

**Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Board of Governors Meeting
February 27, 2021
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 his message, Rev. Kootz led the group in prayer, asking that that meeting attendees and the work accomplished in the meeting be inspired by and blessed by the Holy Spirit.

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

Review of Minutes for LLL Kansas District Board of Governors Meeting of August 8, 2021

Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary distributed printed copies of the minutes of the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting that occurred on August 8, 2021, to the meeting participants. After these minutes were reviewed, Mark Westerman, region 3 representative on the LLL Kansas District executive board, presented a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Board of Governors meeting. Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL Kansas State Fair committee, seconded the motion. The Board of Governors members voted to accept the minutes document.

During the review of the minutes of the preceding LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting, President Schultz noted that the second meeting of 2021 was scheduled for April 10. Since the first meeting of 2021 had been delayed until February 27 because of extremely frigid winter weather, Arlen Schultz asked that the meeting, which was originally scheduled for April 10, be rescheduled later in April 2021. After discussion, the meeting attendees unanimously agreed to reschedule the next Board of Governors meeting on April 17, commencing at 10:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas.

LLL/LHM Kansas District Treasurer's Report

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 2020-2021 fiscal year. Mr. Hackbart's report showed a total operational income of \$10,233.18 as of the meeting date. The total income included \$1,993.09, which was carried forward from the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The total income included \$5,736.09 in rebates that were received the International Lutheran Laymen's League for the first three quarters of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Carroll Hackbart's report showed expenditures of \$2,503.00, yielding a beginning bank account balance of \$7,730.18 as of the meeting date.

Carroll Hackbart reported that the following information to account for reduced expenditures and a bank account balance that was larger than usual for this point in the fiscal year (June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021).

- Carroll Hackbart explained that spending was reduced because events were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mr. Hackbart reported that **The Lutheran Witness** magazine had not submitted a bill for the printing of LLL Kansas District articles. Mr. Hackbart communicated his belief that articles had not been submitted to **The Lutheran Witness** magazine. In response to this comment, Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL Kansas State Fair booth committee said that he planned to submit articles to the **The Lutheran Witness** magazine to advertize the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth and LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service.

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- Carroll Hackbart also noted that \$500, which was given to the LLL Kansas District as a memorial to deceased former district president Merle Lietz, had not yet been expended for the purchase of a Project Connect rack and booklets for display at the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service and booth. (The 2020 Kansas State Fair had been cancelled because of the complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Carroll Hackbart reported that the balance of funds received as distributions from the Delmar Maike bequest invested in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation is \$11,541.00, as of January 1, 2021.

Carroll Hackbart, chairman of the LLL Kansas District Project committee as well as LLL Kansas District treasurer, expressed concern that the amount of contributions that will be received for the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project will be much less than the total fund-raising goal of \$50,000. Carroll Hackbart suggested that some of the balance of the Delmar Maike bequest that has been received from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation investment account might be used to make up the shortage of contributions that might be received for the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project. Mr. Hackbart suggested that this proposition be discussed at a future LLL Kansas Board of Governors meeting.

Mike Tonn presented a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mark Westerman, representative for Region 3 on the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors, seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The Board of Governors members voted to accept the treasurer's report.

2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Budget

Carroll Hackbart opened a discussion to review the budget. He shared that Richard Schrum, who currently maintains the LLL/LHM Kansas District web site, had requested that an amount be added to the district budget to cover the expense of maintaining the LLL Kansas District web site. Fred Gruhn, representative for Region 1 on the LLL Kansas District executive board, proposed that the LLL Kansas District obtain two Zoom Pro licenses, a digital web camera and tripod, a microphone, and a computer screen projector for the purpose of enabling the remote participation in Board of Governors meetings by means of the Zoom video conferencing application. Fred Gruhn proposed that participation in the Board of Governors meetings would be facilitated for persons who live far from Salina, Kansas if those persons could use the Zoom application to participate in the meetings. Several meeting participants voiced support for enabling remote participation in Board of Governors meetings using the Zoom application. Tom Staton, coordinator for the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, opined that a large flat-panel television would provide a better display of the faces of Zoom meeting participants.

Fred Gruhn proffered a motion that \$1,000 budgeted in the current fiscal year and in the next fiscal year for the technology, such as the LLL Kansas District web site, Zoom licenses, and hardware items necessary to facilitate Zoom meetings. Tom Stanton seconded the motion. The Board of Governors members voted to approve the motion.

