



# THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter  
August, 2010

Editors: Fred & Julie Schamber, North American Region Presenting Couple Coordinators

## Summer NAR Meeting

August 13-15, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago



Outgoing NAR Execs are from left: Carl & Dallas Presley (NAR Lay) and Ann & Russ Hillman (NAR Clergy). We thank them so much for their 3 years of wonderful service!

Newly elected NAR Execs are from left Dean & Marcia Redman (NAR Lay) and Judy & Dan Teuscher (NAR Clergy) Please pray for God's blessings upon their 3-year term!



At the meeting, there was a recap of the International Lutheran Marriage Encounter Reunion that was held June 25-27 in Iceland which was attended by 119 couples (11 of those from US & Canada) plus 85 children for a total of 323 in attendance. Visit the website: [www.ilme2010.blogspot.com](http://www.ilme2010.blogspot.com) for pictures and notes regarding the lectures that were given. You may find this information useful for Circle presentations, etc.

Reports were heard from the 5 Strategy Teams that were set up at previous NAR meetings as a result of the StrengthFinders workshops. Small groups met and worked further on goals with the following further input:

- Innovations and Leadership Empowerment

The group is working on developing certificates to be awarded to couples who have done innovative or outstanding work in their area. They plan to develop more ways to celebrate successes and more ways to spread the news. The 2012 LME Family Reunion may be a good time to recognize innovations and achievements.

- Marketing Communications

This group is recommending that we bring Craig & Connie Leinicke to the next NAR meeting as professional help to advise us on how we could best use electronic communication (Facebook, blogs, e-blast, YouTube, Twitter, etc.) to promote Marriage Encounter. There was consensus to fund their trip to the next board meeting. Plans are to upgrade and shorten the current video—The Catholics are currently working on a version. Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott were mentioned as a possible good resource. See their website at: [www.realrelationships.com](http://www.realrelationships.com).

- Community Involvement

This group is recommending that the first step is to make couples feel connected, second to get them involved, and third to take ownership. They would like to bring back the concept that as presenters we have a stake in the attending couples' marriages. Regular electronic communication and newsletters were encouraged. Camp-outs, picnics, wine and cheese evenings, and coffees are good ways to keep couples connected. It was suggested that we possibly send out a little commitment form after a month or so, saying that we hope you will commit to supporting Marriage Encounter—the idea being that the weekend was like their "baptism" and this is now their "confirmation." Districts were encouraged to take this back to their areas, and have areas to report back what they are trying and what seemed to work.

- Financial Resources

This committee is looking into the new Thrivent structure; hopefully we will have information soon as to how we might receive some matching funds. They are also

looking at grants as a possibility and plan to approach corporate offices of commonly used hotel chains for a possible donation.

- European Region Relationship Development

Presleys volunteered to be the NAR-ER relationship coordinators since they know a lot of the ER couples. Each district is being asked to provide a "connection representative couple." They will work with Presleys to learn when the various countries' weekends are scheduled, what connections are most meaningful to that country, and how these things might be accomplished.

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**Next Family Reunion – SAVE THE DATE:  
July 6-8, 2012 at the following facility:**

**Doubletree Hotel Dallas-Campbell Centre**

8250 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, Texas, United States 75206-1888  
Tel: 1-214-691-8700 Fax: 1-214-706-0187



District II has graciously volunteered to host the 2012 international family reunion. Tentative plans are that it will be held July 6 - 8, 2012, at the Doubletree Hotel Dallas—Campbell Centre in Dallas, TX. Featured speakers being contracted are Steve & Anne Chapman who will open the reunion on Friday night and present several times on Saturday and help with the worship service on Sunday. Costs are yet to be determined, but probably around \$300/couple including 2 nights lodging, 3 meals on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. There will be a \$59/night room charge for couples who come early or stay extra days following the reunion.

## Info from the NAR Presenting Couple Report

The following presenter strength was reported:

	Clergy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Set	2 <sup>nd</sup> Set	1 <sup>st</sup> Set	Total
District 1	6 + 1 writing	11+ 0 writing	6 + 2 writing	5 + 3 writing	34
District II	3 + 0 writing	8 + 0 writing	4 + 1 writing	1 + 2 writing	19
District III	3 + 0 writing	7 + 1 writing	4 + 0 writing	6 + 1 writing	22
District IV-V	5 + 1 writing	7 + 1 writing	3 + 1 writing	6 + 1 writing	25
Total	19	35	21	25	100

This compares to 126 couples at the beginning of 2008.

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### Next Deeper?

The next Deeper is set for **November 12-15, 2010 in Houston**. Both Lutheran and Methodist Deepers are scheduled for then, and they will likely be combined with the faith expression having the largest number of attendees doing the presenting. The time frame may be revised to be Friday afternoon to Sunday night. All are reminded that attending couples should have written both their Deeper questions and the first draft of the Self talk, part III: parts A, B, C, & D. All of this should be submitted to the APCC who then forwards the Deeper homework to the Deeper Coordinators Dave & Elsa Larson at [delarson@windstream.net](mailto:delarson@windstream.net). The Self talk parts are to be submitted to a workshopper who then workshops them and sends them back to the writers; however, writers do not need to do corrections before attending the Deeper.

