

Bringing You Up to Date Elections and Appointments—

Dan DeCelles, South Bend

Board of Governors

NAME	DATE APPOINTED	TERM
Paul DeCelles, Overall Coordinator	November 3, 1985	12 years
Dan DeCelles	August 22, 1985	6 years
Louis Grams	August 22, 1985	6 years
Rev. Charles Harris, C.S.C.	August 22, 1985	6 years
Kerry Koller	August 22, 1985	3 years
Kevin Ranaghan	August 22, 1985	3 years
Clem Walters	August 22, 1985	3 years

The first election for members of the Board of Governors occurred on August 22. Most branch coordinators and representatives from the mission branches had already gathered in South Bend for the week-long Constitutional Congress. So, while the others enjoyed a well-deserved night off, 10 electors met for the Elective Assembly: the then-current head coordinators, the principal branch coordinators and the program coordinators. Paul DeCelles as overall coordinator chaired the meeting.

Seven positions had to be filled, so there would be at least two new members of the Board of Governors. The first four positions would have three-year terms; the second three would have the constitutionally prescribed six-year terms. (This modification, made by the head coordinators, allows for an orderly turnover in future elections. The special three-year terms are not included in the constitutional limit of two terms.)

Paul had designed the voting procedure. Each position would be filled by a separate ballot. If no one obtained the required two-thirds majority on a ballot, another vote would be taken. This would be repeated as often as needed to fill the position.

The term "secret ballot" would be given a new twist in this election. After each ballot the names of those

receiving votes would be announced but not the number of votes they had received. Thus, if no winner had been determined, relative standings could only have been guessed at. Moreover, if a series of ballots had yielded no two-thirds majority, no candidate would have built up momentum. The point to this added dimension of secrecy was to keep each ballot as free as possible from even this sort of influence. Since no discussion of eligible candidates would be permitted once the voting began, the electors would have to rely on their own counsel and divine guidance.

Paul DeCelles, Kerry Koller, Kevin Ranaghan and Clem Walters were elected to three-year terms. Dan DeCelles, Louis Grams and Rev. Charles Harris, C.S.C., were elected to six-year terms.

Significantly, two men not from the South Bend branch were added to the board, Louis and Fr. Charlie. Their election reinforces our intention to be a nationwide community.

The election also marked the first time a head coordinator would leave office. "Bud Rose has served the People of Praise in this capacity for seven years," said Paul. "The community would not be what it is today, were it not for his inspired leadership. We will, of course, continue to rely on his wisdom and many other gifts in the years to come."

TENURED COORDINATORS

Bill Beatty, South Bend
 Jack Brombach, Servant Branch
 Dan DeCelles, South Bend
 Paul DeCelles, South Bend
 Tom Finke, South Bend
 Charlie Fraga, Northern Virginia
 Louis Grams, Servant Branch
 Fr. Charlie Harris, Corvallis
 Dick Keusch, South Bend
 Kerry Koller, South Bend
 Bill Rademacher, Servant Branch
 Kevin Ranaghan, South Bend
 Jim Rolland, Servant Branch
 Bud Rose, South Bend
 Clem Walters, South Bend

Principal Branch Coordinators

BRANCH	NAME	DATE APPOINTED
Corvallis	Phil Monaco	October 1, 1985
Oahu	Bob Linczer	October 1, 1985
No. Virginia	Charlie Fraga	February 8, 1985
Servant Branch	Louis Grams	February 8, 1985
South Bend	Kevin Ranaghan	October 15, 1984

6-year Terms of Office

In August, 1984, coordinators from all the branches met to work on the constitution and they decided to live for the next year according to the draft version. Since the draft specified the office of principal branch coordinator in each branch, an election was soon scheduled in South Bend to choose three nominees for this position. (In most of 1984 the South Bend branch coordinators' meetings had been chaired by Paul DeCelles. This was a doubling up of responsibilities for Paul, since his main work was as overall coordinator.)