Fred Gruhn volunteered to purchase a digital web camera and tripod, a microphone, and a large flat-panel television for the LLL Kansas District. Fred Gruhn also volunteered to purchase a Zoom Pro video conferencing license. Mr. Gruhn also volunteered to set up the equipment at the next LLL Kansas Board of Governors meeting.

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President Arlen Schultz asked for volunteers to staff a technology committee for the LLL Kansas District. Fred Gruhn and Tom Stanton volunteered to join the technology committee. President Schultz appointed them to the newly formed committee. President Schultz said that additional members will be recruited for this committee.

Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary, moved that all of the other items in the LLL Kansas District budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year be carried forward to the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Mark Westerman seconded this motion. The Board of Governors members voted to approve the motion.

John Johnson, former president of the LLL Kansas District, reminded meeting attendees that \$24,784 was transferred from the LLL Kansas District Endowment Fund to an endowment fund that was managed by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas in 2012. The purpose of this distribution was to provide some of the funding for the LLL/LHM booth at the Kansas State Fair. (All of the assets of the now defunct LLL Kansas District Endowment Fund were distributed in 2012 in order to comply with the International Lutheran Laymen's League requirement that districts could not solicit contributions for and manage their own endowment funds.) John Johnson requested that an annual report of this state fair ministry endowment fund managed by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church be provided to the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors. Tom Stanton, president of the church council of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, volunteered to provide the report.

Region 1 Report

Fred Gruhn, representative for Region 1 of the LLL Kansas District, gave the following report.

- Fred Gruhn reported that all zone-level activities and meetings in Zone 3 had been suspended during the last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fred Gruhn reported that planning for the 2021 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention would resume soon. Fred Gruhn confirmed that 81st LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention would be presented at the Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, Kansas on Saturday, November 7, 2021.
- Fred Gruhn shared greetings from Nathan Harkins, former vice president of the LLL Kansas Zone 3 and former member of the LLL Kansas District Project committee. Fred Gruhn reported that Nathan was in his second semester as a full-time student at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri.
- Fred Gruhn reminded the meeting attendees that Nathan Harkins had urged that the financial aid given to students preparing for careers as Lutheran school teachers, DCE's, deconesses and other non-pastoral full-time church worker careers be equal to that given to seminary students.

2020 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention Cancellation Report

President Arlen Schultz reminded the meeting participants that the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention was cancelled because of the danger of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Arlen Schultz reported that a virtual convention, like on on-line webinar, could not be arranged to replace the cancelled in-person convention. President Schultz reported that he had asked Richard Schrum to modify the Kansas District Convention web page of the LLL Kansas District web site to post links for the following items.

- the video presentations of the Fall 2020 LLL Virtual Event,
- the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Treasurer Report,
- the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Project Receipts Report,

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- the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project Resolution.

President Schultz reported that he had asked Richard Schrum to also post the ballot for the following district positions on the LLL Kansas District Convention web page of the LLL Kansas District web site.

- President – Arlen Schultz
- Vice President – Joseph Chretien
- Executive Board Representative for Region 1 – Fred Gruhn
- Executive Board Representative for Region 4 – Ray Keller

President Schultz reported that he had asked Richard Schrum to send email messages to an email distribution list that he forwarded to Richard Schrum from Polly Gregali, Community Facilitator of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. President Schultz reported that he had requested that the email message direct the recipients to the LLL Kansas District Convention web page of the LLL Kansas District web site and that it ask them to reply, voting "Yea" or "Nay" to accept the reports, the resolution, and the candidates for district offices.

President Schultz asked Richard Schrum to report on the number of replies that he received. Richard Schrum reported that he had received only four replies, all of which voted "Yea" to all questions.

LLL/LHM Kansas District Web Site Report

Richard Schrum distributed reports that showed invoices and receipts for the registration of internet domains **lhm-ks.org**, **lhmks.org**, and the hosting expenses for the LLL Kansas District web site. He requested that requested that expenses of \$277.38, which he has paid, be reimbursed and redirected to the LLL Kansas District Project. Since the addition of a budget item for technology expenses had previously been approved at this meeting, treasurer Carroll Hackbart said that he would implement this request.

