

NORTH AMERICAN REGION
CALL TO BE FAMILY
DBA Lutheran Marriage Encounter
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January 23, 2021

Hello NAR Board Members,

This package provides the minutes of the virtual NAR Board Meeting that was held on January 23, 2021 via Zoom.

The minutes record the proceedings of the meeting. We attempt to avoid repeating the contents of the prepared District and Staff reports, so please read the entire package for completeness.

Please Note: The posted reports are prepared before the meeting for presentation and discussion. Concerns, requests and proposals may be modified during the meeting, so the reports attached to the minutes may not reflect decisions of the board. Matters of consensus are recorded in the minutes.

Next NAR Board Meeting: The next NAR Board meeting TBD, sometime in April.

The **Distribution List** for these minutes is as follows: NAR Lay & Clergy Execs, NAR Staff, District Lay & Clergy Execs, Area Lay & Clergy Contact Couples, Area Presenting Couple Coordinators (APCCs), European Region Lay & Clergy Execs, ILME Chair Couple, Canadian Facilitators, and Canadian Finance Couple.

To accommodate distribution of the minutes, the contents will be organized into several sections for easier downloading and printing. The minutes are available to all presenting couples, at www.ilme.org and at <https://godlovesmarriage.org/document-center> .

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Agenda

Attending NAR Board Members:

Hartmans, Prestons, Fells, Guynns, Engles, Pedersens, Steinkes, Spencers, Coles, Redmans, Ricks (Charlotte only), Leinickes. Guest – Ryan and Esther Brooks.

Saturday, January 23, 2021 8:00 AM PST
Zoom video call.

Welcome and opening prayer by Mick and Sandy Preston.

Previous to the call participants had answered a few short questions about themselves via e-mail. During the call each one was allowed to comment on what they had read or share their favorite thing from the lists. This was used as a getting to know you which would normally be done during in person meetings, sometimes called “library time” among the regulars.

Minutes from the June 27, 2020 virtual meeting were approved by consensus with no changes.

Executive Report

Report is included in the attachments. A new idea suggested is to start doing video meetings quarterly instead of twice a year. Hopefully we can still meet in person once a year, once the Covid pandemic is under control. More frequent meetings would keep decisions moving rather than tabling things for long periods. The board was in agreement to try this approach. Jean Fell asked for the roster for the Inter Faith Board. Marty Hartman reported that it is in flux right now with lots of changes, but promised to share when available. Zoom accounts have been set up for each district with the district executives having the information and being responsible to control the use. These accounts can be used for virtual weekends and other meetings, such as Journey Groups.

Staff Reports

Media – Report by Craig and Connie Leinicke

Report is included in the attachments. Each area needs to update their contact lists for churches so that emails can be sent to publicize upcoming weekends and events. Continue to submit post weekend lists to Leinickes. Jean Fell suggested that someone start an email newsletter, similar to the paper version we had until a few years ago. This would go to all encountered couples and be a way to contact couples that have stopped attending events in hopes of getting them involved again. Connie said this could be posted on the Continuing the Journey side of the GodLovesMarriage site under resources. It was also suggested to add a Community button to the top of the home page on the site, which would be for encountered couples.

Finance – Report by Dean and Marcia Redman

Reports are included in the attachments. Expenses are down, due to less meetings. We did not hold an in person board meeting in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. We did give refunds for some registration fees due to weekends not being held.

District Reports

All reports are included in the attachments. Q&A was open for any discussion on the reports. Engles asked to receive registration lists for all weekends so they can write letters for the weekends. These lists could possibly be added to the Continuing the Journey site also. Questions were asked to clarify the difference between registration fees, which have been waived through 2021 based on a decision from June 2020, and fees for a virtual event. It was previously determined that virtual events would cost \$100, which would cover printing and mailing materials to participants. This is different than a registration fee, which is for in person events.

Pending and New Business Matters

Call for consensus to accept development of the Marriage Encounter App with an initial financial commitment of up to \$30,000 from NAR funds (Dream Fund). This will show commitment to the project and support of the commendable App Committee work. The app should help make more couples aware of LME once launched. There will be ongoing costs once launched.

Consensus was given by video voting to continue development of the app.

Restructuring

Due to time restraints, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Succession Plan

Due to time restraints, this topic was also tabled until the next meeting.

Next meeting will again be virtual, dates to be determined, hopefully in April.

Prestons will be sending out a google doc for questions regarding district report questions and answers as well as any other questions or comments from the meeting. Please check regularly and add your comments and questions.

Meeting was closed with prayer led by Ted Hartman.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan and Charlotte Ricks, NAR Board Secretary Couple