service and safeguard the Secretariat by purchasing insurance.

- **INCORPORATE:** When a Secretariat is formed, the group should file incorporation papers with the Secretariat of State of the state in which the Secretariat will conduct business. **If you have not done this, do it now.** Each state has its own Not-for-Profit State Statutes which must be complied with when submitting Articles of Incorporation for recognition and registration as a Not-for-Profit Corporation of the state. The Articles must also contain certain provisions in order to file Form 1023 Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with the Internal Revenue Service.

- By incorporating the Secretariat, a level of protection exists for the individuals who are members of the Secretariat. (The Secretariat's documents will determine who is a member.) Members are to use due diligence and reasonable care in the performance of their duties and the Secretariat has a duty to protect its members.

- Incorporating is mandatory in order to file with the Internal Revenue Service to be recognized as a Not for Profit organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If a Secretariat chooses to not incorporate, every member of the organization is personally responsible for anything that happens during a Secretariat event. Should a person be injured, claim emotional or physical abuse or any other such claim, all members may be individually sued and be found liable to pay part or all of damages. (Joint and severable liability, which means that one or two people could be made to pay the whole amount.)

- **RECOGNITION of EXEMPTION UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) of the INTERNAL REVENUE CODE:** Once the Secretariat is incorporated, a federal identification number needs to be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service. This may be done at www.irs.gov. Form 1023 Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code needs to be completed and submitted to the IRS. The Form is available on line and may be downloaded to be completed. This application can be a bit overwhelming for some, but assistance is available from NLS to complete and submit the form. The last three applications that the NLS provided assistance with were approved on the first submission. The Secretariat's Constitution and By-Laws also need to be completed in order to submit with Form 1023.

- The completion of the constitution and by-laws is very important for an organization. These documents comprise the operating structure for the Se-

cretariat.

o Recognition of Exemption as a 501(c)(3) organization solidifies the Secretariat's status as a religious not-for-profit corporation. All donations to the Secretariat are deductible by the donors as a charitable donation on their personal income tax returns. Also, volunteers may also deduct mileage and actual expenses incurred as they serve the Secretariat. (As always, proper documentation should be kept for tax records.)

o Exemption under Section 501(c)(3) exempts the Secretariat from paying income taxes. The Secretariat is required to file an informational return to the IRS on an annual basis. This is required of ALL Secretariats. The correct form to file is determined by a rolling three year average of income.

o If the organization does not file for this exemption, the corporation is considered a for profit entity and is required to file a corporate income tax return and pay income taxes regardless of the income level. Also, no donations are deductible by contributors for income tax purposes.

• **INSURANCE:** Your Secretariat should purchase an insurance policy to protect both your members individually and your Secretariat as an organization. Unfortunately, in our litigious society, our Secretariats need to be good stewards and safeguard the assets of their Secretariat and the personal assets of their members. One Secretariat has already experienced this situation. A person participating on a weekend was injured and sued the Secretariat and all team members. The case has been resolved. Different types of insurance policies are available as well as different ways to obtain insurance coverage. Every Secretariat should work with an insurance agent to be sure you are adequately covered. Policies to be considered are:

- Insurance to protect the Secretariat's physical assets from damage or destruction. One Secretariat experienced a fire in their supply trailer. The trailer and all of the contents were destroyed. The Secretariat was insured.
- Insure to cover personal injury and bodily injury.
- Insurance to cover the Secretariat for expose to lawsuits stemming from allegations of sexual misconduct and molestation. Despite all precautions taken, individuals in our society have committed these types of acts. This insurance does not cover the individuals. The Secretariat is protecting its ministry, innocent volunteers and members.
- Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance to protect the Secretariat's board members against lawsuits. The board is at a greater liability exposure due to their leadership roles. One Secretariat's board has been threatened with a lawsuit but nothing went forward.

In discussion with an insurance agent, the Secretariat can determine what is the best way to protect the Secretariat.

- The insurance policy can be a full policy carried by the Secretariat. Even with a policy, the Secretariat may need to obtain additional riders for specific events.
- The Secretariat may be able to insure the weekend by purchasing a rider on the policy of the rented facility, such as a camp.

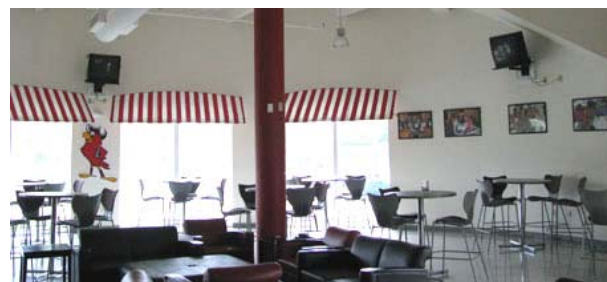
These lists are not intended to be all inclusive. Each Secretariat should discuss its insurance needs with a local agent.

This article has been prepared based upon my knowledge of the issues. I am an accountant not a lawyer or an insurance agent. Also, laws regarding not-for-profit corporations of organizations and insurance matters differ by statutes from state to state. The Secretariat needs to be in compliance with state statutes. Hopefully, the Secretariat has resources within its own community to assist with these matters. If not, the Secretariat should obtain legal counsel and/or an insurance agent to be sure that the Secretariat is in compliance with the law and adequately protected.

Diane S Purcell
Financial Adviser for NLS



Student's Events Room



PALANCA
Pray, Seek Him and He listens

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This is a familiar verse from Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). Jeremiah was writing to the Hebrews exiled in Babylon to encourage them. This verse remains an encouragement to all of us to this day. You may ask “How does this relate to palanca or prayer?” If we look to the next two verses in the passage we will find the answer. “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NIV) The key to knowing God’s plans, hopes and future for us lies with our seeking Him in prayer.