Richard Schrum also informed the meeting attendees that he intended to rebuild the current LLL Kansas District web site using a Wordpress template some time in 2021. Richard Schrum said that he hoped such a change in technology would eventually enable other LLL Kansas District volunteers to update the web site using administrative web pages that did not require specialized technical knowledge.

Lunch Break

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. Arlen Schultz reported that contributions for the lunch exceeded expenses by \$150. Arlen Schultz reported that \$150 was contributed to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project.

LLL Kansas Region 2 Report

Ron Bott, representative for Region 2 on the LLL Kansas District executive board, reported that the Zone 7 Convocation, which had been scheduled to occur on November 8, 2020, was cancelled in order to preclude the possibility of the transmission of the COVID-19 virus among participants.

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Ron Bott reported that two congregations in Zone 7 had already held events to raise funds for the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project. Ron Bott reported that fund-raising events were scheduled at Saint John Lutheran Church in Palmer and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Greenleaf.

President Arlen Schultz commented that fund-raising events could still be planned and implemented with precautions against transmission of the COVID-19 virus among the events' participants. For example, he noted that the annual pancake feed, which will be put on by the LLL group at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina in March 2021, will be implemented using carry-out orders. He said that between 80 and 100 carry-out orders of pancakes are expected to be sold. Arlen Schultz also noted that the pancake feed at Saint Peter Lutheran Church will utilize curbside pick-up of pancake orders.

LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair Worship Service Report

Tom Stanton, coordinator for the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, reported that the LLL/LHM worship service will occur at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 12, 2021. The worship service will be presented at the Bretz Young Injury Lawyers Arena on the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas. Tom Stanton reported that Rev. Tom Harmon, Senior Pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas will preach.

Tom Stanton reported that the Kansas State Fair did not refund the fee that was paid for the rental of the Bretz Young Injury Lawyers Arena on September 11, 2020 after the 2020 Kansas State Fair was cancelled. Consequently, last year's rental fee will be applied to the rental of the arena during the 2021 Kansas State Fair.

Tom Stanton said that he would attempt to arrange for the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service to live-streamed over the internet.

LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair Booth Report

Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL Kansas State Fair Booth committee, reported the following information regarding the LLL/LHM booth at the 2021 Kansas State Fair.

- Dr. Ed Berger, interim general manager of the Kansas State Fair, is a person of the Christian faith.
- The rental fee for the 8 foot by 10 foot booth space is \$1,400. When some of the meeting attendees asked whether a larger booth could be rented, Mike Tonn said that he would inquire about the availability of a larger booth.
- The cost of the booth includes two parking passes; one is prime, and one is reserved.
- The LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth will occupy the same location in the Meadowlark Exhibit Hall as in previous years. The booth will operate from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM beginning Friday, September 10, 2021 through Sunday, September 19, 2021.
- Materials that will be freely distributed from the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair booth will include Holy Bibles in Spanish and English, Project Connect pamphlets, Portals of Prayers devotional booklets, Sunday school materials, Christian-themed toys, pens, bookmarks, trinkets, and other novelty items.
- The state fair booth committee is accepting donations of the listed printed materials for distribution from the booth.

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- Mike Tonn said that two or three volunteers are needed to staff the booth for three-hour periods during each day of the fair. Mike requested that groups and individuals contact him (tonn.mike@yahoo.com) to volunteer to staff the booth for three-hour time slots.
- Mike Tonn said that he expected that several LCMS congregations, which have provided volunteers to staff the booth on particular days of the fair in previous years, will do the same at the 2021 fair. Mike estimated that approximately half of the volunteers that staffed the booth in previous years were members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas.

