

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
 NORTH AMERICAN REGION BOARD MEETING
 DISTRICT 4
 Nov 2016

District Lay Contact Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke

District Clergy Contact Ted ♥ Marty Hartman

District Presenting Couple Coordinator John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

District Secretary Position vacant –temporarily covered by John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

District Finance Mick ♥ Sandy Preston

Registration couple for each Area/location

Arizona

Mick ♥ Sandy Preston mickersam@gmail.com 480-890-9395

California

Ted ♥ Marty Hartman tnmheart@gmail.com 530-333-4628 [Acting]

Colorado

John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger jjpettinger@comcast.net 303-969-9613 [Filling in]

Montana/Wyoming

John ♥ Nancy Orwig johnworwig@gmail.com 307-684-2700

New Mexico

Bill ♥ Ann Bruggeman two-bill@hotmail.com 210-391-3530

Oregon/Washington

Carl ♥ Dallas Presley lmenorthwest@gmail.com 206-522-6849

District Presenting couple strength:

Clergy _____	3	Clergy writing _____	1
Set 1 _____	2	Set 1 – writing _____	1
Set 2 _____	0	Set 2 - writing _____	2
Set 3 _____	5	Set 3 writing _____	0

Weekends held since last NAR, April 2016, District wide:

Date	Location		# Couples
Mar 18-20, 2016	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs,	CO	13
April 29-May 1, 2016	Beaverton,	OR	CANCELLED LOW REGISTRATION
July 29-31, 2016	Ten Sleep, (RV Weekend)	WY	6
Oct 21-23, 2016	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs,	CO	18
Oct 21-23 2016	Rancho Cordova,	CA	9 1 Lutheran Clergy
Nov 4-6, 2016	Renton,	WA	7 1 non-Lutheran Clergy

Upcoming weekends: District wide:

Date	Location	
Mar 17-19, 2017	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs,	CO
May 20, 2017	Longview,	WA (if negotiations pan out)
Jul 14-16, 2017	Ten Sleep, (RV Weekend)	WY
Oct 20-22, 2017	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs,	CO
Oct TBD, 2017	Rancho Cordova,	CA
Nov TBD, 2017	Renton,	WA

Area Reports

Arizona/New Mexico

LCC Mick ♥ Sandy Preston

CCC Bill ♥ Ann Bruggeman

Joys... None to report

Concerns...No weekends in either Arizona or New Mexico. Have not seen any interest in AZ in the past several years. Had hoped to try having a Weekend in AZ in the fall sometime, but did not happen.

Lovingly submitted,

Mick ♥ Sandy

Additional Comments

Dear Ron ♥ Nancy,

Please include in your report that the Bruggemans have been very inactive in LME since October of last year. We therefore have nothing to report except that we are currently serving as interim in Page, Arizona at an Episcopal Church, and our house in Roswell has a contract on it at this time. We hope it closes by mid January at which time we will be moving our address either to Arizona or Georgia (our daughter lives in Savannah). We will let you know as our plans develop. We miss seeing you all very much and pray that you are all doing well!

Blessings,

Bill ♥ Ann

Mid Rockies/Big Sky

LCC John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

CCC John ♥ Nancy Orwig

Area Lay Contact John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

Area Clergy Contact John ♥ Nancy Orwig

Area Presenting Couple Coordinator John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

Area Registration Couple John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

Presenting couple strength:

Clergy _____ 1 Clergy writing _____ 0

Set 1 _____ 0 Set 1 – writing _____ 1

Set 2 _____ 0 Set 2 - writing _____ 0

Set 3 _____ 1 Set 3 writing _____ 0

Weekends held since last NAR, April 2016 (and last report)

Date	Location	# Couples
Mar 18-20, 2016	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO	13
July 29-31, 2016	Ten Sleep, (RV Weekend) WY	6
Oct 21-23, 2016	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO	18

Upcoming weekends:

Date	Location	
Mar 17-19, 2017	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO	
Jul 14-16, 2017	Ten Sleep, (RV Weekend) WY	
Oct 20-22, 2017	Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO	

♥ Prayers Concerns

We ask for prayers for Nicole & Matt Grunenwald. They attended the March 16 we and have agreed to starting writing.

♥ Other Concerns/Questions

Building Community.

♥ Accomplishments

We have just concluded our 6th Joint CPO weekend with our local Methodist community. We have been incredibly blessed with not only the quantity but also quality of couples on our weekends. We have three active love circles/flames in Colorado. These two have been a blending of our communities. This partnership continues to be such a positive relationship, benefitting both of us and blessing us all. With the resignation of Bud & Cindy we never thought we would be able to continue building the community and presenting without them. God is good.

We also held our first RV Weekend in July. We were blessed with a beautiful location (this is a Methodist retreat center) and beautiful weather. The weather allowed for everyone to write outdoors and most dialogued there also. We had 6 couples who attended. Each of the couples shared that they would of never attended a weekend in a hotel. We encourage other areas to look at doing this, as we believe it addresses a need. We were blessed also with 2 couples and one widow from the community who came and cooked for the weekend (best food ever).

♥ Goals

Our goals for this year are to hold a three successful weekends (God's meaning of success not ours) and to hold semi-monthly love circles/flames to build and strengthen our community. To have at least one couple attend a deeper.

♥ What are you looking for from NAR?

Ideas and direction on how we can grow the ministry. We are also hoping that NAR would look at additional ways that the Protestant ME community might work w/each other to use our resources wisely.

♥ What are you looking for from District?

Same as above.

♥ How can we best serve you?

Pray for our ministry. We still believe we are at a crossroads and need God's guidance.

