

**District 1 Report to the NAR Board**  
**August, 2010**

**DLC** Stephen ♥ Sue Rufe  
**DCC** Ed ♥ Emily Kast  
**DPCC** Charles ♥ Billie Roach

**The District 1 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Board wishes to express our concern to the NAR Board regarding the following components of the current Deeper Weekend/Outline:**

- The requesting/suggesting of a \$100/month commitment for a year from the couples attending the Deeper Weekend
- Not giving couples the opportunity on the Deeper Weekend to privately and prayerfully consider their response to this request
- The material that suggests that this donation is to cover costs of the Deeper Weekend
- Financial considerations contributing to couples' decision to become presenters;' or that it may affect their continuing with their presenting commitment if they perceive that they are unable to continue to financially 'afford it'

Although we appreciate that this donation request is presented as a suggestion in a loving context, and that the objective is to encourage commitment to the program, we are concerned for the following reasons:

- Many of the couples have recently attended their original Weekend where they have already likely made a financial commitment from 'their substance'
- No matter how lovingly this is presented, because this is generally a very committed group of couples, some may "hear" it as a requirement, which may put undue financial pressure on the couples
- A significant financial expectation may preclude younger couples or couples of lesser means from pursuing presenting as a way of contributing their time and talents to the ministry
- Writing Couples may see their major commitment to the ministry for the next year as a financial one, rather than seeing their major commitment being the completion of their talk writing
- Financial pressures may contribute to the loss of writing couples
- Generally, many are not being properly prepared for the request of a substantial donation
- We'd prefer to convey to the couples that Lutheran Marriage Encounter is putting our trust in them by funding their Deeper, rather than having them pay for it

At our last District 1 Board meeting in the Spring of 2010, the Board had consensus that if an opportunity to make a financial commitment must be offered on the Deeper:

- A dollar amount not be specified
- Couples are given an opportunity to go back to their rooms to privately and prayerfully consider their commitment
- The Kickoff materials better prepare the couples for whatever the request will be
- Writing couples are told that their donation is a general commitment to the program, not a covering of their Deeper costs

*Respectfully Submitted by the District 1 Board, August, 2010*

**Additional concerns that we respectfully request be brought to NAR Board discussion:**

1. The possibility of some-type of "AREA LOA" (Leave of Absence) or other ideas for a possible (hopefully) short-term solution to a growing problem. We are currently facing the loss of several long-term leadership couples at the Area level, where there is no-one ready or willing to 'take over the helm.' Two formerly very active Areas in District 1 have ALCs who have been serving as Area Leadership for the better part of their over 30 years in the ministry. Neither of these Areas has ACCs; one doesn't have an APCC either. These couples have submitted notice of their impending retirement and have expressed to us that no-one is on-board to take over the Area. Instead of Areas ceasing to exist when faced with this challenge, might there be some type of Area LOA during which time Areas would not be expected to actively hold Weekends, attend District Meetings, etc., thus giving a time of respite to the leadership couples? Other ideas?

There is an obvious need for leadership training in the raising up of new leaders. At our Fall District Meeting, the Kasts will be presenting a Workshop on that topic as that is one of Emily Kast's roles in her Christ Care Ministry work. However, there is a need for stop-gap measures until leadership couples are equipped to mentor their replacements.

We'd appreciate input from other Board members as to how they are dealing with these issues in their Areas.

2. Briefly brought up at recent NAR meetings is the re-defining of what constitutes an Area. We see this becoming more of a necessity for a variety of reasons (the clergy shortage, long-time leadership nearing active leadership retirement, shrinking financial resources, etc.). We'd be most appreciative of the Board members' input.
3. A recurrent challenge in just about all Areas is how to increase Post-Weekend involvement. Without newly encountered couples being involved in the ministry following their Weekends, the ministry will not be sustained. (Even the KYRAP Program events, which require only a one-time commitment of attendance, is facing challenges as it's becoming increasingly difficult to find folks to lead the events). Any ideas?

