Eastern District Report to NAR

July 27-29, 2023, Mesa AZ

**Presenting couple roster status:**

 There have been some changes:

 In Michigan, Judy Christiansen is now in a nursing home, although Don is still able and willing to help with local area work and workshopping – which is why they are not removed from the presenting list.

 In Eastern Canada, the Guthries are encouraging a clergy couple (Orthodox) to keep writing – last spring they had a set back when the sudden change of weekend fell on their Easter so they couldn’t share the presentations. In fact, we have added them to our roster just so we can pray for and encourage them, even tho they are not presenters for LME:

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 The Guthries are encouraging another lay couple too, but no progress to date.

**Good News:**

We held a Zoom District meeting on June 24th, and everyone attended except for the Davidsons, who had conflicts, and Redmans. That was 7 couples. We matched up prayer couples to last until our next meeting October 7th. We had such a good time sharing on the Q of “what specifics from our Weekends did we/do we still benefit from? that we are working on listing short comments as “reviews” in case the Publicity Development Team wants them.

Each Area has plans for Weekends, as follows:

 September 29-Oct 1 Northwest: Kalamazoo MI (on GLM already)

 October 27-29 Eastern Canada\*\* (8 couples registered as of 6.24)

 November 10-12 Northwest - Lenox MA, Tentative to date

 Nov 17-19 Central, Streetsboro OH (sent for posting to GLM 7.12)

 April 26-28, 2024 Eastern Canada\*\*

 April 26-28, 2024 Ohio holding date

 Fall Outreach for Indiana

 Nov. 15-17, 2024 Eastern Canada\*\*

 \*\* We want to get all these listed on GLM, even if registrations go to their site

We’ve enjoyed good news from our prayers: Claudia is doing very well, as is Colleen, who intends to return to teaching in the fall. David has made a full recovery.

Michigan continues to have enough community support that they have the traditional “singoffs.” Ohio community is strong and supports a Romantic Dinner each Weekend.

Northwest said working with Mennonite/Brethren lay presenters went great, even though those 2 couples had to do a “tag team.”

**Concerns:**

Judy Christiansen passed away 7.13.23

Kevin Guynn has a long recovery ahead.

Eastern Canada just lost 2 important board members to illness and death.

Fells are still waiting for information from Leinickes.

No one is nominating our replacements as yet.

Wondering how to get more interest in LME at the Best Practices event Oct 11-13.

People are asking us about workbook updates for Fall events.

**Forward Direction:**

Besides the Weekend events listed above, Michigan and Ohio continue with their annual encountered couple retreats. Ohio had great response to enrichment workshop last September on Chapman’s Five Languages of Apology, so we have a Five Love Languages workshop set for Sept. 16 on the west side of Greater Cleveland and hope to fan interest in the November 17-19 Weekend through that.

Piazzas and Fells want to fan the flames in Indiana with the goal of holding a Weekend in Indiana Fall 2024, and need lists of couples who have been encountered in the past who live in Indiana. Plus, we are not sure that the usual “come find out how LME can bless your marriage” is the best approach for the Best Practices event, as people come as representatives of their churches rather than as individuals.

**Next Steps:**

Sadly we have no new ideas.

Our District is planning Zoom meetings for October 7 and in Spring. 4.13 or 4.20. there was interest in meeting in person, but we still have couples working so that would be harder.

**Support:**

Lists of encountered couples in IN.

Workbooks and Power Points ready for the Fall.

Regular communications of interest and benefit to encountered couples, especially for those not already receiving local newsletters now.

Submitted with love,

 David & Jean Fell, Kevin & Raye Guynn