

**LONE STAR DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
AMARILLO, TEXAS
JUNE 7, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Eugene Brison

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Weiser
James Arldt
Gary Laneman
Gary Rohloff
Charles Iselt
Forest Saemrow
Bervin Mirtsching
Henry Janhsen
Glenn Gerber
Eugene Brison
Rev. Jeffrey Geske

GUESTS:

Ruby Weiser
Pam Rohloff

BIBLE STUDY: The Bible Study was conducted by Pastor Geske from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Amarillo, Texas.

INTRODUCTIONS: Gene introduced guests Ruby Weiser and Pam Rohloff. Ken Weiser suggested that we send out notices of our board meetings to all members. He said people will not look for it in announcements; we need to send it.

SECRETARY REPORT: Glenn Gerber reported that he did not print out copies of our March Board meeting, but posted the minutes of our March meeting on our Lone Star website. He suggested that we all start getting in the habit of going to our website and if we want a hard copy of the minutes, we should print them off the website. Some asked to receive the minutes by e-mail. Gene said he would send them out after he received them from Glenn. Glenn suggested that they go to the website and print out the minutes. **Secretary's report approved as presented. Moved and Seconded**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Charles Iselt

There was discussion about the fact that we were very close to achieving the \$3500 needed to meet the expenses of Paulo Warth. Paulo will be the guest of the Lone Star District, and he will travel around Texas visiting churches, and explaining his ministry in Brazil.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Moved and Seconded

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Gene reported that he informed a number of LLL Districts and St. Louis about our upcoming district convention. He is continuing to update his e-mail list.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT: Gary Rohloff gave us greetings from President Kidwell and the Board of Governors.

Gary reported that presently Lutheran Hour Ministries was running a two million dollar deficit as of April, 2008. The budget took a lot of cuts last year so next year's budget is about the same as this year. Next year's budget shows an anticipated income and expenses at close to the same amount, with a little more on the income side. A balanced budget is anticipated.

Gary reported on the new Men's ministry network and shared an interesting statistic. If a father brings his child to church and is involved in his child's worship life, 93% of these children will stay with the church vs. 17% if brought by the mother alone, and 4% if the child went to church by himself. Texas is one of the places where the Men's ministry program is being a tested. The goal behind the men's ministry program is to get the father back as the spiritual leader of the family.

Gary reported that we sold the LLL office in Venezuela. He also reported that we will have 12 international directors attending the International Conference in Lexington. The budget for our International Offices was 1.45 million less than it was the year before, and it will stay the same for next year's budget at 5.2 million. About one fourth of the entire LLL budget goes to International Ministries.

Gary reported a couple of changes in the Global Care Packages. Instead of packing items in a box we are now using back packs to hold the contents of our Global Care Packages. Also, there is no longer one designated county to receive these care packages, but they will go to areas in the world where they are most need. They will be stored in a warehouse until they are needed and a country is chosen.

Pastor Geske mentioned that he wants the district convention participants to put together Global Care Packages at our Lone Star District Convention. A question concerning supplies for the packages was asked and Pastor said he is still working out the details. Pastor wants the group to experience packing the back packs to make the experience more real to them.

Gary suggested that we use the convention offering to cover the \$5.00 per package shipping costs. There was no motion, but the board and the people in attendance agreed with Gary's suggestion.

Gary reported that Lutheran Hour Ministry was sponsoring a number of tours in the future, but at this time he did not know who the tour leaders would be. He suggested that we keep looking at the LLL website for further information concerning dates, locations, and tour leaders.

Gary reported that the Board of Governors adopted 12 Rules of Governance. They have hired a consultant to work with them to help them work together as a group in a harmonious manner. There have been a lot of changes and the Governors have worked through a number of tough issues in the last year, but Gary feels that things are improving. The consultant and the governors are looking at different ways to operate our organization. Rohloff commended president Kidwell on his leadership of LLL.

Gary Laneman commented that his group has no instruction on how to change their bylaws. He said we need to follow up on resolutions. If we are going to rebuild from the local groups we need a strong presence from somebody in St Louis to help. Gary suggested that Gene bring up this issue to the District Presidents. Gary suggested that Gene contact Ron Shalat with issues about the local groups.

Gary reported that the LLL marketing phrase: "People of Christ with a message of hope" had been changed to "People of Christ with the message of hope". The "a" has been changed to "the".

Forest asked about an update on Kenya, and Gary said he has not heard anymore. Gary said two churches sent groups to Kenya.

Bervin Mirtsching Report:

Bervin presented information about the men's ministry and reiterated Gary's statistics about the importance of the father's involvement in a child's spiritual life. He said we need a million dollars to fund this project and Bervin asked us to give him names of people he could talk to about this men's ministry project. He handed out a number of items we could give to people about this ministry.

