

La Leche League of Southern California, Inc. Board of Directors' Minutes

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on February 21, 2021 via Zoom at 7:18 pm with Elise Hamel as host.

Members present :

Renee' DiGregorio

Out-going Network Event Coordinator / NEC; Executive Council Facilitator

Stephanie Laurean

Network Financial Coordinator/ NFC; Director Emeritus

Sharon Savene

Director-at-Large / LLLUSA Council Delegate for LLLSCNV Network

Romy Rapoport

Area Representative / AR - Central LA Beaches

Elise Hamel

Network Coordinator of Communication and Social Media

Hedi Herrmann-Blanton

Network Professional Liaison / LLLUSA Council Delegate for LLLSCNV Network

Not present:

Karima Khatib

Network Coordinator of Leaders- NCL, out-going Board President

Elizabeth Krey

Area Representative / AR - Nevada and Northern CA Deserts

Emily Niemeyer

Area Representative / AR - Orange County Inland Empire

Departments not currently represented:

Leader Accreditation - Network CLA not assigned

Agreements - OPEN

Approval of Minutes

A draft of the Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting held 1/10/21 were sent for review during the month and approved by quorum vote. The minutes have been posted on the Network website. A notice will go out to Network Leaders that these documents are available for viewing. [Elise]

First Order of Business - Annual Vote for Corporate Board Directors

-Proposed candidate names were submitted in the prior month. With a quorum vote the following were elected:

Corporate President for year 2021 - Sharon Savene

Corporate Treasurer for year 2021 - Stephanie Laurean

Corporate Secretary for year 2021 - Renee DiGregorio

Vacating Board position:

The 5 year term for Events Director, Renee' DiGregorio has ended. It is proposed that until an interested party comes forward, the Events Department management be shared by the Professional Liaison, Communications and Social Media, and Leader Departments. This proposal was accepted by quorum vote.

Stephanie Laurean has accepted a new term as Network Financial Coordinator. As she previously held the NFC position, a one year absence as a non-voting Board member was required before a return to the Board of Directors. This requirement has been fulfilled and her return was wholeheartedly welcomed by quorum vote.

Area Representative for San Diego/Imperial Counties. A Leader has stepped forward with interest in assuming the responsibilities as AR for SDIV. The candidate is considered a welcomed member of the Board of Directors. A letter will be sent out to the SDIV Area Leaders indicating that this Leader has stepped forward, and with their approval, she will be appointed as soon as possible.

Old Business

- OPEN position search: The prepared wording was approved and Elise formatted into a MailChimp Network search letter. The letter included links to our website to obtain job description details. Openings included are for LLL USA Council Delegate, Professional Liaison Assistant(s), Area Representatives, and Events Director
- Applications of new Group EINs. (See Finance report)
- 4th Quarter Cost Sharing fees have been paid.
- Certificate from Board of Nursing received with new coverage valid thru 1/31/2023.
- LLLI Board nominee to represent LLL USA ballot went out to all Leaders. 20% of our Leaders responded
- Communications Skills status (refer to Board Minutes of 11/9/20 and 1/10/21- Old Business). Renee reached out to Karen Peters to inquire on the status of Communications Skills workshops that are now being held virtually. She has continued to work to update language and outlines, as there does not appear to be any administrative guidance within LLL. It was learned that many Areas are creating their own workshops based on the original outlines with adaptation to current language. It was proposed that she arrange to conduct a minimum of two full workshops (sessions 1 thru 3) for SCANV annually. We ultimately wish to have our own Area

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Old Business continued

Leaders trained to be Communication Skills presenters. The goal is, with Karen's assistance with training, we can build our own Network CS department. The proposal was presented to the Board with encouragement to continue dialogue to reach this goal. Renee will speak to Karen about the details.

Department Reports

Leader

Karima is on temporary leave from NCL responsibilities due to family priorities.

- Stats Survey was sent to all Primary Connected Network Leaders. Response has been best when the AR follows up with phone calls. At times, the AR will obtain those needed stats and fill out the survey based on their answers. Future requests will set a 4 weeks response deadline.
- ADA: The final Leader number of 76 as of 1/31/21 will be recorded for cost sharing purposes
- Additional brain-storming on likely candidates for AR position for Orange Co once Emily steps away. If Emily chooses to continue; these candidates can be considered for future open positions.

LAD

There are 2 new Leaders accredited in the last month and 5 current active Leader Applicants. There are 3 additional pending applications.

