



North American Conference of Associates and Religious

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Through NACAR's leadership we confirm one another in "prayer, mutuality, inspiration, support, and friendship".

Annual Report 2017-2018

*Growing
And
Opening
Ourselves
In
New Ways*

*North American Conference
of Associates and Religious*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Isaiah 56:7

In 2017, the North American Conference of Associates and Religious reached out to our members to find out what they value most about NACAR. One of the respondents wrote, "It gives me a broader perspective of church." As we step back and review 2017-2018, we see the many ways locally, regionally and internationally that associates and religious are broadening the perspective of church and working to create a safe place "for all peoples."



Locally, associate-religious communities are in forefront of the many issues that have effectively barred God's people from safety. Among them are working on issues related to immigration, human trafficking, care of creation, and women and families.

Regionally, associates and associate leaders gather to learn from one another, and to offer support and encouragement in the on-going building up of the kingdom of God. Regionally and internationally we experience how connected we truly are. We see how our respective charisms hold the common bond of love. Love of God, love of our communities and love for ALL that God has created.

As a membership organization, NACAR has sought to meet the needs of our members by serving as "a catalyst" to bring together the good works that happen locally and regionally. This year, through our Creative Conversations, we used technology to bring together members, some of whom may feel isolated because they live at a distance from their local community.

As in the past, this 2017-18 annual report provides the facts, figures and reports of the organization. The board of directors hopes that it entices, empowers and inspires you to share your gifts — locally, regionally and with NACAR. To paraphrase Saint Mother Teresa: the needs are great, and none of us, including NACAR, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.

Thank you for all that you have done for the continued well-being of NACAR and the people we serve. We look forward to joining with you as we continue the work of creating "something wonderful."

Jeanne Connolly,

Covenant Companion, Wheaton Franciscans

NACAR Mission Statement

The North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) is a membership organization that acts as a catalyst to serve, empower and promote the associate-religious relationship.

NACAR Vision Statement

A vibrant, viable organization that collaborates with regional partners to promote association in all its forms.

November 2013

On the cover, two individuals accepted our challenge to create their own poster quote pondering what it means to be a member of NACAR. Thank you to Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Carmel by the Sea) and Director of Associates Carol Braun, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes (Growing and Opening Ourselves in New Ways).

BOARD MEMBERS

Covenant Companion

Jeanne Connolly

Wheaton Franciscans, St. Charles, Illinois
board president

Sister Rita D. Woehlcke

Sisters of St Joseph, Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
board vice president

Reverend Arthur Carrillo

Congregation of Passion,
Holy Cross Province, Chicago, Illinois
board secretary

Associate Mark Piper

Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest
board treasurer

Associate Terri Butel

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Associate Conni Dubick

Dominican Sisters of Peace
Akron, Ohio

Associate Ann Gotfryd

Congrégation de Notre-Dame
Toronto, Ontario



NACAR board members at a recent board meeting in Wisconsin, from left, Rita Woehlcke, Mark Piper, Ann Gotfryd, Conni Dubick, Arthur Carrillo, Teri Butel and Jeanne Connolly.

CONTRACTORS

Associate Mary Jo Mersmann

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati,
Mt. St. Joseph, Ohio
Office Member Relations

Maryknoll Affiliate Fred Goddard

Web Administrator

Lisa Olson

Communications Consultant

Gina D’Orazio

Accountant



NACAR consultants Mary Jo Mersmann and Fred Goddard share their memories of NACAR for the 20th anniversary in 2017. Both are long-time consultants who are vital to the organization’s success.

FINANCE REPORT

The total income for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, was \$86,742.31. Board members provided in-kind contributions of \$2,877.98 (board travel and some marketing expenses).

Expenses totaled \$66,577.50. Including restricted funds, there appears to be a surplus or net income of \$20,164.81. Excluding restricted funds, the balance turns negative \$(1,570.19). This is an improvement from last year, largely due to a higher than expected turnout in the leadership workshop this past May. Our membership renewals are also still trickling in. Membership income continues to be strong.