LLL/LHM Kansas District Business

- Treasurer Carroll Hackbart reminded the meeting participants that unspent funds distributed from the Delmar Maiké bequest investment account would amount to more than \$16,000 by the next LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting. President Schultz asked that zone presidents and executive board members to be prepared to submit suggestions for spending the Delmar Maiké bequest investment distribution at the next LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting.
- President Arlen Schultz reported that the LLL Kansas District had been received a \$620 memorial for Bill Proctor, who passed away on December 28, 2020. President Schultz suggested that the memorial be given to the LLL Kansas District Project. However, no motion was made or approved regarding the allocation of the memorial contribution.
- President Schultz asked if any LLL Kansas zone rallies had been planned. None of the attendees reported any knowledge of planned zone rallies.
- John Johnson encouraged the meeting participants to consider means by which LCMS Kansas churches with large memberships can be motivated to be more involved with Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Kansas Lutheran Laymen's League. John Johnson emphasized that many of the largest churches in the LCMS Kansas District do not contribute or contribute only small amounts to the LLL Kansas District Project.
- Ron Bott communicated his observation that many members of LCMS Kansas churches are not educated about the full extent of the ministries of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Ron Bott said that he had concluded that most Kansas Lutherans believe that the Lutheran Hour Ministries outreach efforts are limited to radio programs and holiday television programs.

Nominations for District Offices

President Arlen Schultz reminded the meeting participants that the following LLL Kansas District officers will be elected at the 2021 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention for a two-year term (i.e., November, 2021 – November, 2023):

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Executive board representative for Region 2 (north-central Kansas)
- Executive board representative for Region 3 (south-central and southeastern Kansas)

Arlen Schultz asked that the meeting participants seek candidates for these positions. He encouraged Ron Bott to seek reelection to the position as executive board representative for Region 2 and Mark Westerman to seek reelection to the position of executive board representative for Region 3.

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Carroll Hackbart urged the meeting participants to seek a volunteer for the appointive position of chairman for the LLL Kansas District Project committee for fiscal year 2021-2022 since he desired that a younger person should replace him in this office.

Other LLL/LHM Kansas District Business

Carroll Hackbart suggested that the Board of Governors give future consideration to placing the contributions received for the LLL Kansas District Project into a separate bank account from the operating funds for the LLL Kansas District. Mr. Hackbart submitted that having separate bank accounts for these funds would ease bookkeeping if the positions of LLL Kansas District treasurer and chairperson for the LLL Kansas District Project were held by two different persons.

John Johnson gave a presentation regarding the on-line courses, printed and video learning facilities that are available on the Lutheran Hour Ministries web site (<https://www.lhm.org/>). John Johnson also showed the web page that displayed the books and kits that were developed by the Barna Group and that are available for purchase on the Lutheran Hour Ministries web site (<https://www.lhm.org/barna/>). John Johnson briefly described the **Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age**, the **Households of Faith**, and the **Better Together** monographs and kits.

President Schultz reminded the meeting participants to register for and watch the live-stream presentations of the **Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event**, which is scheduled to occur on Saturday, March 13, from 11:00 AM CST until 2:00 PM CST. President Schultz said that the Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event could be advertized to local Kansas congregations.

Tom Stanton shared examples of many ways that peoples lives can be touched with the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ's redemptive self-sacrifice for our sin and His resurrection from death. He shared an example of a gentleman who set up a booth at the recurring Third Thursday community event in Hutchinson, Kansas.

President Schultz informed the meeting attendees that Ben Marriott had replaced Bervin Mirtsching, who retired September 1, 2020, as LHM Ministry Advancement Counselor for the region of the United States that includes the Kansas District. President Schultz informed meeting attendees that Ben Marriott had conveyed a willingness to lead wills and trusts seminars. President Schultz informed that meeting participants that Ben Marriott had communicated his desire to meet with the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors and that he may participate in the next Board of Governors meeting.

President Schultz encouraged the Board of Governors members who were in attendance to fill out and submit the Volunteer Travel and Expense Report. President Schultz reminded the meeting attendees that the LLL Kansas District reimburses district and zone officers who drive to the Board of Governors meetings at the rate of 50 cents per mile. President Schultz encouraged the meeting attendees to contribute mileage reimbursements to the LLL Kansas District Project.

President Schultz instructed treasurer Carroll Hackbart to pay \$50 to Trinity Lutheran Church in order to compensate the church for the use of the meeting room and kitchen for the Board of Governors meeting. President Schultz explained that payment must be made to comply with the motion, regarding compensation of Trinity Lutheran Church, that was passed at the February 1, 2020 Board of Governors meeting.

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There being no more business to be addressed by the Board of Governors, Arlen Schultz declared the meeting adjourned. Rev. Dennis Kootz closed the meeting by reading Psalm 22. Rev. Kootz described Psalm 22 as David's prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which was necessary for our salvation.

Secretary,
Richard Schrum