

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 May 15, 2022 via Zoom at 7:09 pm with Stephanie Laurean as host and Renee DiGregorio leading.

Members present :

Stephanie Laurean

Network Financial Coordinator/ NFC

Hedi Herrmann-Blanton

Network Professional Liaison / Events co-Chair

Out-going LLL USA Council Delegate for LLLSCNV Network

Patricia Ochoa

Area Representative / AR - San Diego Imperial Valley

Renee' DiGregorio

Executive Council Facilitator

Area Representative / AR - North Counties Coastal and L.A. Valleys

Not present:

Tyler Dodge-Griffin

LLL USA Council Delegate for LLLSCNV Network

Karima Khatib

Network Coordinator of Leaders

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 - ACLA/ Network CLA

Agreements Chair

Area Representative for Central LA & Beaches

LLL USA Delegate

Communications and Social Media

Approval of Minutes

A draft of the Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting held 4/10/22 was 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.

A proposed Agenda was submitted prior to the meeting. A few topics were elaborated upon, but with only four members in attendance; it was chosen to focus on topics that were in need of immediate attention. Action on Agenda items are marked in *italics*.

The abbreviated Agenda was as follows:

Department Reports

Leader Dept.

No response to search for AR for CLAB

ADA report. Current Active Leaders: 71, with 2 pending moving-out-of-state

LAD

One Leader who had initially expressed further information in ACLA position, has withdrawn interest. Current active Applicants: 6

Finance Dept

Conference Acct.: \$5,000.00

General Acct.: \$8,726.26

Morgan Stanley: \$21,204.37

-Group Financial Report request has gone out. 990N are being filed

-Quarterly Cost Sharing payment sent in \$894.25

-Proof of reinstated EIN sent to broker holding our Board Insurance

-A Group has closed due to the Leader's move. The bank account will be closed and balance of funds will be sent to the Network

PL/Events

- *Hedi confirmed her availability for Sept 11, 2022 for LES- Save The Date should go out in early July*
- *EDI webinar now streaming. Announcement will be prepared to inform Leaders of this as a required participation.*
- *Renee will assume the responsibility of communicating with special speaker, Dr. Paulin*

Communications and Social Media

- Director position open, with no mediate plans to search as former Director will be able to still send out MailChimp announcements. ARs will continue to send newsie items to their Areas.

Agreements Workgroup

- *Met last on 4/24 and reached end of revisions. Renee will work on Appendix. Next workgroup is scheduled for May 22 with indexing and final proofing remaining.*

USA Council Delegate Report

Non received

-No response on Delegate search

-Board received invitation to attend Council Zoom meeting May 19 at 5:00 PM

-Board received from Council an inquiry asking how we work with Leaders who hold a Secondary Connection to any of our Areas.

New Business - topics that occupied the majority of this month's Board meeting

Communications Skills Workshop

-After delayed responses and conflicting opinions with the Trainer regarding minimum attendance, the MOU was cancelled and refunds were issued to the 4 registrants. The workshop is proceeding with Patricia using the trainer materials provided. Patricia discovered she would benefit greatly with further mentoring. Renee offered to reach out to USA West to find such a mentor. Until then the training materials will be shared with two of the participants, who are familiar with CS, and will provide input and allow practice in presentation.

-EDI Webinar is streaming. It was discussed several months ago that EDI training will become a requirement of Active Leader Status. Discussion began on how our Network intends to state this requirement...with perhaps beginning with all Leader Assessments invoices issued in July going forward. When completed the statement will be sent to all Network Leaders. We expect to bring up this topic at the Council Zoom meeting this week, asking other Networks what they are planning and/or already have in place.

-Formula Shortage. With the voluntary closure of the Abbott Laboratories due to contamination, issues of major formula storage have resulted. A panic level has been reached to secure suitable milk for millions of babies. Many local Leaders received an email from our local ABC7 Network asking for a La Leche League perspective.

Renee forwarded it to Hedi, our PL Leader. Hedi responded and shared her response on the LLL USA Leader's "Official" FB page. This response was included in a MailChimp post to all Network Leaders giving background and outlining a Leader's role.

Aside from alerting Leaders in the event they are contacted by the media, it also served to be a reminder of our Leader limitations and to not post home-made formula recipes. Thus far, the post has given the highest percentage 'opens' than any previous announcements.

-In depth discussion on closing the Network and re-structure as an Area with another Network. What this would look like and who would welcome us was again discussed. Another option is to ask other smaller Areas to join our Network to not only grow our Leader numbers but to also draw in administrators.

Declining Leader numbers with limited interest in Area positions has left our Board with 4 Active Board members. It was encouraged that each active member define their limitations and to express whenever those limits are being strained. This topic is not new and has been discussed for a couple of years.

We will address this topic during the upcoming USA Council Zoom Meeting.

New Business continued:

- Our USA Council Delegate. After many attempts to communicate, response from our Delegate has been non-existent. Though attendance at Board meetings is optional, Delegate reports have not been submitted to be discussed or included in the last 3 Board meeting's minutes. Our Board learns only about Council activities or inquiries when received directly from Council. Extensive discussion took place to find a resolution. Without response from the Delegate, frustration continues on how to address the issue. Hedi offered to reach out. "Important for context...the following discussion occurred a couple of days after the 5/15/22 meeting: Because the topic of dissolving the Network will be mentioned in the up-coming Zoom meeting with the LLL USA Council, Hedi informed Ty that if this action was to transpire, the Delegate seat(s) would be lost. Ty understood. The topic of expectations for our Delegate was not addressed.
- Upcoming USA Council with 5 Networks. Council asked that each Network provide questions and/or topics for discussion. We feel we will have 3 members in attendance.

A reminder:

- Emily Niemeyer, AR for Orange Co Inland Empire...6/20/22 is end of 3rd year - 2 - 1 year extension available
- Karima Khatib, NCL 9/18/22 is end of 5th year
- Repeated here for reference: Discussion began regarding new Leader mentorship expectations. It was determined that any new Leader, but especially those who will be starting their own new Groups/leading more independently of an established Group/Leader, should receive a personal phone call from the PL department. A direct phone call can be a friendly introduction to offer continued support as well as follow up to the Leader welcome email sent by Renee/ADA/the Board. This email should include reminders of WHO Code Compliance, requirements for Leader reporting (including links to personal contact Google form & meeting sign-in Google form once completed) and best practices for avoiding liability in giving "medical advice".

Next Board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Renee' DiGregorio - Executive Council Facilitator

