

**Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Board of Governors Meeting
February 1, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas**

Arlen Schultz, president of the LLL Kansas District, called the meeting to order.

LLL Kansas District Pastoral Advisor Rev. Dennis Kootz presented the opening devotion.

Following the opening devotion, the 12 persons who attended the meeting introduced themselves.

Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary, distributed printed copies of the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting, which occurred on November 2, 2019 before the 80th LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention, to the meeting participants. After the minutes were reviewed, Mark Westerman moved to accept the minutes. John Johnson seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes of the previous Board of Governors meeting was passed.

After the review of the minutes for the preceding Board of Governors meeting, Richard Schrum distributed printed copies of the old and new maps of the regions and zones in the LLL Kansas District to the meeting participants. Richard Schrum reminded the meeting participants that the new map of regions and zones in the LLL Kansas District became effective following the 80th LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention. Richard reviewed the differences between the old and new maps.

Carroll Hackbart, LLL Kansas District treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Mr. Hackbart presented a summary of the income and expenditures that had been made during the first two quarters of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Mr. Hackbart's report showed a total income of \$7,023.38, which included \$3,489.43 carried forward from the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Carroll Hackbart's report showed expenditures of \$4,093.63, yielding a beginning bank account balance of \$5,656.37 on December 31, 2019, the end of the second quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mike Tonn, chairman of the Kansas State Fair booth committee, moved to accept the treasurer's report. John Johnson seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was passed.

Carroll Hackbart, chairman of the LLL Kansas District Project committee, reported that approximately \$8,301 in contributions were received for the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Project as of January 29, 2020. John Johnson observed that the fund raising goal would be exceeded if each member of the LCMS Kansas District contributed only one dollar. Tom Stanton encouraged the meeting participants to educate church members in their zones and regions to distinguish contributions that are made to the LLL Kansas District Project from those that are made to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Tom Stanton asked meeting participants to make local congregations and groups aware that donations that are not sent to Carroll Hackbart, treasurer of the LLL Kansas District, will not be contributed to the LLL Kansas District Project.

Joseph Chretien, vice president of the LLL Kansas District, told the meeting attendees that he believed that the dissemination of information about the LLL Kansas District Project and about the meetings, events, and activities of the LLL Kansas District to the officers, congregational ambassadors and volunteers should be improved. Joseph Chretien volunteered to assemble and maintain the official email distribution list and address list for the LLL Kansas District officers, congregational ambassadors, committee members and other volunteers. Joseph asked that region representatives and zone officers send him updates of email and mailing addresses to him.

Joseph Chretien told the meeting attendees that he believed that more information about the LLL Kansas District Project and about the meetings, events, and activities of the LLL Kansas District should be

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disseminated to the LHM sponsors and donors and the LCMS church members in Kansas. To this improve this information dissemination, he suggested the creation of a monthly email newsletter. He suggested that a web page be added to the LLL Kansas District web site that would enable interested persons to sign-up for the newsletter.

John Johnson, editor of the LLL/LHM Kansas Reporter newsletter, observed that few news articles had been submitted by district and zone officers and by local congregations and groups to him since 2016. Consequently, the last newsletter in PDF format was published in August 2017. At the Board of Governors meeting on August 11, 2018, it was decided that news articles and items, which were submitted to John Johnson or other district officers, would be posted on the LLL Kansas District web site. (<http://www.lhm-ks.org/>)

Several meeting participants commented that the LLL Kansas District half page article in the Lutheran Witness magazine was an effective media for disseminating information to LCMS church members in Kansas. Carroll Hackbart said that he was not sure that articles had always been submitted to Kris Bruss at the LCMS Kansas District office. Carroll Hackbart observed that he had not received a billing for the Lutheran Witness article since November, 2019. Mike Tonn, Arlen Schultz, and others responded that they had submitted articles throughout the last year.

A discussion evolved regarding the attraction of more participation in Kansas Lutheran Laymen's League activities.