Bervin told us that Woman to Woman is now on the air again and they are raising money for this program. He again asked for names of people to talk to about this program. He particularly would like to know of any women's groups for Phyllis to visit. He then handed out a brochure on Woman to Woman.

He stressed to us that Gift Annuity rates are changing in a few weeks so it is time to do a Gift Annuity, now. The Challenge Fund for this time is \$350,000.

He then talked about the Thrivent gift matching program and stressed that this was a very simple way to increase a gift to LHM.

Gene dismissed us for lunch at 12:10 and asked that we be back in 30 minutes.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS:

GARY LANEMAN: Gary reported that his region is still trying to re-invigorate the Alamo and Capital Zones. Work is going slowly.

NORMAN MAY: Not Present

BENNY MITSCHKE: Not Present

GEORGE OERTHER: Not Present

ZONE PRESIDENT REPORTS:

HENRY JANHSEN : Henry reported that he is also trying to re-invigorate the groups, and it is also going slowly. He further reported that they are continuing their bowling tournament and it continues to be a success.

Forest Saemrow: Forest stressed that he will focus on Woman to Woman and highlight that Phyllis is on 250 stations. He will promote this to the LWML Convention later this summer. He will also highlight Project Connect to the LWML Convention.

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN: James Arldt presented to us about our District Website, Lone Star District Lutheran Laymen's League. If we go to the old site we will be directed to the new site. He has added a lot of features to make a very attractive and informative website for the Lone Start District. He also asked that we find out where Paulo will be and when during his time in Texas and he could include it on our website.

James asked us how we could publicize our website to our constituents. Pastor Geske suggested that we let the Texas District know about our new website. Gary suggested that we just say "this link has been updated" for our Texas District LCMS.

Gene says he will tell the churches he has on e-mail about our updated website.

Forest says he can put an article in the Lutheran Witness to 26,000 people about our updated website.

Gene says he sends out letters to all LLL groups and he can publicize it there.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion on bringing Paulo to our 2008 International Convention in Lexington, Kentucky:**
Gary will host Paulo for dinner on Thursday evening of the convention and he invited anyone who wants to join them. Gary reported that he is still finalizing all of Paulo's events. He is still looking for someone to help in Houston.
James wants all the dates for Paulo to put on the website.
Gene asked Gary to give him all of Paulo's information.
Gene is checking on some people in Houston to host Paulo.
2. **Brazil partnership Update:** Chuck Iselt asked if we could apply any additional money we get for Brazil toward Paulo's visit. Gary thinks that we will raise enough to cover his expenses through free will offerings, so he suggested that the extra money go back to Brazil to support that ministry.

Motion and 2nd that any money over and above Paulo's expenses to be ear marked to Brazil for a project of their discretion.

MOTION PASSED

James suggested that any correspondence include our website.

3. **Constitution Rework:** Gene was not sure how much has been done on this yet.
4. **Ambassador Support Proposal:** Gene, being very frank, said we are going to have to give each board member and zone officer the responsibility of contacting churches in their area. Since district managers are gone, we are going to have to get out and "rattle the cages" to try to get more people involved. He suggested face to face meetings.
He put this on hold until September.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Update on Pastor Klaus at the Lone Start District Convention:** He is still coming.
The board suggested that Forest not put the big registration form in the Lutheran Witness, just the highlights of the convention.
2. **District Convention Agenda Items:** Pastor Geske stated that we will have a CPH display on site. The banquet will be at Prince of Peace on Saturday night and Friday they will host a BBQ dinner. Forest asked how much promotion has been done for this convention. Gene has sent information to various churches in Texas and Oklahoma. Gene thought that Lou Jander would put it on his e-mail. Gene says he will send our district information to the

Mission and Ministry Facilitators of the Texas District, LCMS. Forest then asked about the business meeting section. He thought we were going to concentrate more on celebration and less on business. Gene says that if we don't need it (business meeting) we can change it. Pastor Geske suggested that our afternoon servant event be the Global Care packages. The board agreed with this suggestion.

Gary suggested that Faith Spelbring of the St. Louis Office talk to us about how we operate with the new ambassador set up.

- 3. Other New Business:** Gene will put together a list for St. Louis of the number of Lone Star people going to the International Convention in Lexington.
- 4. Next District Board Meeting:** September 12, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace in Amarillo, Texas.
- 5. District Convention Agenda:** We had quite a lengthy discussion on the District Convention agenda. The board finalized the agenda and Gene will put it together for the Convention Workbook.

Motion made and seconded that convention offering be donated to the servant event Global Care Package project. MOTION PASSED

President Brison adjourned the meeting at 2:44 P.M.

Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Geske and then we all sang the Doxology

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Gerber
Lone Star District Secretary