

**Kansas District LLL Board of Governors Meeting Minutes**  
**August 23, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas**

President Joe Chretien called the meeting to order at 10:39 AM.

Those present were Joe Chretien, Fred Gruhn, Pastor Wolf, Jim Johnson, John Johnson, Seth Wagner, Arlen Schultz, Ray Keller, Warren and Donna Briggeman, Tracy Brunner, and CJ Cross.

Pastor Wolf opened with devotions. He began by describing the start of the LLL in 1921 after World War I. He charged the board members to do their duty. Reading Ephesians 6:10, Pastor Wolf urged the meeting attendees to put on the armor of God and stand firm.

Joe Chretien asked the meeting attendees to review the minutes from the April meeting. Fred Gruhn, executive board representative for region 1, made a motion to approve the minutes. Tracy Brunner, executive board representative for region 2, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

There was discussion on having a biannual convention, but everyone agreed to continue with the annual convention in the fall.

President Joe Chretien discussed terms and positions for the officer nomination ballot. Joe volunteered to seek reelection to the office of president. Ray Keller, executive board representative for Region 4, volunteered to put his name on the ballot as candidate for the office of vice president. Joe also asked Jim Johnson if he would consider being a candidate for the office of treasurer. Joe informed the meeting attendees that he would ask Tim Voelker to be a candidate for the office of secretary. Joe said that he would check whether the Kansas District LLL bylaws matched the handouts.

President Joe Chretien said that the offices of treasurer, secretary, representatives for Region 1 and Region 3 should be elected at the 2025 Kansas District LLL Convention. President Chretien informed that meeting attendees that a small revision to Section 4 of Article V of the Kansas District LLL Bylaws would be submitted for approval at the 2025 convention so that the representatives for Region 2 and Region 4 will be elected in even years.

John Johnson made a statement that the Board of Governors members should encourage club members and congregational ambassadors to attend the periodic Board of Governors meetings and the annual Kansas District LLL Convention.

Mike Tonn, State Fair Booth Coordinator for Kansas District LLL, presented a report regarding the LHM/LLL booth in the Meadowlark Building at the 2025 Kansas State Fair.

The golf tournament was discussed. Fred Gruhn mentioned that he would have friends in the Kansas City area that might help set up a tournament in that area in May 2026.

C. J. Cross reported on Gary Neuschafer's health.

Tom Stanton, State Fair Worship Service Coordinator for Kansas District LLL, joined that meeting using the Zoom software at 11:41 AM. He reported on the worship service, which was planned to occur at the People's Bank and Trust Arena at the upcoming Kansas State Fair on September 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM. He reported that the choir and music for the worship service would be provided by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. He reported that Rev. C. J. Luttinen, lead pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Wichita, would be the officiant and preacher at the worship service.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:44 AM. The meeting resumed at 12:30 PM. Polly Gregali, Community Facilitator for LHM/LLL, joined that meeting using Zoom software at 12:38 PM.

President Joe Chretien talked about his past emails that contained his reports. These emails showed that Fred Gruhn and Joe had discussed the upcoming 2025 Kansas District LLL Convention. These emails contained information about registration and proposed agendas.

President Chretien presented the following information about the upcoming 2025 Kansas District LLL Convention.

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Lutheran Hour Speaker, will be the guest speaker during the convention. Rev. Zeigler will deliver the keynote message during the morning of Saturday, November 1, 2025, on the Connect theme. On Sunday morning, November 2, Rev. Zeigler will lead a Bible study, which commences at 9:30 AM. Rev. Zeigler will preach at the worship services, which commence at 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM.

The Board of Governors meeting attendees discussed a proposal to replace the meet and greet event, which had been planned for 7:00 PM on Friday, October 21, 2025, with a reformation worship service followed by refreshments and socializing.

Fred Gruhn said that he would email pastors with information regarding the convention schedule so that congregations could put announcements in their bulletins.

President Chretien announced that a Board of Governors meeting would occur at 8:30 AM in the fellowship hall at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, before the convention begins.

President Chretien announced that money checks for the convention registration fee should be written to "Kansas District LLL". President Chretien recommended that convention attendees register for the convention using the web pages that had been created by Lutheran Hour Ministries web developers.

President Joe Chretien and some members of the Board of Governors were surprised to discover that a golf tournament for the Kansas District LLL was advertised on the Kansas District LLL web site. ([https://www.lhm-ks.org/lll\\_ks\\_golf.htm](https://www.lhm-ks.org/lll_ks_golf.htm)) The golf tournament was scheduled for Sunday, September 14, at the Rolling Meadows Golf Course near Milford, Kansas. The golf tournament was organized by Mark Hatesohl and Dennis Tegmeier, members of Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas.

Jim Johnson presented the treasurer's report for the LLL Kansas District. Jim Johnson reported that \$48,878.80 was raised for the 2024-2025 LLL Kansas District Project. Jim reported that \$720 was received from Thrivent Choice Dollars program. Jim observed that the amount raised for the 2024-2025 District Project was \$1121.20 short of the \$50,000 goal. Jim reported that under the rules for disbursement of the District Project funds, \$38,378.80 would have been allocated for grants of financial student aid for the 2025-2026 academic year. Jim reported that the Financial Student Aid Committee communicated the desire to grant a total of \$33,800.00 in student aid to 10 students enrolled at one of the LCMS Concordia universities and \$5,000 to one student enrolled at the Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. Jim reported that the LLL Kansas District Executive Board approved the allocation of an additional \$421.20 from unrestricted operating funds to financial student aid grants for the 2025-2026 academic year in response to the request from the Financial Student Aid Committee.

Tom Stanton moved that the total fundraising goal of \$50,000 be retained for the fiscal year of June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. Tom Stanton moved that the line item goals of the 2024-2025 district project be retained for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Warren Briggeman, executive board representatives for region 3, seconded that motion. The motion was passed.

Fred Gruhn mentioned that the weekly men's Bible study group at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, collects contributions for the LLL Kansas District Project. Fred Gruhn encouraged that meeting attendees to advertise to congregations that most of the money that is collected for the LLL Kansas District Project is distributed as grants to students who are preparing for full-time church work careers at LCMS colleges and as grants to students who are preparing to become pastors and deaconesses at LCMS seminaries.

Jim Johnson reported that the proceeds from grain sales were contributed to the 2024-2025 LLL Kansas District Project. Jim Johnson reported that this was the first time that grain was contributed to the LLL Kansas District Project.

Tom Stanton moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Fred Gruhn seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Web site and region updates and information were shared with the group.

Rev. Gary Wolf informed that meeting attendees that a celebration of his retirement would occur on Sunday, September 14, at 5:00 PM at Concordia Lutheran Church in Hoisington, Kansas.

Mileage forms were filled out and submitted to treasurer Jim Johnson.

Pastor Wolf closed with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.