

NLS Annual Gathering 2020
VPO- Vice President Outreach
Annual Report

This past year has been my first full year as Vice President Outreach. This has been a year of plenty of ups and downs, many joys as well as challenges and I have learned a lot. As VPO, one of my duties is to support our very valuable Regional Coordinators (RC) as they assist each secretariat within their region acting as liaison between them and National. The RC's and I have several meetings throughout the year where we share updates of what is happening in each secretariat. Are there questions or concerns? Are there struggles that National can help with? Are there areas of growth that can be shared in other regions? The RC's goal is to build a relationship with each secretariat in their region and help them where they can, to become stronger in their community. The RC's are also asked to help National to keep their records and contact information up to date. Though this may seem like a very easy task, without the help of each secretariat's board, it is sometimes quite the challenge. From my time on the NLS board, receiving current and updated contact information has been a true struggle. In this next year, I hope to, with the help of the community, make this a more streamlined process. In life, I feel that when asking something from someone, it is important to help them understand why. I would like to remind everyone that Via de Cristo is a Ministry that operates as a 501c3. Within this ministry, there are 43 secretariats. The board positions of those secretariat's change frequently and, without the help of the community, the NLS cannot keep up with that information. Without that information and without the updated contact information, the board has no way of sending very important information that is needed to help this ministry run successfully. Examples of this importance; the NLS treasurer needs updated info. to send out the Annual Dues Statement, the NLS secretary needs correct information to send out the Annual Activities Report, and so on. Furthermore, the Annual Activities Report is used to determine how many voting delegates each secretariat is entitled to. Delegates are based on either the number of weekends held during the previous year or the number of new candidates who have attended a weekend from all previous years. We need this information to fulfill what our Bylaws state, which is: A quorum for the traction of business at any meeting of the National Lutheran Secretariat shall consist of a majority of the delegates, laity and clergy, authorized to vote at the time of such meeting. Simply put, it is not possible for the NLS board or this Ministry to run properly without our Ministry working together. So, getting simple contact information is of much more importance than just NLS board having it. It is absolutely essential. I wanted our community to know just how much we need to work together. As VPO, I ask the Regional Coordinator (RC) to be in contact with each secretariat in their region to obtain this updated information, as one of their duties. It is also the responsibility of each secretariat to make sure that this information is updated and sent to NLS. The contact information of the most importance are six positions that are held on each secretariat board. Those positions are Lay Director (or President), Assistant Lay Director (or Vice President), Secretary, Treasurer, Spiritual Director, and Palanca Chair. For those positions, the information needed is Email, Phone Number, and Street Address; current holders of those positions only. The RC's and I have discussed the many ways that might be best in making these connections. Building a solid relationship and a consistent connection with the RC in each region's secretariat is vital to keeping good communication between our VDC community and our NLS board. This connection helps the whole Via de Cristo ministry growing and growing strong. Please make sure



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that you know the RC that represents your region. Check out the Regional Coordinators link on the NLS website. Please also contact me, your VPO, at anytime using the contact information also located on the NLS website.

Our meetings this year were held June, July, Sept, Dec, Jan, and May. Our next meeting is scheduled July 15, 2020. In July 2019, we introduced our newest RC, Shelli Eder, who is the Regional Coordinator of Region 2. In 2019, we also welcomed a new Secretariat that was formed in Minnesota, Ignite Via de Cristo.



In November 2019 the NLS board had our Midyear meeting held in Minnesota. During this meeting one of the topics discussed was the implementation of term limits for our RC's. Many of our RC's have held this role for more than a decade. Their time has been greatly valued and appreciated! As a ministry growing Christian leaders, there are many positive reasons that this implementation was something we felt was of high importance. The new terms set in place for our RC's is a four-year term, with year four being one of transition and mentorship. The board is very excited for this growth and development! This year we express much gratitude and appreciation for our Region 1 Coordinator, Kim Brownlow, as she gracefully passes the torch. Kim has paved a beautiful path for the RC who follows and this transition will be a great example of how this process of building leaders should work! Kim not only has been an exemplary RC for her region, but now also a wonderful mentor. Thank you, Kim!

With that, I want to introduce our new Region 1 RC, Karen Weires! Karen has been an active participant in her local secretariat, as well as being a part of the board of Light in the Desert VdC serving as Communications Chair, as well as the Technology/Media Coordinator. She has an amazing passion for this ministry and happy she will now be serving in her new role of Regional Coordinator! Welcome Karen!

This year we also thank Chris Rasmussen for his loyalty to the Regional Coordinator's position for Region 6. Chris has played many roles throughout the years with both the NLS, as well as with his local secretariats, Eastern NC VdC and Lake Gaston VdC. Along with being the RC for NLS for many years, Chris has stayed very active in serving on many teams and recently serving as Rector! I know that Chris will continue to be a blessing to this ministry! Thank you, Chris. We do not currently have a new RC to fill this position. If you know someone in Region 6 who you believe would make a good candidate for RC, or if you are interested in more information, please reach out to me using the VPO contact information on the NLS website.

We are also in need of a Regional Coordinator for Region 7. This Region is made up of only one state, Florida. If you know someone in Region 7 who you believe would make a good candidate for RC, or if you are interested in more information, please do let me know.

In January of 2020, I had the opportunity to attend the annual 4th Day Forum that was held in DeBary, Florida at the Kairos Prison Ministry International Office. Attending this meeting was an absolute joy!

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Represented at this meeting was one or more from the following 4th day ministries; Catholic Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias, Presbyterian Cursillo and Pilgrimage, Walk to Emmaus, Kairos Prison Ministry, Kairos Troch, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Inside. This forum gave wonderful insight to how the other 4th day ministry operates, the areas of growth they are celebrating, as well as the struggles each are facing. Our time together was very positive and uplifting. The biggest thing that we all had in common was the desire to get back to basics and the acknowledgment of how critical it is that we get there. I am happy to speak to anyone about any of the information and ideas that were shared, just please reach out to me again, using the VPO contact information on the NLS website. I greatly look forward to attending next year's forum, as well.



I appreciate you all reading this Annual Report and if you have any questions or would like any clarity or more information about anything above, please reach out to me! I am glad to help anyway that I can!

Many Blessing!
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