

Draft form of the Minutes

National Conference of Vicars for Religious
Annual Business Meeting
March 20, 2018

Opening Prayer

Elections for new Officers

The Business meeting began with the election of officers for 2018-2020. Sister Margaret Downing, Chair of the Elections reviewed the election process and the role of the executive board. Sister Mary Charles Mayer, RSM and Sister Marlene Weisenborner, OSF served as the scrutineers for the election

President: Sister Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC of the Diocese of Brooklyn
(affirms for a second term)

Vice President: Sister Elizabeth Ann Vasquez, SSCJ of the Archdiocese of San Antonio
(elected to a first term)

Secretary: Sister Louise Hembrecht, OSF of the Diocese of Green Bay
(affirmed for a second term)

Treasurer: Sister Mariette Moans, ASCJ of the Archdiocese of Hartford
(affirmed for a third term)

Note that there had been other nominations for President, Secretary, and Treasurer, but only those affirmed left their names on the ballot.

There were three on the ballot for Vice-President (Father Lane Akiona SSCC received 15 votes, Sister Gilmary Kay, RSM received 6 votes, Sister Elizabeth Ann Vasquez received 21 votes. Sister Elizabeth Ann was declared elected.)

Executive Reports:

President's Report

Sister Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC

Since May 2017, Sr. Maryann

1. Wrote to each Past President about the Voices of History Project for the 50th Anniversary in March 2018, or contacted the Diocese for those who are deceased. Follow up letter with talking points for video was sent. Assisted with the video project. Snow or not!
2. Corresponded with each Assembly speaker with theme, details and expectations for Assembly 2018.
3. Attended LCWR and had some good networking with other groups, UISG, AHLMA, Laboure, CMSWR, CMSM, RFC, RCRI, etc.

4. Collected data on Latin American Congregations for AHLMA.
5. Prepared all the materials for the National Elections in March for Sr. Margaret Downing, RSM, Savannah, GA who will conduct the elections.
6. Circulated the questionnaire for the XV Synod on Youth in Rome, October 2018; collated the responses and sent them to USCCB from our Conference.
7. Contributed to the Reflection Guide for the International Sisters Study from NCVR. Developed questions for us to use at Assembly 2018.
8. Wrote to 67 Bishops without Vicars for Religious; created a short survey of consecrated life members in each diocese; included invitations to become members. 21 responses and 4-6 became members.
9. Attended Eastern Region Vicars Conference Fall meeting.
10. Wrote to OFM Community on passing of Br. Patrick Shea, Vicar in Springfield, IL.
11. Wrote a Fall letter for the website.
12. Prepared for and attended CRLM and CCLV meetings in Baltimore, Nov. 10-11, 2017.
13. Followed up with Cardinal Tobin about seminary education and inclusion of history of consecrated life.
14. Prepared Agenda and materials for National Board Meeting November 16-18, 2017.
15. Wrote letters of invitation to our Assembly to CICL-SAL, the Presidents of all the Conferences of Women and Men Religious and Consecrated Life.
16. Worked on Assembly schedule for 2018. Worked with Sr. Louise on the materials in folders. Assisted with the Orientation preparation.
17. Wrote to and welcomed each new member to the Conference.
18. Supported and assisted the Southern Region in preparation for this Assembly and worked with Sr. Connie here at the convent in preparation for the Assembly.

Vice-President's Report

Sister Nancy Mathias, OSU

Sister Nancy Mathias, OSU was unable to attend the National Assembly. No report was given.

(Sister Nancy had graciously completed the term Sister Mary Dolora Keating, RSM as vice-president who resigned as vicar because she was reassigned by her Community to a different ministry.)

Secretary's Report

Sister Louise Hembrecht, OSF

1. I conducted the annual Membership Renewal drive beginning last summer. To date we have last year we had 81 members; two years ago there were 87 members; three years ago, there were 88 members; four years ago, there were 97 members. The membership renewal forms are emailed to current members, and to those for whom I have an email address. They are mailed through the US Postal System to Dioceses that do not have an appointed Vicar/Representative/Delegate/Liaison/Minister.

2. I updated, printed, and mailed the 2017-2018 Directory. I sent the Directory for uploading to the website. I included the name of the Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocese and updated that midyear.
3. I sent a Summer Newsletter to all members. The Minutes of the November Board Meeting were posted on the website. Notice of this was emailed to all members. I did not send a Winter Newsletter since the Newsletter was a summary of the Minutes.
4. I sent out notice of the death of one of our 2017-2018 Vicars, Brother Patrick Shea, OFM of the Diocese of Springfield, IL.
5. I will compile, print, and mail the Assembly Proceedings to all of the Members.
6. I am taking the Minutes for this National Assembly Business Meeting as well as for the May and November Executive Board Meetings.
7. I've also done a few other various and sundry things such as, communicated messages from the president to the membership, kept the president apprised of new vicars being appointed to various dioceses, kept the data base updated, and prepared the Assembly Registration and Travel Forms for the hosting Southern region, had materials for the folders printed and submitted an secretarial expense report to the treasurer.

