



**WESTERN CATHOLIC UNION
NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 7, 2020**



The Western Catholic Union held its 59th National Convention on August 7, 2020 virtually, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restricting public gatherings. WCU Secretary/Treasurer & CFO Kent D. Stegeman served as Convention Chairman. Mr. Stegeman called the Convention to order at 9:00 AM.

Mr. Stegeman announced that the meeting is being held using GoToMeeting and that the proceedings are being recorded for documentation and to assist with preparing the minutes.

Mr. Stegeman explained the voting process and said that site spokespersons will be used to verify attendance and voting. He also explained that if any delegate would like to speak, to please inform their site spokesperson so that they can request the floor.

Mr. Stegeman said that ballots will be collected and tabulated today by the site spokespersons and reported to the Home Office and then the ballots will be mailed to the Home Office for verification and documentation.

Mr. Stegeman said that the following WCU members are Site Spokespersons:

- Becky Warning, Quincy District
- Harold Jacoby, Iowa & Wisconsin
- Sherri Schaefer, Franklin-Warren District
- Steve Looten, SE Missouri District
- David Hutt, Belleville, IL
- Janice Boessen, Cole-Osage District
- Phil Ference, Northern Illinois District
- Kent Stegeman, St. Louis District

Mr. Stegeman then turned the meeting over to WCU Spiritual Director and pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Ashland, IL, Fr. Daren Zehnle, to start the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Stegeman then turned the meeting over to National Trustee James R. Obert to lead the pledges of allegiance to the United States of America and to the Western Catholic Union.

Mr. Stegeman then performed roll call.

The following were in attendance:

<u>Deleg ate</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Delegate Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Br.#</u>
1	DELEGATE	Don Wiemelt	x		1
2	DELEGATE	Janice Weimelt	x		1
3	DELEGATE	Mary Moore	x		1
4	DELEGATE	Trisha Mathews	x		1
5	DELEGATE	Andy Flachs	x		1
6	DELEGATE	Jane Flachs	x		1
7	DELEGATE	Linda Kaltenbach	x		1
8	DELEGATE	Carolyn Yates	x		1
9	DELEGATE	Paula Heimer	x		1
10	DELEGATE	Mathew Bainbridge	x		1
11	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Roger Player	x		1
12	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Linda Moore	x		1
13	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Phil Hildebrand Jr.	x		1
14	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Jim Obert	x		1
15	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Michael Bickhaus	x		1
16	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Becky Warning (Quincy Site Spokesperson)	x		1
17	DELEGATE	Dan Beckerle	x		IX
18	DELEGATE	Bob Becnel	x		IX
19	DELEGATE	Mary Ann Becnel	x		IX
20	DELEGATE	David Bohler	x		IX
21	DELEGATE	Kathy Bohler	x		IX
22	DELEGATE	Paul Bruemmer	x		IX
23	DELEGATE	LaVerne Sauer	x		IX
24	DELEGATE	Bernard Schaper	x		IX
25	DELEGATE	Tom Serati	x		IX
26	DELEGATE	Joan Serati	x		IX
27	DELEGATE AS HONORARY TRUSTEE	Henry Schaper	x		IX

