



NRVC Minutes

NRVC Lake Erie/Ohio River Member Area Minutes Via Zoom

May 9, 2024

Present: Sr. Adelina Garcia, O.S.F.; Fr. Daniel Bowen, O.de.M.; Sr. Cathy Bauer, O.S.B.; Sr. Ruth Lubbers, S.N.D.; Sr. Leslie Keener, C.D.P.; Sr. Mary Slattery, H.M.; Ms. Teri Iverson; Fr. Jose Miguel-Lopez, G.H.M.; Sr. Caryn Crook, O.S.F.; Sr. Valerie Zottola, C.S.J.; Sr. Debbie Borneman, SS.C.M.

Prayer leader – Sr. Caryn

- Welcome and Introduction/Check-In – Sr. Caryn
- Sr. Valerie Zottola will take Minutes
- NRVC National Office Update
 - [Convocation](#): Registration is open. An [incentive](#) is being offered to bring someone with you. The congregation will receive \$300 towards their 2025 membership fee for each \$900 non-member registration.
 - Sr. Debbie did a virtual tour of the NRVC website, highlighting Convocation information, access to digital [Horizon](#) editions dating from 1998; [collaborative news and events](#) (email Debbie if you have such an event and want to post it here); Member [Toolbox](#); Studies; [Workshops](#), etc.
 - Members can participate in any [Member Area meeting/event](#).
 - Some have found participating in an event with a local group more fruitful than participating as an exhibitor.
 - Applications are available on the website for [Outstanding Member Award](#).
 - Debbie asked what we found most challenging today in Vocation Ministry
 - Inquirers from Africa. Related issues and concerns: green card application process, current immigration climate (might work best if congregation has ministry in that country). CLINIC will be addressing this at Convocation. What about a 1 yr volunteer program for interested international discerners, using the volunteer visa?
 - Discerning where/what events and places to attend to connect with younger folks (in person and online)
 - How to keep discerners interested, to stay in process
 - How to get younger adults to “come” to opportunities and events
 - How to bring congregational members ‘on board’
 - How to work collaboratively with Formators (Debbie mentioned the possibility of some gathering with both vocation and formation ministers)

- Criteria of New Members Then and Now and Future
 - Caryn shared the chart that she uses (attached)
 - Another criterion that Caryn's community uses is age: 25-50, with consideration of exceptions.
 - Leadership capacity was discussed.
 - Use of Ignatian Discernment
 - Influence/connections/ dynamics of family.
 - Social Skills
 - Unpacking the spirituality and faith items on Caryn's chart
 - Importance of peer support, especially for younger discerners
 - Criteria would need to adapt to changing times.
 - Online use/communications and relationships
 - Learning accommodations and how communities can support (how can I love/support you today?)
 - Dietary accommodations
 - Educational debt and credit card debt (living with a vow of poverty)
 - Other related matters: Caryn shared that since 2004, 100% of her discerners over 30 yrs. old have remained; 25%, under the age of 30 have remained. From the discussion on Criteria, Debbie asked about the use of Exit Interviews 1 year later.
- Needs of Members?
 - Eucharistic Congress: those participating expressed a desire to get together.
- Peer Support Group
 - Terry, Adelina, Mary, Brother Dan, and Val expressed interest. Details will be sent out later. Anyone interested contact Caryn. ccrook@sosf.org
- Another Meeting or Convocation only
 - One topic mentioned was how to bring our congregation members "on board" with vocation ministry and needs today. Maybe one such meeting could occur in August.
- Closing prayer – Sr. Caryn

Meeting adjourned at Noon ET

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Val Zottola