NORTH AMERICAN REGION

CALL TO BE FAMILY

DBA Lutheran Marriage Encounter

January 21, 2023

Hello NAR Board Members,

This package provides the minutes of the NAR Board Virtual Meeting that was held on January 21, 2023.

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 Virtual “Touch Point” meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2023.

The **Distribution List** for these minutes is as follows: NAR Lay & Clergy Execs, NAR Staff, and District Lay & Clergy Execs.

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 https://godlovesmarriage.org/continuing-the-journey/resources/presenting-couples/.

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**Attending NAR Board and Staff Members:**

Hartmans, Prestons, Fells, Guynns, Pedersens, Steinkes, Coles, Spencers, Redmans, Leinickes, Rickses.

Guests – Annika and Brian Piazza, Ted Guthrie, Ryan Brooks.

**Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:00 AM Central Time**

Previous to the meeting, couples had been asked to respond to a sharing question, “What is one of the funniest things that has ever happened to you as a couple?” Responses were sent via email to all. The meeting began with sharing some thoughts and laughs over the responses.

Welcome and opening devotion was led by Mick & Sandy Preston. The ‘word of the week’ was Diligent. They included Bible verses and readings to reflect on the word.

10/10 question to do later on your own time: Think of a time this past week where I could have been more diligent. How do I feel about my efforts and/or thoughts?

**Approval of August NAR Meeting Minutes** – no changes, minutes approved by all.

**Executive Report:**

Outline updates are still in process. ILME meets with them every other month on video calls.

**District Reports**

All reports are included in the attachments. Q&A was open for any discussion on the reports.

Eastern District:

Some weekends held, also local events in Ohio continue. Jean Fell included a review of the Love Nudge App.

Central District:

District leaders realized the need for a current database of previously encountered couples when they were unable to reach many couples in trying to publicize a planned event. Connie Leinicke uses Constant Contact when sending out for the website. Ryan Brooks suggested Google Groups. There is a need to review current lists and update as much as possible so that more couples can be included. Dean mentioned that he has a data base from previous weekends that could be shared.

Western District:

No written report was received. Coles said they are working on a Renewal Weekend. Jeff and Amy Spencer announced that their term is up and they do not sense a calling to continue on the board. They are also stepping back from presenting for now. All wished them well and they dropped off of the call at that point.

**Finance Report:**

Dean Redman mentioned the need for updated signed forms as some states request them annually. He will be sending a packet to NAR execs to sign and forward to other execs and secretary, then returned to him so he has them available as requests arrive. Registrations for tax exemption renewals are ongoing. Zoom subscriptions will be renewed so that all can hold virtual meetings.

**Media Report:**

There is a great need to contact churches to get current email information, as the lists are very outdated and many bounce back as undelivered. This is critical in advertising weekends. Connie can share the lists that she has if an area volunteer is found to do the research. They hope to update the ‘How was your weekend?’ video soon, as it is outdated also. After discussion it was determined that no areas are using the banners that hung in the meeting rooms on weekends any longer.

**APP Committee Report:**

Ryan Brooks reported that Andy, the student we had hired to help develop the app, determined that he did not have enough time to commit to the project and is no longer available. He did make good progress. We now need to find another helper. Ryan is too busy to do it all himself. After discussion it was decided that he would contact Glen Keune, recommended by Leinickes, for help in moving forward.

**Marketing Development Team Report:**

Jim Steinke talked about the need for engagement, enrichment, social media, internal marketing and other methods of contact. He also mentioned the need for updated church contacts and encountered couples contact lists. He is working with Leinickes on ideas to better promote events.

**Virtual Development Team Report:**

The Pedersens have two virtual events scheduled in 2023. These will be free of charge for Presenting Couples. The registration code to attend for free is: freepre.

**Experience Development Team Report:**

Prestons and Hartmans are still working on the last few presentation revisions for experience events. Most of them are now posted on the GLM website.

**Community Development Team Report:**

Virtual meetings have been held, with good results.

Other Business:

Annika asked, on behalf of Ed and Emily Kast, what is happening with WorldWide Marriage Encounter? Prestons and Hartmans responded that the InterFaith Board is no longer meeting, so there is no real contact with WWME. We will continue to make outline changes as we see fit, without waiting for their approval. Prestons and Hartmans will pursue opening lines of communications with the current Catholic leadership.

**Future Dates**

April 22, 2023 – Zoom “Touch Point” Meeting [no reports]

July 27-29, 2023 – NAR In-Person Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona

Closing Prayer led by Ted Hartman

Meeting ended at 1:10 PM, Central Time