**D1 LEADERSHIP REPORT RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**

*Stephen ♥ Sue Rufe, DLC*

*Ed ♥ Emily Kast, DCC*

*Charles ♥ Billie Roach, DPCC*

**2010-2011 DISTRICT 1 WEEKENDS & EVENTS SCHEDULED:**

			<b>2010</b>	
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>FACILITY</b>
	2/19-2/20/10	District Meeting	Middleburg Heights, OH	Comfort Inn
1	2/26-2/28/10	Michigan	Lansing, MI	Hampton Inn
2	2/26-2/28-10	Carolinas	Myrtle Beach, SC	Sea Mist
	3/5 - 3/7/10	Ohio Retreat	Twinsburg, OH	Hilton Garden Inn
3	3/5 - 3/7/10	Nat'l Cap	Gaithersburg, MD	Summerfield Suites
4	3/12-3/14/10	Ohio	Worthington, OH	Courtyard by Marriott
5	3/19-3/21/10	WPA	State College, Pa	Toftrees Golf Resort
6	4/9-4/11	Ontario-CX'D	Stratford, Ontario, Canada	Arden Park Inn
7	4/16-4/18/10	FL-CX'D	Kissimmee, FL	Best Western
8	4/16 - 4/18/10	Michigan	Auburn Hills, MI	Wingate Inn
9	4/23-3/25/10	Ohio	Hudson, OH	Clarion Inn & Conference Center
10	4/30-5/2/10	WPA	Cambridge Spring, Pa	The Riverside Inn
11	4/30-5/2/10	New England	Meriden, CT	Four Points Sheraton
	7/9-7/11/10	OH Family Camp	Louisville, OH	Cutty's Sunset Camping Resort
12	9/3-9/5/10	Carolinas	Black Mountain, NC	Christmount Christian Assembly
13	10/8-10/10/10	Ohio	Solon, OH	SpringHill Suites Marriott,
14	10/15 - 10-17/10	Michigan	Bridgman, MI	Bethel Park Retreat Center
15	10/22-10/24/10	Western PA	Sharon Pa	Radisson Hotel
	10/29-10/30/10	District Meeting	Middleburg Heights, OH	Comfort Inn
16	11/5-11/7/10	FL.	Kissimmee, FL	Best Western
	11/5 - 11/7/10	Michigan	Veterans Weekend	The Shack
17	11/12-11/14/10	Ontario	Stratford, Ontario, Canada	Arden Park Inn
18	11/12 - 11/14/10	New England	Meriden, CT	Four Points Sheraton
			<b>2011</b>	
1	2/11 - 2/13/11	Michigan	Birch Run, MI	Comfort Inn
2	2/25 - 2/27/11	Carolinas	Myrtle Beach, SC	Sea Mist
3	3/11 - 3/13/11	Ohio	North West OH	TBD
	3/18 - 3/20/11	Ohio Retreat	North Olmsted, OH	Radisson Cleveland-Airport
4	3/25-3/27/11	Pennsylvania	State College, PA	Toftrees Golf Resort
5	4/29 - 5/1/11	Ohio	North East OH	TBD
6	4/29 - 5/1/11	Pennsylvania	White Haven, PA	Mountain Laurel Resort & Spa
7	5/13 - 5/15/11	Michigan	Auburn Hills, MI	Wingate by Wyndham
	7/8-7/10/11	OH Family Camp	Louisville, OH	Cutty's Sunset Camping Resort
8	9/16-9/18/11	Pennsylvania	Ludlow, PA	Olmsted Manor
9	11/11 - 11/13/11	Ohio	Hudson/Akron/Canton Area	TBD

**DISTRICT 1 LEADERSHIP, STAFF, AND PRESENTERS' ROSTERS** (Submitted as separate documents)

**DISTRICT FINANCIALS/WEEKEND STATISTICS: JANUARY, 2010 THROUGH JUNE, 2010:**

9 Weekends held; 2 Weekend Cancelled (up 1 each from the prior 6 mo. Period)

Total Couples Encountered: 121; Average number of couples per Weekend: 13.4 (down 1.3 from previous 6 mo. period); Number of Lutherans: 162; Lutheran Clergy Couples: 7 (4 more than in previous 6 mos.); Non-Lutheran Clergy Couples: 2; (1 more than in previous 6 mos.)

