

Lone Star District Board Meeting Minutes
Lutheran Laymen's League
March 8, 2008
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin

President Gene Brison convened the meeting and welcomed the group and thanked them for their attendance at 10:02 A.M.

Members Present: Gene Brison, Glenn Gerber, Rev. Jeffrey Geske, Duane Deines, Bervin Mirtsching, Gary Rohloff, Harry Jordan , Ken Weiser, Charles Iselt, Forest Saemrow, Gary Laneman, Barry Samsel, Woodie Arp, Al Gunning, Tim Wendland, James Arldt

Guests: Pam Rohloff, Mary Lou Deines, Ruby Weiser, and Jack Sevcik

Rev. Jeffrey Geske opened our meeting with a Devotion/Bible Study based on Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14; Romans 8: 1 – 11; and John 11: 1 – 53. Each reading was followed with the three questions of *Where is the Law; Where is the Gospel; and How does this apply to Lutheran Laymen's League*. Pastor Geske then left us with the most important words a Christian could say, "Jesus Died For My Sins" He closed with a prayer

President Brison conducted introductions of the people present. During the introductions Gary Laneman asked us all to keep Carl and Pastor Eugene in our prayers concerning health issues. President Brison thanked the members of Redeemer who helped put together this meeting.

Al Gunning Report: Al Gunning, Chairman of the Lutheran Hour Ministry Foundation, gave us an update on The Foundation. He reported that the earnings of the foundation surpassed all national stock and bond indexes this year, and continues to grow at a good pace. He said 3 – 5% of the earnings are distributed back to Lutheran Hour Ministry on an annual basis. He reported that The Foundation has a new President, Jon Jensen, who replaced Mark Ladendorf who had been the president since the beginning of the foundation. The board is made up of 15 members. In conclusion, he reported that there have been some changes at Lutheran Hour Ministry including a new Executive Director and the reinstatement of Woman to Woman with Phyllis Wallace. A new men's ministry has also been started.

Secretary Glenn Gerber presented the minutes. There were two name spelling corrections.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion Carried

Treasurer Charles Iselt presented the treasurer's report. He gave a brief explanation on our current financial situation. We have close to a zero balance in the bank at this time, but are requesting rebate funds from St. Louis.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Carried

President's Report

President Brison reported that he was very enthusiastic about the new Men's Ministry Program. He was concerned after the resignation of Greg Lewis, but after a conference call with LHM staff and volunteers he was better informed about what was going on at LHM. He reported that there are still some things that need to be settled, but that, in general, he feels very positive about the future of the organization.

Governor's Report

Gary reported about the special meeting he attended in December in which Greg Lewis resigned, and was replaced by Larry Lumpe. Larry will continue in the Executive Director's position until a new Executive is hired. He also reported that Steve Siegel is no longer at Lutheran Hour Ministries, and has been replaced by Bruce Wurdeman; also, Larry Pritchett has returned to LHM as the CFO. Gary reported that *Woman to Woman* with Phyllis Wallace has returned to the airwaves. Also, a new *Men's Ministry* has been started. All in all, Gary feels that things are moving in the right direction at Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Gov. Rohloff added that the Board approved a list of candidates to be voted upon at the annual convention. The names will be listed in the Convention Layman. The LLL Annual Convention will be July 24 – 27 in Lexington, Kentucky. He reported that congregations are being urged to give Family Scholarships to allow families to attend the convention.

Gary stressed the importance of filling out our district action plan and calendar as our rebates are tied to these documents.

He concluded with urging us all to look at lhm.org on a regular basis as much information is there.

Again, in closing, Gary mentioned his positive feelings about the future of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Regional Vice Presidents Report: Gary Laneman reported that Concordia University, Texas let him know that if we ever needed a meeting room one could be made available for our use.

Information Services: Forest Saemrow

Forest Saemrow presented his written report. He mentioned that his next article would highlight Bervin Mirtsching and Al Gunning concerning The Lutheran Hour Ministries Foundation. He also mentioned that the next deadline for articles was June 15.

James Arldt Report: James presented his written report. He reported that he now has a new version from our internet provider to allow him to update our district website to give it a more professional look. He would like to add a calendar to our website and urged us to give him more information about what was going on in our Lone Star District. He said that we are presently paying \$99 per year for our site and suggested that we keep it at that and not move to a more expensive amount at this time.

James is also working on making our first page more attractive. Our district website is

www.lhmlonestar.org

Gift Planning Counselor

Counselor Bervin Mirtsching reported on the new Men's Ministry and *Woman to Woman*. He handed out a Challenge Fund information sheet and a Planned Giving Brochure. He also mentioned about the Thrivent matching gift program, and the proper wording to bequeath a gift to LHM.

Old Business:

There was a lengthy discussion about bringing Paulo Warth from, Brazil, to the LLL national convention and then to the Lone Star District at our expense. There was also discussion about the logistics of his time in the Lone Star District. In conclusion, Gov. Gary Rohloff and Pastor Geske volunteered to be the contact persons for this project. It was decided that the following dates and locations would be researched:

- July 29: Amarillo – Pastor Geske
- July 30: Ft. Worth – Gov Gary Rohloff
- July 31: Austin – James Arldt
- Aug 1: San Antonio – Harry Jordan
- Aug 2: Houston – To Be Arranged
- Aug 3: Fly back to Brazil

Motion made and seconded that the LLL Lone Star District bring Paulo Warth to the LLL International Convention and then to the Lone Star District at the expense of the Lone Star District. Motion Carried.

Motion made and seconded that all funds for this project go through the Lone Star District treasury and then to St. Louis. Motion Carried

New Business:

President Brison asked us to look at the District Action Plan and discuss the ones we wanted to support. The following were supported:

- A. Recruit new Ambassadors. Increase by 10% for 2008 – 2009
- B. Give list of potential new leader to Regional Governor (at least 3 names)
- C. Sponsor an ETS workshop
- D. Pay to send LHM overseas director to the LLL International Convention in July 2008
- E. Support financially and prayerfully overseas partnership
- F. Make up Global Care Packages (Pastor Geske suggested that we make up the packages at our District Convention)

Pastor Geske presented details about the Lone Star District Convention on September 12, 13, and 14 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Amarillo.

Motion was made and seconded that we rent the Performing Arts Center in the Convention Center. Motion carried

President Brison said he would contact St. Louis to see if we could get Faith or Bruce Wurdeman to speak at our convention.

Pastor Geske closed the meeting with a prayer

President adjourned the meeting at 2:20 P.M.

The next Lone Star Board meeting is Saturday, June 7 at Prince of Peace in Amarillo at 10:00 A.M.