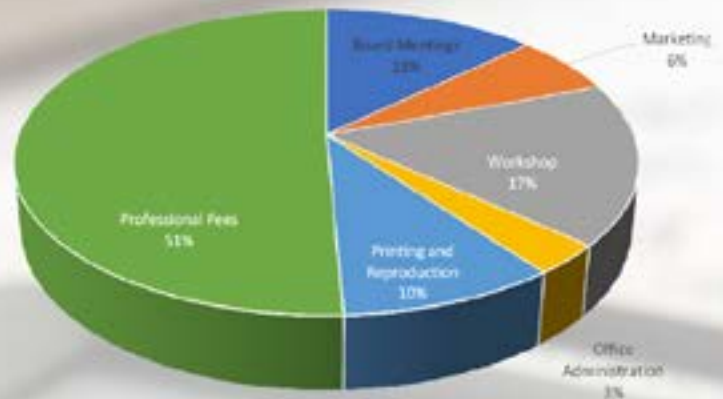
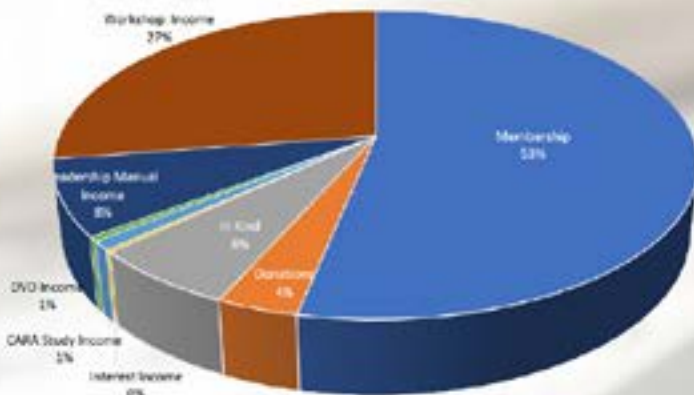
The board strives to be good stewards of our organizational funds. They monitor their income and expenses against a conservative budget. As NACAR grows as an organization and enhances its membership benefits, expenses rise. For at least the sixth year NACAR has not increased membership dues, its primary source of income. The board continues to keep the bottom line in mind as it plans for the future. NACAR's cash position on June 30 was \$83,559, including \$21,735 in restricted funds. This represents an increase in cash of \$20,462 from June 30, 2017.

Please note that the grant money or restricted funds in the latter half of the fiscal year, which increased our income in this report, is planned for a draw-down throughout this new fiscal year for various specified projects. Securing these funds enable NACAR to reach the goal of enhancing the associate movement and improving services for all dues paying members.

By continuing to use these funds wisely at this moment in the associate movement, the board and its consultants continue to ensure the viability and vitality of NACAR for our hope-filled future.

2017-2018 INCOME

2017-2018 EXPENSES



Membership	53%
Workshop Income	27%
Leadership Manual Income	8%
In Kind	6%
Donations	4%
CARA Study Income	1%
DVD Income	1%
Interest	<1%

Professional Fees	51%
Workshops	17%
Board Meetings	13%
Printing & Reproduction	10%
Marketing	6%
Office Administration	3%

MEMBERSHIP & BENEFITS

NACAR offers different forms of membership to meet the needs of those we serve. NACAR provides all its members an opportunity to:

- Expand their connection to the larger associate-religious movement across North America.
- Directly receive information on trends and resources regarding the associate movement.
- Participate in NACAR workshops/events at a discounted rate.
- Access the members sections of the NACAR website.
- Download NACAR publications and archived materials from the website.
- Receive the NACAR e-magazine, *The Associate*, and the monthly e-newsletter from the board of directors.
- Engage in activities which witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our world today.



The Ohio Pennsylvania Associate Leadership group sponsored its first program in the fall of 2017. This new regional groups provides support and education for associate leaders.

In addition, specific benefits belong to the different forms of membership:

Community Membership

This membership comes with five to 15 individual memberships depending on the fee rate applied. Fees are set on a sliding-scale rate based on the number of vowed members and associates in the community. The community may offer additional individual memberships to associates and vowed members within their community at a discounted rate. Those holding community membership are invited to share NACAR's monthly e-newsletter and e-magazine, *The Associate*, with all of their associates and vowed members.