Total Donations: \$36,478.00; Average Donation per Couple: \$301.47 (down \$50.67 per couple)

Total Facility Costs: \$38,478.00; Average per couple facility cost: \$318.09 (up \$19.19 per couple)

Total Travel/Pulpit Costs: \$2357.42 (up \$441.77)

*District 1 Financial/statistical information submitted by Duffy & Nan Guthrie, DFC*

## DISTRICT 1 AREA REPORTS FOR AUGUST, 2010 NAR MEETING



### AREA: CAROLINAS

ALC: Billie & Charles Roach Co-Lay contacts Ken & Gina Schiess

ACC: Tom and Robin Cogan

Area Prayer Concerns: We ask for prayers for the family of Mitzie Edwards who went to our Lord. Bill and Mitzie were the registration couple for the Carolina's and were among the most loyal and faithful members of the M-E team. Mitzie will be sorely missed.

Prayers for the recovery of Brian Denny and strength for his wife Jessica. Brian & Jessica Denny were on the February weekend in Myrtle Beach and Brian fell at work a couple of weeks later and is paralyzed from the shoulders down. What and when he will recover is still in the Lord's hands. Jessica has been amazingly faithful and has a strong church family for support but can use all the prayer help she can get.

Prayers for Bill & Bonnie Koon's grand-daughter who will undergo touch up to a brain surgery she had last year. She has regained much of her function, walking across the stage at her high school graduation and now beginning college.

AREAS GREATEST CHALLENGE: Finding a new facility for Western NC weekends. Christmount is becoming too difficult to work with and too expensive.

One or More Tactics We Will Take Before Year's End To Help Overcome This Challenge :  
We are talking to hotels in Charlotte trying to find one that will work with us.

2010/2011 AREA ACTIVITIES : Due to the logistics none are scheduled.

AREA AND FINLAND PARTNERSHIP: No Activity. Previous attempts simply didn't work out.

Concerns/Questions/Additional Input/Info: Our powerful waiting list has dwindled and we are no longer filling weekends. While we are still strong (well in double digits) we are not filling the 20 -24 couple facility maximums.

Submitted by: Ken & Gina Schiess for the Leadership Team

### AREA: FLORIDA

ALC: MARTY & LOIS LIGHT

ACC:

APCC: MARTY & LOIS LIGHT

AREA PRAYER CONCERNS: Sympathy to Lea (Gil) Marsh whose husband Gil passed to his heavenly reward. They were our Supply Couple for many years.

## AREA: FLORIDA (continued)

**AREA'S GREATEST CHALLENGE:** Inviting, filling Loving Tasks, having the two couples writing to finish, have presenting couples attend a PCC get together, finding a Clergy Couple for Florida or knowing that we'll have a Clergy Couple for upcoming weekends at least 6 months ahead.

**ONE OR MORE TACTICS WE WILL TAKE BEFORE YEAR'S END TO HELP OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE:** Prayer and Dialogue

**AREA & FINLAND WEEKEND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:** We haven't been involved in this activity.

**CONCERNS/QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INPUT/INFORMATION:** We have been fortunate to be able to contract with our facility at least a year ahead of time for scheduled weekends. That being said, we are frustrated with the fact that we don't have clergy scheduled even in time to send out information to our churches, thus seldom knowing if we will have a weekend, regardless of registration. Another concern is obvious lack of involvement from other couples for Loving Tasks and inviting.

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** MARTY & LOIS LIGHT

## AREA: MICHIGAN

ALC: Brian & Donna Zelner

ACC: Bill & Janis Hessler

APCC: Don & Judy Christiansen

### **MICHIGAN AREA PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Karl Wolfanger - Recently put on medication for his thyroid. Doctors believe his thyroid may have been a large part of his sleep apnea problem.