28	DELEGATE AS SECRETARY/TREASURER & CFO	Kent Stegeman (St. Louis Site Spokesperson)	x		1
29	DELEGATE	Walter Hutt, Jr.	x		14/251
30	DELEGATE	Annelias Hutt	x		14/251
31	DELEGATE	Sabine Hutt	x		14/251
32	DELEGATE	Jade Hutt	x		14/251
33	DELEGATE	John Bruner	x		14/251
34	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Jim Hutt	x		14/251
35	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Dave Hutt (Belleville Site Spokesperson)	x		14/251
36	DELEGATE	Phil Ference (Northern IL Site Spokesperson)	x		15
37	DELEGATE	Stara Ference	x		15
38	DELEGATE	Joe Riffert	x		15
39	DELEGATE	Cindy Wickey	x		15
40	DELEGATE	Nancy Prangl	x		15
41	DELEGATE	Roger Heikkila	x		15
42	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Eddie Zmija	x		15
43	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	John Prangl	x		15
44	DELEGATE	Diana Radmacher	x		85
45	DELEGATE	Don Brandt	x		85
46	DELEGATE	Barb Poetker	x		263
47	DELEGATE	Larry Poetker	x		263
48	DELEGATE	Lillian Lackman	x		263
49	DELEGATE	Angela Schaben	x		314
50	DELEGATE	Noah Schaben	x		314
51	DELEGATE	Stephanie Dake	x		314
52	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Janice Boessen (Cole-Osage Site Spokesperson)	x		314
53	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	August Boessen	x		314
54	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Corinn Hake		x	263
55	DELEGATE	Lawrence Buchheit	x		148
56	DELEGATE	Antonia Ponder	x		148

57	DELEGATE	Donna M. Flieg	x		177
58	DELEGATE	Jean Pettus	x		184
59	DELEGATE	Don Stuppy	x		262
60	DELEGATE	Marcella (Sally) Cash	x		287
61	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Linda Hurst	x		287
62	DELEGATE	Bob Elbert		x	209
63	DELEGATE	Jeff Hilke	x		209
64	DELEGATE	Mary Jane Hilke	x		209
65	DELEGATE	Michael Hilke	x		209
66	DELEGATE	Frank Marquart	x		209
67	DELEGATE	Gary Sieve		x	253
68	DELEGATE	Kathy Feth	x		253
69	DELEGATE	Carol Pelster	x		253
70	DELEGATE	Brad Pelster	x		253
71	DELEGATE	Wanda Czeschin	x		269
72	DELEGATE AS DISTRICT COORDINATOR	Rosemary Marquart	x		209
73	DELEGATE AS TRUSTEE	Sherri Schaefer (Franklin-Warren Site Spokesperson)	x		269
74	DELEGATE	Harold Jacoby (Iowa & Wisconsin Site Spokesperson)	x		300
	71 Delegates Present, 3 Absent				

Also in attendance as non-voting participants:

1. Fr. Daren Zehnle, WCU Spiritual Director
2. Steve Kinion, WCU Legal Counsel
3. Douglas Brown, WCU Society Actuary
4. Chad Hoes, WCU Investment Manager
5. Steve Jones, WCU Regional Sales Director
6. Ryan Hulett, WCU Regional Sales Director
7. Alexis Jarrett, WCU Marketing Assistant
8. Bob Moore, WCU Trustee Candidate
9. Steve Looten, WCU Vice President Marketing & Fraternal

Mr. Stegeman called on President & CEO Roger Player to give the State of the Union. Mr. Player updated the National Council on the financial condition, operational procedures and strategic initiatives of the Society today and going forward. Mr. Player introduced the following

members of the management and consulting team to give an update of their respective areas: Secretary/Treasurer & CFO Kent D. Stegeman, Director Home Office Operations Matthew C. Bainbridge, Vice President Marketing & Fraternal Steven L. Looten, Regional Sales Director Ryan P. Hulett, Regional Sales Director Steve W. Jones, Society General Counsel Steve W. Kinion, Society Actuary Douglas R. Brown and Investment Portfolio Manager Chad B. Hoes. After this presentation, Mr. Player announced that he is retiring effective today as President & CEO but will remain with the Society as a consultant until the end of the year. Chairperson of the Board Sherri L. Schaefer then thanked Mr. Player for his service and explained how the Board will proceed with finding his replacement.

Mr. Stegeman then gave the Credentials Committee Report, announcing that of the 74 eligible Delegates, 71 are present and eligible to vote today. Mr. Stegeman said that there are 9 non-voting participants also in attendance. Mr. Stegeman said that the committee named him spokesperson at a meeting on July 21, 2020 and at that meeting they vetted the 9 trustee candidates & reviewed the convention agenda. Mr. Stegeman said that the committee agreed with legal counsel's conclusion that because there are 9 candidates for 10 openings, a nomination for the entire slate of trustee candidates is possible. Mr. Stegeman said the committee also decided that each trustee candidate should be given 1 minute to introduce themselves to the National Council at the Convention, prior to the voting process.

