



# THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter  
October, 2009

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**A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW WRITING COUPLES WHO  
ATTENDED THE SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2009 DEEPER IN HOUSTON!**



*Shown are the Deeper presenters and participants with their District and home state identified.*

***Back row standing from left:*** Russ & Ann Hillman-Presenters, Paul & Kathy Stanis-District I-PA, Tom & Kristyn Trealout- District I-FL, John & Kate Thaelke-District II-MO, Rev. Gary & Carol Morgan-Gohlke-District II-TX, Byron & Jodi Bunnell-District III-WI, Rev. David & Judy Peterson-District IV&V-WA.

***Kneeling:*** Jim & Detra Swenson-Presenters, Dan & Theresa Duteil-District II-TX, John & Cindy Meyerhofer-District II-IL ***Seated:*** Jim & Suzie Koch—District II-IL

**Please keep these couples in your prayers as they embark on the wonderful world of Presenting!**

## SEPTEMBER DEEPER

*As many of you are aware, the presenters for the September Deeper were to be Dave & Elsa Larson and Jim and Anita Tollefson. However because of Elsa's injuries from a fall and Jim & Anita's son Joe's accident, they were not able to do the Weekend, so Russ and Ann Hillman and Jim and Detra Swenson graciously stepped up and did the September Deeper.*

*We asked the Hillmans and Swensons to submit some reflections from the Deeper Weekend, so here they are:*

The September 18-22, 2009 Deeper Weekend in Houston, Texas, was a breath of fresh air for Lutheran Marriage Encounter. All nine couples in attendance exhibited a strong sense of commitment to our ministry, to completing their writing, and to becoming presenters in their own areas. They seemed to have acknowledged that God had called them to this ministry even before we even mentioned the idea of "call."

It was a fun time together, partly because of the easy bonding that happened immediately among the couples, and partly because of the relaxed atmosphere that the Deeper format insures. We as the clergy presenters felt confident that the Deeper experience is the right way to prepare couples for presenting. The weekend concepts are reinforced, new ideas are presented, depth of sharing is encouraged, and building a lighthouse as a visual symbol of the process is a proper picture of the whole Deeper.

The "breath of fresh air" that we mentioned at the beginning of this article is the result of spending these days with new, young, committed couples—just the right ones to keep LME alive and growing. May God bless each of them with the joy of a united love relationship, a continued commitment to completing their first assignments, and lots more of the excitement and enthusiasm they showed on the weekend.

Submitted by Russ & Ann Hillman

Our hearts were filled with sorrow as we experienced the emails of Jim & Annita's son Joe's accident and injuries and also from the emails of Elsa's broken pelvis and disc injuries. The option of filling in as presenters for the Deeper required no hesitation as we are called, committed and commissioned to the ministry of Marriage Encounter. It was truly a blessing to have experienced this Deeper. There was a well balance of personality styles which made the discovery and discussion time lively. We were moved with the deep level of sharing. The sincerity of being called, committed and commissioned was evident in their CCC presentations. The future of LME presenting teams has been blessed with 9 courageous couples.

Thank you for all the prayers and for all the care letters. Each of the couples had a bag of letters to open and experience the love and support of their LME family. A special thank you to Roger & Chris Williams for their donation of thumb drives with info for each of the couples. The hotel was very caring for our every need. Arnie & Sue Kaestner's presence and coordination is most helpful and complete. They make the details happen. Their work is a blessing for Deepers.

Submitted by Jim & Detra Swenson

And a little more about that **All-Clergy, Interfaith Weekend** which was held in Houston, TX August 20-22 to entice clergy of all denominations to attend a weekend. The story of this weekend was in the last issue of "The Presenter Hotline." Below is a submitted picture.



Above is the team of presenters for the all-clergy mixed-faith Weekend. Shown are **Far left standing and sitting: Don & Vivian White (Methodist Clergy Couple), Standing: Winnie & Laird Engle (Lutheran Clergy Couple), Linda and Mickey Wheeler (Methodist Lay Couple), and Ann and Gary Long (Presbyterian Lay Couple). Seated: Sue & Arnie Kaestner (Lutheran Lay Couple) and Marlene and Walt Estelle (Presbyterian Clergy Couple).**

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## WEEKEND QUOTE

It has been called to our attention that there have been some questions about the Weekend quote. Following is an explanation of how the 3<sup>rd</sup> Set couple knows what figure to use for the Weekend Quote. To find your quote, find on the chart the Weekend per-couple expense (This should include all taxes, gratuities, and meeting room, but NOT the presenter expenses--Those are to be covered in the \$175 per couple overhead.) and add \$175 to the corresponding part 2 figure. (Whenever possible, try to have the hotel give you an ALL INCLUSIVE per couple cost for the Weekend as this will save you a lot of headaches trying to figure out how much needs to be added to the per couple quote for such things as taxes, gratuities, conference room, etc.)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Set Couples: Be sure you have a copy of the following sheet with you at all Weekends presented.**

## How does the Admin Couple know what to ask in the 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: 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.