Kevin Ranaghan was then serving

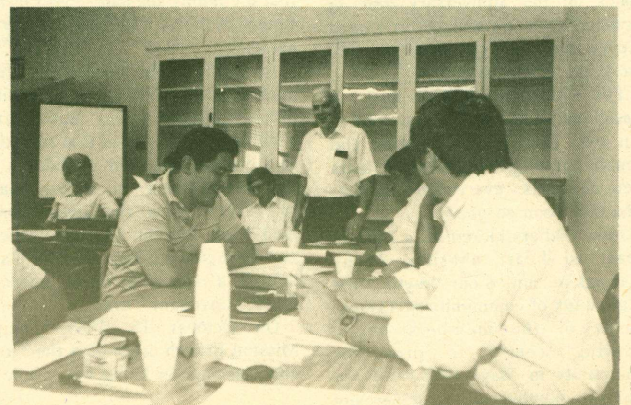
as a head coordinator for the whole community and had few branch responsibilities. Since he was not a branch coordinator he was not automatically eligible for nomination. However, the constitution provides that the overall coordinator can add to the list of branch coordinators other men he wishes to make available for nomination. Paul added Kevin's name--a decision welcomed by the branch coordinators. Kevin was among the three they nominated. On October 15, 1984, Paul appointed him the first principal branch coordinator of the South Bend branch.

DIVISION COORDINATORS

Servant Branch:	NAME	DATE APPOINTED
Christians in Mission	Bill Rademacher	February 8, 1985
Christians Life Movement	George Wolney	February 8, 1985
South Bend:		
Action Movements	John DeLee	November 20, 1984
Christians in Mission	Joel Kibler	December 19, 1984
Publications	Dan DeCelles	November 20, 1984

COORDINATORS WITH OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

NAME	DATE APPOINTED	TERM OF OFFICE
Charles Downs	February 8, 1985	1 year
David Sklorenko, Sr.	February 8, 1985	1 year
Bill Wacker	February 8, 1985	None
Dick Keusch	December 26, 1984	None
Joc Bagiackas	September, 1984	None



Overall coordinator Paul DeCelles [center] chaired the discussions at the constitutional assembly.

Area Coordinators

On October 15, 450 covenanted members of Servant Branch met in Minneapolis to elect nominees for area-coordinator positions. Six nominees were chosen; from these Paul DeCelles, overall coordinator, later appointed two area coordinators.

Three weeks earlier the branch coordinators had called the election and distributed primary ballots to the covenanted members. These listed all men in the branch eligible to serve as area coordinators (all the covenanted men except George Wolney and Bill Rademacher, who are division coordinators for CLM and CIM respectively). People were asked to vote for one candidate and return the ballot to Louis Grams, the principal branch coordinator. All

those receiving votes were notified, so that any man not wishing his name to appear on the next ballot could say so. The remaining names were on the ballot for the October 15 election.

The six nominees were: Leonard Beskar, Herb Bruber, Tom Caneff, Dave Sier, Colin LaVergne and Don Showalter. On November 8, Paul appointed Herb Bruber and Tom Caneff area coordinators for Servant Branch.

This was the second area-coordinator nomination for the Twin Cities branch. In June it had taken about 5 hours to elect three nominees. (Bill Kenney was eventually appointed.) The coordinators streamlined the procedures for the October election, and it took only 2-1/2 hours to elect the six nominees.

BRANCH	NAME	DATE APPOINTED	TERM
Corvallis:	Ed Brown	October 1, 1985	3 years
	Tim Wagner	January 18, 1985	3 years
Oahu:	Whit Au	October 7, 1985	2 years
	Ron Gouveia	October 7, 1985	2 years
No. Virginia:	Frank Bassett	March 20, 1985	1 year
	Dave Temeles	March 20, 1985	1 year
Servant Branch:	Joe Brickweg	November 8, 1985	3 years
	Herb Bruber	February 8, 1985	2 years
	John Buri	February 8, 1985	1 year
	Tom Caneff	February 8, 1985	3 years
	Chris Dietzen	February 8, 1985	1 year
	Dan Gleason	February 8, 1985	2 years
	Jim Hepp	February 8, 1985	2 years
	Bill Kenney	September 15, 1985	1 year
	Dan Lindeken	February 8, 1985	3 years
	Gil Rynda	February 8, 1985	3 years
	Jack Weiland	February 8, 1985	1 year
South Bend:	George Cramer	January 17, 1985	1 year
	Tom Finke	January 17, 1985	1 year
	John Martin	February 8, 1985	1 year
	Bob McDonough	January 17, 1985	2 years
	Bud Rose	January 17, 1985	2 years
	Bob Thomas	January 17, 1985	3 years
	Ralph Whittenburg	January 17, 1985	3 years

