

NCVR Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021 via Zoom
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Present: Sister Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC (President)
Sister Elizabeth Ann Vasquez, SSCJ (Vice-President)
Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ (Treasurer)
Sister Gilmory Kay, RSM (Secretary)
Sister Ann Strohming, OSF (Eastern Region)
Sister Frances. Moore, CDP (Midwestern Region)
Sister Kathy Warren, OSF (Western)

Excused: Sister Mary Prinski, OP (Southern Region)

- 1. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Maryann**
- 2. The Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Executive Board Meeting were approved and accepted.**
- 3. Update on Officers' Reports**

Maryann (President)

- Maryann followed up with the National Assembly presenters and thanked them on behalf of the conference. She sent gift cards with thank you notes to the facilitators of the assembly breakout sessions.. Maryann will send to Gilmory an updated contact list for the guests of the assembly to update directory.
- Father Donio, from CMSM has invited the board to participate in upcoming webinars concerning the document *Mutual Relations*. He also wishes to support greater communication among leader of religious men's communities and vicars of religious.

Elizabeth Ann (Vice-President)

- Elizabeth updated the board on the lottery for the summer institute of NRVC. Sister Gloria from Corpus Christi, Sister Germana, from Boston, Sister Martha from Wheeling Charleston will be attending.

Mariette (Treasurer)

- There was a malware introduced into the Archdiocese of Hartford computer system that has prevented access to NCVR Website data.
- Mariette will consult with our bank about investing \$50,000 of conference funds. The bank has closed due to the increase COVID infections. Mariette will schedule an in-person meeting with the bank when it reopens.

Sister Gilmory Kay, RSM (Secretary)

- Gilmory will be sending out more communications to the members.

4. National Assembly: Review three-day schedule and time allotments

The board reflected on the National Assembly. The board thanks Mariette and Nicole for how well the assembly was conducted and received by the members. The feedback has been positive. Father Hank expressed his appreciation for the timing, information and format.

Mariette reflected how far the Conference has come in the use of technology.

The number of vicars who participated increased this year. There was also increased participation of new vicars and non-members. This year, there were 20 more vicars participating in the conference than in previous years. The reduced cost saved the conference money and made participation more easeful with lower fees and no travel costs.

5. Evaluations

The evaluations will be sent out soon to the Assembly participants.

7. Proceedings: website

Maryann will compile the materials from the presenters as part of the official Proceedings of the assembly. We await Father Hank's presentation. Once the Proceedings are compiled, Maryann will send the final copy to Gilmary and Mariette to archive and post on website. The wordles created at the end of each day will be archived.

Gilmary will offer the Proceeding to all of the registered members of the conference that will include a link to the posted copies on the website and a separate pdf of the document.

8. What can we do better?

The Board agreed that there was a lot of interest around the canon law issues presented by Sister Sharon Euart, RSM. The Board discussed having a canon law discussion at future gatherings.

9. Assembly 2022: March 2022

The dates for the 2022 Assembly will be during the week of March 27-April 1st. We will try to keep our normal Sunday through Wednesday schedule. We have the whole week reserved. Maryann will check with the retreat center to ensure that the host and board members can arrive early if necessary.

The board discussed the advantages of having an orientation for new members in the fall soon after the registration period. The experience of last September with the new member orientation was positive. The board agreed that this would be a good thing to do again, but still have a special meeting with the new members prior to the start of the spring assembly. At the pre-assembly meeting new members would have the opportunity to meet one another and to be welcomed by the whole assembly.

The board discussed and supported the idea of having a hybrid Assembly.

A suggestion was made that future Assembly could be located in a retreat center in the central time zone, but right now we are committed to the Jesuit Retreat Center in Cleveland.

The board discussed ways to increase interaction among all members. Some have observed that members tend to be with friends and, at times, not interact with the newer or unfamiliar members. The board discussed having planned interactions at the first social and to be intentional with welcoming and including new members by highlighting them.

10. Topics for the Next Assembly

The board discussed themes for the next assembly. The theme should be broad enough to encompass different areas of ministry. With the hope that *Mutual Relations* will be promulgated this summer, it will be important for the members to understand and discuss the revisions to the documents, as it will influence our ministry. Another topic the board considered are the needs of the International Sisters and communication with international superiors.

The board discussed the role of the vicar as a bridge builders and one who fosters communion between various groups. As the board reflected together, the word “communion” seem to be the overarching theme of our discussion and the ways in which the vicar is an instrument of communion in several key areas of ministry. The board discussed the vicar is an instrument of communion in the following relationships: the religious in the diocese and the local bishop, the religious and clergy, the various religious within the diocese with varying cultural differences and perspectives, and between the various forms of consecrated life among our NCVR members and in our local church.

11. Possible Presenters

Father Luke Ballman, Executive Director of the USCCB Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Sister Lynn Levo, for learning about conflict resolutions and dialogue strategies.

Sister Katerina Schuth OSF who has worked with seminary formation.

Sister Mercedes Casas from CICSAL

A representative from the Mexican Religious Conference

Sister Anita Baird concerning racism.

12. Other Business

The NCVR will honor a former NCVR board member, Brother James McVeigh, OSF and his service to the conference by offering a donation of 300.00 toward a charity in his name. Sister Norma Pimental, MJ will also receive a donation for her important work at the border.

Next meeting: May 19th 1:00-3:00 pm Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Sister Gilmary Kay, RSM

Secretary