Individual Membership

This membership provides an opportunity for someone who does not fall under a community membership to receive the benefits of NACAR membership.

Supporting Membership

This form of membership is available to organizations and groups who are also working to support and/or advance the associate-religious movement. This membership highlights the work of the supporting organization on the NACAR website and in NACAR publications.

Additional information on the benefits of membership can be found at www.nacar.org.



The Dominican Sisters of Peace, community members of NACAR, held a 2017 retreat in Kansas with an emphasis on the importance of relationships.

Amy Kulesa (chair), Terri Butel, Cathi Duffy, Sister Rita Woehlcke (board liaison), Kathy Herrington, Mark Piper & Kathy Noether

The member services committee serves NACAR membership by designing, developing, implementing and evaluating programs and services that enhance membership, while attracting new and retaining current members.

The priorities for 2017-2018:

- To encourage follow-up participation by congregations and associate groups to the focus points identified by the 2016 CARA report.
- In response to the above priority, to develop and implement a series of six live webinars, hosted by committee members, called Creative Conversations. These webinars invited NACAR members to join live conversations about areas identified by the CARA study needing crucial attention for growth and sustainability of the associate movement into the future.
- To complete a new chapter of the leadership manual, “Building and Sustaining Vibrant Groups.”
- To move forward in partnering with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation.
- To implement the annual Associate Leadership Retreat in Wisconsin in May 2018.
- To begin planning for 2019 leadership retreat in Southeast/Central region of the United States.
- To project needs for a new leadership manual chapter, choose theme and recruit authors.

2017-2018 saw the development of two exciting new programs: the Creative Conversations live webinars, focusing on priorities which emerged from the 2016 CARA study, and a new NACAR partnership with University of Dayton to provide affordable online ongoing formation for associate leaders.

The leadership manual was enhanced with the chapter, “Building and Sustaining Vibrant Groups,” written by Sister of St. Joseph Rita Woehlcke and Associate Nancy Davis, Sisters of St Francis of Mary Immaculate. This chapter may be ordered on the NACAR website.



Sister Rita Woehlcke, Sisters of St Joseph of Chestnut Hill, leads a Creative Conversation via the Internet.

The committee hosted a retreat from May 21–24 at the Siena Retreat Center overlooking Lake Michigan in Racine, Wisc. The retreat, facilitated by Sister of Charity Louise Lears, was entitled Pursuing Peace: Co-Creating the Beloved Community. Associate leaders were led by Sister Louise in explorations of what makes for peace, both interiorly and relationally. The retreat included presentations, ample private reflection time and several contemplative listening/dialogue sessions with participations about personal experience in ministry and spiritual life.

Creative Conversations, received with enthusiasm by participants of the initial sessions, will be continued in calendar year 2018-2019, exploring topics suggested in the follow-up survey. It became clear that this live videoconference venue is an excellent way for NACAR members and leaders to share experiences and best practices in associate ministry throughout the year on focused topics relevant to associate life. All previous Creative Conversations can be found on the NACAR website.

Matriculation with University of Dayton’s VCLFF program will begin in Fall 2018 thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community. The many online classes in theology and spirituality offered will be a great asset for the ongoing development and formation of associate leaders. Any associate or vowed member in a NACAR community membership can avail themselves at a discounted rate of solid, accredited and affordable academic coursework for their ongoing formation.

Conni Dubick (chair), Judy Borland, Nancy Davis, Carrie McClish, Fred Goddard, Mary Jo Mersmann, Lisa Olson & Carla Rush

The NACAR communications committee focused its efforts on meeting the NACAR strategic plan goals of “increasing awareness of the mission work and spiritual life of associates, associate and religious communities, and regional associate groups and NACAR itself. Regardless of location or position, all members have the opportunity to participate in, contribute to and benefit from engagement in the organization.”

