

Visioning Team Meeting

Thursday, July 26, 2012 * 6:00 PM * DYM Conference Room

Present: Jeff Bakhuyzen, Dick Broene, Larry DeHaan, Mike Dekker, Mike Feys, Jim Hoekstra, Bob Kuipers, Steve Machiele, Paul Schaaringa, Tom Slendebroek, and Don VanDerKlok

Members absent: Alex Snider and Mark Stob

I. Opening

- A. Don opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Is. 12:1-6.
- B. M-S-P to approve the minutes from May 3, 2012, as amended.

II. Old Business

- A. Update on Congress Constitutional Proposals. Proposal 1 passed (93% in favor).
Proposal 2 failed (63% in favor, but not the required two-thirds).

B. What's our primary focus?

1. Our early surveys indicated that creating a culture of prayer is critical.
 - a.) Dick's council visits and phone contacts made to councils by executive committee members indicate that many councils understand prayer is important, appreciate it although it stretches some counselors beyond their comfort zones, varies greatly by council, and is moving slowly forward.
 - b.) Consider adding a council chaplain if you don't already have one.
2. Our early surveys also indicated that recruiting, educating, and retaining committed counselors is critical to the ongoing success of the ministry.
 - a.) Promotion. The promo DVD with accompanying script sent by Corps to URC, RCA, OPC, and CRC churches, with or without Cadet clubs, generated only 1 response out of approximately 3000 DVDs mailed. With production costs exceeding \$1000/minute, this method of promotion was neither cost effective or productive.
 - b.) Education. Last year our VT recommended that RTCs encourage the taping of presenters at Regional Conferences so that a library of topics could be made accessible not only to those area counselors who for whatever reason could not attend, but be available to counselors in independent clubs, councils who don't host regional conferences, and counselors anywhere at anytime. This is starting to happen.

Regional conferences continue to be popular – a good bang for the buck close to home with a reasonable time commitment and lots of ideas, food, and fellowship.

c.) Retention. Vibrant Cadet programs retain committed counselors.

Barriers to retention that will need to be addressed:

- Churches who stopped viewing & using Cadets as a ministry for their boys and the boys of their communities.
- Unsupportive Children's Ministry Directors who often promote their own created programs or attempt to shrink the ages served by Cadets by adding middle school youth groups for both boys and girls.
- Unsupportive pastors and/or councils who do not protect their counselors, men with a gift and passion for ministering to boys, from being voted into council positions.
- A mentality that being a Cadet counselors is not an equal calling to being a deacon or elder but a stepping stone to a hierarchial calling.
- A lack of fire and motivation on the part of some present Cadet counselors who fail to see Cadets as a ministry – "been there, done that", staying only while they have a son of Cadet age,...
- For some counselors, an unsupportive spouse.
- Getting all clubs and counselors to see the value of councils and Corps as those who don't often don't attend council meetings, regional conferences, or counselor conventions.

How might we overcome these barriers?

- Be praying for guys who are hungry for Cadets. Recruit prayer warriors within our churches to pray with us and for us.
- Inspire an attitude shift like "got to – get to". Are you going to be a player or a pretender? Are you going to wear out or rust out?
- Keep trying. Be open to new ideas within clubs and councils – perhaps change meeting times, the order of a meeting or evening, etc.

3. Getting the info out.

- A. Funding clubs. Dick reported that fundraising ideas, gleaned from clubs through our most recent VT survey, compiled by Steve, will appear in the next issue of the Clarion. Ideas that Work for Fundraising

III. New Business

A. What should we be looking at that we aren't?

1. Congressmen:

- a. How do we motivate our Congressmen to bring the excitement home and keep the fire lit?
- b. What jobs do we need them to do? How will we have them do it? How do we make them accountable? What happens if they don't do it?
- c. Challenges. Congressmen often change in the spring elections which means new ones missed Congress and might not be properly informed,...

2. Communication:
 - a. Highlight what works. Highlight a counselor who's fired up.
3. Congress:
 - a. Utilizing motivational speakers, skits, DVD clips, etc. at different times.
(Assignment: Take these ideas to our next meeting or get them to Dick)
 - b. Keeping the counselors busier.
 - c. We noted that up to 1975 Congress convened in both summer and winter.
 - d. Should there be term limits on Congressmen?
 - 1.) Cons.
 - Some councils struggle to get board members each year.
 - Some councils have gifted ones who they don't want to retire.
 - It's the responsibility of a council to vote in someone to replace one who is irresponsible
 - 2.) Pros.
 - Putting a younger face on our ministry.
 - Getting some new blood into the ministry.

IV. Miscellaneous

- A. B. Convention comments first go to Niagara Council's convention committee.
- B. M. Joseph Knoll, counselor at Alger Park and treasurer for GR council, has cancer.
- C. J. Appreciation for how we come to consensus.
- D. J. Continuing to pray about tonight's agenda and what we might do.
- E. S. Update on Steve's mom who started chemotherapy for ovarian cancer.
- F. D. Prayer regarding a new youth director who hasn't shown past support for Cadets in a prior church.
- G. Thanks that Larry brought munchies.

