



## PRESIDENT NLS Nominee Information Form

Name: Brian Comeno

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Home Secretariat: Light In The Desert Church Affiliation: Cornerstone

Weekend Attended (please include year): #23 in 2015

First and foremost, pray for guidance before and while completing this form. I have read through the current Job Description located at <https://viadecristo.org/meet-us/roles/president> and have a good understanding of what the position entails: **Yes**

Are you active in a reunion group? **Yes**

Any family information you would like to share: I have been married to my beautiful wife for 27 years. I am an executive vice president for New Chef Fashion which has given me the opportunity to travel all over the country.

Experience with servant positions in churches: Run the sound and AV department, scheduling volunteers

Your experience in your local Secretariat and VdC weekends: 2018-current Lay Director 2016-2018 Music liaison, 2015-2016 Communications director, 2022 Weekend Rector, previously Music lead, table leader, kitchen lead, AR, along with several Rollo's.

Your experience on behalf of the NLS in attending and working: Attended 4 of last 5 NLS Gatherings as a delegate, and have led breakout sessions on sponsorship and served as the Parliamentarian for the most recent NLS Gathering.

Computer skills: Very capable

Your experience as a Leader of an organization/ministry:

I have been involved in various organizations for many years. As President and Vice President for the Tall Clubs International. We worked to update our digital communication growing this organization to over 6000 members and a growing web presence. My leadership style is to be a team player and I believe in good communication, active listening and identifying issues and working through them with a group of people to find a solution. I consider myself forward thinking.

I have had the pleasure of serving our local secretariat as the Lay Director (president) since 2018. In this role, I have helped lead Light in the Desert to expand it's outreach program to include many church communities in and around the Las Vegas Valley. I believe outreach is necessary to keep this wonderful ministry alive and vibrant. As Lay Director, I have helped lead Light in the Desert into the digital world, encouraging and supporting the use of technology in our secretariat functions as well as during weekends. I encouraged the development and upkeep of a website and FaceBook presence and helped to expand our use of Google Drive to archive our information to make it more readily available to the body, particularly upcoming weekend rectors. We have also begun using technology during our weekends to include slide presentations during rollo's as well as having the worship and rollo songs on slides to encourage participation. With this use of media we have seen an increase in participation with our younger people.

In addition to these accomplishments, I led and supported the community during the COVID19 pandemic, encouraging the use of Zoom and other safe gatherings to keep our community connected and moving forward during that time. And then in September, 2022, I led the first in-person weekend following the pandemic with 17 pilgrims and 52 team members. Our community continues to thrive and grow and we are looking forward to hosting the National Gathering in 2024.

Your experience with event planning, attention to details and visioning, setting agendas and running meetings: I chair and facilitate a weekend every year for Tall Club International in Vegas, about 300 people annually to include scheduling all events, hotel contracts and all phases in between from transportation to door prizes.

Most recently, I was rector for Light in the Desert VdC #32, the first in-person weekend following the pandemic. Where I led 52 team members to shepherd 17 pilgrims to become cristoistas. In April, LITD Weekend #33 will occur, with most of those 17 pilgrims returning to work the kitchen.

Your experience with managing from a distance: My leadership style is to surround myself with gifted people to delegate and accomplish the tasks for each position. With a strong team, there is the ability to grow not only as a team but an individual. This allows me to move to the next step in the task with guidance as needed. In addition, as above I believe that my leadership helped keep Light in the Desert Via de Cristo going through the pandemic by use of Zoom and other distance fellowship activities, including having weekly email contact by the secretariat members to the full community.

Communication skills/experience: Very open and transparent, no secrets and always forthcoming as a true leader should be.

Other experience which would help you as the NLS President: Prayer, Communication, Prayer!

Special interests: Forward thinking with Music and digital transition to keep these areas current with my company, my band, and VDC. I have a traveling worship band that has played all over the southwest leading worship services. The ability to meet new people and provide opportunities to share the message of Jesus Christ is an awesome blessing. Our group has been together for over 25 years. It is all about relationships.

How do you see the position of President promoting and supporting the growth and health of the Via de Cristo ministry? By moving forward through updating VdC to attract a younger generation without losing the essentials of the movement.

Why do you feel that you are well suited to serve in this position? I have always felt called to lead. From my Baseball days on to employment and ministry, having a strong work ethic and using the skills that God has given me to enhance each position and program that were in place. The position of President for NLS is no different, I have felt called this for several years and would be honored to have the opportunity.

I would be honored to be a part of the National Board in a position that allows me the opportunity to meet new people and walk with them in building a new Via de Cristo in their area. My ability to travel is helpful when the need to travel comes up. I have been active with our Regional Coordinator and value the relationship and that it has helped bridge us with National.

Signature: *Brian Comeno* Date 4/11/2023