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## STATUS OF OUTLINE REVISIONS - 2010

So far the drafts of 3 talks have been sent to the various faith expressions for our evaluation. For the Lutheran Faith expression, feedback has been given through a compilation of comments submitted by a committee made up of our NAR Executive couples plus a few other couples who expressed interest in being involved. We are only one of 11 faith expressions making comments, so our input will be received in that light, so alterations may or may not be made at the discretion of the Outline Committee. So far we have evaluated the drafts of the following talks:

- The combined Intro and Feelings talk to be given on Friday night
- The Today's World Talk
- The Listening Talk

**INTRO & FEELING TALK** - A few highlights of the proposed changes are: The Intro talk and the Feelings talk have been combined in to one talk that is about 1 hour long to be given on Friday night. Half way through the talk the 3<sup>rd</sup> Set couple replaces the 1<sup>st</sup> Set Couple and says, "We are continuing this presentation with \_\_\_\_\_" (whoever the clergy person and spouse are.) Couples have only 3 minutes to write in place on: "Why did I come here this weekend? What do I hope to gain?' The room description is gone. Instead the wife describes a situation using only thoughts and the husband describes it using feelings. Couples are challenged to see the differences. In general, our Lutheran review committee agreed with the changes.

**TODAY'S WORLD TALK** - Some changes: more material on attitudes/behaviors, material added on conflict resolution, question on what attracted me to you replaced by a different question, prayer at beginning of each talk. Our committee questioned whether the prayer would fit better at the end of the talk as couples were being asked to pray for some concepts not yet explained. Some preferred the "What attracted me to you?" question to the "What were my expectations when we were married?" replacing it. There were numerous "read as is" sections. Our review group recommended that they be suggested wording except when they are following along with wording placed in their workbooks.

**LISTENING TALK** - Very little revised. Again a prayer at the beginning is included. The material has couples zero in more on a couple of listening patterns that they particularly are at fault in using. Our review committee responded that they liked the "suggested wording" better than the "read as is." Some felt we should eliminate finances, sex, and death as suggested areas where couples find it difficult to listen to their spouse since those will be covered in the Area's talk. Some found the suggested dialogue question to be too vague.

**So, that is where the revisions stand at this point. Our NAR Leadership Couples have suggested to the Outline Committee that we try to implement the two talks combined into one on Friday night as quickly as possible. We have not received the final copy for any talk after suggested revisions from all faith expressions have been considered, "test runs" have not yet been done by the Catholics, and, of course, the talks have not yet been "Lutheranized," so the process has a long way to go before completion.**



## New Policies Set

Policy drafts were reviewed and adopted regarding the reinstatement of presenters and leave of absence. Those will be posted soon on the ilme website.

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## Registrations up Another 10% and Online Registrations Growing

Registrations were up another 10%, and Mark and Kari Hooper, NAR Communications Chair-couple, report that 75% of registrations are now being done through the national website:

[www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org)

Most of the work this past six months was focused on tightening the security of the web site-- to eliminate the possibility of criminals using the site to test the validity of stolen credit cards. Credit card information of anyone who has ever used the site to register or donate was never compromised. Both the online registrations and online donations have been working terrific since May 21<sup>st</sup>! No more incidences of criminals testing the site. Hallelujah!

Many thanks to Mark & Kari (pictured below) for all their hard work in maintaining this website!



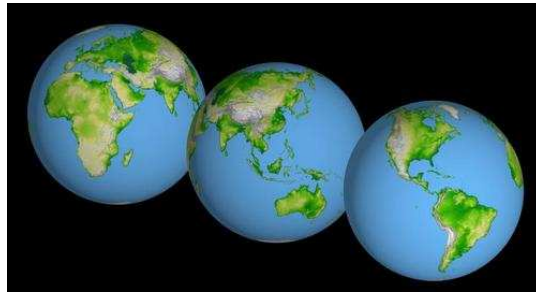
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## A GREAT IDEA FROM THE MINNESOTA AREA



The Minnesota Area emails encountered couples from all over the country asking them to pray for their Weekend. As the Weekend progresses, the names of those pray-ers are written on hearts and placed on the walls in the conference room. The hearts form a chain around the room, symbolically surrounding the couples in prayer—a very moving experience for all!

Thanks to the Minnesota area and Dick & Judy Dehnel for sharing this idea!



## LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEBSITE

Please continue to check the website for encountered couples: [www.ilme.org](http://www.ilme.org) for lots of great information, and if you know of something that should be added, contact Jake Rabatin at [jakenjune@citlink.net](mailto:jakenjune@citlink.net)

Note that under: "Resources for couples who have been on a Marriage Encounter Weekend" you can find the following:

\* Dialog Helps \* Dialog Questions \* Love Circle Presentations \* Inviting Material -Bulletin notices, Temple Talks, etc.\* Weekend Materials --Weekend Powerpoint \* Old interests-- Back copies of "Call to be Family" \* Misc. -- LME Graphics, Bylaws, Community Handbook, Stories, Skits, etc.

\* Presenting Couples:

Click on "Presenting Couples" and enter the password "LME/pc" and find:

- the latest NAR minutes
- the latest version of the talk outlines & workshoppers' handbook
- the current workbook and a replacement pages document
- the NAR/District/Presenter Rosters
- Admin documents
- Deeper materials
- Kickoff materials and Deselection & Progression Procedures
- Weekend materials including the WEEKEND PRAYER SCROLL & POWERPOINT
- Copies of "The Presenter Hotline"