The committee, with the assistance of regional news gatherers, identified programs, services, events and research from associates and religious in the United States and Canada. Over 40 members submitted their reflections and news through NACAR communication tools. With the creative and technical skills of the web administrator, social media contributor and design consultant, the online publication and social media plan of the Facebook and Twitter world extended the reach of NACAR information to members and friends. News and questions provided a forum for members to communicate with each other in a spontaneous way of sharing.

There was a dissemination of information that strengthens the relationship of individual communities with one another as well as the personal interaction with follow-up email correspondence, workshop/webinar attendance and conference call or Zoom meetings prompted by NACAR announcements or events. The CARA study results remained relevant topics on the future of associates, financial sustainability, ongoing formation and associate leadership.

The NACAR board had determined that the theme “Creating the Future in the Now” continued looking forward as the associate movement evaluates its growth and development. The communication committee sought innovative ideas from regional groups i.e., BACAR, OPAL, Tri-State, and TEXLA (see more on page 10), as well as prominent authors Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, Marisa Guerin, Sister of St. Joseph Paula Drass and Kathy Wade, who were writing and speaking about the associate-religious community relationship.



At left, the NACAR Facebook page keeps NACAR members and friends up-to-date on the latest happenings and offerings. Be sure to like our page:

Facebook.com/NACAR96

Carla Rush (chairperson), Jeanne Connolly, Ann Gotfryd and Carrie Hankees

Marketing the Benefits of NACAR

The marketing committee continued to spread the word about NACAR through Facebook, *The Associate* and the NACAR website.

Continued to work toward collaborative relationships with like-minded organizations seeking to promote or support the associate-religious relationship

The committee worked with Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Communicators for Women Religious, National Religious Vocation Conference; Religious Formation Conference to serve the people of God through the charisms of our communities. NACAR also participated as an exhibitor at the LCWR Assembly in 2017 and participated as a basic sponsor for the LCWR Assembly in 2017.



Examined Current Membership

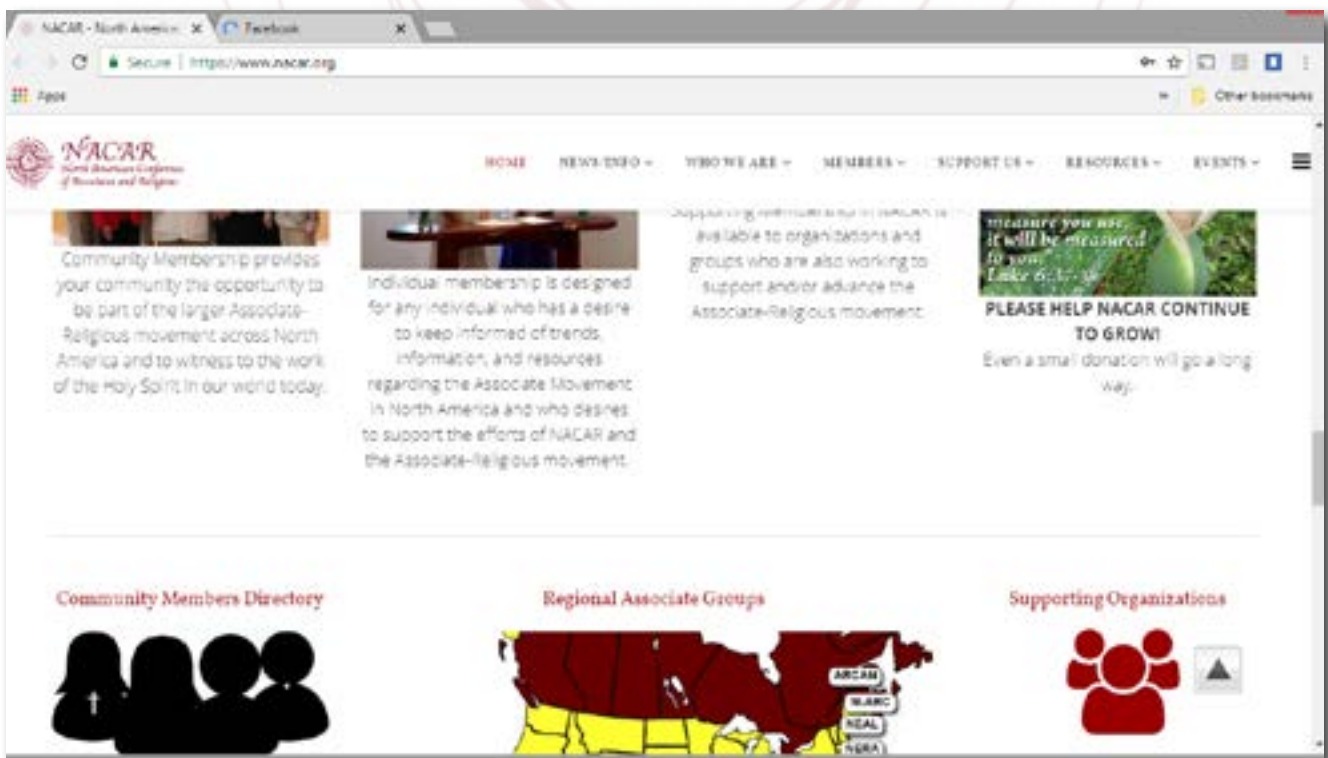
Followed up on member satisfaction survey, featured infographics of the results in *The Associate* and on Facebook.