Linda Steinke - Recently had surgery for intestinal cancer. She will begin having chemo following her recovery. Also prayers for Bob Steinke who is on oxygen 24/7 and is taking care of Linda.

Jessica Doud - She is undergoing "plasma cleansing & transfusion" for a blood disease called Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura.

Dorothy Freytag (mother of Sandie Cain) - Has stage 3 lymphoma. She will be having several bone biopsies and begin chemo next week.

Sheila Zelner - Is undergoing a series of four more chemo treatments in the hopes that the cancer in her liver will shrink enough for additional surgery to be performed.

### **AREA'S 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Kalamazoo area held a marriage seminar using Pastor Mark Gungor's video series.

## AREA: MICHIGAN (continued)

Bob & Sandie Cain have become our post-weekend coordinators. We hope to get a better handle on post-weekend engagement of couples.

Southeast Michigan Love Circle seems to be growing in number and flourishing in excitement and involvement.

### AREA'S GREATEST CHALLENGE:

Getting young couples involved following their weekends.

Also acquiring new presenting couples.

### ONE OR MORE TACTICS WE WILL TAKE BEFORE YEAR'S END TO HELP OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE:

More post-weekend communication between board and new couples.

### 2010/2011 AREA ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED: (i.e. Inviting Events, Retreats, Campouts, KYRAP events, etc. for inclusion on [www.ilmeone.org](http://www.ilmeone.org) website)

Veteran's Renewal at The Shack in November.

Potlucks.

### AREA & FINLAND WEEKEND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:

We have exchanged love letters for our assigned weekend, other than that, very little communication has transpired.

### CONCERNS/QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INPUT/INFORMATION:

Would like suggestions on getting couples to fill out the "Sharing Your Gifts" form and returning their input to us.

We have two couples that are strongly considering writing to become presenters, Yea God!

### ADDITIONS/CHANGES/CORRECTIONS TO THE 2010/2011 DISTRICT 1 WEEKEND

DATES & LOCATIONS SCHEDULE: February 11-13, 2011 - Birch Run - Comfort Inn

May 13-15, 2011 - Auburn Hills - Wingate by Wyndham

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Brian & Donna Zelner

## AREA: NATIONAL CAPITAL

ALC:

ACC:

APCC: George & Janeen Wadzita

Alan & Arline Fraser have retired as APCCs after years of dedicated service. New APCCs are George & Janeen Wadzita. There are currently no other active leadership couples in the Area. Jake & June Rabatin have been standing-in as ALCs for District connections/communications. After a small weekend earlier this year, the National Capital Area has no Weekends currently scheduled.

## AREA: NEW ENGLAND

ALC: Jeff & Karen Jackson

ACC: Bob & Linda McGurn

APCC: Jeff & Karen Jackson

### AREA PRAYER CONCERNS (New England):

Unemployment, economy, weekend cancellations

### AREA'S 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The lights are still on and we're functioning at the basic level even though we had to cancel the last weekend and the one before that was a small weekend. The faith and dedication of the "core" is keeping things alive.

### AREA'S GREATEST CHALLENGE:

1. Recruiting new couples to attend Encounter weekends.
2. Attracting new couples recently Encountered to return for regular monthly Spiral meetings.

### ONE OR MORE TACTICS WE WILL TAKE BEFORE YEAR'S END TO HELP OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE:

1. Have a weekend in November with more than 10 couples each weekend. Visit 10 churches and present temple talks by September 30th. Contact 20 pastors by phone to enlist their verbal support for the weekend with their congregations. Mass mail all Lutheran churches in CT, MA and parts of NY, NH, RI, VT, ME.
2. Do everything possible to have newly Encountered couples attend Spirals.
3. Keep two operating Spirals active.
4. Keep the faith and keep LME alive in New England.