Mr. Stegeman then gave the floor to the following candidates, allowing them to individually introduce themselves to the delegates.

- Michael A. Bickhaus
- August H. Boessen, III
- Philip J. Hildebrand, Jr.
- David P. Hutt
- Linda K. Moore
- Robert J. Moore
- James R. Obert
- John R. Prangl
- Sherri L. Schaefer

After a 10 minute break, Kent D. Stegeman, as chairman of the Credentials Committee, nominated the following 9 candidates for Trustee:

- Michael A. Bickhaus
- August H. Boessen, III
- Philip J. Hildebrand, Jr.
- David P. Hutt
- Linda K. Moore
- Robert J. Moore
- James R. Obert
- John R. Prangl
- Sherri L. Schaefer

Don Wiemelt, Branch 1, seconded the motion. Motion passed and ballots were distributed for voting.

Mr. Stegeman then called on Governance Committee Chairperson Sherri L. Schaefer to present the Board of Trustee recommended changes to the WCU Bylaws. (Bylaw changes are attached to these minutes).

After reviewing Bylaw change #1, Sherri L. Schaefer, as chairperson of the Governance Committee, made a motion that we adopt Bylaw change #1 as presented. Dave Hutt, Branch 14/251, seconded the motion. Motion passed and delegates were instructed to vote.

After reviewing Bylaw change #2, Sherri L. Schaefer, as chairperson of the Governance Committee, made a motion that we adopt Bylaw change #2 as presented. John R. Prangl, Branch 15, seconded the motion. Motion passed and delegates were instructed to vote.

After reviewing Bylaw change #3, Sherri L. Schaefer, as chairperson of the Governance Committee, made a motion that we adopt Bylaw change #3 as presented. Henry Schaper, Branch IX, seconded the motion. Motion passed and delegates were instructed to vote.

After reviewing Bylaw change #4, Sherri L. Schaefer, as chairperson of the Governance Committee, made a motion that we adopt Bylaw change #4 as presented. August Boessen III, Branch 314, seconded the motion. Motion passed and delegates were instructed to vote.

Mr. Stegeman then asked all delegates to turn in their ballots to their site spokesperson for tallying. He asked each Site Spokesperson to tabulate the votes and be prepared for Alexis Jarrett, WCU Marketing Assistant, to call on them to collect the vote totals. Mr. Stegeman said that while this is taking place, we will watch a 3-minute video of some of our fundraising activities over the past 4 years and then take a 20-minute break.

After the break, Mr. Stegeman called the meeting to order and announced that the following members have been selected to serve as District Coordinators for the next 4 years.

- Janice Boessen, Cole-Osage District
- Brad Pelster, Franklin-Warren District
- James Hutt, St. Louis District
- Linda Hurst, Southeast Missouri District
- Becky Warning, Quincy District
- Ed Zmija, Northern Illinois District

Mr. Stegeman thanked them for their commitment to serve.

Mr. Stegeman then gave the Credentials Committee Report. Mr. Stegeman said Trustee candidates need to receive at least 50% of the votes to be elected and that Bylaw changes need at least 2/3 of the votes to be adopted. Mr. Stegeman then presented the results of the ballots as follows:

- Trustees: All 9 candidates received 71 votes in favor and 0 against
- Bylaw change #1: 69 in favor, 2 against
- Bylaw change #2: 67 in favor, 4 against
- Bylaw change #3: 69 in favor, 2 against
- Bylaw change #4: 66 in favor, 5 against

Mr. Stegeman said that all Trustee candidates received enough votes for election and that all Bylaw changes received enough votes for adoption. Mr. Stegeman then congratulated the new

Board of Trustees and asked them to stand to be formally installed. He then recited the official WCU Installation of Trustees.