Featured Current Membership

Featured articles in *The Associate* highlighting supporting members thanking them for their support.

Above, board members Barbara Roth and Conni Dubick discuss the NACAR handouts as they prepare to greet leaders at the 2017 LCWR assembly in Orlando, Florida.

Below, the NACAR website is a great source of information for members. The new look makes it easier to navigate. We invite you to check it out!



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Congregation de Notre Dame
Congregation de Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province
Congregation of Divine Providence, Kentucky
Congregation of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province
Congregation of Divine Providence, Texas
Congregation of Our Lady of the Retreat in the Cenacle
(Religious of the Cenacle)
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Congregation of Sisters of St. Martha
Congregation of St. Brigid
Congregation of St. Joseph
Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Iowa
Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Villa Maria
Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)
Congregation of the Passion, Holy Cross Province
Congregation of the Passion, St. Paul of the Cross Province
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Boston
Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Daughters of the Holy Spirit
Dominican Sisters and Associates of Sinsinawa
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dubuque Sisters of Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary
Felician Sisters, Our Lady of Hope Province
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Holy Union Sisters
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
Hospitalier Order of St John of God Province of Good Shepherd
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, United States Province
Loretto Community
Marianites of Holy Cross
Medical Mission Sisters
Medical Missionaries of Mary
Missionaries of the Precious Blood Community
Notre Dame Sisters
Oblate Sisters of Providence
OLVM Associate Community
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ / Associate Community
Racine Dominicans
Religieuses Hospitaliers Saint Joseph Community
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee
Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sisters of Bon Secours USA
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul - Halifax
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston Texas
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas
Sisters of Christian Charity North American Western Province
Sisters of Mary of the Presentation
Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland & Labrador
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross - Merrill, Wisconsin
Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community
Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community
Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Ohio
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, US East-West Province
Sisters of Our Lady of Sion - Canada/USA
Sisters of Providence - St. Mary of the Woods
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
Sisters of Providence, Holyoke, Massachusetts
Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
Sisters of St. Anne
Sisters of St. Casimir
Sisters of St. Dominic
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee
Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity,
Holy Name Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity,
Sacred Heart Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg Indiana
Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, Minnesota
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio
Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis
Sisters of St. Louis
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
Sisters of the Cross and Passion
Sisters of the Holy Family
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Victoria
Sisters of the Living Word
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of the Presentation San Francisco, California
Sisters of the Redeemer
Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother
Sisters, Servants of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe
Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Society of the Sacred Heart, United States-Canada Province
U. S. - Ontario Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary
Union of Presentation Sisters Newfoundland and Labrador Province
Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart
Ursuline Sisters (Roman Union)
Ursuline Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (Louisville)
Wheaton Franciscans

