

**Board of Directors Meeting
International Lutheran Laymen's League**

Lutheran Hour Ministries Headquarters

660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141

Friday, July 19, 2024

In Attendance: Kurt Senske, Chairman; Kristi Matus, Vice Chairman; Melanie Braun, Treasurer; Donald Scifres, Secretary; Karl Abraham; Linda Arnold; Ryan Bredow; Eric Brown; 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 Pfothenhauer, Ex Officio; LCC Liaison Paul Zabel

Not in Attendance: Jim Dankenbring

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 9:00 AM Central.
- 02 Chairman Senske invited Tom Pfothenhauer, Pastoral Advisor, to lead an opening devotion. Pastoral Advisor Pfothenhauer led a devotion on spending time in prayer for partners around the world. A roundtable prayer followed.
- 03 Chairman Senske invited new Board member Mark Duesenberg to introduce himself.
- 04 Pastoral Advisor Pfothenhauer led the installation of new Board member Mark Duesenberg.
- 05 Kurt Buchholz, CEO, led the process to appoint the Chairman of the Board for 2024-2025.

CEO Buchholz reported that Kurt Senske, Kristi Matus, Gordon Tresch, Kirk Farney, and Jim Dankenbring received nominations for Board Chairman. Dankenbring, Farney, and Tresch removed their names from consideration. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

M 2024-25-01 By majority vote, Kurt Senske was appointed as Chairman of the Board.

- 06 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Vice Chairman of the Board for 2024-2025. Advance nominations had been received for Jim Dankenbring, Kirk Farney, Kristi Matus, Don Scifres, and Gordon Tresch. Dankenbring, Farney, and Tresch removed their names from consideration. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

M 2024/25-02 By majority vote, Kristi Matus was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Board.

- 07 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Secretary of the Board for 2024-2024. Advance nominations had been received for Linda Arnold, Jim Dankenbring, Vincent James, Virginia Miller, Don Scifres, and Gordon Tresch. Dankenbring, James, Miller, and Tresch removed their names from consideration. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

M 2024/25-03 By majority vote, Don Scifres was appointed as Secretary of the Board.

- 08 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Treasurer of the Board for 2024-2025. Advance nominations had been received for Linda Arnold, Melanie Braun, Eric Brown, Kirk Farney, and Virginia Miller. Arnold, Braun, Farney, and Miller removed their names from consideration. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

M 2024/25-04 By acclamation, Eric Brown was appointed as Treasurer of the Board.

- 09 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Board Representative to the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees for 2024-2025. Advance nominations were received for Jim Dankenbring, Eric Brown, and Vincent James. Dankenbring and Brown removed their names from consideration. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

M 2024/25-05 By acclamation, Vincent James was appointed as Board Representative to the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees.

M 2024/25-06 Motion was made to approve the consent agenda, including: Approval of Meeting Agenda; Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes; Approval of Resolution to Approve Housing Allowance for New Employee, Roy Peterson.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

- 10 Melanie Braun, FY24 Treasurer, invited David Lanius, CFO, to present the FY 2024 financial results.

CFO Lanius presented the organization's FY2024 year-end financial report.

Jeff Craig-Meyer, President of U.S. Ministries, reported on staff plans for FY2025 to address cash flow for the coming months.

CEO Buchholz reported that LHM had a record-setting year in major gifts and grants. The year is ending in a deficit resulting from several large gifts that were anticipated in FY24 moving to FY25. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.

11 CEO Buchholz reported on managing cash flow. He reported on the updated Gift Acceptance Policy, as required annually by Board policy. A regional written report was submitted with no questions or debate.

12 CEO Buchholz invited Karin Semler, International Chief of Staff, to give an update on the globalization process.

International Chief of Staff Semler reported that she, Kurt Buchholz, Eric Gates, and Eric Lai will visit Singapore. Asia is the second region to implement a regional president, and Singapore was chosen as the headquarters location. The earliest a president could be appointed is January 2025.

CEO Buchholz reported that there has been a slight change in the globalization process. Karin Semler will now be the direct supervisor to all international presidents in addition to coordinating and managing. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.

13 CEO Buchholz invited Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, COO, to present an update on the organization's key performance indicators for FY 2024.

COO Heisohn-Sidorski reported on the organization's KPI performance in FY 2024, which included an increase in all metrics. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.

14 Chairman Senske invited Lisa Jackson, LLL-Canada Managing Director, to present her report.

LLL-Canada Managing Director Jackson reported that in Haiti, French booklets are available and over 300 seminary students are taking classes each week. She also discussed the 2024 LLL Summer Internship Program and the English as a Second Language Conversation Circle Workshops. Team Zion continues serving the people of Nicaragua. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.

15 Chairman Senske invited Dan Galchutt, LCMS Liaison, to present his report.

LCMS Liaison Galchutt reported on expected expansions and new hirings. He discussed recent activities in the Office of National Mission as well as the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Mental health resources were released to help increase worker wellness. Synod-at-large updates were given. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.

16 Chairman Senske invited Paul Zabel, LCC Liaison, to present his report.

LCC Liaison Zabel reported on the structure change in the LCC, and District and International missions were discussed. There is a shortage of new pastors, and the health of existing pastors is an issue.

- 17 Chairman Senske requested the Board members sign the annual code of ethics and conflict of interest statements as required annually per Board policy.
- 18 Chairman Senske presented his committee assignment recommendations for the 2024-2025 League year.
- 19 Chairman Senske presented a report on Governance Best Practices. The Board participated with live surveys. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.
- 20 Eric Brown, Chair of the FY24 Audit Committee, reported that the Foundation audit is complete, and the full audit will wrap up in August.
- 21 Chairman Senske reported for the Nominations Committee that there will be five members up for re-election this year. These members were asked to think about whether or not they would like their names considered for an additional term.
- 22 Gordon, Tresch, Chair of the Board Development Committee, reported that his presentation would take place during Executive Session.
- 23 Chairman Senske reviewed the future meeting schedule of Board events and meetings, including a proposed change in location for the July 2025 meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule:

- October 17-18, 2024 – St. Louis, MO
- January 14, 2025 – Online
- April 24-25, 2025 – St. Louis, MO
- July 17-18, 2025 – TBD
- 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

M 2024/25-07 Motion was made to approve the Resolutions to Elect Sub-Corporation Directors and Officers and the Annual Meeting Minutes of the Sub-Corporations as presented.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

M 2024/25-08 Motion was made to enter Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

M 2024/25-09 Motion was made to leave Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

24 Kristi Matus led a closing prayer.

25 Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM Central.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald Scifres, Secretary