

NORTH AMERICAN REGION LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2018

NORTH AMERICAN REGION
CALL TO BE FAMILY
DBA Lutheran Marriage Encounter
Dan & Charlotte Ricks
Secretary Couple
1725 W. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614
Phone (309) 682-7273
dcrLME1094@comcast.net
January 27, 2018 11:00 AM EST

Dear Lovers,

This package provides the minutes of the virtual NAR Board Meeting that was held on January 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST via GoToMeeting.

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 will be held, June 24-26, 2018 in Lombard, Illinois following the WWME 50th anniversary reunion.

The **NAR Roster** reflects the changes to the NAR Board, as of the date of the meetings.

The **Distribution List** for these minutes is as follows: NAR Lay & Clergy Execs, NAR Staff, District Lay & Clergy Execs, District Presenting Couple Coordinators (PCCs), District Finance Couples, 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, and are on the www.ILME.org website.

Table of Contents

0.1 January 2018 NAR Board meeting minutes

Appendix A – Staff Reports

- A.1 2018 01 Deeper Report
- A.2 2018 01 NAR Media Report
- A.3 2018 01 Preliminary Financial Report 2017
- A.4 2018 01 Presenting Couple Responsibilities

Appendix B – Presenters Rosters

- B.1 District I Presenters Roster Jan 2018
- B.2 District II Presenters Roster Jan 2018
- B.3 District III Presenters Roster Jan 2018
- B.4 District IV Presenters Roster Jan 2018

Appendix C – Leadership Rosters

- C.1 District I Leadership Roster Jan 2018
- C.2 District II Leadership Roster Jan 2018
- C.3 District III Leadership Roster Jan 2018
- C.4 District IV Leadership Roster Jan 2018
- C.5 2018 01 LME NAR Board Roster

Appendix D – District Reports

- D.1 District I Report Jan 2018
- D.2 District II Report Jan 2018
- D.3 District III Report Jan 2018
- D.4 District IV Report Jan 2018

Appendix E – LME Experience

- E.1 LME Experience Comment Sheet for Presenting Couples
- E.2 LME Experience Facility Report
- E.3 LME Experience Follow-Up Call
- E.4 LME Experience Materials Checklist
- E.5 LME Experience Post Encounter Evaluation
- E.6 LME Experience Weekend Time Schedule
- E.7 LME Presenters Scheduling Assignment Sheet
- E.8 Table Questions Saturday Breakfast
- E.9 Table Questions Saturday Lunch
- E.10 Table Questions Saturday Dinner
- E.11 Table Questions Sunday Breakfast
- E.12 Table Questions Sunday Lunch

Appendix F - Miscellaneous

- F.1 3RE DVD Facilitator's Agreement
- F.2 3RE DVD Interfaith Rollout
- F.3 3RE DVD Nuts and Bolts Information
- F.4 ILME Reunion 2017 Summary Report
- F.5 2018 01 27 NAR Virtual Meeting Agenda
- F.6 2018 01 NAR Action Items Summary 21618

Appendix G – Post Meeting Additions

- G.1 2018 01 Annual Financial Report 2017
- G.2 2018 01 Presentation Points 1-2
- G.3 2018 01 Radio Spot by Arners in MI
- G.4 2018 01 Thrivent Info

Attending NAR Board Members:

Kasts, Rufes, Fells, Bates', Guillfoiles, Larsons, Prestons, Hartmans, Redmans, Leinickes, Ricks (Charlotte), Schambers, Teuschers, joining late Heins'

Saturday, January 27, 11:00 AM EST

Some joined by video and some by phone

Prayer – led by Steve and Sue Rufe

Welcome, introductions and sharing of goals for 2018.

Ed and Emily Kast shared on Successfully Executing Goals. Establish smart goals. Identify steps to reach the goal. Challenge the group. Report back the results.

Commissioning of new District 4 Lay Execs, Mick and Sandy Preston. Done virtually via video and prayers by Kasts.

Call for approval of July 2017 meeting minutes approval – Jean Fell asked to change the statement that the Catholics are in a number of countries to say that WorldWide is in them. Approved unanimously with this change.

Five Point Gold-Star Strive to Thrive Focus – MEE Excellence!

A – Reigniting the Passion – Rufes - They are creating a document for ideas to keep the fire lit.

Suggestions include daily dialogue, quadralogue with other couples, working with other ME couples.

B – Area Presenting Couples Meetings – Rufes – Reminder to get meetings scheduled. These can be in person, video, whatever works. Work on relationship building, sharing positivity, send ideas of what works to NARPCC, Larry & Coke Guilfoile.

C – Presenting Excellence – Rufes – Only 7% of verbal is retained by most listeners. 93% of tone and visual is retained. Creating a presenters skills folder which will be added to the ILME.org site. Jake Rabatin, who maintains the site, is adding a YouTube video to the site that talks about eye contact, etc. and its importance. There is also a worksheet to go with it from Schambers. Work is being done to clean up the ILME website and get rid of old stuff. There will be a new folder titled MEE Materials.