Complete List of Coordinators

Whit Au	Bill Kenney
Joe Bagiackas	Dick Keusch
Frank Bassett	Joel Kibler
Bill Beatty	Kerry Koller
Joe Brickweg	Bob Linczer
Jack Brombach	Dan Lindeken
Ed Brown	John Martin
Herb Bruber	Bob McDonough
John Buri	Phil Monaco
Tom Caneff	Bill Rademacher
George Cramer	Kevin Ranaghan
Dan DeCelles	Jim Rolland
Paul DeCelles	Bud Rose
John DeLee	Gil Rynda
Chris Dietzen	David Sklorenko
Charles Downs	Dave Temeles
Tom Finke	Bob Thomas
Charlie Fraga	Bill Wacker
Dan Gleason	Tim Wagner
Ron Gouveia	Clem Walters
Louis Grams	Jack Weiland
Fr. Charlie Harris	Ralph Whittenburg
Jim Hepp	George Wolney

Handmaids

In the spring of 1985, the South Bend branch coordinators called for a branch-wide consultation regarding handmaids. Members were asked to submit in writing their ideas, words they'd received in prayer--anything they thought would be helpful in the selection of handmaids. They were also told that no current handmaids would be automatically elected for continued service.

As the written responses came in, Molly Barrett, administrative assistant for the South Bend branch, packaged them for efficient circulation among the coordinators. The goal--to have each letter read by each coordinator before the election.

On June 27 the coordinators met to elect handmaids. As the meeting began, principal branch coordinator Kevin Ranaghan read aloud a letter from overall coordinator Paul DeCelles.

Paul was asking that three women in particular not be considered for election as handmaids--Dorothy Ranaghan, Julie Walters and Jeanne DeCelles. Because of their work in a variety of community outreaches, they simply did not have time to continue serving as handmaids for

the South Bend branch.

Following some discussion of those women mentioned most frequently in the consultation, the election began. The voting was by secret ballot. On each ballot the coordinators could list as many women as they wanted to see handmaids. Those women receiving 10 (two-thirds of those present) or more votes were elected. After five ballots 11 women had been elected and the coordinators agreed to take no further ballots.

Two "firsts" can be seen in the list of 11 handmaids. As Paul had requested, Dorothy, Julie and Jeanne were not included. Countless women in the South Bend branch and in the community as a whole have benefitted from their friendship, good counsel and teaching gifts. They will continue to serve as women leaders in the community through writing, teaching and missionary work. Nano Farabaugh is the first single woman in the People of Praise to serve as a handmaid. Nano founded the sisterhood in South Bend in 1977 and has served the young women in the campus area since about the same time.

BRANCH	NAME	3-year Terms of Office APPOINTED
Corvallis	Connie Hackenbruck	August 12, 1985
No. Virginia	Carmen Fraga	November 20, 1984
Servant Branch	Penny Arndt	October 21, 1985
	Mary Brickweg	October 21, 1985
	Anna Brombach	October 21, 1985
	Kathy Buri	October 21, 1985
	Nancy Caneff	October 21, 1985
	Peggy Dietzen	October 21, 1985
	Nancy Grams	October 21, 1985
	Dotie Hastings	October 21, 1985
	Jane Hepp	October 21, 1985
	Thelma Lindeken	October 21, 1985
	Susan Rademacher	October 21, 1985
South Bend	Carol Rolland	October 21, 1985
	Patricia Walsh	October 21, 1985
	Judy Weiland	October 21, 1985
	Patty Wolney	October 21, 1985
	Susan Busk	August 12, 1985
	Laurie Cramer	August 12, 1985
	Jackie Curran	August 12, 1985
	Nano Farabaugh	August 12, 1985
	Barbara Koller	August 12, 1985
	Janette Martin	August 12, 1985
Maureen McDonough	August 12, 1985	
Sharon Rose	August 12, 1985	
Gerry Sgroi	August 12, 1985	
Sharon Sklorenko	August 12, 1985	
Sarah Whittenburg	August 12, 1985	

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

NAME	PROGRAM OFFICE	DATE APPOINTED
Paul DeCelles (Acting)	Action Movement	N/A
Clem Walters (Acting)	Christian Life Movement	N/A
Kerry Koller	Education	November 20, 1984
Clem Walters	Missions	November 20, 1984
Dan DeCelles	Publications	November 20, 1984

Paul DeCelles Is Elected Overall Coordinator

On November 3, 1985, Paul DeCelles was elected overall coordinator for a term of 12 years. The head coordinators gathered at the executive offices on Greenlawn Avenue in South Bend specifically for the election, and according to the constitution they were not allowed to dismiss the meeting until the selection had been made.

