

NORTH AMERICAN REGION  
CALL TO BE FAMILY  
DBA Lutheran Marriage Encounter  
Dan & Charlotte Ricks  
Secretary Couple  
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January 26, 2019 11:00 AM EST

Dear Lovers,

This package provides the minutes of the virtual NAR Board Meeting that was held on January 26, 2019 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 21-23, 2019 in Saint Louis, Missouri.

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](http://www.ILME.org) website.

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**Attending NAR Board Members:**

Kasts, Rufes, Fells, Guynns, Bates, Heins, Guillfoiles, Larsons, Pedersens, Prestons, Hartman (Marty), Redmans, Leinickes, Ricks (Charlotte)

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Some joined by video and some by phone

Opening prayer by Steve Rufe.

Introductions and sharing of goals for 2019.

Commissioning of new District III Clergy couple, Dave and Linda Pedersen. Led by Ed and Emily Kast, they were prayed over and welcomed by all. Also a thank you was offered to Dave and Elsa Larson, outgoing District III Clergy couple, who had held this position for several terms.

Minutes from the June 2018 meetings were approved unanimously without any changes.

**Pending and New Business Matters**

**A – Seminarian Fee:** With the special rate being offered for 2019 applications, should the seminarian fee be reduced to match? **After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the rate would be half of what other couples pay.** They will still be asked to pre-pay, but can ask for assistance.

**B – Rounding costs to nearest \$5:** The system that is being used for the pre-pay requires full dollar amounts be entered. No two LME Experiences posted can have the same rate. **After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the Leinicke Group can adjust as needed to the nearest dollar amount.**

**C- New Gift Certificate Option:** The Leinicke Group has added a feature to the GodLovesMarriage.org website, per request. **This allows someone to choose any amount and pay a part, or all, of someone's Experience. They need to specify who they are gifting and the amount. Approved by consensus.**

**D- 2019 GLM Application Processing for Re-Ups and Scholarships:** Discussion and questions about how to handle previously accepted applications when they attend in 2019 and have paid the previous rate application fees. (See 2019 Directives for GLM Registrations under Appendix E.)

**E – Dream Talk: All Admin Couple talks must be revised to adapt for the pre-pay format being used in 2019; review/adapt sections VII.B and VII.C in Living Our Covenant.** The information to make these revisions has been sent to all DPCCs and APCCs. We are asking couples for their most generous donation, without reference to a specific amount, since they have already paid the actual costs. Reoccurring donations should not start any sooner than one month after the Experience.

**F – Call for Nominations NAR Lay & Clergy Executives: Nomination forms will be available soon. Nominations are due by April 30, 2019. Questionnaires will be emailed to nominated couples and will be due by May 31, 2019. If you are not nominated but would like to be on the slate, contact current Execs.**

Due to the timing of upcoming InterFaith meeting, it was requested that the new NAR Executive Couples, who will be elected at the June NAR meeting, take their positions at the end of the ILME meeting (June 25, 2019). This is a departure from the by-laws. **After discussion, it was approved by consensus, just for this year's election and leadership transition.**

**G- Local Area Publicity: Remind all areas that they should not rely on NAR E-Blasts for publicity of LME Experiences. All areas should be doing their own advertising in addition to NAR's publicity efforts.**

**H – Legal Non-Profit Registration Status:** Fells reported that they have found the process varies by state. Some states even charge a fee. **Even if we get donations from a state, and are not actively holding LME Experiences in that state, we still need to be registered.** In some states, the registration must be renewed at some interval. This is a bigger task than we realized in the beginning. **Fells are point-persons for coordinating this task with other District Leaders.**

**I – 2019 Marketing Survey:** Kasts took our idea for a marketing survey to help determine what it takes to get a couple on a relationship building experience to the InterFaith board. The InterFaith Foundation has agreed to help funding, with \$3,000 available. During discussion, it was asked if the Catholics would help fund the survey, as they also would benefit from the results. **Kasts agreed to take the request to the Catholics and will report back, with more discussion at the next meeting in June.**

**J- Jubilee Year Plans: All are asked to share any special events or ideas for the 50 years of LME. This could be a chance for free publicity with the local news. Send plans to Rufes.**

Break

### **Reports**

These oral reports are intended to mention items that were not in the written reports submitted for pre-read, and for additional information or questions about the submitted reports.

### **District Reports**

District III – Have 6 Encounters planned for 2019, one is a non-weekend Experience. Looking for a new registration couple, the McMahons are retiring.

District IV – Still finalizing weekend dates. Held a district meeting at Hartmans' hacienda. It was nice and saved money.

District I – Weekend planned in new area, Hartville, OH, for March. District meeting in March.

District II – Few weekends held, not scheduling many due to costs for cancelling. New area in Indianapolis, Indiana is going well for weekends but no couples willing to write talks. Did the 3RE as part of district meetings; some areas plan to use it. One couple writing.

### **Staff Reports**

Deeper Report – It has been 3 years since we held a Deeper. Be sure you are sending info about all couples that are writing to the Deeper Coordinators so they can get on the list for future Deepers. It is suggested they attend a Catholic Deeper if no Protestant Deepers are available.

NARPCC Report – Nothing to add to written report.

Media Report – Leinickes asked for details on how to use Thrivent funds, so they can be added to the Continuing the Journey side of the GodLovesMarriage website. **Ed Kast will send the info to Leinickes. All areas need to get church contact lists updated and sent to Leinickes.** Reminder to use social media to promote weekends. More video talks will be recorded immediately following the June NAR meeting. E-blasts with video presentations will resume shortly thereafter. Please, if you have a talk you're willing to have videotaped, contact Leinickes and arrange to have it recorded following the June 23<sup>rd</sup> NAR Meeting.

Finance Report – Form 990 is not ready for publication at this time. There is a correction to the Dream Fund balance. Dean will send out when completed.

Executive Reports – WWME is considering adding programs for couples that are living together, and same sex couples. Next InterFaith board meeting is a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2019 with in-person meeting in Kansas City, Missouri July 19-21, 2019.

There is concern that the ILME.org site is not secure. **Execs will be reviewing options with Jake Rabatin, who hosts and maintains that site.**

#### **Five Point Gold-Star Strive to Thrive Focus – Post-Encounter Excellence**

CPO Invitation to Mission – Please review contents for use or adaptation in your Areas. This broadens the range/scope of the Post-Encounter invitations to become involved in the ministry beyond prospective presenting couples to all encountered couples.

Additional ideas for Post-Encounter events: Make it personal. Consider holding the Post-Encounter event in Presenters' home, or other venues instead of in churches.

Share things that are working in your Areas: post-Encounter phone calls; emails; letters; ask about dialogue; prayer needs. Assign presenting Team Couples to specific couples to work with post-experience.

#### **Action Items**

Many on list now completed.

It was suggested that the NAR Finance Couple hold a virtual meeting with District Finance Couples to be sure that everyone is on the same page with current procedures.

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held June 21-23, 2019 (7PM Friday to Noon Sunday)  
Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel  
11228 Lone Eagle Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63044

#### **Closing Prayer**

Led by Kasts.

Reminder to stay in touch with your prayer partners, assigned until the next meeting:  
Leinickes/Ricks, Guynns/Redmans, Fells/Heins/Prestons, Bates/Guilfoiles, Kasts/Pedersens,  
Rufes/Hartmans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan and Charlotte Ricks  
NAR Board Secretary Couple