D – Finance & Statistics - Importance of Accurate and Timely Reporting – Redmans – send MEE Experience finance report and post weekend report to NAR finance, (Redmans), as well as to the district finance couple. Include list of names, weekend stats and finance report. Media couple needs names and emails from all encountered couples. One representative from each District should be sending these. There is a new weekend report form on ILME.org. Be sure you are using the latest version.

E – NARPCC – Presenting Couple Responsibilities and Forms – Guilfoiles - Review the new documents in the meeting attachments. Pray more, add a prayer box at the supply table. Clergy does not have to be the timekeepers. Switch it around sometimes. Sharing questions, new meal questions. Use the permission form to have follow up contact with the new couples; note: this is a legal issue. The form is on ILME.org under presenters forms.

Break

Executive Report - Rufes

ER & ILME – ER is trying to create an interfaith board in Europe. They started “ME Forward Together,” which is for alumni to enhance encountered couples’ commitment, and includes widows. Dues are collected to support ME in ER. They are also doing presenter workshop weekends to get help get presenters writing going. In ER they start new journey groups from each Encounter Experience. They suggest starting by setting up meals with nearby newly encountered couples.

WWME Licensing Update – still trying to get insurance, working some options.

Working on Safety Nets – now have passwords for websites, PayPal, etc. in case the person doing the job cannot do it and access is needed.

3RE Video Rollout - Kasts – We have permission to pilot the Methodist 3RE Video program. There is a fee to use the kit. One to two presenting couples are needed. This is done over a series of 7 weeks, or on a weekend, and is a facilitated video experience. ER, NAR, and ILME all have an outline for the 3RE if you want to write your own.

District Reports

These oral reports are intended to mention items not in the written reports that were submitted for pre-read, and to answer questions raised from the written reports.

District II– Bates’ – Have started a district newsletter and working on a possible district reunion. Planning a virtual district meeting. Holding outreach weekend in Indiana in April with 7 couples already signed up.

District III – Guilfoiles, Larsons – Have 16 couples signed up for February weekend. New journey group in Minnesota. Publicity couple is doing social media, drawing many non-Lutherans. Planning a non-weekend encounter for 2019.

District IV – Prestons, Hartmans – The district covers 11 states but they have only 3 active areas. Working on a destination weekend at Lake Tahoe.

District I – Fells – The district hosted the ILME reunion in 2017 in New York. It is a challenge to keep the database updated.

Staff Reports

Finance – Redmans

Year end shows a net gain. Cutting meeting costs has helped. There are several options for online giving. Be aware of cost involved for processing. PayPal giving fund is ok. Credit card donations and payments have a fee. Thrivent giving is the least expensive way to donate.

Inviting and Publicity – Leinickes

The web site is now mobile responsive and tracking shows most visits are on mobile devices. On the website, in the Continuing the Journey section, many Areas are not using this service. Send in the info to be published. We are not allowed to publish phone numbers, but email is ok. New brochures are ready to go out. All areas need to ask for church emails and share with Leinickes for publicity mailings. Facebook is changing algorithms. Everyone needs to ‘like’ weekends. Be sure any LME info is connected to the master LME page; keep branding consistent. The monthly video series is starting again via Eblast. Couples are needed to do presentation videos. Plan one to be recorded at the next in person meetings.

NARPCC – Guilfoiles

We currently have 56 presenting couples at various levels. We need prayer for more couples to write talks, and to write further.

Deeper – Larsons

The Lutherans have held only 1 deeper weekend in the last 5 years. We need more 1st set couples.

ILME Reunion Wrap-Up – Fells

See submitted report in the attachments. The next reunion will be in Norway in 2020.

Next NAR Board Meetings – Rufes

The next NAR board meetings will be held at Hyatt Place, 2340 Fountain Square Drive, Lombard, IL 60148. They will begin on Sunday evening, June 24 at 7PM and end on Tuesday, June 26 around noon. These dates were chosen to coincide with the WorldWide Marriage Encounter 50th Anniversary Reunion being held June 22-24 nearby. Rooms for the meetings will be \$119 per night, covered by LME. Donations to cover expenses from those attending will be appreciated.

Update on India Outreach – Teuschers

Airline tickets have been purchased. Teuschers and Redmans will be going May 7 and return on May 24. They are printing brochures and translating the workbook in their language. The weekend will be a max of 8 couples plus the 2 team couples, based on the facility space. Send prayer letters to Redmans by early May.

Other Business

Connie Leinicke mentioned that they sometimes receive requests to the GodLovesMarriage.org site for weekends in new areas. They forward these to the district leadership in the requested area for consideration. Because of this, a weekend is now planned for Indianapolis, IN.

Meetings were closed with prayer led by Rufes.

Keep in touch with your assigned prayer partners over the next months, assigned until the next meetings; Fells/Guilfoiles, Heins'/Hartmans/Guynns, Bates'/Prestons, Ricks'/Larsons, Kasts/Redmans, Rufes/Leinickes, Chambers/Andrews, Teuschers/Pettingers.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan & Charlotte Ricks
NAR Board Secretary Couple