

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE**

**St. Louis Union Station Hotel**

**1820 North Market St, St. Louis, Missouri 63103**

**Friday, April 21, 2023**

In Attendance: Kurt Senske, Chairman; Gene Partlow, Vice Chairman; Melanie Braun, Treasurer; Patricia Ross, Secretary; Linda Arnold; Eric Brown; Jim Dankenbring; Kirk Farney; Vincent James; Jonathan Laabs; Kristi Matus; Virginia Miller; Edith Schoepp; Don Scifres; Gordon Tresch; LHM CEO Kurt Buchholz, Ex Officio; Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tom Pfothauer, Ex Officio; LLL-Canada Managing Director Lisa Jackson

Not in Attendance: LCMS Synodical Liaison Dan McMiller; LCC Synodical Liaison James Schnarr

Additional staff attended at the request of CEO Kurt Buchholz.

01 Kurt Senske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

02 Rev. Tom Pfothauer, Pastoral Advisor, led a devotion encouraging Board members to keep themselves connected to Jesus and encouraging the organization to continue emphasizing the joy that is found in Him.

**M 2022/23-28 Motion was made to approve the consent agenda, including: Approval of Meeting Agenda and Approval of January 2023 Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

03 Gordon Tresch, Chair of the Board Development Committee, reported that the Committee is reviewing proposed edits to the Board policy manual, to be proposed to the full Board at its July meeting.

The Board's self-evaluation will be sent out via survey. The Committee will meet to review the results for presenting to the full Board at its July meeting.

04 Melanie Braun, Treasurer and Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, reported that it has been a challenging year for the economy but staff has navigated challenging global financial situations well. She invited David Lanius, Chief Financial Officer, to provide a financial update. CFO Lanius gave an update on finances through the end of the third quarter. The Board discussed the report and the forecast for the remainder of the year.

05 Chairman Senske reported on the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees meeting the day prior. The Board of Trustees is in full agreement with proceeding with the direction indicated by

globalization efforts, with conversation dedicated to consideration of how to increase funds to the endowment in the long-term.

Vincent James, Int'l LLL Board Representative to the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees, agreed with the Foundation's enthusiasm for globalization and reported on their interest in finding ways that they can help via funding and support.

06 President & CEO's Report

Kurt Buchholz, CEO, reported on presentations made to staff and partners about globalization, which have gone well. International staff directors will continue to be informed through workshops in the coming months. International travel to meet with partners at SAT-7 and staff has been productive.

CEO Buchholz invited Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, Chief Operating Officer, to provide an update on organizational key performance indicators. COO Heisohn-Sidorski reported on the organization's current successes ahead of goals, with particular emphasis on the organization's indirect impact through those people it has equipped to do outreach.

07 FY2023-2024 Strategic Overview

CEO Buchholz introduced the strategic plan for FY2023-2024 and its accompanying operational plans and budget. There were no changes to the goals and priorities set in the previous plan.

CEO Buchholz invited Jeff Craig-Meyer, Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer; Tony Cook, Vice President of Global Ministries; and COO Heisohn-Sidorski to present highlights from their teams' plans for FY2024. They presented plan highlights that are reflective of significant budgetary changes or increased staff time.

The Board asked questions and discussed throughout presentations.

**M 2022/23-29 Motion was made to accept the FY2023-2024 strategic plan as presented.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

08 FY2023-2024 Budget Overview

Treasurer Braun invited CFO Lanius to present the FY2023-2024 proposed financial plan. CFO Lanius presented the proposed balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board asked questions and discussed.

**M 2022/23-30 Motion was made to adopt the FY2023-2024 budget as presented.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

