

CROWING CREATIONS JANUARY 2012

NORTHERN INDIANA EMMAUS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Where are all the Pilgrims/Sponsors?

If you have been checking the Northern Indiana Website www.niemmaus.com you know that the numbers of Pilgrims for the February Walks have actually gone down instead of up over the past month.

This means that possibly once again, the NI Emmaus Board of Directors may be in the unfortunate position of having to cancel these Walks. Both of these Walks were already postponed from last summer, meaning that these teams have prepared for walks twice already. How discouraging this is to lay directors and team members.

WALK INFORMATION:

MEN'S WALK 219 / FEBRUARY 9-12 / EPWORTH FOREST / **REGISTRATION CUTOFF: JAN. 28TH**

WOMEN'S WALK 220 / FEBRUARY 23-26 / EPWORTH FOREST / **REGISTRATION CUTOFF: FEB 4**

PLEASE! PLEASE! DON'T DELAY. PRAY AND ASK THOSE WHO HAVEN'T HAD THIS GREAT EXPERIENCE TO ATTEND THESE WALKS. REGISTRATION MATERIAL AVAILABLE ONLINE. DO IT TODAY!

ROAMING BOARD MEETINGS:

At the November Emmaus Board meeting, a suggestion was made that board meetings should be held in different locations throughout the Northern Indiana Emmaus Community. The intent of this change is to make the meetings more accessible to members of the Emmaus Community. It will mean that some board members may sometimes have to drive long distances to attend; however, board members present in November agreed to this sacrifice so that **MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WOULD BECOME REENGAGED IN NORTHERN INDIANA EMMAUS.**

The January Board meeting will be held at the Anderson First United Methodist Church. The address is 1215 Jackson Street in Anderson.

It is the Board's hope that many community members from Pendleton, Anderson, Alexandria, Lapel, Frankton, and other areas near Anderson will plan to attend this meeting on January 17th at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATION:

The NIEC Board of Directors acknowledges that communication with the community has been a challenge in the past few years. With the cost of printing and mailing, the decision to stop sending Crowing Creations to every Emmaus home has really impeded the ability of the board to communicate with the community.

For several months, we have been sending the Crowing Creations via email, and that has helped improve communications; however, **many NIEC members still do not receive the newsletter**. In our data base, we know we have over 400 email addresses **that are incorrect** because they have been undeliverable. We also know that a large group of the NIEC members **have not submitted and may not have** email addresses. For those we can only hope that they check frequently on the website, www.niemmaus.com We are aware that some do not have internet. For those we hope that they stay connected through reunion groups or other community members who do have internet or receive the newsletter.

HELP:

The NIEC Board is somewhat baffled as to why it has become so difficult to find people to be willing to be lay directors; to be willing to be team members, and to sponsor Pilgrims.

We know several of the issues that may perhaps have led to this problem, but just a few years ago, Northern Indiana Emmaus Walks were **nearly full each time** and we had **8-12 Walks per year**. Help us understand and try to resolve the lack of participation that has overtaken NIEC.

We know the following issues:

Communication has been impaired.

Distance to walks can be a challenge.

Some people have said their church is saturated with Emmaus people with no one left to sponsor.

The Great Banquet has become popular in many areas. Many Emmaus people are now working on those teams and sponsoring people for those events. We aren't sure why this has happened.

The screening form has been objectionable to some; however, we legally cannot hold walks without these completed forms.

The board invites your input. If you have not, why have you not been active in NIEC events? Why have you not sponsored Pilgrims recently?

What suggestions do you have to:

-better the communication between board and community?

-get more Pilgrims to attend Walks?

-help community members understand the covenant we have with The Upper Room that regulates many of the facets of how the Board operates and how the walks are constructed?

-Any other suggestions that community members have or questions about the operation of Northern Indiana Emmaus are welcomed by the Board of Directors.

Although new officers of NIEC will be elected, and standing Committee Chairmen may change later

this month, please send your questions or suggestions to daveritzenthaler@gmail.com or to northindianaemmaus@gmail.com Either address will insure that your input will be brought to the attention of the NIEC Board of directors.