REGIONAL ASSOCIATE GROUPS

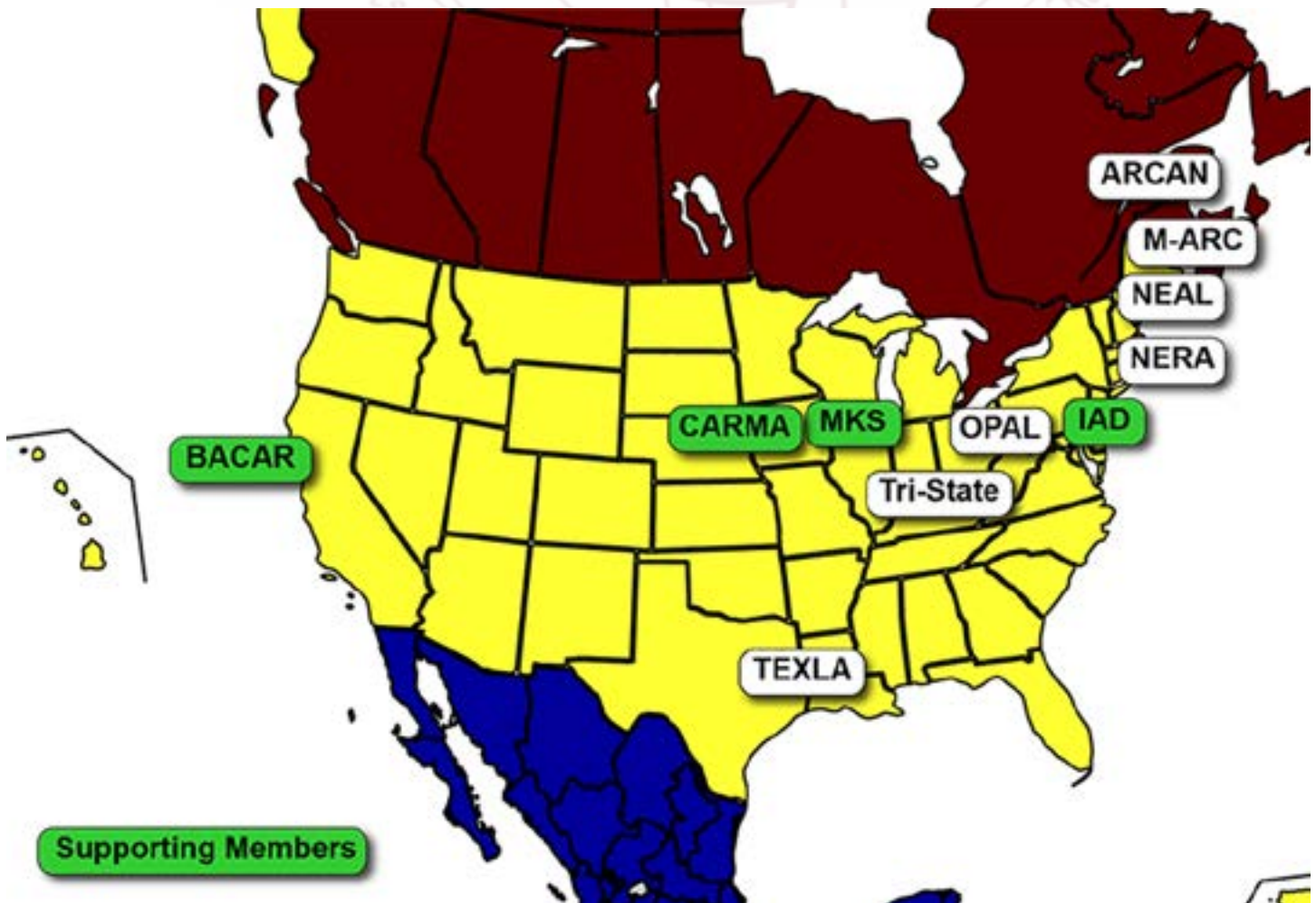
Regional associate groups allow NACAR members more opportunities to grow in their role alongside religious and associates from other congregations located within their geographic area. Many of these groups host conferences, workshops or other gatherings to enhance the associate-religious relationship. If you would like more information about the regional associate group in your area, contact NACAR at info@nacar.org.