- 09 Chairman Senske reminded Board members of their responsibility to maintain their contributions to the organization on at least an annual basis and encouraged Board members to consider including the organization in their wills as members of the Hoffmann Society.
- 10 Chairman Senske reported that letters have been sent to the presidents of The LCMS and LCC requesting liaisons to be appointed to the Board. No response has been received from LCC but LCMS President Matthew Harrison has responded indicating that he will have a name to Chairman Senske soon.
- 11 CEO Buchholz invited Lisa Jackson, LLL-Canada Managing Director, to report on her organization's work. LLL-Canada Managing Director Jackson provided updates on personnel, devotions, children's lectionary resources, fundraising efforts, and targeted activities for the next year.
- 12 Jon Laabs provided an update on his recent participation in an international trip to participate in the annual gathering of SAT-7 partners. He reported on his learnings about LHM's work in the region and encouraged Board members to participate in trips themselves in the future as they are able.
- 13 Chairman Senske reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the meeting to review the April Board meeting agenda.
- 14 Laabs, Chair of the Nominations & Election Committee, reported that the ballot will include two incumbents with four other candidates to fill a total of four positions. Elections are currently underway and results will be finalized in late May.
- 15 CEO Buchholz presented the future meeting schedule:
  - July 20-21, 2023 – St. Louis, MO
  - November 2-3, 2023 – St. Louis, MO
  - January 26, 2024 – Online
  - April 18-19, 2024 – St. Louis, MO
  - July 18-19, 2024 – St. Louis, MO
  - October 17-18, 2024 – St. Louis, MO
  - January 24, 2025 – Online
  - April 24-25, 2025 – St. Louis, MO

**M 2022/2023-31 Motion was made to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for the Service of Charles W. Schild III and Lawrence Gurga**

**Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of Charles W. Schild III**

**Whereas Charles W. Schild III has faithfully served as District President of the Northern Illinois District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League from September 2014 to April 2023, and**

**Whereas he has served with dedication and commitment for the work of the International Lutheran Layman’s League and the Northern Illinois District, and**

**Whereas he has also supported the goal of *Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church*;**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors on behalf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries offer sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Charles for his service to God, this organization, and its ministries in his capacity as District President, and**

**Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors asks for God's blessings on his further service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and**

**Be it finally resolved that on this date of April 21, 2023, the Board of Directors affirms and wholeheartedly supports this resolution.**

#### **Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of Lawrence Gurga**

**Whereas Lawrence Gurga has faithfully served as Treasurer of the Northern Illinois District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League from September 2020 to April 2023, and**

**Whereas he has served with dedication and commitment for the work of the International Lutheran Layman’s League and the Northern Illinois District, and**

**Whereas he has also supported the goal of *Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church*;**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors on behalf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries offer sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Lawrence for his service to God, this organization, and its ministries in his capacity as Treasurer, and**

**Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors asks for God's blessings on his further service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and**

**Be it finally resolved that on this date of April 21, 2023, the Board of Directors affirms and wholeheartedly supports this resolution.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**M 2022/2023-32 Motion was made to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for the Service of Gene Partlow, Patricia Ross, and Edith Schoepp**

**Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of Gene Partlow**

**Whereas Gene Partlow has faithfully served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lutheran Laymen's League from 2016 to 2023, and**

**Whereas he has served with dedication and commitment for the work of the Board of Directors, and**

**Whereas he has also supported the goal of *Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church*;**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors on behalf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries offer sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Gene Partlow for his service to God, this organization, and its ministries in his capacity as a Board member, and**

**Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors asks for God's blessings on his further service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and**

**Be it finally resolved that on this date of April 21, 2023, the Board of Directors affirms and wholeheartedly supports this resolution.**

**Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of Patricia Ross**

**Whereas Patricia Ross has faithfully served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lutheran Laymen's League from 2020 to 2023, and**

**Whereas she has served with dedication and commitment for the work of the Board of Directors, and**

**Whereas she has also supported the goal of *Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church*;**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors on behalf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries offer sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Patricia Ross for her service to God, this organization, and its ministries in her capacity as a Board member, and**

**Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors asks for God's blessings on her further service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and**

**Be it finally resolved that on this date of April 21, 2023, the Board of Directors affirms and wholeheartedly supports this resolution.**

**Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of Edith Schoepp**

**Whereas Edith Schoepp has faithfully served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lutheran Laymen's League from 2018 to 2023, and**

**Whereas she has served with dedication and commitment for the work of the Board of Directors, and**

**Whereas she has also supported the goal of *Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church*;**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors on behalf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries offer sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Edith Schoepp for her service to God, this organization and its ministries in her capacity as a Board member, and**

**Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors asks for God's blessings on her further service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and**

**Be it finally resolved that on this date of April 21, 2023, the Board of Directors affirms and wholeheartedly supports this resolution.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

16 Partlow, Ross, and Schoepp shared their gratitude for the opportunity to serve and their prayers for God's continued blessings on the organization.

**M 2022/2023-33 Motion was made to go into Executive Session.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**M 2022/2023-34 Motion was made to go out of Executive Session.**

**Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

17 Patti Ross, Secretary, offered a closing prayer.

18 The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patti Ross, Secretary