



THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter

February, 2014

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Shown are the participants in the November 8-10, 2013 combined Lutheran/Methodist Deeper Weekend with one Lutheran couple and 4 Methodist couples. From left: Lutheran Clergy Couple Lee & Tori Brumback (Charles Town, WV), Geoff & Francine Dubiski (Clover, SC), Dee & Kim Wise (York, SC), Phil & Cindy Vogels (Akron, CO), Jeff and Ann Canter (Toms River, NJ) and Methodist Presenters: Mickey & Linda Wheeler and Tom & Karen Anderson from Irving TX and Houghton Lake , MI respectively.

We are now combining Deeper Weekends with the Methodists. The next Deeper Weekend will be **May 2-4 presented by the Lutherans** with the next tentative date **November 7-9 to be presented by the Methodists**--both in Houston, TX. Remember that in lieu of writing "Deeper Homework" couples are now writing the entire Self talk and having it workshopped once before attending the Deeper. Let Larsons at delarson@windstream.net know ASAP if you have a couple you are kicking off for presenting.

If you know of anyone other than presenters who would also like to receive "The Presenter Hotline," please let Schambers know at fjschamber@comcast.net. Thanks.



John & Nancy Orwig, NAR Clergy Executive Couple and Don & Judy Christiansen, NAR Lay Executive Couple led their first Lutheran Marriage Encounter Board Meeting February 7-9, 2014, in St. Louis. District lay executive couples are shown below:



District 1 Clergy Execs, Ted and Jane Guthrie (above) and District 1 Lay Execs, Steve & Sue Rufe (finishing out the term for the Christiansens)



Newly elected District II Lay Execs, Roger & Chris Williams (back) and District II Clergy Execs, Dan & Judy Teuscher



District III Lay Execs, Larry & Coke Guilfoile (back) and District III Clergy Execs, Dave & Elsa Larson



District IV Lay Execs, John & Jennifer Pettinger, and District IV Clergy Execs, Ted & Marty Hartman



New Secretary Couple:
Dan & Charlotte Ricks
Email: dclme1094@comcast.net



New Supply Couple:
Ralph & Judi Golnick
Email: golnickralph@comcast.net

Supplies, Supplies, Supplies... Contact Ralph and Judi at email above for: small LME stickers, candle stickers, inside window stickers (a few left—product being discontinued), Weds Manuel—paper old style, or electronic file of the newer version of the Wed's Manuel. Workbook inserts are now being printed by each area. For brochures, contact our marketing group at: conniel@leinickegroup.com.



North American Region Publicity and Media Couple, Craig & Connie Leinicke



North American Region Presenting Couple Coordinators, Fred & Julie Schamber



New NAR Finance Couple:
Dean & Marcia Redman
narfinancecouple@gmail.com



Commissioning of new leadership couples

On the following page is the reimbursement form for requesting funds from the North American Region funds.

**North American Region Call To Be Family
Lutheran Marriage Encounter**

NAR Request for Reimbursement

To all those who give so unselfishly of their time and efforts, we need your help! When submitting a request for reimbursement, please use this form and attach supporting bills/paid receipts, so that our organization will comply with the rules imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. (As of August 2013 the mileage rate for reimbursement is 24 cents per mile. The IRS considers any mileage reimbursement over 14 cents as miscellaneous income that you would need to report as such. NAR will only send a 1099-Misc if the taxable portion exceeds the \$600 minimum for reporting.)

Make check payable to: _____ Date: _____

Send check to: _____

Please send this form to:

Address: _____

Dean & Marcia Redman

3615 Amberidge Dr

Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8225

City: _____

(or Email to: narfinancecouple@gmail.com

Ph 919-797-0501 for questions

State: _____ Zip: _____

Loving Task Held: _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Description: (Attach supporting receipts/invoices):

Amount

Description: (Attach supporting receipts/invoices):	Amount

Reimbursement Request Total: _____

Approval: Local _____ District _____ NAR _____

Date Paid: _____ Check# _____



RE-WRITES

Thanks to all those who have completed their re-writes! Fall Weekends in District One were all presented with the new outline, and presenting couples in general are very pleased with the changes.