Finance

-Conference Acct: \$5,000.00

-General Acct: \$9,823.24

-Morgan Stanley: \$23,277.96

Stephanie elected as Network Financial Officer.

-Re-focus on groups that have yet to follow through on obtaining EIN and those groups who intend to close bank accounts. The effort Stephanie and Renee shared in following up with all groups has proven to be effective thus far. Knowledge of IRS procedures and expectations of LLL USA have become clear in order to prep for the required next steps.

-Annual Financial Report will go out in early April.

-Renee was invited and joined Finance Coordinator Workgroup

-Notice was received that our current Go-To-Meeting subscription will expire in March. As agreed last year, we will allow it to expire. At that point we will pay the annual fee to use Zoom platform for Board and other general Network needs. The fee is \$149.00 annually.

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Department Reports continued

PL

No update as of 2/21/21

- Focus on EDI Training Grant
- Plans for a minimum 4 webinars focused for lactation professionals.
- Plans for webinars for Leaders Enrichment - one of which will be designated as the annual Leader Enrichment Seminar.

.....2/21/21 A new suggestion was made that Marian Tompson be considered for an 'Afternoon with Marian' for a Leader Enrichment event.

(added: perhaps an opportunity to sell our surplus of "My Passionate Journey")

Communications and Social Media

- Sent out Board of Directors LLL USA Candidate ballot via MailChimp to Network Leaders
- Working with ARs to compile Leader/Group statistics.
- Fran D has a large library of photographs taken at several Conferences and wishes to release them to our Network. Elise has been researching how to best accomplish this transfer. Elise asks that we give Fran access to our Board Drive to load photographs. Upon completion, the password will be updated. All were agreeable to this. Update 2/21/21 Process continues.
- Decision needed regarding an accumulation of various Conference supplies; excess books. Elise was given permission to disperse at her discretion, resulting in a substantial purge of older LLL books to Leaders across the country. Update 2/21/21 Further discussion revealed that Area supplies are scattered in several homes (garages or storage units). Renee currently is using a small portion of her personal storage unit for Conference supplies and ADA records and offered to share space to accommodate all supplies for a small reimbursement amount. Discussion will continue and perhaps obtain an inventory of all stored items to determine what should continue to be stored or purged. For historical purposes: In order to purge and lessen Network costs, 2 storage units in Orange Co were cleared in 2017 **[Stephanie, do I have that year right?]**

Events - no report - (see Vacating Board Positions) and above Old Business re CS Workshops

Agreements

It was agreed that focused meetings devoted to only updating will be more effective. The 4th Sunday of every month was found to be best for the principles involved. Renee will send out the dates of the 4th Sunday thru the next 6 months. It is felt that meetings would not begin until 8:00 PM. All Board members are encouraged to attend all or at least as many as possible. Following draft completion, the agreements will be sent to Network Leaders for approval or suggestions. Areas may use Network agreements as a template for Area agreements. Update 2/21/21: Schedule was sent out designating the 4th Sunday for the next 6 months. One hour of dedicated time is considered reasonable to reach completion. Feb 28th is the next scheduled meeting.

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LLL USA Delegate Report

Our Network has received an invitation to participate in a conference call with the LLL USA Council on January 20, 2021. Topics to cover during our half hour time were discussed.

Update 2/21/21: Renee was the only Network representative present, other than our two Network Delegates. It is hoped that more participation will be made a priority for future meetings

-Hedi continues work on a committee towards a 2 million dollar grant for LLLI focusing on racial diversity.

-Sharon Savene's term as USA Delegate will expire 3/31/21.

New Business

-Discussion to replace our website front page with a full list of Network Groups that are holding virtual meetings. Elise will compile after verifying with all groups that are using social media.

-Review of written communications: It has always been good practice to ask for review for all communication sent to Leaders, either individually or to a group. We are encouraged to continue that practice even for those of us who are more seasoned at this form of communication. All Board members should make themselves available to review when asked. Members should use their instincts especially if they feel the situation deserves special handling. Reviews will catch 'tone' if evident and appropriate attempts at clarity. A good starting place would be when the draft of Board Meeting Minutes are received as input/corrections are always welcome. Those members who are unable to attend the meeting should respond with comments if the summary of discussion seems confusing.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM

Respectfully submitted

Renee' DiGregorio - Executive Council Facilitator