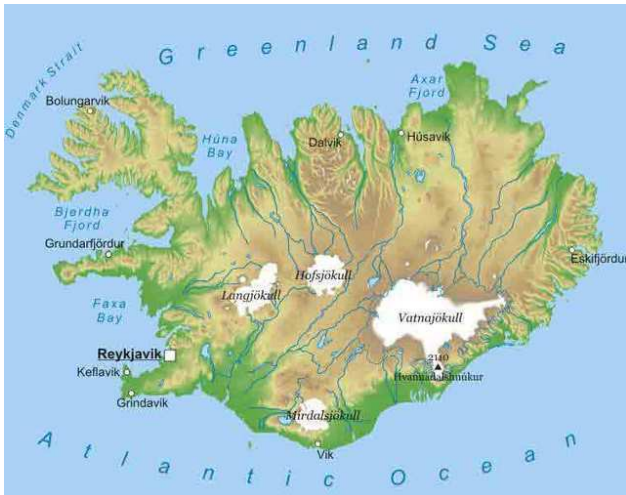
	Contract Cost per Couple	Part 1	Part 2	Weekend Quote
A	Under \$200/couple	\$175	\$200	\$375
B	\$201 - \$225/couple	\$175	\$215	\$390
C	\$226 - 250/couple	\$175	\$240	\$415
D	\$251 - 275/couple	\$175	\$265	\$440
E	\$276 - 300/couple	\$175	\$290	\$465
F	\$301 - 325/couple	\$175	\$315	\$490
G	\$326 - 350/couple	\$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.

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- The Contract Cost per Couple 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.

## Another reminder about the 2010 LME Family Reunion:



Iceland



Edda ML Laugarvatn Hotel

The 2010 LME Family Reunion will be held in Iceland June 25-27 starting about 3 p.m. on Friday. The website [www.ilme-iceland2010.com](http://www.ilme-iceland2010.com) is up but still under construction. Other websites of interest are the Laugarvatn site: <http://www.nat.is/travelguideeng/laugarvatn.htm>, and the Iceland Tourism Board site: <http://www.icelandtouristboard.com>. The location is Laugarvatn, 57 miles / 1½ hours out of the capital city, Reykjavik. Kids are welcome. Transportation from Reykjavik will be provided. The organizers of the event are: Gunnar & Thora at [gunnarthora@simnet.is](mailto:gunnarthora@simnet.is). Presently they believe the per couple cost for the reunion will be approximately \$510.

According to the website: the hotel is situated in Laugarvatn, a small village with a population of approximately 200. The hotel has 99 rooms -- 32 with en-suite bathrooms and 67 with in-room washbasins, so those who register early will have the better accommodations.

It is in the heart of the countryside of South Iceland and is a good base for touring the “Golden Circle” -- a triad of Iceland’s most popular natural wonders: Mighty Gullfoss Waterfall (18 miles away), Geysir hot springs (12 miles), and Thingvellir National Park, ancient site of the world’s first parliament (15 miles).

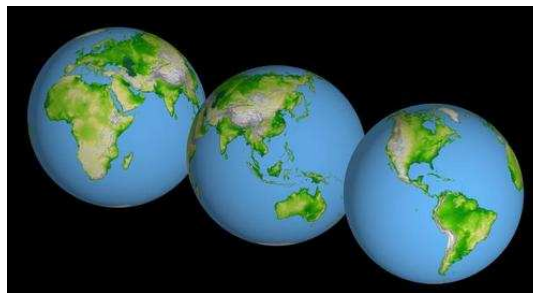
Current plans are for the NAR summer meeting to be held in Iceland the 3 days following the Reunion, June 27-29, 2010.

Looking into the future, it will probably be up to NAR to host the 2012 Family Reunion, so please be considering that possibility.

## Gifts from Your Heart

The “Gifts From Your Heart” business used for purchasing all things Marriage Encounter has recently been purchased by John & Paula Geist of Nashville, TN. The website has been rebuilt to better serve the Marriage Encounter Community. The website is the same as it was previously: [www.wwmegifts.com](http://www.wwmegifts.com). John & Paula’s contact information is: email: [gifts@wwmegifts.com](mailto:gifts@wwmegifts.com) and phone: 615-876-2102. Those of us who have used this site recently have been very pleased with their site improvement and rapid service.

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### 2009 PRESENTER HOTLINES AVAILABLE ON ILME WEBSITE

The five 2009 editions of “The Presenter Hotline” are now posted on the ilme website [www.ilme.org](http://www.ilme.org) for your convenience. For new writers, or if you need to refer to a previous edition, go to: “Resources for Couples who have been on a Marriage Encounter,” then click on “Presenting Couples” and enter the password: “LME/pc” You will find lots of great presenter information besides the Hotlines there including: the NAR minutes, the talk outlines, the current workbook & replacement pages, the NAR, District, & Presenter Rosters, Admin documents, and Deeper and Kickoff materials.