- ARCAN**
Atlantic Religious Congregation Associate Network
- BACAR**
Bay Area Conference of Associates and Religious
- CARMA**
Conference of Associates and Religious of Midwest Area
- IAD**
Intercongregational Associate Directors
- M-ARC**
Maine Associate Religious Conference

- MKS**
Midwest Kindred Spirits
- NEAL**
New England Associate Leadership
- NERA**
New England Region Associates
- OPAL**
Ohio Pennsylvania Associate Leadership
- TEXLA**
Texas and Louisiana
Tri-State Conference of Associate Leadership

At left, BACAR members listen to Sister Mariyn Wilson, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at a 2018 gathering.



THANK YOU

We are grateful to the following for time, talent and/or financial resources:

IN GRATITUDE

The Associate Article Submission

Associate Judy Talvacchia, Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Associate Conni Dubick, Dominican Sisters of Peace,
NACAR board member
Reverend Arthur Carrillo, Passionist of the Holy Cross Province,
NACAR board member
Associate Nancy Davis, Sisters of St. Francis of
Mary Immaculate
Associate Mary Jo Mersmann, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Jeanne Connolly, Wheaton Franciscan Covenant Companion,
NACAR board president
Associate Carla Rush, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Associate Ann Gotfryd, Congregation de Notre-Dame and
NACAR board member
Associate Ashley Skocynski, Franciscan Sisters of
Perpetual Adoration
Associate Dan Carney, Pittsburgh Passionists
Associate Nancy McCarville, Sisters of Charity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur,
BACAR co-director
Associate Deborah Stillson, Dominican Sisters of Peace
Carmel Ross, executive officer, Mercy Associates Institute of
Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea
Associate Dee Holleran, Dominican Sisters of Peace staff member
Associate Suzie Wright, coordinator team, Sisters of
Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Lisa Olson, NACAR consultant
Fred Goddard, Maryknoll Affiliate and NACAR website consultant
Affiliate Michael Krueger, Franciscan Sisters of
Perpetual Adoration
Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp, Sisters of Providence
Sister Elizabeth Avalos, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin
Associate Kathryn Davis, Sisters of St. Joseph
Associate Judy Borland, Sisters of the Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary
Associate Dana Hinton, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Marisa Guerin, Ph.D
Mark Piper, director of association, Sisters of Mercy of the
Americas, Midwest West Community
Associate Dennis Cho, Dominican Sisters of Peace
Associate Carol Braun, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes
Sister Rita Woehlcke, director of associates, Sisters of
St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill
Associate Kathy Wade, Sisters of Mercy South Central Community
Associate Janet Mayorga, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word,
Houston, Texas
Cojourner Joan Cordes, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, Minn.
Jane Schaefer and Carolyn Meyer, associate co-directors,
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana
Brooke Nicholson Grote, director of mission advancement,
Aberdeen Presentation Sisters
Rena Bauer, communications director, and Sister Marilyn Herr,
associate director, Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross
Associate Carrie McClish, Sisters of the Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary

IN GRATITUDE

Retreat Leader

Louise Lears, SC (pictured below at the leadership retreat)



IN GRATITUDE

Leadership Manual Chapter authors

Associates Peg and Carl Madigan, Congregation de Notre Dame
Associate Mary Jo Mersmann, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Rita Woehlcke, Sisters of St Joseph of Chestnut Hill
Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Associate Nancy Davis, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

IN GRATITUDE

Creative Conversations Facilitators

Associate Amy Kulesa, Sisters of Bon Secours
Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sister Rita Woehlcke, Sisters of St Joseph of Chestnut Hill
Associate Barbara Roth, Sinsinawa Dominicans
Associate Kathy Herrington, Sisters of the Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary
Associate Ann Gotfryd, Congregation de Notre Dame
Associate Cathi Duffy, Society of the Holy Child Jesus

IN GRATITUDE

New Community Members

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, New York
Oblate Sisters of Providence
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio
Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Iowa
Congregation of St. Joseph