- Joseph Chretien said that the Kansas LLL leadership should focus on involving younger Lutherans in the Kansas LLL events and on recruiting younger Lutherans for leadership positions at the congregational level, the zone level, the regional level, and, ultimately, the district level.
- Carroll Hackbart encouraged the meeting participants to persevere in their efforts to reach out to older as well as younger local congregation members and to include them in local fellowship groups. Carroll Hackbart reported that the regular attendance of LLL fellowship club meetings at Saint Luke Lutheran church in Manhattan had once declined to three couples. Carroll reported that three additional older couples have begun to regularly participate in the fellowship club meetings.
- Tim Voelker, prior president for the LLL Kansas District, observed that motivating young Lutherans to attend local LLL meetings is sometimes difficult. Tim Voelker reported that he had found that church members were more willing to assist in the organization of fund-raising events and other special events and to participate in making these events happen. Tim Voelker reported that he had found that church members were more willing to attend fund-raising events and other special events than to attend regular club meetings.
- Joseph Chretien warned the meeting attendees to be aware of fund-raising event fatigue among church members. Joseph Chretien said that he had observed that when too many fund-raising events are scheduled at a church within a relatively short period of time, attendance at the later fund-raising events is disappointing. Joseph recommended that the scheduling of LLL fund-raising events be carefully considered.
- John Johnson reported that he had observed that LLL fund-raising events for the Kansas District Project were more successful when advertising emphasized the financial aid to students at synodical colleges and seminaries.
- Jim Kroenlein encouraged the meeting attendees to apply for Thrivent action grants to fund the outreach events that are presented by the zones, groups, and congregations of which they are members.

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Ron Bott, executive board representative for LLL Kansas District region 2, reported that he knew of several presentations that were planned to be made to congregations for Lutheran Hour Sunday, February 2. He reported that he would make a presentation at Saint John Lutheran Church, Palmer, Kansas. He reported that Tim Voelker would make a presentation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenleaf, Kansas.

Joseph Chretien reported that he planned to make a Lutheran Hour Sunday presentation at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, Kansas on February 9, 2020. Joseph Chretien reported that he had been made aware that David Kruse would make a presentation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby, Kansas.

President Arlen Schultz encouraged the meeting participants to encourage congregational ambassadors to make Lutheran Hour Sunday presentations at the congregations in the regions and zones in which they work. Arlen Schultz encouraged the meeting participants to advertise upcoming regional and district meetings and events to the pastors at the churches in the regions and zones in which they work.

President Arlen Schultz gave a report of the planning for the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention and the 2020 LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation. President Schultz noted that planning for the 2020 LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation was not discussed at the last Board of Governors meeting.

- In August 2018, the LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation committee requested that Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Lutheran Hour speaker, preach at the LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation, which is scheduled for 10:30 AM on Sunday, November 8, 2020.
- As in years past, this convocation is planned to occur in the gymnasium of the Washington County High School, 200 North D Street, Washington, Kansas.
- Steve Ohlde is the chairman of the committee that is organizing the LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation .
- Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler has been confirmed to speak at the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020.
- Rev. Dr. Zeigler would like to make two presentations to the convention.
 - A 60-minute presentation about the LHM's global media expansion.
 - A 45-minute workshop about using digital media for outreach.
- A meet-and-greet event with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is planned for the evening of Friday, November 6, 2020. The times and location of the meet-and-greet event were not determined at the time of the Board of Governors meeting.
- The 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention will be hosted at the Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, Kansas. (<http://www.risensaviorlcms.org/home.html>)
- Fred Gruhn, president of LLL Kansas Zone 3, is the chairman of the committee that is organizing the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention. As of the time of this meeting, the convention committee consisted of the LLL Kansas Zone 3 executive board and Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary.