2012 WALKS:

Men's Walk 219 February 9 - 12 Epworth Forest Pete Jones and Bob Schmalzreid, Lay Directors

Women's Walk 220 February 23 - 26 Epworth Forest Lynn Reidenbach Lay Director

Men's Walk 221 July 12 -15 Taylor University

Women's Walk 222 July 19 - 20 Taylor University

Men's Walk 223 October 11 - 14 Epworth Forest

Women's Walk 224 October 18 - 21 Epworth Forest

Lay Directors for the July and October walks have not yet been confirmed.

RETREAT:

The third annual retreat for the NIEC Board of directors AND Standing committee members will be held February 4 - 5 at Sangrlea Retreat Center near Grissom Air Force Base. The address is: 8892 E County Rd 500 S near Onward, Indiana. The retreat will begin at 7:00 p.m Friday and end approximately at 5:00 p.m. Saturday. All board members and members of standing committees are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great time of fellowship and an opportunity for Committee chairmen to meet with those serving on the standing committees so that communication between committee members will be optimim. No reseverations are necessary, but there will be a small fee collected to help pay for the facility. Bring snacks and drinks to share. If you would like to serve on a standing committee (see the December 2011 Crowing Creations), please contact daveritzenthaler@gmail.com

SPECIAL FEATURE:

HOW ARE EMMAUS TEAMS FORMED?

Once dates and locations have been determined for the following year's walks, the current Community Lay Director begins the process of calling potential Walk Lay Directors to fill those positions.

To be the Lay Director of an Emmaus Walk, a person must have served as Assistant Lay Director for at least two previous walks. The Community Lay Director receives a list of those qualified for these positions from the Data Base Coordinator. Potential lay directors are placed in the order of their original Emmaus Walks. They are contacted in this order.

To form their teams for each walk, the Lay Directors are guided by the Chairman and members of the Team Selection Committee, one of the standing committees on the Board

of directors.

The Lay Directors select 4 Assistant Lay Directors. The Team Selection Committee provides the names of those who are eligible to be Assistant Lay Directors. Two of these should have already served as Assistant Lay Directors previously, and two should be serving as Assistant Lay Directors for the first time. Persons who accept the position as Assistant Lay Director should be willing to later be Lay Director. Persons who do not want to be the Lay Director of an Emmaus Walk should not accept the position of assistant Lay Director.

Based on YES sheet information provided to the Data Base Coordinator through the website or sent through the mail, lists of community members who are eligible for each position is assembled by the Team Selection Committee and sent to the Lay Director. The Lay Director can then call potential team members or he/she can request that the Team Selection Committee assist in making phone calls.

Unfortunately, for some recent walks, over 200 calls have been made to fill teams. And yet, we have also received notice that some are waiting to serve but don't get called. If you want to serve but haven't been called, the best way to be sure that you are listed on the potential service lists is to renew your YES sheet.

Someone who has attended an Emmaus Walk as a Pilgrim or who has attended one of the other 4th Day retreat movements can become team members of an Emmaus Walk by first working behind the scenes as a BTS or kitchen helper.

Once serving behind the scenes, a person can then be considered for a position in the conference room. The person begins as an assistant table leader who gives one of the fifteen talks.

Once a person has given a talk and been an assistant table leader, the next position he/she could fill is that of Table Leader.

Once these positions have been held, a person can qualify for Assistant Lay Director. Often a person serves behind the scenes or as a Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader several times before he/she becomes an Assistant Lay Director.

The Lay Director selects two or three persons to direct the music for each walk. Musicians are not part of the rotation toward Lay Director. Musicians only have to have been on an original 4th Day event.

The Community Spiritual Director selects the Spiritual Director for each Walk. The Spiritual Director for each Walk selects the Assistant Spiritual Directors for that walk. The Spiritual Director often listens to the suggestions of the Lay Director of the Walk to seek Assistant Spiritual Directors.

The Board Representative for each walk is determined by the current Board of Directors. This person serves as liaison between the NIEC Board and the team. His/her function is to see that the Walks are held in accordance with the covenant policies of Upper Room

Emmaus.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

A report from new members of the NIEC Board:
thier experiences from the Retreat and their
expectations for NIEC Emmaus 2012.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and DE COLORES


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