IN GRATITUDE

Supporting Members

BACAR (Bay Area Conference of Associates and Religious)
CARMA (Conference of Associates and Religious of
the Midwest Area)
IAD (Intercongregational Associate Directors)
Mary's Pence
MKS (Midwest Kindred Spirits)

FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

You are NACAR ... YOU, our community, individual and supporting members! As the board of directors, we are deeply grateful for your support, encouragement, feedback, participation and trust. As you read this annual report you will note that there are many people who serve NACAR so that NACAR continues to serve the associate-religious movement. We extend profound appreciation to our contractors, current and former board members, committee members, contributing authors, news gatherers, retreat and program facilitators, donors, and all who help make this work possible.

2018-19 will bring new opportunities to meet the needs of this evolving movement of the Holy Spirit including, but undoubtedly not limited to:

- Publishing a new chapter of the leadership manual, titled Building and Sustaining Vibrant Groups, by Sister of St. Joseph Rita Woehlcke, with Associate Nancy Davis, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate.
- Joining in a new partnership with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning for Catholic Faith Development launching initial online course offerings in the fall of 2018.
- Offering the annual leadership retreat in May 2019 in Houston, Texas.
- Participating as an associate member, exhibitor and basic sponsor at the LCWR Assembly.
- Continuing to develop collaborative relationships with Religious Formation Conference and Communicators for Women Religious.
- Receiving and implementing the results of the Communication and Membership Engagement Audit, which will allow us to plan more strategically for changing communication needs.
- Receiving and discerning feedback from the Fund Development Readiness Assessment as we continue to pursue program and financial sustainability.

We invite you to join us in these and other as-yet-unknown activities. Consider joining us as a board member, committee member, news gatherer, contributing author or program participant. If you are not an individual member, consider joining this exciting group to fully appreciate the benefits of membership. Working together we are a catalyst that serves, empowers and promotes the associate-religious relationship.

Associate leaders gather for a retreat held earlier this year at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.



July 2017

- The summer issue of *The Associate* was published.
- “Fostering Our Future,” chapter of the leadership manual was published.

August 2017

- NACAR had a booth at the LCWR Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

September 2017

- 2016-2017 NACAR annual report was emailed to all members.

October 2017

- A sample job description and sample interview questions for associate leaders were posted on the NACAR website.

November 2017

- The first Creative Conversation, “Applying What We Have Learned from the CARA Report,” was held over Zoom with 20 participants; facilitators were Amy Kulesa and Kathy Noether.
- The NACAR board of directors met in Chicago, Illinois, at the Felician Center and welcomed new board member Mark Piper
- The fall issue of *The Associate* was published.

December 2017

- A 2017 year in review video was emailed to all members and posted on the website.

January 2018

- The theme for 2018, “Creating the Future in the Now,” was decided upon.
- The second Creative Conversation, “Local Associate Leadership,” was held with 36 participants using Zoom; facilitators were Sister Rita Woehlcke and Barbara Roth

February 2018

- The third Creative Conversation, “Organizational Associate Leadership,” was held with 24 participants using Zoom; the facilitator was Amy Kulesa.
- NACAR received a grant from The Father’s Table for a communications audit.

March 2018

- The NACAR board of directors met at the Siena Center in Racine, Wisconsin, and welcomed board member Terri Butel.
- The fourth Creative Conversation, “Ongoing Formation,” was held with 26 participants using Zoom; facilitators were Ann Gotfryd and Kathy Herrington.
- The spring issue of *The Associate* was published.

April 2018

- The fifth Creative Conversations “Financial Sustainability,” was facilitated by Cathi Duffy and Kathy Herrington and 25 participants joined via Zoom.

May 2018

- The sixth Creative Conversation, “The Future of Association,” was held with 28 participants using Zoom; facilitators were Sister Rita Woehlcke and Kathy Noether.
- The associate leadership retreat, “Pursuing Peace: Co-Creating the Beloved Community,” led by Sister of Charity Louise Lears was held at the Siena Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

June 2018

- NACAR received a grant from the Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community for a partnership with the University of Dayton in the virtual learning community.