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- Polly Gregali, Community Facilitator for the International Lutheran Laymen's League, is serving as the contact for both the LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation and the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention.
- Rev. Dr. Zeigler must leave the LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention sometime in the afternoon of Saturday, November 7, in order to travel to Washington, Kansas. Consequently, the tentative schedule for the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention that Arlen Schultz suggested at the previous LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting must be changed.
 - President Schultz proposed that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting, which is scheduled to precede the convention, be rescheduled for 8:00 AM or 8:30 AM in the morning of Saturday, November 7, 2020.
 - President Schultz proposed that the convention begin a 10:30 AM or 11:00 AM in the morning of Saturday, November 7, 2020.
 - President Schultz proposed that a luncheon be planned in place of an evening banquet, which has traditionally occurred in the evening following the Saturday afternoon convention session.
 - President Schultz asked if the meeting participants objected to the substitution of a mid-day luncheon for the evening banquet. None of the meeting participants expressed disagreement with the substitution of a mid-day luncheon for the evening banquet.
 - President Schultz said that he would continue communications with Fred Gruhn and Polly Gregali regarding the convention schedule. He said that Fred Gruhn planned to propose a schedule for the convention at the next LLL Kansas Board of Governors meeting. Consequently, a goal for the next LLL Kansas Board of Governors meeting will be the approval of a tentative agenda for the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention.
- Bervin Mirtsching plans to make a 30- to 45-minute presentation of updated information on the SENT fund-raising initiative at the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention.
- Polly Gregali offered to have LHM create promotional materials (e.g., flyers, bulletin inserts, PowerPoint presentations, etc.). Polly Gregali offered to provide contact lists for the congregations and ambassadors so that the promotional materials can be distributed. Polly Gregali said that the content for the promotional materials must be finalized by August, 2020.
- LHM plans to record an audio commercial for Rev. Zeigler's presentations at the LLL/LHM Kansas District convention. The commercial will be aired following broadcasts of The Lutheran Hour on Kansas and western Missouri radio stations.
- Polly Gregali encouraged the invitation of the Lutheran laypersons in western Missouri District to Rev. Zeigler's presentations.
 - The LLL Missouri District is not planning a district convention this year because of the International LLL conference that is planned for October 16 through 18, 2020.
 - President Schultz and several meeting participants expressed agreement that invitations to attend the 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention should be extended to congregations in western Missouri as well as those in Kansas.

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- LHM will pay for the transportation and hotel for Rev. Zeigler. The LLL Kansas District will pay for Rev. Zeigler's meals.

President Arlen Schultz asked Ron Bott and Tim Voelker, as representatives from LLL Kansas District Zone 7, when a meet-and-greet event for Rev. Zeigler, in conjunction with the Zone 7 Convocation, was planned to occur. Tim and Ron said that they expected a meet-and-greet event would occur during the evening of Saturday, November 7, 2020.

Following the convention planning report, the meeting participants shared information about illnesses and treatments that LLL Kansas supporters had recently experienced. Prayers for healing and comfort were requested and made. Arlen Schultz also asked the meeting participants to pray for the health and the spiritual uplift of Nora Lietz, the widow of former LLL Kansas District president Merle Lietz.

Arlen Schultz reminded the meeting participants that Nathan Schepmann had passed away on December 27, 2019 at the age of 92 years old. Arlen Schultz provided a few facts about Nathan Schepmann's activities in the Lutheran Church.

- Nathan Schepmann was Arlen Schultz's uncle and the father of Brenda Peister, who is currently president of the LWML Kansas District.
- Nathan Schepmann was an active and enthusiastic member of Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Preston, Kansas, and of the Lutheran Laymen's League.
- Nathan was a founding board member and served as president of the Children's Christian Concern Society (LeadAChild).
- Nathan served as a lay member of the Board of Directors of the LCMS Kansas District.

Gary Neuschafer, secretary/treasurer for LLL Kansas District Zone 12, moved that \$50 be contributed to Lutheran Hour Ministries by the LLL Kansas District in memory of Nathan Schepmann. Mike Tonn seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Tom Stanton, coordinator of the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, reported that the LLL Kansas District had received \$500 as a memorial to Merle Lietz. Nora Lietz requested that the funds be used to purchase Project Connect booklets for distribution from the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth.

After discussion about how these funds could be best utilized to purchase the Project Connect booklets, Joseph Chretien made the following motion.

Mike Tonn is authorized to allocate \$200 of the \$500 memorial to purchase a Project Connect starter kit, which consists of a three-tier, rotating, 24-pocket, 62 inch-tall metal display rack and 230 pre-selected booklets. The LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair committee is authorized to allow Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas to use the display rack when the Kansas State Fair is not occurring. The state fair committee is expected to use the display rack in the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth. Mike Tonn is authorized to use the remaining \$300 of the memorial to purchase whichever Project Connect booklets that he determines are appropriate for distribution from the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth.

Mark Westerman seconded this motion. The motion was passed.

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Mike Tonn, chairman of the Kansas State Fair Booth committee, reported the following information about the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth.

- The LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth will be open at the Meadowlark Exhibit Hall from the beginning of the Kansas State Fair on Friday, September 11 through the end of the fair on Sunday, September 20, 2020.
- The LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth will occupy the same location in the Meadowlark Exhibit Hall as in previous years. A corner booth in the Meadowlark Exhibit Hall is not available for the 2020 Kansas State Fair.
- The rent for the state fair booth is \$1,400.
- The state fair booth is allocated a numbered parking space. An additional parking space can be rented for \$150.

