Welcome to the LSA Communicators Network Webinar

Keeping Focus on Mission in a Changing World

The Webinar will begin in a few minutes

To join the audio portion of the Webinar:
Dial: 1-888-891-0496
Passcode: 477260 #
Welcome to the LSA Communicators Network Webinar

- Please **mute** (unmute) your phone line (*6).
- **View** Options: Toggle for Full and Netspoke screens
- This Webinar is being **recorded**.
- Presenters will answer **questions** after their remarks.
- Click on the **Q/A button** to ask a question.
Keeping Focus on Mission

In a Changing World

Called to love and serve our NEIGHBORS

LSA Communicators Network Webinar (hosted by LSA)
Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 1:00 PM (ET)

Barbara Below, Director of Social Ministry Organizations
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

Ruth Reko, Director of Social Ministry Organizations
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jacob Preus, EVP of Mission Advancement and Religious Life
Bethesda Lutheran Communities

Lisa Hassenstab, Director of Advocacy and Policy
Lutheran Services in America
Recognized Service Organizations

RSO Status Granting Process
RSO Process Review

- Started in 2005
- Reviewed existing procedures
- Evaluated existing materials
- Developed new application, granting, monitoring, and reapplication process
Goals Achieved in new RSO Process

- Clarified, streamlined, and standardized application process throughout Synod.
- Developed consistent monitoring and review process of RSOs.
- Improved documentation policies and procedures.
- Developed web page, information, application for RSO status.
Key Criteria for RSO Status

In order to be eligible for RSO status

- Must foster mission and ministry of the church
- Must work in harmony with LCMS programs
- Must not act contrary to LCMS doctrine and practices
- Must have appropriate LCMS representation on governing boards
  - Each department determines appropriate number
- Must clarify RSO status does not endorse fiscal solvency or the programs offered
Key Concepts in RSO Policy

- RSOs are independent of Synod
- RSOs reflect the LCMS in their community
- Status granted for 5 year period of time
- District President involved in application process
Benefits of RSO Status

- Call church workers
- Eligible for loans from LCEF
- Participate in insurance plan
- LCMS Foundation gift planning
- Receive restricted funds
- Use of LCMS logo
- LCMS Group Purchasing
- Apply for LWML Grants
Forms to be completed:
- RSO application
- District president statement form

Checklist of required documents and information
Application Packet

✓ Electronic
  - www.lcms.org/RSO
  - Links to agency web pages
  - Links to Bylaws and Policies
  - Links to FAQs

✓ Print
  - Email me at barb.below@lcms.org
  - 314-996-1383
New RSO Status Granting Process

Questions?
barb.below@lcms.org
314-996-1383
Keeping the Focus on Mission

Ruth Reko
Director of Social Ministry Organizations

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.
Supports 285 social ministry organizations through:

- Consultation on affiliation with this church body,
- Interpreting and supporting relationship between ELCA synods and bishops with social ministry organizations
- Technical assistance to emerging diaconal or service initiatives
- Oversight of endowment funds
- Liaison with Lutheran Services in America,
- Participation with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund on capital projects of social ministry organizations
- Crisis intervention for organizations
Social Ministry Organizations

Helping 1 out of 50 people in the U.S. and Caribbean each year

The ELCA, along with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and 300 health and human service organizations, participate in an alliance known as Lutheran Services in America (LSA). LSA serves more than 5 million people each year -- 1 out of 50 people in 3,000 communities in the United States and the Caribbean.

As part of its mission, the ELCA supports the more than 285 social ministry organizations through consultation on affiliation with this church body, interpreting and supporting the relationship between ELCA synods and bishops with social ministry organizations (see below), technical assistance to emerging diaconal or service initiatives, oversight of endowment funds (see below), liaison with Lutheran Services in America participation with the ELCA mission.

Find Lutheran Social Services and other social ministry organizations in your area:

- Lutheran Services in America member directory
- Search by services or location

Diakonia: Serving the World

"Prophetic Diakonia," a paper developed by a 2002 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) consultation in South Africa, interprets the shape of diakonia (service)
Affiliation criteria on the ELCA website:

http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Partner-Related-O rganizations/Social-Ministry-Organizations.aspx
Affiliation may be granted to:

- A social ministry organization’s primary (“parent”) corporation/any of its not-for-profit subsidiaries which meet all criteria as stated on page 10, Commitments of SMOs,

- Social ministry organizational structures in which only a subsidiary corporation meets all criteria (in such cases, the subsidiary may be granted affiliation status even though the primary/parent corporation is not eligible for such status.

Affiliation may not be granted to:

- For-profit corporations.
- SMOs with self-perpetuating boards of directors.
Affiliation criteria on the ELCA website:

http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Partner-Related-Organizations/Social-Ministry-Organizations.aspx
AN LSA COMMUNICATORS NETWORK WEBINAR

Rev. Dr. Jack Preus
Executive Vice President of Mission Advancement
Bethesda Lutheran Communities
How do we talk about our mission – and our organizations’ Lutheran identity – in the midst of disagreement over policy? While there is diversity in Lutheran synodical policy, there is commonality in our Lutheran mission of human service.
FIRST: POLICY DECISIONS ARE NEVER MERELY POLICY DECISIONS

AT LEAST NOT IN THE CHURCH!

They always reflect some underlying theological or philosophical assumptions
With honesty

- We must openly and honestly acknowledge what divides us
With respect

We must acknowledge what unites us and seek ways to give joint witness to what we hold in common
Yes! To what is good and right

No! To what is wrong or harmful
Some Lutheran Theological Resources

- The "Lutheran dialectic"
  - Theological tension
  - Law and Gospel
A Robust First Article
- This is God’s world

The Doctrine of creation
- The image of God
- Stewardship of God’s world
SOME LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Two Kingdoms
  - The “Left Hand”
  - The “Right Hand”
The Vocation of every Christian
- A Holy Calling
- Masks of God
THE KEY

Honesty and Respect
Congregational Relations vs. Church Relations

Lisa Hassenstab
Lutheran Services in America
Messaging to Congregations

- Organizational mission
- Connection to their church
  - Historical
  - Services
  - Financial
- How you serve their community
- Impact they have when involved
- What you can do for them
  - Example:
Opportunities to Communicate
Opportunities to Communicate

• Point person in congregation
• Bulletin inserts
• Prayers
• Newsletter articles
• Stories for pastors to use in sermons
• Advocacy opportunities
• Congregational award
• Synod/district events
• Monthly pastor meetings
Connecting Service and Advocacy to Congregations
Connecting Service and Advocacy to Congregations

• Organizational history with government
• Current issues
• Opportunities to learn more about the issues
• Opportunities to be trained in advocacy
• Easy ways to communicate an advocacy message
• Meeting with elected officials
Questions?

Lisa Hassenstab
Director of Advocacy and Policy
Lutheran Services in America

Lhassenstab@lutheranservices.org
202-626-7932
Mark your calendar

LSA Communicators Network Conference
April 26, 2010
Sacramento, California
Register at www.lutheranservices.org

Abundant Life Together