Sometimes it is that first step we are hesitant to take. The hesitancy may come from several reasons – not knowing what to pray, how to pray, our level of faith or knowledge of His Word. The key to effective prayer is knowing what the Word of God says. Our prayers must be activated by faith, an expression of our confidence in God and His Word. Our confidence will come by spending time in meditation on the Scriptures. Meditation is the key to success in prayer. Jesus’ life was evidence of what happens when a person is continually connected to God’s presence and lives a life of meditation. When we do, our confidence will be strengthened and lifted to new levels.

The promises of God in the verses from Jeremiah are sure. The end results will be His listening and response to our prayers. We must search for God with all our hearts through supplication and intercession of prayers. It is through prayers we find the solution. The prayers of intercession are the gifts of true palanca for our brothers and sisters in the Via de Cristo and fourth day communities. Only by His grace, He uses us as his tools to perform His work.

The updates to the calendar for 2009 have been flowing in due to the excellent work being done by the local Palanca Coordinators. Updates are provided in many forms but there is an update button on the web page (www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm) for anyone to use if they wish. Early scheduling and posting of dates also allows local Secretariats plenty of time to provide Palanca.

As we approach the end of 2008 and anticipate the New Year, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is during this time of reflection on the past year that we offer prayers of thanks and praise to our Lord for blessing your families, your Via de Cristo communities and all other three day movements.

Blessings, In His Service,

Paul Sabatier-Smith <)))><
 NLS Palanca Coordinator



Palanca!!!

Future weekends

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

2009 WEEKENDS:

Jan. 2009 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Men's #101: Jan. 15-18, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

Jan./Feb. 2009 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #516 Jan. 22-25, & Women's #517: Jan. 29-Feb. 1, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Feb./Mar. 2009 - California: **VDC of So CA & Central Valley**, Coed #34: Feb. 26-Mar. 1, Send palanca to: Madeline Jeter-Bell PO Box 6866 Frazier Park, CA 93222

Feb./Mar. 2009 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #518 & Men's #520 and Women's #519 & Women's #521: Feb. 26-Mar. 1, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Feb./Mar. 2009 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men's #65: Feb. 26-Mar. 1 & Women #66: Mar. 5-8, Send palanca to: Richard Petitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511

Mar. 2009 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #522 & Men's #524 and Women's #523 & Women's #525: Feb. 26-Mar. 1, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Mar. 2009 - Arizona: **Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona**, Men's #120, Mar. 12-15, & Women's #121: Mar. 26-29, Send palanca to: Greg Ahlborn 29116 N. 249th Ave. Wittman, AZ 85361

Mar. 2009 - Ohio: **Ohio Lutheran VdC**, Men's #65 Mar. 19-22 & Women's

#65: Mar. 26-29, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224

Mar. 2009 - Tennessee: **Tennessee VdC**, Mixed (coed) #22: Mar. 19-22, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558

Mar. 2009 - Louisiana: **Louisiana Lutheran VdC**, Coed #9: Mar. 26-29, Send palanca to: Erin Belsom 506 Dutton Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503

Mar. 2009 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed (coed) #7 Mar. 26-29, Send palanca to: Maureen King 4909 Middleton Lane Huntsville, TN 35816

April 2009 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Women's #100: Apr. 16-19, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

April 2009 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men's #23: Apr. 16-19 & Women's #24 Apr. 23-26, Send palanca to: Joyce Zobrist 1326 Amanda Dr. Metamora, IL 61548

April 2009 - Nebraska: **Nebraska VDC**, Coed # : Apr. 23-26, Send palanca to: Natalee Armbright 1674 H Ave. Dakota City, NE 68731

April/May 2009 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #44: Apr. 23-26, & Women's #44: Apr. 30 May 3, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843

April/May 2009 - Missouri/Illinois: **River's Edge VDC**, Men's #12 Apr. 30 May 3, Send palanca to: Laurie Dunnette 2720 Stone Valley Dr. Maryville, IL 62062

June 2009 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #526 June 18-21, & Women's #527: June 25-28, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

See NLS Palanca Web page for most current information of 2009 weekends. Please continue to help us update your information and send in your 2009 weekends.

BARRY UNIVERSITY





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Annual Meeting Items Available
All the material that was available at the 2008 Annual Meeting along with video tapes can be obtained from the Distribution Center. Order forms for all NLS materials can be found on the web page.

Conexiones Subscription / Order Forms

In this newsletter you will not find order forms for our NLS materials or tapes and the numerous crosses from Symbols, Inc. Those forms can be found on the web and can be downloaded as needed. A smaller version of the email request on page two is a reminder to sign up, but that too can be downloaded off the web. This change has been done to continue to be good stewards of our resources, since it will save us and you time and money in printing costs. We are aware that not everyone has access to the web and email services. If you are in need of either form, we encourage you to talk to someone in your secretariat who can obtain a copy of that form for you. Don't hesitate to contact the board members with any of your questions. Their address, phone numbers and email addresses is on page two.

Visited our Web Site Lately?



www.viadechristo.org
Webmaster: Larry Conway

CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

Are you interested in saving the NLS money? Please sign up to receive the E-Mail Notification by filling out the E-Mail Notification Request Form. How this works is that you will receive an email notification when the latest edition of the Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page. You then can view the newsletter at your leisure and chose to copy it.