Tom Stanton, coordinator of the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, gave a report about planning for the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service.

- The 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 13, 2019, at the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena on the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas.
- Rev. Tom Harmon, Senior Pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas will preach at the worship service.
- A choir from Risen Savior Lutheran Church will sing at the worship service.
- Tom Stanton reported that the cost of renting the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena on the Kansas State Fairgrounds in 2020 is \$1,500.
- Tom Stanton reported his intention to talk to Connie Schmidt at the Kansas State Fair regarding the possibility of advertising the worship service on its web site and other media. Tom Stanton said that he planned to spend the \$250 authorized for this purpose by the LLL Kansas Board of Governors during the meeting on August 10, 2019.
- Tom Stanton reported his intention to approach the LCMS Kansas District about advertising the Kansas State Fair worship service on its web site and other media.

Joseph Chretien gave each of the meeting participants a "passion cross", which is a metal cross fashioned from flat nails. Joseph Chretien reported that these crosses were among the many crosses that Rev. Dale Doerr made between his retirement from the ministry in 1998 and his death in October, 2017. Joseph estimated that Rev. Dale Doerr made as many 50,000 passion crosses and gave them in envelopes of folded sheets of paper on which a brief gospel message was printed to many persons in the United States as well as other countries. Joseph Chretien reported that he received a small quantity of these crosses and has continued Rev. Doerr's outreach ministry on a small scale.

Arlen Schultz provided a delicious lunch to the persons that attended the meeting after a prayer was said by Rev. Dennis Kootz. The meeting attendees contributed amounts of their choice to compensate Arlen Schulz for the expense of the lunch. Because the free will offering exceeded the cost of the lunch by \$30, this amount was contributed to the LLL Kansas District Project.

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After the lunch break, President Schultz made a few remarks commending the helpfulness of Project Connect booklets to persons experiencing adversities. He recommended that racks of Project Connect booklets be placed in narthexes of churches.

Carroll Hackbart, LLL Kansas District treasurer, reported that he had received a letter from the Rev. Justin Panzer, LCMS Kansas District president, that thanked the LLL Kansas District for its contribution for the repayment of college and seminary loans for full-time church workers in the LCMS Kansas District.

Carroll Hackbart reminded the meeting attendees that \$1,000 had been budgeted during the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the training of congregational ambassadors. Carroll Hackbart said that this money could be used for expenses incurred for ambassador training events.

John Johnson reminded the meeting participants that the revision of the constitution and by-laws of the LLL Kansas District was still needed in order to conform to the revisions of the constitution and by-laws of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. John Johnson reminded the meeting participants that the revision of the constitution and by-laws has been postponed since 2012.

President Schultz reported that he did not have information regarding planning for the 2020 LLL Kansas District Golf Tournament as of the date of the meeting.

President Schultz informed the meeting that he was working on a script for a **Streets of Jerusalem** community outdoor pageant. Arlen said that he plans to try out the **Streets of Jerusalem** play in Holyrood, Kansas after he has completed the script. Arlen said that he hoped that the **Streets of Jerusalem** community outdoor play could be serve as a mechanism for outreach in the same manner that the **Streets of Bethlehem** outdoor community events have.

John Johnson reported a visit that he had received from Bervin Mirtsching in Manhattan, Kansas. John reported that Bervin had brought some outreach materials with him and talked with him about outreach materials that are available from Lutheran Hours Ministries. Bervin also talked with John about outreach techniques.

Bervin Mirtsching showed John Johnson two books that had been created by the partnership of the Barna Group with Lutheran Hour Ministries.

- **Households of Faith Monograph:** According to the LHM web page at URL <https://www.lhm.org/households/>, this book presents the principles that strengthen followers of Jesus Christ and their homes.
- **Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age Monograph:** According to the LHM web page at URL <https://www.lhm.org/households/>, this book provides insights into techniques for sharing the Good News that accommodates the rapid cultural shifts and the massive adoption of social media technology.

John Johnson reported that kits that contain these books are also available from Lutheran Hour Ministries and can be ordered from the LHM web site (<https://www.lhm.org>). John suggested that churches purchase the **Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age** kits as resources for their members and groups. John Johnson commented that many other outreach materials and resources were available from the LHM web site.