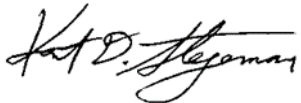
Mr. Stegeman then turned the meeting over to Chairperson of the Board, Sherri L. Schaefer for her closing remarks.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Schaefer thanked the delegates for their service and announced that the Board approved a \$200 stipend to be paid to all delegates. Also, Ms. Schaefer recognized retiring Trustees Corinn A. Hake, Branch 263 and President & CEO Roger W. Player, Branch 1, thanking them for their loyal and dedicated service to the Society.

Mr. Stegeman then asked if there was anything else to come before the National Council. Upon hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn this Convention. Becky Warning, Branch 1, motioned to adjourn the Convention. Paul Bruemmer, Branch IX, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Stegeman then called on Honorary Trustee Henry Schaper, Sr. to lead the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent D. Stegeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kent D. Stegeman, FICF
Secretary/Treasurer & CFO
Western Catholic Union

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
ss.)
COUNTY OF ADAMS)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kent D. Stegeman, WCU Secretary/Treasurer & CFO certify that the enclosed amendments to the by-laws of the Western Catholic Union Article 1, Section 3; Article 2, Section 4; Article 2, Section 5; and Article 2, Section 6 are true and correct and was legally adopted by the 2020 National Council at the WCU Convention held on August 7, 2020, in accordance with the Article 4, Section 3.a of the by-laws. The ballots were completed on August 7, 2020 with the following results:

- Bylaw change #1: 69 in favor, 2 against
- Bylaw change #2: 67 in favor, 4 against
- Bylaw change #3: 69 in favor, 2 against
- Bylaw change #4: 66 in favor, 5 against

Signed:

Kent D. Stegeman, Secretary/Treasurer & CFO, Western Catholic Union



Signed before me on this 18th day of August 2020.





PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE #1—AUGUST 2020

CURRENT: ARTICLE 1 SECTION 3

The Union shall consist of the members organized in local branches. Branches are largely self-governing, but shall comply with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Union, and all other requirements adopted by the Board of Trustees for branches. All branches shall be subject to uniform branch bylaws adopted by the Board of Trustees. Regular branch meetings shall be held on a monthly basis. Branches may be chartered by the Board of Trustees upon petition of at least 10 benefit members of the Union. The petition must be in the form prescribed by the Board and must indicate acceptance of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Union and branch bylaws. The Board of Trustees may withdraw the charter of any branch in the event the Board determines that withdrawal is in the best interests of the Union. The Board of Trustees shall determine the disposition of the property of any branch that is suspended or dissolved in a manner consistent with the purposes of branches.

PROPOSED CHANGE: WORDING CHANGE IN HIGHLIGHTED SENTENCE

The Union shall consist of the members organized in local branches. Branches are largely self-governing, but shall comply with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Union, and all other requirements adopted by the Board of Trustees for branches. All branches shall be subject to uniform branch bylaws adopted by the Board of Trustees. Branch meetings shall be held on a regular basis. Branches may be chartered by the Board of Trustees upon petition of at least 10 benefit members of the Union. The petition must be in the form prescribed by the Board and must indicate acceptance of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Union and branch bylaws. The Board of Trustees may withdraw the charter of any branch in the event the Board determines that withdrawal is in the best interests of the Union. The Board of Trustees shall determine the disposition of the property of any branch that is suspended or dissolved in a manner consistent with the purposes of branches.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE #2—AUGUST 2020

CURRENT: ARTICLE 2 SECTION 4

Each district shall elect one District Coordinator for confirmation by the National Council for a four-year term commencing after the meeting of the National Council in which they are confirmed and until after the following regular meeting or until their successor is elected and qualified. The District Coordinators shall serve as members of the Credentials Committee, be considered voting delegates at-large during meetings of the National Council following their election, and have such **as** other duties as are determined by the Board of Trustees. Any District Coordinator vacancy occurring between meetings of the National Council shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the term of office. The Board of Trustees may remove a District Coordinator for cause, as determined by the Board of Trustees, by a 2/3 vote of all Trustees.