Treasurer's Report Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ

Sister Mariette gave an update on the Finances of the NCVR. Income and expenses from the past year were shared with the members present. She informed the members that the funds of the Southern Region are now a line item in the General funds.

Sister Mariette explained the changes in investment procedures that were a result of the questions and suggestions from the 2017 Business meeting. She noted the purpose of the funds held by the NCVR is first of all to pay all expenses incurred for the General Assembly in March and travel and room and board for the two Board meetings as well as any other expenses related to the Conference.

Funds have been available for scholarships for the March General Assembly. In addition to this, the Board decides to also make funds available for THE 25TH ANNUAL CECILIA MEIGHAN, RSM INSTITUTE OF LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIFE: The Religious Institute: Governance Structures and Responsibilities in Church and Civil Law (Year One of the Three-Year Cycle) June 7 - 13, 2018.

Members interested in attending the Institute held at Misericordia University, Dallas, Pennsylvania were asked to submit their names for a drawing. (Tuition, room and board was offered for three to attend. Those going would need to take care of their own transportation.)

Other Business:

Making Technology Work for You Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ

Sister Mariette also presented various ways of using technology for communication and collaboration. She mentioned our website and other tools of social media, such as Facebook, for networking and collecting data. The use of ZOOM for meetings was suggested as well as the use of Survey Monkey.

New Business:

AHLMA Sister Joan McGlinchey, MSC (Vicar from the Archdiocese of Chicago) and Sister Elizabeth Ann Vasquez, SSCJ (Vicar from the Archdiocese of San Antonio) presented information on AHLMA (the Asociación de Hermanas Latinas Misioneras en América). They explained the history of the meetings of Latino Sisters and distributed two handouts. There will be a meeting at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, Texas, June 28 – July 1, 2018. Vicars were asked to encourage Latino Sisters to attend.

Regional Report of each Region

Eastern OSF

Chair: Sister Ann David Strohming,

What are our hopes for our region and the Conference as we continue into the future?

1. Within our region – personal call to dioceses who do not attend or are active in region/NCVR
2. Using NCVR website and use of technology we can communicate more directly.
3. Follow up on regional intercultural religious. Assumption College and Holy Apostles College.
4. Provide new book (written by younger religious),

Midwestern Region

Chair: Sister Marilyn Kerber, SNDdeN

What are our hopes for our region and the Conference as we continue into the future?

1. Regional: To support each other in our varied responsibilities in our respective dioceses.
2. Regional: To be advocates for our Sisters and Brothers in this transitional time, especially as we all progress in age while finding ways to balance the needs and requests of the elders along with ways to engage and energize newer members.
3. Regional: To continue to engage the Midwestern Vicars through our Regional Zoom meetings and encourage participation in the National Assembly.
4. Conference: Continue to improve the website by continuing to post helpful information, webinars, etc. (Perhaps webinars can be financed by the Conference and offered free of charge for NCVR members.)

We also discussed the vacuum in many dioceses regarding vocations to the Consecrated Life, given that many Vocation Offices are established to foster vocations to the diocesan priesthood only. Can Vicars fill the vacuum? We discovered that those of us around the table promote vocations to the Consecrated Life in varied ways; the possibilities in no two dioceses are the same. The sharing of ideas was helpful. We were reminded of the key role social media can play in this endeavor.

The Midwestern Region will be in conversation with our President and Treasurer about closing our bank account and having our monies held with our national funds.

Southern Region

Chair: Sister Marlene Wiedenborner, OSF

What are our hopes for our region and the Conference as we continue into the future?

Conference

1. We continue to be attentive to the issues we have heard this week. We appreciated the time for processing but would have also appreciated time to process as a region.
2. To consider inviting Theresa Mays as a speaker Sisters from “Giving Voice,” the authors of *In Our Own Words* as a panel.
3. That the executive board considering appointing/encouraging mentors for new vicars.
4. As Region we want to meet! We have resolved to have at least two Zoom calls, one in November and our agenda will be activities for World Day of Consecrated Life and the other in January to plan participation in Catholic Sisters Week ___ on CSW site.
5. *Pray that Beth's inheritance comes in for she has invited us to New Orleans.!*

Western Region:

Chair: Sister Rosalie Pizzo, SNDdeN

What are our hopes for our region and the Conference as we continue into the future?

1. That meetings, both National and Regional, continue, inform, educate and inspire us to help us grow in our ministry as vicars.
2. That we grow in our awareness of being bridge builders in welcoming international communities of men and women religious to partner us in making real and credibly the message of the Gospel.
3. That opportunities for Vicars to share best practices and to learn from one another be provided.

Other

At the conclusion of the Meeting the winners of the scholarship to the RSM INSTITUTE OF LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIFE: The Religious Institute: Governance Structures and

Responsibilities in Church and Civil Law were announced: Sister Mary Charles Mayer, RSM (Knoxville), Sister Margaret Downing, RSM (Savannah) and Sister Rene Backe, CSA (Gallup).

Sister Jean Thompson, OSF (Buffalo) won the drawing of early Assembly registrants.

The Southern Region Passed the Torch to the Eastern Region for 2019 March Assembly