Submitted by

John ♥ Jennifer Pettinger

John ♥ Nancy Orwig

N Cal/N Nev

LCC Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke

CCC Ted ♥ Marty Hartman

PCC Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke

Presenting couple strength:

Clergy _____ 1 Clergy writing _____ 0

Set 1 _____ 1 Set 1 – writing _____ 0

Set 2 _____ 0 Set 2 - writing _____ 1

Set 3 _____ 1 Set 3 writing _____ 0

Weekends held since last NAR, April 2015

Date	Location	# Couples	
Oct 21-23 2016	Rancho Cordova, CA	9	1 Lutheran Clergy

Upcoming weekends:

Date	Location
Oct TBD, 2017	Rancho Cordova, CA

Joys... We enjoyed the blessing of a successful weekend with 9 couples this past October! Due to the limited number of Participants, the 2nd set Presentations were shared by the Coles and the Hawkes giving both of them a chance to “test” them. It went very well. Our Prayer Couples were very interactive and we are hopeful they will continue to follow-up with encouragement for their respective Participant couples. We are also in the process of following up. Please pray for continued commitment and community growth from the Participants of this and prior Weekends.

What are you looking for from NAR?

Through the proactive action of David & Jean Fell, we learned of 2 couples involved in the Episcopal and 7th Day Adventist communities in Northern CA just before our Oct 21 to 23 Weekend. We made contact with both of them and received prayer support from the Episcopal Community and at the last minute, a couple active in the 7th Day Adventist Community accepted our request for them to help us with Friday check-in and photo taking. It was a great help and began a new opportunity for collaboration.

Concerns... Lack of growth in Community, continues, partly due to couples residing in geographically dispersed areas continues to be a concern. However, we are discussing what kind of gathering might improve the situation.

Lovingly submitted,
Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke
Ted ♥ Marty Hartman

Oregon/Washington Contact

Carl ♥ Dallas Presley Imenorthwest@gmail.com 206-522-6849

CCC Vacant

Presenting couple strength:

Clergy	0	Clergy writing	1
Set 1	1	Set 1 – writing	1
Set 2	0	Set 2 - writing	0
Set 3	2	Set 3 writing	0

Weekends held since last NAR, April 2016

Date	Location	# Couples
April 29-May 1, 2016	Beaverton, OR	CANCELLED – LOW REGISTRATION
Nov 4-6, 2016	Renton, WA	7 1 non-Lutheran Clergy

Upcoming weekends:

Date	Location
May 20, 2017	Longview, WA (if negotiations pan out)
November – date TBD	Renton, WA

Joys... We are excited to have two couples writing talks: Scott and Sherry Kimball, Set 1, and Jeff and Amy Spencer, Clergy. These two couples will be a fine addition to the LME Presenting corps and we are anxious to get them through the writing process and on to weekends.

We just completed our November weekend in Renton. 7 great couples added to the family. There were three couples from one church, each supported by prayer couples in their church who were encountered some time ago, including the pastor. We believe there is good potential for developing an on-going community there and/or forming the nucleus of a marriage ministry in the church. Too early to be definitive, but the “buzz” was there at the weekend greet-off.

One participant couple was a non-Lutheran pastor and wife from Langley, BC. They also were very excited about what they experienced this weekend. We had a brief conversation with them about the possibility of presenting weekends in British Columbia, which has been a dormant community for several years. They were very positive about exploring how this could be done, and we will be discussing this further with them. Their congregation meets in a Lutheran church in Langley, so there is good connection to the Lutheran expression.

Concerns... Same old, same old... presenting strength, community engagement, inviting & publicity. We are seeing some light on these items, but the challenges are many. We have a pretty good database of churches now, and at least a few of the couples on the last weekend heard about LME through church publicity. Our concern, however, is that most of the

communication to churches does not rise to the surface. We are trying to address this where there are encountered couples we are still in touch with who are willing to get our publicity published.

We are looking for a new facility within easy access of Portland, one potential being a sister facility to the Red Lion we use in Renton. However, the Renton Red Lion has recently “restructured” their costs; it may be necessary to reconsider the viability of continued use there.

Always looking for ideas and prayer support to bring about a revitalization.

Lovingly submitted,
[Carl ♥ Dallas Presley](#)

District Report

DLC Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke

DCC Ted ♥ Marty Hartman

One thing we learned from our Oct 21 to 23 Weekend in Rancho Cordova was that we were very surprised to learn there was an active Community near us that we didn't know about. We would like to encourage the Interfaith Board to publish a list of all active leaderships and Weekends of all our faith expressions. We know the information is findable on the various websites of the various expressions, but rather than each Area trying to keep up with the research needed, we would like to see a compiled website. We won't be surprised we would discover couples and communities in some of our struggling areas.

Of our many concerns, our biggest is still the clear fact that we have fewer and fewer couples filling the many positions needed to continue the future of Marriage Encounter in our Areas and our District. While there have been successful Weekends, new couples offering to take on responsibilities has rarely been seen. Furthermore we are concerned that our Areas that haven't been able to have a Weekend for a long time will atrophy. We are thankful the few couples in those areas are keeping the faith that there will be a new beginning. We trust God has a plan we are not yet aware of.

On a hopeful note, we will host a Marriage Encounter booth at the Best Practices for Ministry Conference in Phoenix this February. This a gathering of the 2000 most forward-thinking, missional LCMS pastors and church workers in the nation. Ted and Marty are also slated to present a marriage workshop as part of that gathering. We believe the people who attend this conference will be open to partnering with Lutheran Marriage Encounter in their ministries. We pray that our presence for M.E. will be blessed.

Lovingly submitted,
[Ron ♥ Nancy Hawke](#)
[Ted ♥ Marty Hartman](#)