Presenter Couple Strength as it was reported for the February NAR meeting:

	Clergy	3 rd Set	2 nd Set	1 st Set	Total
District 1	6 + 3 writing	7 + 0 writing	3 + 2 writing	4 + 1 writing	26
District II	3 + 1 writing	4 + 3 writing	2 + 1 writing	2 + 3 writing	19
District III	3 + 0 writing	4 + 0 writing	2 + 1 writing	3 + 2 writing	15
District IV	3 + 0 writing	6 + 0 writing	2 + 1 writing	6 + 0 writing	18
Total	19	24	14	21	78

Final counts of those choosing not to re-write are yet to be determined; however, this is what DPCC's have reported at this point.

- Status of re-writes

It is assumed that all Weekends will be presented with the CPO outline and the corresponding Workbook this spring. We're looking for suggestions that might help those who are still working to finish their talks.

- Weekend materials

Be sure to check the www.ilme.org website for items fairly recently posted including:

- * Workbook replacement pages
- * Updated Weekend Quote document
- * the new CPO PowerPoint and supporting document
- * timeline for doing 75/75 extended dialogue
- * timeline for doing 60/75 extended dialogue
- * timeline for doing 60/60 extended dialogue
- * the new inviting video with the introduction shortened
- * the new template for the inviting video circular cover
- * suggested Prayer Couples prayers to match timeline of the Weekend
- * New 2014 prayer vigil

- Weekend facilities

It seems that most areas are struggling with finding reasonably priced facilities. If you have had success in this area, please share any insights or methods that have worked with us, and we will pass them along in the next Presenter Hotline.



Highlights of the NAR Meeting and general reminders



***Coming soon...exciting initiative...**

What are John & Jennifer doing here? An exciting plan is in the works to attempt to involve all encountered couples...stay tuned for further information:

To kick off this initiative, databases of encountered couples in each area including email addresses in Excel

format need to be sent to your District Lay Contact Couple ASAP! Watch for further description of this plan.

*** Generation X and Generation Y**

The District II Leadership Couples recently did a project whereby they invited several Generation X (those born between 1965 and 1980, ages 33-48) and several Generation Y (those born 1980-2000 ages under 32) couples to meet with them and help us understand these age groups better and how we can best minister to them through Marriage Encounter. Following is the report of their initial findings submitted by the Williams:

Generation X, as a very broad generalization, tend to claim victim status. Many of their parents lived their goals through them, and many of this generation have an entitlement attitude. They are often known as the "me" generation and tend to not be concerned about others. Thus our appeal to donate so others can attend a Weekend might not resonate with them. They tend to not be joiners or volunteers.

Generation Y, again as a very broad generalization, crave and need mentoring. Many come from single parent homes. They want to make a difference in their world, and want to leave a personal legacy to the future. Many want to reclaim the sanctity of marriage in the U.S.

Because they came from a world where no one lost or won and everyone received accolades, they expect recognition for what they do. They are the “prove it” generation—scientific evidence is important to them. They need to trust before opening up. They crave authenticity. We gain the trust and show authenticity on the Weekend! Some said they are distrustful of people who acted like they like us before they know us.

Our publicity needs to show why the Weekend is important to them. They value love, and relationships are important to them. They need to know where the money they invest goes. We need to emphasize that every dollar they give goes toward getting more couples on Weekends. They are willing to attend a post-Weekend event if they see the value for them, but they do not like attending meetings. They want to be able to bring their children—family events or have babysitting available. They will keep a commitment if they see the value.

The \$45 application fee, our felt banners, and our workbook quality, along with other traditions tend to give a low perceived value. For the most part, their preferred method of receiving post-Weekend information would be to access it online. They expect a higher registration fee and are not opposed to a penalty for late registration. Some said they preferred the term “prayer partners” to “prayer couples.”

***Finances**

There was much discussion at the NAR meeting as to how we might reduce costs or increase revenue as our revenue again fell short of expenses in 2013. If you have suggestions, please share them with your District leadership couples.

***Marketing Firm**

The marketing firm “Leinicke Group” was hired on for an additional 2 years with the proposal to continue to maintain and optimize the GodLovesMarriage Website, eblasting to up to 70 Weekends, writing and posting of entries to Facebook. The initiative referred to earlier is being explored also by the marketing group.

***E-blasts**

Local area leadership couples are encouraged to use their area’s eblast to inform and invigorate community support of Weekends by pressing the “Forward This Email” button at the bottom of the eblast and send it to all or key couples in their community with a note to e distribute to their own church and to their friends with their own testimonial regarding their Weekend experience.

*Online Packet

The Leinickes are beginning to create an online post-Weekend library of Weekend Packet materials which encountered couples will be able to access with a code. Districts were encouraged to send documents for posting.

