

# LEAN

Lutheran Executive Alumni Network



Conference in  
Baltimore, Maryland

MAY 2-3, 2017

**Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel**

550 Light Street | 410.234.0550





# LEAN

LEAN is the network of executives and spouses who have retired from Lutheran social ministry organizations.

Our meeting will be at a hotel in the beautiful Inner Harbor of Baltimore Maryland next door to the familiar Lutheran Center, home to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran World Relief along with other Lutheran entities.

Our conference will provide an opportunity for fellowship and stimulating discussion. The cost is kept down through generous donations. This year's focus will be on our Lutheran understanding of the concept of 'vocation', especially during our retirement years.

The LSA conference will start the day following our conference, May 4th, in Washington DC, a short train ride away. LEAN members can register for the full LSA conference for only \$200, and participate in all the workshops and activities, including a timely emphasis on advocacy. Or participate at no cost in LSA's Connect the Dot reception in DC on Thursday evening. Enjoying Washington and Baltimore's Inner Harbor in early May with colleagues and old friends – what could be better?

*Please join us.*

## Biographies

### **Dr. David H Benke**

David H is the recently retired President of the Atlantic District of the LCMS. In 2001, following the events of November 11, Dr. Benke co-founded Lutheran Disaster Response of New York.

During his tenure in Brooklyn, he helped initiate the Nehemiah Plan, which has led to over 4000 single family homes being built on formerly ravaged inner-city acreage. Dr. Benke currently serves as the President of the National LCMS Housing Support Corporation. He and others are now fighting for anti-displacement measures and affordable housing alternatives in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods.

Most recently, Dr. Benke served as Interim CEO of LSS of New York. He received the “50 Over 50 Award” given by City and State of New York. He continues as Pastor of St.Peter’s, a lively multicultural and multi-national congregation which gives Dave and Judy great joy in the Lord.

David is happily married to Judy, and resides in Queens where they can be seen driving a retirement sports car on the way to and from New York Mets games.

### **Dr. Ken Kessler**

Ken has been serving as a leadership and life coach for 12 years. He leads coach training with Coach Approach Ministries, Western Seminary, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Baptist General Association of Virginia(BGAV). Ken presently serves as Director of the Coaching Network at the BGAV.

has his Masters of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, and his Doctor of Ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has helped non-profits and churches deal with strategic, organizational and leadership direction. He is committed to the transforming capacity of the North American Church to pursue and sustain vital Christ-centered ministry.

Ken, his wife, and three sons also include two dogs as family members.

# Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, May 2

- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Conference registration at the hotel lobby
- 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Tour of Lutheran Center followed by  
Opening Reception  
Greetings and Updates from:  
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services  
*Staci Coomer, Vice President for Development*  
Lutheran World Relief  
*Daniel Speckhard, President & CEO*  
Lutheran Center - 700 Light Street, 5th Floor

## Wednesday, May 3

- Conference will be at Royal Sonesta Harbor Hotel
- 9:00 am Welcome to 2017 LEAN Conference  
Opening Devotions – Bernice Karstensen
- 9:30 am – 11:45 am Lutheran Understanding of Vocation  
Applied in our Retirement Years  
Rev. Dr. David Benke
- Noon Lunch at Royal Sonesta Harbor Hotel
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Coaching: A Great Way to Invest in New  
Generations of Leaders  
Dr. Ken Kessler, M. Div.
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm LEAN Annual Meeting
- 6:00 pm Dinner (included) at Rusty Scupper restaurant

LSA members are welcome to attend the LSA conference, particularly the Connect the Dots reception, at Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, May 4 at 6:30.

## Conference Registration

Registration fee:

\$100/person

Due by March 31, 2017

LEAN Membership dues for year ending June 30, 2017 are \$25/person and also due by March 31st.

Makes checks (for both registration and membership) payable to *Lutheran Services of America*

*Mail to:*

Lutheran Services in America

100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20002

The registration fee includes the opening reception on May 2nd, lunch and dinner on May 3rd.

For questions about registration, contact

Carol Fredrich - 515.305.1174

LEAN Steering Committee Member



## Hotel Reservations

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel  
550 Light Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410.234.0550 | 800.766.3782  
[www.sonesta.com](http://www.sonesta.com)

You can make room reservations by phone or online. To obtain the special group rate of **\$159/night plus taxes** for 1-2 people, reference the Lutheran Executive Alumni group (if registering by phone), or 043RETIRE if registering online. The group rate is available up to three days before and after the conference. **Make reservations by April 9, 2017 as rooms will be held for LEAN only until that date.**

Parking is \$34/valet or \$22/self-parking per night. Discounted continental breakfast is available for \$15. Light breakfast and lunch items are available at onsite coffee shop. Restaurant/lounge also onsite.



Please join us for this memorable time!  
MAY 2-3, 2017

# **Lutheran Executive Alumni Network**

Support the mission of LSA

Stay connected

Lutheran Services in America  
100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002