

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT

### 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

#### Treasurer's Report

For Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2020



It has been my honor and privilege to be entrusted with your confidence as your National Lutheran Secretariat Treasurer these past two years. Among the many blessings I count each day, one, which stands out, has been the opportunity to have wonderful conversations with so many of the Secretariat officers I have encountered. Their zeal and dedication to the Via de Cristo ministry is something I will always remember fondly.

Before anything else, I would be remiss not to take a moment to add my welcome to Brian Schwarz as our new Executive Director. I know Brian will quickly realize why I have such praise and affection for my *sisters* on our Executive Board. Their diligence and faithful stewardship, even in this most trying of years, is another of the joys I will cherish forever. Suffice it to say: I LOVE IT!!! So, welcome aboard Brian, and as Pastor Doug Givan might say, "Can I get an AMEN"!!!!

Now, a few very brief comments relating to our finances. In this *virtual binder*, you will find three primary documents: a fiscal year Activity Report of receipts and disbursements; a Balance Sheet and; a copy of the Budget as recommended by your Executive Board for fiscal year 2020-2021. I urge you to review each document and if you have questions, feel free to contact me to discuss.

The Activity Report reflects a summary of the NLS cash in and cash out activity for our last fiscal year. Please note that NLS operates on a fiscal year running from June 1<sup>st</sup> (2019) through May 31<sup>st</sup> (2020). The past twelve months have been unusual to say the least, and likely the first area many of you will notice is a reduction in overall receipts. We are fairly certain that, with all of the stay-at-home and social distancing necessities, some of our member Secretariats are just now getting back up to speed. Since the end of the fiscal year and now we been in contact with many of our Lay Directors and/or Treasurers and I feel

confident that I write this report knowing that by the time it is read, we will have reconciled and undoubtedly collected a majority of any lingering balances.

A second item many will most probably note is that our overall expenditures are also down from prior year levels. Due to the shutdowns and shelter in place directives, we have expended less than in prior years. As most of you probably realize, a significant portion of our expenditures are associated with our *Annual Gathering*. So, simply put, while this past year our revenues dipped a little, so were our expenditures also lower and as of the end of our fiscal year, NLS is slightly ahead on a pure cash basis.

Looking to next year's proposed Budget, there are two areas I want to touch on. One reality of the shutdowns is that we know many of our member Secretariats will be holding fewer weekends in calendar year 2020; thus, our projected revenues will likely be down some in the next fiscal year. Many of our members will likely qualify for the 50% reduced annual dues rate, which reflects hosting fewer than two weekends in a year.

A second, direct impact of our inability to hold an in-person *Annual Gathering* is that our Outreach Fund has been historically front-loaded from the free-will offering, which is traditionally taken at Saturday evening's Vespers Service. Consequently, in the coming fiscal year, we will be relying on a portion of the existing balance in the Outreach Fund to help cover our anticipated outreach expenses. We have confidence that, as our world slowly re-opens around us, our members' generosity will be there to help replenish our Fund balances. For now, we move forward, trusting in our faith and a knowledge that our Lord will lead and guide us as we seek to live into our individual environments, sharing God's word and grace with all around us. As I think about it, it actually seems that one of the main reasons we have an Outreach Fund is so that it is available for unforeseen times. And certainly no one other than our Creator could have foreseen this past year.

One final area of activity I want to bring to your attention is our Distribution Center. Through Tom Krause's stewardship, our Distribution Center provides our brothers and sisters VdC related materials at affordable prices. So, while here too, our new norm for now is that with fewer weekends, Secretariats will need fewer supplies, through Tom's stewardship we were able to close the current

fiscal year with an ability to transfer roughly \$3,500 into our general fund balance. Tom, well done, oh good and faithful servant of our Lord.

Finally, I again thank you for your trust, and, if it is your will, pledge my faithful stewardship of NLS funds in the coming year. God Loves You and So Do I.

Humbly submitted.

Jim Ryan, *NLS Treasurer*

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