Kevin Ranaghan had remarked a few days earlier, "While we're not expecting any surprises from the Holy Spirit, all the head coordinators want to be especially open to the direction of the Spirit in this matter. We want to make the decision which the Lord wants us to make and we ask members of the community to pray for us at about 8 p.m. on Sunday night when we gather for the election."

In this context of prayer and prayer support, then, Paul was elected. For the next 12 years he will be responsible for implementing within the People of Praise the unity of mind and heart God has given us and called us to.

"God has given us a vision of a very special kind of life together as Christians in the 20th century. Part of my task is to gather in, to include all the people the Lord is calling to join us. I think there will be many more branches as time goes on, and all these people will need to catch the vision of the People of Praise, to understand clearly the particular charisms God has given the community." The overall coordinator is a kind of symbol and signal for that vision of unity.

Paul mentioned several areas for future work, primarily along the lines of our current outreaches: ministering the baptism in the Spirit and spiritual gifts to other Christians and non-Christians, working at a variety of occupations in society so that through our Christian presence God can transform the world, creating new social structures for people outside the community in order to make Christian life-styles more feasible, constant works of mercy and charity among the poor and those in special need, greater publishing efforts so that we can speak effectively the word God has given us.

"I think God has given the community two main charisms," Paul noted. "One is love—an effective and heartfelt love for God and for neighbor. This is so obvious that I think we sometimes fail to notice it. How astounding that there are thousands of people with a solemn covenant love for one another! In little ways and major ways, members of the community love God, love one another, love the people around them—it is a wonderful work of God in the world.

"Another charism is something harder to define, but I would call it the 'form' of our community. . .the nuts and bolts of our life together. I would call this ordered, systematic, regular approach to Christian community a genuine charism. What I'm referring to is the pattern of support groups, ministries, interactions, teachings, prayer: the whole way we do things. I think we have a charism not just for being a Christian community but, more than that, for being this specific kind of Christian community."

The office of overall coordinator developed over a number of years, and was recently defined explicitly in the constitution. "As I recall, the first step was simply an agreement among the (then) three head coordinators (Clem, Kevin and Paul) that Kevin would act as the 'outside man' and I would act as the 'inside man.' Kevin did a lot of travelling in the renewal and in various Pentecostal churches, and I was working specifically in South Bend, more or less in a hands-on-position.

“In 1974 we took the formal steps by which I became the head of the other coordinators (then 3) and Clem became my personal head. Besides being the focus of our patterns of headship, I also knew that I should take responsibility for stepping back and *thinking about* the community as a whole. I would take the initiative for government in the community, even though the responsibilities and authority were always shared with the body of coordinators.”

Paul is 51 years old and was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. He and Jeanne have been married 29 years and have five children. He graduated from Rockhurst College in Kansas City, studied physics at The Johns Hopkins University, obtaining a Ph. D. in 1960. He went on to do research at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island and was a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton N.J., before coming to teach theoretical physics at Notre Dame in the fall of 1963. He has published numerous papers and directed dissertations in theoretical physics. In 1978 he began working full-time for the community.

“When I was at Rockhurst I really began working very hard on developing a relationship with God. For those four years, I spent one full evening per week with a spiritual guide, and spent a lot of time in prayer. I would say that I was baptized in the Spirit in 1960, because at that time I had a very deep experience of the Lord. From that point, I studied intently some of the great writers of the church and was able to spend more time in prayer.

“In 1964 I began working with the Cursillo movement, and that was my first real apostolate. Jeanne and I started holding prayer meetings in our home in March, 1967, at the time when what some people call the Catholic charismatic renewal started. The prayer meetings at the Ranaghans’ home, at the University of Notre Dame and at our home combined as a strong source of spiritual renewal.

“In those days, of course, we had no idea that someday I would have thousands of covenanted brothers and sisters all over the country and even beyond. God has been extremely good to us. . . as he has been to everyone.”

Paul notes that, along with working for unity of spirit and purpose, one of his chief responsibilities for the next few years is getting the constitution implemented. The election of the overall coordinator was, in fact, a major step in that process of implementation.