*Facebook and YouTube Channel

The Marriage Encounter Facebook page handled by the marketing group has over 3,000 “likes” and continues to include scripture, positive general messages, and positive couple relationship/marriage observations. Go to: www.facebook.com and type in “GodLovesMarriage.” Facebook ads to generate more “likes” will appear monthly as a result of a generous donation from an angel couple who wishes to remain anonymous. A YouTube Channel for GodLovesMarriage.org has been created, and the new Gary Chapman video and the How Was Your ME Weekend video have been posted. Links to them have been added to the website and to eblasts.

*Ordering Workbooks

Reminder that each area is ordering or printing their Workbooks at their local FedEx/Kinkos or a local facility. Some suggestions we have received are:

- * Some churches will allow usage of their copy machine for a very reasonable price.
- * Watch for coupons at FedEx/Kinkos to allow printing for 5 cents a page.
- * Combine your order with neighboring Areas to get a better price with a larger number of copies.

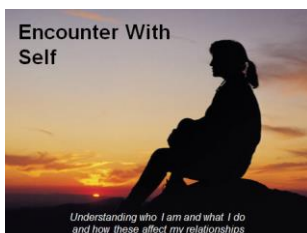
* Mileage Reimbursement Rate

for Marriage Encounter travel has been increased to 24 cents per mile. Remember though that any amount over the IRS rate of 14 cents per mile for charitable organizations is taxable.



*Reminder of a correction:

In the Living Our Covenant Talk VII D – How to Donate: The outline states we should “inform them that any amount donated above the cost of their room and meals is tax deductible.” In the Lutheran outline, it has always been the amount over the cost of room, meals, and the overhead expense (\$175.00). It was decided at NAR that this is the more correct interpretation, so we will continue to consider the fair market value to include the \$175 also. So, as always, the tax deductible amount is the amount given over your Weekend quote.



***Reminder: New PowerPoint** to go with the CPO outline is now posted on the ilme website along with supporting documents.

Following is a reminder of what amount to ask for in your Weekend Quote

In Aug 03, the NAR board adopted a new system for calculating the Weekend Quote, based as usual on the total cost of doing LME business divided by the number of couples encountered, but then including a weighting figure based on the facility costs. It was not intended to expect that each Weekend "pay for itself" - LME is family. Below is what was approved:

For 2003-04, the weekend quote will be determined individually for each weekend and will be the sum of:

PART 1

A fixed amount covering LME's proposed overhead budget: \$175.00/couple (*per the NAR Finance Couple*)

PART 2

An amount to cover the cost of the facility. This amount will be based on the facility contract per-couple cost (including tax) as shown in the table below.**

Weekend Quote

Weekend Quote = Part 1 + Part 2 (see following table)

It is the responsibility of the Area Lay Contact Couple to insure that the contract per-couple cost amount is provided to the Third Set Couple prior to the start of the weekend.

	Contract Cost per Couple	Part 1	Part 2	Weekend Quote
A	Under \$200/couple	\$175	\$200	\$375
B	\$201 - \$225/couple	\$175	\$215	\$390
C	\$226 - 250/couple	\$175	\$240	\$415
D	\$251 - 275/couple	\$175	\$265	\$440
E	\$276 - 300/couple	\$175	\$290	\$465
F	\$301 - 325/couple	\$175	\$315	\$490
G	\$326 - 350/couple	\$175	\$340	\$515
H	\$351 - 375/couple	\$175	\$365	\$540
I	\$376 - 400/couple	\$175	\$390	\$565
J	\$401 - 425/couple	\$175	\$415	\$590
K	\$426 - 450/couple	\$175	\$440	\$615
L	\$451 - 475/couple	\$175	\$465	\$640
M	\$476 - 500/couple	\$175	\$490	\$665

If the per-couple weekend amount should be greater than \$350 per couple, please consult with the District Execs before committing to the facility. If they approve they use of the facility, part 2 would increase by \$25 for each \$25 range increment in the per-couple cost. For example, if a per-couple cost of \$380 were approved by the District Execs, the weekend quote would be \$565 (\$175+\$390).

Note: Only the weekend quote amount will be mentioned on the weekend, not the individual components or the method of computation.