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John Johnson passed around LLL/LHM lapel pins to the meeting participants. He informed the group that he had found that persons with whom he talked often asked about his LLL/LHM lapel pin. Such questions afforded him the opportunity to witness the Gospel to the questioners. Such questions afforded him the opportunity to inform the questioners about the outreach and spiritual growth programs and resources that Lutheran Hour Ministries provides.

John Johnson encouraged the meeting participants to pass out LLL/LHM bookmarks and prayer cards. He said that these simple materials can be used to start conversations that enable opportunities for witnessing the Gospel.

John Johnson recommended the Project Connect booklet **My Digital Voice: An Introduction to the Digital Conversation Pledge** as useful guide for learning how to engage with other persons using internet social media platforms and to communicate the Gospel.

John Johnson encouraged the meeting participants to reach out to people who may not know about salvation through faith in redemption through Jesus Christ. He commented that Lutheran laypersons are compelled to plant the seed from which faith can grow in the witnessed. He reminded the meeting participants that faith grows through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Carroll Hackbart reminded the meeting participants that the LLL Kansas District will receive a distribution from the investment of the Delmar Maie bequest in the LCMS Foundation in April 2020. Arlen Schultz requested that Board of Governors members be prepared to share their ideas regarding the use of the funds at the next Board of Governors meeting.

Arlen Schultz asked for information about the dates and locations of the spring rallies that were planned by the zones. The meeting participants responded that the planning for the following 2020 spring zone rallies was in a preliminary stage.

- Zone 3 – Sunday, April 26, 2020
- Zone 7 – Sunday, May 3, 2020
- Zone 8 – Sunday, May 3, 2020

President Arlen Schultz requested volunteers to put up and staff a table exhibit for the Lutheran Hour Ministries and the LLL Kansas District at the 2020 LWML Kansas District Convention, which was scheduled for April 17 through April 19, 2020 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. Arlen Schultz reported that the deadline for booth registration was Wednesday, February 5, 2020. Richard Schrum volunteered to put up, man, and take down the table exhibit. Carroll Hackbart said that he would submit the form to reserve the exhibit table and would pay the fee for the exhibit table.

Richard Schrum read the grant conditions in the Grant Application for Reimbursement of LHM Advertising Expenses form on the LLL Kansas District web site to the meeting participants. Richard Schrum expressed the opinion that the grant's conditions were more restrictive than most of the Board of Governors members understood them to be. He suggested that the grant application form be revised to enable zones, groups, and churches to request a grant to pay the expenses of any outreach event that acknowledges that source of the grant and that includes some advertisement of LHM or LLL Kansas District programs. President Arlen Schultz asked that Richard present a revised grant application form at the next Board of Governors meeting.

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Carroll Hackbart shared a question that had been sent to him by Nathan Harkins, vice president of LLL Kansas Zone 3 and member of the LLL Kansas District Project committee. Nathan Harkins had asked why \$3,000 grants were made to persons that were studying to become pastors while \$1,600 grants were made to persons that were studying to become non-pastoral church workers. Some of the meeting participants expressed the opinion that students in synodical colleges who are majoring in Pre-seminary should receive the same amount of financial aid as students who are not majoring in Pre-seminary. Tim Voelker, the previous LLL Kansas District president, said that he would ask Charles Friedrichs, chairman of the Student Financial Aid Committee, to provide the guidelines for granting financial aid to students. President Arlen Schultz said that a future Board of Governors meeting will review the guidelines for making grants-in-aid and determine whether guidelines should be revised.

Tim Voelker expressed the opinion that one or more of the members of the Student Financial Aid Committee might desire to be relieved for their responsibilities on that committee. He asked that meeting participants to seek persons in their areas that would consider serving on the committee in the future.

Tim Voelker told the meeting that he had received a telephone call from a gentleman that he had met at the 94th Convention of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, which occurred from July 26 through 28, 2012 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Subsequently, the gentleman visited Tim Voelker. Tim Voelker shared this story as evidence that relationships among Christians that can be formed at an international conference.

Arlen Schultz proposed that the Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas, be paid \$50 each time it hosts the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting. Mark Westerman, executive board representative for Region 3 (viz., south central and southeast Kansas), made a motion that \$50 be paid to Trinity Lutheran Church each time that its facilities are used for an LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting. Richard Schrum seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

President Schultz reminded the meeting participants that the next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled to occur at 10:30 AM on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 702 South Ninth Street, Salina, Kansas.

There being no more business, Arlen Schultz declared the meeting adjourned. Tim Voelker led the closing prayer.

Secretary,
Richard Schrum