

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting International Lutheran Laymen's League

**The Royal Sonesta Chase Park Plaza St. Louis
212 Kingshighway Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108**

Friday, October 18, 2024

In Attendance: Kurt Senske, Chairman; Kristi Matus, Vice Chairman; Donald Scifres, Secretary; Karl Abraham; Linda Arnold; Melanie Braun; Ryan Bredow; Jim Dankenbring; Mark Duesenberg; Kirk Farney; Vincent James; Virginia Miller; Gordon Tresch; LHM CEO Kurt Buchholz, Ex Officio; LLL-Canada Managing Director Lisa Jackson; Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tom Pfotenhauer, Ex Officio; LCC Liaison Rev. Paul Zabel

Not in Attendance: Eric Brown, Treasurer

LHM staff in attendance at request of CEO: Tony Cook, CMO; Jeff Craig-Meyer, President of U.S. Ministries; Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, COO; David Lanius, CFO; Joanna Lupo, Executive Assistant; Karin Semler, International Chief of Staff

- 01 Kurt Senske, Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM Central.
- 02 Chairman Senske invited Tom Pfotenhauer, Pastoral Advisor, to lead an opening devotion. Pastoral Advisor Pfotenhauer led a devotion on Luke 18, highlighting the importance of being present in the moment and showing dignity to all, just as Jesus did to the blind man. He then led an opening prayer.

M 2024/25-10 Motion was made to approve the consent agenda, including: Approval of Meeting Agenda; Approval of July 2024 Meeting minutes; Annual Approval of Board Policy 2.12.1, and the Ratification of September 26 Audit Committee Email Vote.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

- 03 Eric Brown, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Senske, in his absence, reported that as of the end of Q1, the budget is hitting expectations. Chairman Senske then invited David Lanius, CFO, to present the 2024-2025 FY financial update through August (Q1).
- 04 CFO Lanius presented Q1 financial results through August. He reported that the budget calls for a significant deficit at this time of year, but the organization ended the quarter with a lower net budget deficit than projected.

CFO Lanius presented current financial KPIs, highlighting peer group comparisons. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.
- 05 Chairman Senske reported that the Executive Committee did meet, but there are no new resolutions and nothing to report.

- 06 Linda Arnold, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, reported that the Committee has begun reviewing nominees and available positions.
- 07 Vincent James, LHM Foundation representative, gave an update on the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees Fall 2024 Meeting. He discussed Karin Semler's presentation regarding her role and recent travels, and the Foundation's status on a Bylaw update. He reported on the Prospect Appeal Program presented by Jeff Craig-Meyer, President of U.S. Ministries, which was approved by the Foundation. The in-depth KPI discussion, youth-focused ministry publications, and transition of Foundation Chair from Phil Daniels to Mercedes Hendricks was also reported.
- 08 Chairman Senske invited Rev. Paul Zabel, LCC Liaison, to give his report.
- LCC Liaison Zabel reported on Mission Work International, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.
- 09 Kristi Matus, Audit Committee Chair, reported on the Audit Committee meeting and audit results. There were two uncorrected misstatements, and four reclassifications of journal entries identified and adjusted. No new material weaknesses were found, and an issue regarding an outstanding note with LCEF has been renegotiated.
- 10 Kurt Buchholz, CEO, reported on globalization. A trip to the DRC for the International Internship Program was just completed, marking the fourth successful IIP location. Karin Semler, International Chief of Staff, is moving Region 2 Asia forward with recruitment for a President as well as documenting a strategy for fund development.
- 11 CEO Buchholz invited Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, COO, to present updates on the organization's key performance indicators for FY 2025 YTD.
- COO Heisohn-Sidorski reported on LHM Impact KPIs for FY 2025 Q1, highlighting that all metrics are ahead of goal. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.
- 12 CEO Buchholz invited Tony Cook, CMO, to report on the Global Evangelistic Ministry Model.
- CMO Cook reported on Global Evangelistic Ministry Model (GEMM) findings, and the need to develop a tool to bring these findings together that will customize teachings for individuals in their context and grow constituency. The Board asked questions throughout the presentation.
- 13 Chairman Senske invited Lisa Jackson, LLL-Canada Managing Director, to give her report.
- Jackson reported on recent research on engaging young people, including the Intergenerational Mentorship Program. She discussed launching an initiative to bring youth to Nicaragua to help with outreach, the ESL Conversation Circle workshops, and the National Youth Gathering where they will lead a servant event to present programs with the LLL Ambassador Program.

- 14 Chairman Senske invited Don Scifres, Secretary, to give his report on the October 2024 Board Monitoring Trip to Ghana.

Scifres gave a background of Ghana, LMM in Ghana, as well as LHM presence in Africa and the Middle East. He discussed LHM-Ghana outreach programs and shared photos and stories of their visit. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.

- 15 Chairman Senske reviewed the future meeting schedule of Board events and meetings, including a possible change to the April 2025 meeting schedule. The July 2025 meeting will be held at Thrivent Headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. The October 2025 meeting will conclude with a CONNECT celebration on Friday evening.

Future Meeting Schedule:

- January 14, 2025 – Online
- April 24-25, 2025 – St. Louis, MO
- July 17-18, 2025 – Minneapolis, MN
- October 23-24, 2025 – St. Louis, MO
- January 23, 2026 – Online
- April 23-24, 2026 – St. Louis, MO
- July 16-17, 2026 – St. Louis, MO
- October 22-23, 2026 – St. Louis, MO

M 2024/25-11 Motion was made to enter Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

M 2024/25-12 Motion was made to leave Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

- 16 Melanie Braun led a closing prayer.

- 17 Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM CT

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald Scifres, Secretary