### CONCERNS/QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INPUT/INFORMATION:

Ideas that will help to support our challenge of gaining a higher percentage of newly Encountered couples to return monthly Spiral Meetings.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff & Karen Jackson

## AREA: OHIO

ALC: Bruce & Mary Ann Breslin

ACC: Jon & Bonnie Bell

APCC: Bob & Darlene Kail

### AREA PRAYER CONCERNS:

Debbie Moore's mother who suffered a stroke

Fell's, for a successful delivery for a healthy grandson

**AREA: OHIO (continued)**

**AREA'S 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

A large non-denominational church has been helping us fill our weekends  
January - KYRAP Prayer Workshop & Potluck - 15 couples participated  
March - "His Love Endures Forever" Annual Retreat - 19 couples from OH & PA  
April - Hudson Weekend - 21 couples encountered  
July - Encountered Families 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campout - 23 families participated  
Continuing to partner with a large non-denominational church to provide enrichment opportunities through LME

**AREA'S GREATEST CHALLENGE:**

Filling weekends  
Getting new presenters  
Post Weekend involvement of newly encounterer  
Financial support from non-Lutheran WE attendees

**ONE OR MORE TACTICS WE WILL TAKE BEFORE YEAR'S END TO HELP OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE:**

Decided to cancel the November 2010 weekend to ease the pressure of recruiting

**2010/2011 AREA ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED:** *(i.e. Inviting Events, Retreats, Campouts, KYRAP events, etc. for inclusion on [www.ilmeone.org](http://www.ilmeone.org) website)*

November 2010 - Appreciation dinner for the Ohio Area Planning Team  
March 2011 - "One in Christ, One in Love" - 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ohio Encountered Couples Retreat  
July 2011 - "Story Book" themed 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Encountered Families Campout

**AREA & FINLAND WEEKEND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:**

No update

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:**

Bruce & Mary Ann Breslin

**AREA: ONTARIO** - No Report Submitted at this time

**AREA: PENNSYLVANIA**

ALC: Fred & Julie Schamber

ACC:

APCC: Fred & Julie Schamber

**AREA PRAYER CONCERNS:** Prayers requested for our three writing couples, and for relief from the continuing health struggles of Lisa Yothers.



## **AREA: PENNSYLVANIA (continued)**

**AREA'S 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Three weekends are being held this year--one in each of the Western PA Synodical Areas. We just added the eastern half of PA to our territory to now become PENNSYLVANIA AREA—adding 903 churches to our database. For 2011, we've scheduled one Weekend in the middle of the state and one on the eastern end and one in the western part, and we hope to be able to schedule a 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

**AREA'S GREATEST CHALLENGES:** Involving more couples post-weekend, especially in the newly-acquired eastern end of the state.

### **ONE OR MORE TACTICS WE WILL TAKE BEFORE YEAR'S END TO HELP OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE:**

We have spent a weekend in the Poconos looking at facilities and have scheduled a Weekend there especially for the eastern end of the state. We have received the list of encountered couples for the eastern half of the state and have done a lot of calling to update records and get the couples added to our database of encountered couples so they will receive our email newsletters and information encouraging them to support the Weekends.

### **2010/2011 AREA ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED:**

We've not yet scheduled any events in our area, but are very privileged to be allowed to invite our couples to Ohio's M.E. Retreat, Camp-out, and KYRAP activities.

### **AREA & FINLAND WEEKEND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:**

Continuing to support Weekends in the Valkeakoski area—not seeing any scheduled there this fall. Finding it a challenge each time to locate who is the coordinator of the Caring notes for each Weekend. We also check with Asko & Leena Peltola each year to get their ok to include their Caring Notes in our packets.

### **ADDITIONS/CHANGES/CORRECTIONS TO THE 2010/2011 DISTRICT I WEEKEND**

#### **DATES AND LOCATIONS SCHEDULE:**

March 25 - 27, 2011 -- Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center, State College PA Clergy: Kasts, 3rd Set: Schambers

April 29-May 1, 2011 -- Mountain Laurel Resort & Spa, White Haven, PA Clergy: McGurns, 3rd Set: Schambers

September 16-18, 2011 -- Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center Clergy: Bells, 3rd Set: Schambers

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Fred & Julie Schamber