V. Adjournment

- A. M-S-P to adjourn.
- B. Next meeting: 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 20, at the DYM Conference Room.
- C. Steve closed our meeting with prayer.

Present: Jeff Bakhuyzen, Dick Broene, Larry DeHaan, Mike Dekker, Jim Hoekstra, Steve Machiele, Paul

Scharringa, Alex Snider, Mark Stob, Don VanDerKlok

Absent: Mike Feys, Bob Kuipers, Tom Slendebroek

I Opening

- A. Don opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Hebrews 12:1-3
- B. M-S-P to accept the minutes from our July 26 meeting, (noting a different spelling from Paul's last name) and the revised minutes from the May 3 meeting.

II Old Business

- A. As Tom, our liason from the Executive Committee, wasn't present, Larry indicated that the Executive Committee would like our VT members to be present at the Friday night meal at Congress on January 11, 2012, and welcomed any additional attendance. Also, we are urged by Tom to stay on topic and strive for more action.
- B. Congress 2013
 1. We encourage open mike time.
 2.
 - a. We watched an eight minute Promotional DVD mailed out to about 3000 churches in 2011, those with Cadet programs and those within the CRC, OPC, and RCA, who don't have Cadets, but could. It was sent out to show that Cadets is a viable, serious option for a boy's ministry, whether it be to the boys within the church, within the community, or both as a means to reach the next generation of boys for Christ. It generated only one known response.
 - b. We would recommend that it be placed in new club packets.
 - c. We would recommend that more copies be made available to Congressmen or outreach minded persons within a council for promotional purposes.
 - d. We would recommend that it be shown at Congress 2013 to familiarize Congressmen with it since many of them have never seen it. We need to decide when to show it.
 3. We watched a Promise Keepers clip of an older man doing an Iron Man competition, powering along his handi-capped son, which we would like to use as motivational tool tied to our theme of God's Power Through Me.
 4. We suggested two possible speakers:
 - a. Pastor Henry VanOlst, chaplain for Berean Council, to speak on prayer.
 - b. Pastor Frank Wevers from Calvary CRC (Ottagan Council) who we would like to use as a motivational speaker to inspire counselors to go and do. (He was a speaker at the 2001 Regional Conference hosted by Ottagan Council).
 - c. Jim researched other speakers – Francis Chan, Louie Giglio, Bill Hybels, John Piper, and Rick Warren – as possibilities. Joe White was suggested to Jim as another speaker to check out.
 5. We reconsidered the suggestion from our last meeting to write a congressional proposal for term limits and decided not to do so. This would possibly endanger the passionate, outstanding work being done by Congressmen within certain councils and it would likely pose a threat to the well-being of councils who are already struggling to get board members. Moreover, it's really up to the counselors in any council to vote existing Congressmen or newly nominated Congressmen up or down in their annual elections.

- a. We wondered if it might be beneficial to provide a workshop at Regional Conferences for Congressmen.
- b. There already is a checklist for Congressmen, but we thought it might be beneficial to have it sent to each council president for an annual evaluation.

M-S-P to send a proposal to the Executive Committee “that an annual survey be sent to council presidents regarding communication between congressmen, councils, and Corps.”

VT members need to submit their survey questions to Dick.

III New Business

A. Nominees for VT replacements.

1. Tim Speelman of Ottagan, Mark Brookhouse of G.R., and Tim Peters of Rush Creek were suggested.
2. Alex mentioned names of two youth pastors.
3. We would like to have a brief bio on each nominee.
4. We need to contact these nominees prior to our next meeting so that they can be approved here and brought to the Executive Committee for final approval.

B. Misc.

1. Alex accepted a call (and our congrats) to Ellsworth CRC. His first service will be Nov. 11.
2. Paul.
 - a. Extended an invitation to us for the Canadian Fishing Tournament
 - b. Berean Council grateful for the addition of 3 new clubs and about 75 new Cadets.
3. Mike D. Suggests that a Promotional DVD be given to each council.
4. Jim. Thankful to meet with us and for our hours of service to the Cadet ministry.
5. Dick. Visit to Illiana was energizing – 400 assembling in the big tent for a good speaker.
6. Larry. Prayer request for his wife who has a blood clot in her leg.
7. Jeff B.
 - a. We should discuss technology.
 - b. Prayer request for his dad, Bert, who’s been having acute abdominal pain.
8. Steve.
 - a. Prayer request. Delores, his mom, continues with chemo to treat her colon cancer.
 - b. Prayer request. Jadene, Steve’s wife, just lost her job of 21 years.
 - c. We should be regularly utilizing the culture of prayer techniques with both VT and EC .
9. Don. Ongoing friction between church council and Cadet counselors has led to mistrust,...

IV. Closing

- A. Mike D. Closed the meeting with prayer.
- B. Next meeting will be November 29, 6:30 PM, at DYM.