

## Twenty-Fifth Annual ALSS Conference

### New Structures for Lutheran High Schools

**D**r. Martin F. Wessler, Board for Parish Education, discussed the topic, "New Structures for Lutheran High Schools" He divided the topic according to the following subparts and distributed summaries of each part. These included:

#### LOCATION:

Warwick Hotel  
New York, NY

#### DATE:

Feb. 8-10, 1968

#### OFFICERS:

**President**  
K.C. Meyer  
St. Louis, MO

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Milwaukee, WI

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Alwin Wied  
Detroit, MI

- A. Synod-District high school relationships
- B. Elementary-high school relationships
- C. Propositions concerning recruitment in Lutheran high schools
- D. Board for Parish Education's services to community high schools
- E. Teacher placement services
- F. National Convention format

Following the presentation of Dr. Wessler, the chairman divided the assembly into two groups headed by Mr. Richard Braun and Rev. Peter Zadeik and asked that after a brief coffee break these two groups discuss parts A and B of the paper and report back via a recorder.

Group #1 chose to discuss the subtopic: "Elementary - High School Relationships" and indicated that the congregations delegate to the local high school association should definitely be a member of the parish board of education. The organization and relationship between the high school and elementary schools should be systematized and the curriculum coordinated. The high school should take the lead in this effort. More pastors and teachers should be encouraged to attend local high school association meetings. A more unified Lutheran school system should be considered. Christian education needs full support and not all possible sources have been utilized so far. More should be done by the districts and the BPE to secure as much federal

aid as our schools may be entitled to. To achieve all of the foregoing suggested, we need a larger staff on both the synodical and district levels. This might be pointed out at the next meeting of Synod.

Group #2, reporting on "District - High School Relationships," felt there was a need for closer cooperation between district officers and the Lutheran high schools with high schools taking the initiative. All district education executives should be invited to future ALSS meetings in order to implement such a closer relationship. The basic problem is yet to convince pastors and people that the Lutheran high school is an extension of parish education. Only two high schools have principals or superintendents represented on district boards and vice versa.

Group #3, discussing "Propositions Concerning recruitment in Lutheran high schools," (John L. Dutton reporting) said:

1. College recruiters from synodical schools are effective.
2. Be eager and willing to recruit, but don't over-recruit.
3. Reexamine the colloquy program and the status of women teachers.
4. Closing of the prep schools increases the need for more recruiting by the high schools.
5. Best recruiters are good teachers, living models of the ministry.

Group #4, discussing "Board for Parish Education services to community high schools," (Dr. Alfred Roth reporting) said:

1. Evaluation by outside agencies is a good idea.
2. Consideration should be given to the religion curriculum and evaluation thereof.
3. Need for a common utilization of BPE materials in religion.

*"All district education executives should be invited to future ALSS meetings in order to implement such a closer relationship."*

Group #5, discussing "Teacher placement services," (E. F. Fiebig reporting) said:

1. Comments from colleges on teacher candidates should include comments by the candidate's major department.
2. Perhaps a need exists to strengthen rules for teacher placement practices.
3. Enlarge the amount of information available about candidates.
4. Every district ought to note the qualifications of new teachers in the district and be able to report any who do or will qualify for high school positions, although originally placed in elementary schools.

*"Perhaps a need exists to strengthen rules for teacher placement practices."*

To this point Dr. Wessler commented that the teachers' bureau is now being placed in Synod's personnel department, and that a computer will help locate qualified people in the future. In concluding his paper, Dr. Wessler stated the BPE intended to capitalize on this blueprint program which he presented to the conference. He indicated that the BPE and the ALSS will have an obligation to share these with all agencies of the church.

#### **Report of the Curriculum Commission**

Dr. John Choitz introduced his report with greetings from Dr. Paul Lange in behalf of Valparaiso University. Dr. Choitz reported:

- A. The church history project is well under way and will be concluded soon, due to the cooperation of the BPE, BHE, and the colleges where the authors teach.
- B. Teaching units are being rewritten by Rev. Harold Rast in the areas of church history, doctrine, and Old Testament, and will be available to high schools this summer.

- C. Other areas in which teaching units may be needed are being considered.
- D. The committee will again approach the AAL for additional financial support for the curriculum commission. To date, \$8,000 has been received from the AAL for this work.

## Report of Board for Parish Education

Dr. Arthur L. Miller, Secretary for the Board for Parish Education, reported that the focus of Synod through the years was on elementary education but in recent decades attention has also been given to the secondary program. The BPE is working closely now with Lutheran schools and the report distributed at this conference is an example of such cooperation. The addition of Martin Wessler and Rev. Harold Rast contribute to this effective liaison.

Recently meetings were held with the Lutheran high schools of Rockford, Houston, Minneapolis, Denver, Baltimore and with interested Kansas City Lutherans. The high school report dates back to 1961 when it was first requested. The 1967-68 enrollment total in Lutheran high schools is 11,703 with a total staff of 630. Thirteen of these schools have operating budgets in excess of \$200,000. It is interesting to note that before 1943 only three community Lutheran high schools existed in contrast to the present total of 25 community high schools and 6 synodical high schools.

## Keynote Address

The Rev. Richard T. Hinz, Dean of Christian Instruction at Baltimore Lutheran High School, spoke on the theme, "The High School's Role in Leading a Church in Mission." He suggested:

- A. High schools should restate their reason for existence in their philosophies, etc.
- B. Make the role of the high school clear to parents and supporting congregations. Adult classes on church, society, Christianity might put the high school in clearer focus to parents and churches.

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