**** Some confusion?**

Recently some questions surfaced about what that figure was meant to include:

- This portion is simply what the hotel quotes to you on what they will charge each and every couple on the weekend for the "weekend package" of food + rooms.
- It has nothing to do with the number of couples on the w/e (If you have agreed to a sliding scale that does affect the per-couple package cost, you will choose the appropriate figure).
- The presenters' costs are already part of the Part I overhead.
- It includes all taxes per package.
- Any additions? Let's say you pay a flat fee of \$200 for the conference room. Or \$50 one-time room set up. Pots of coffee? If so, try to add an average for these additional costs to the per-couple package. This isn't meant to be nuclear science, just a practical way to ask for more when costs are more.



Turku Cathedral

Please consider attending the:
International Family Reunion for the whole family
July 25-27, 2014

Conference Hotel Linnasmaki (www.linnasmaki.fi)Turku, Finland
Website now says the price is 280 euros/couple (\$380/couple) inclusive
of meals, accommodation and program for Friday through Sunday
Children 4-12 – 50%

Turku is located on the southwest coast of Finland, about 100 miles west of Helsinki. Turku was founded in the 13th century, and is considered to be the oldest town in Finland, so there is a lot of rich history there.

You are encouraged to meet your international family, to share the common bond we all have of a Marriage Encounter weekend, to laugh, to form new friendships, and share God's love in worship.

For more information or to register online, go to:

www.facebook.com and look for: ILME International Family Reunion 2014

To register: <http://memennaaneteenpain.fi/index.php/ilme-ifr2014>

For questions: infoifr2014@gmail.com

Registration for foreign guests before March 1 st - guaranteed accommodation in the FR Congress Center.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, July 25th

3:00 PM Registration at Congress Center & Hotel Linnasmaki Turku <http://www.linnasmaki.fi/>

4:30 Welcome & Opening of the Family Reunion

5:00 Dinner

6:15 Transport to Turku Cathedral

7:00 "Evening for Love" in Turku Cathedral

Maija & Hannu Nyman, Music: Marzi Nyman, Anne & Seppo Eirola

10:00 Night Snack & Sauna

SATURDAY, July 26th

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning

9:30 Presentation 1 + dialogue + small groups

(children's program 9:00 - 12:30)

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Presentation II + dialogue + small groups

3:30 Coffee & snack

5:00 Family Reunion Group Photo

5:30 Gala Dinner

7:30 International Evening

SUNDAY July 27th

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 - 11:00 Short Presentation + dialogue + small groups

Next Family Reunion presentation, New World

11:30 Lunch

1:00 Mass at St Mary's Church

3:00 Bus transportation for those who participate in the Turku Archipelago Cruise (not included in full board price)

Carl & Dallas Presley, ILME Board Facilitators, have volunteered to be the North American Region contact couple for this event. You may contact them at:

carl.presley@comcast.net.

Please consider passing the following note on to all areas for placement in area newsletters, and consider making a donation yourselves:



With rising costs of facilities, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet facility and overhead expenses. Please consider making a donation to Lutheran Marriage Encounter at any time by going to: www.ilme.org and clicking on **Support the Dream of Lutheran Marriage Encounter** and making your donation with a credit card. Or if you wish to make a donation by check (or if you wish to make a donation specifically to the

Endowment fund), you can make your check out to “Lutheran Marriage Encounter” and mail it to our North American Region Finance Couple: **Dean and Marcia Redman, 3615 Amberidge Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514**. And please remember that if you have policies or investments with **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**, you may now direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Marriage Encounter. This is “free money” for the organization; March 31 is the deadline to direct your 2013 dollars. If you don’t direct the charitable funds allotted to you by Thrivent, Thrivent chooses where to send them, so please call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your Choice Dollars.

The www.ilme.org WEBSITE

Is your lifeline for all things Lutheran Marriage Encounter. This ILME (International Lutheran Marriage Encounter) website includes all kinds of documents and helps for encountered couples.

For all your information needs, go to: www.ilme.org and click on “Resources for Couples who have been on a Marriage Encounter” to find: dialog helps, workshop ideas, circle presentations, inviting ideas, graphics, bylaws, the new letterhead, the new web banners, and under Presenting Couples (enter the password: LME/pc - - note it is case sensitive) find Board Minutes, Outlines, the current Workbook, Rosters, Admin Documents, Outreach, Deeper, and Kick-off materials, Weekend Materials (including the current PowerPoint, the current Prayer Vigil, and the new membership cards and business cards) and the current and previous “Presenter Hotlines.”