PROPOSED: REMOVAL OF YELLOW HIGHLIGHT ABOVE AND ADDITION OF GREEN HIGHLIGHT BELOW

Each district shall elect one District Coordinator for confirmation by the National Council for a four-year term commencing after the meeting of the National Council in which they are confirmed and until after the following regular meeting or until their successor is elected and qualified. The District Coordinators shall serve as members of the Credentials Committee, be considered voting delegates at-large during meetings of the National Council following their election, and have such other duties as are determined by the Board of Trustees. Any District Coordinator vacancy occurring between meetings of the National Council shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the term of office. The Board of Trustees may remove a District Coordinator for cause, as determined by the Board of Trustees, by a 2/3 vote of all Trustees.

All candidates for any elected District Coordinator position must also meet all of the following requirements to be qualified for confirmation by the National Council:

- a. Be Catholic;**
- b. Be between the ages of 21 and 76, inclusive, prior to the date of election;**
- c. Be a benefit member of the Union in good standing;**
- d. Have a history of being active in their local Branch and District activities**
- e. Have a general knowledge of the fraternal benefit system and the history, customs and structure of the Union;**
- f. Have affirmed willingness to perform all duties of the Credentials Committee as outlined in the Credentials Committee Duties and Responsibility document**
- g. Have no criminal history other than matters determined insignificant by the Credentials Committee, such as a minor traffic violation;**

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE #3—AUGUST 2020

CURRENT: ARTICLE 2 SECTION 5

A Credentials Committee of the National Council consisting of the District Coordinators shall have the following duties prior to and during the meeting of the National Council:

a. Review proposed agenda items and prepare an agenda for meetings of the National Council. All agenda items must be submitted to the Credentials Committee in accordance with the timeline established by the Committee to be included in the meeting agenda.

b. Review resolutions submitted for consideration of the National Council and make recommendations to the National Council regarding such resolutions. Any proposed resolution must be submitted to the Credentials Committee in accordance with the timeline established by the Committee to be considered by the National Council.

c. Examine and pass upon the credentials of the delegates of the National Council.

d. Examine and pass upon the credentials of candidates for the Board of Trustees. All candidates must submit all information required by the Credentials Committee within the timeline established by the Credentials Committee and meet all requirements for Trustees established by these Bylaws, the Credentials Committee and applicable law. Only candidates certified by the Credentials Committee as eligible for election may be considered for election by the National Council. The Credentials Committee will provide the National Council information regarding the qualifications of all candidates for the Board of Trustees.

e. Serve as tellers for voting of the National Council.

f. Such other duties as assigned by the National Council.

The President, Secretary and legal counsel of the Union shall be present, when possible, in meetings of the Credentials Committee in an advisory capacity.

PROPOSED CHANGE: REMOVAL OF SECTION 5a (Highlighted above)

A Credentials Committee of the National Council consisting of the District Coordinators shall have the following duties prior to and during the meeting of the National Council:

a. Review resolutions submitted for consideration of the National Council and make recommendations to the National Council regarding such resolutions. Any proposed resolution must be submitted to the Credentials Committee in accordance with the timeline established by the Committee to be considered by the National Council.

b. Examine and pass upon the credentials of the delegates of the National Council.

c. Examine and pass upon the credentials of candidates for the Board of Trustees. All candidates must submit all information required by the Credentials Committee within the timeline established by the Credentials Committee and meet all requirements for Trustees established by these Bylaws, the Credentials Committee and applicable law. Only candidates certified by the Credentials Committee as eligible for election may be considered for election by the National Council. The Credentials Committee will provide the National Council information regarding the qualifications of all candidates for the Board of Trustees.

d. Serve as tellers for voting of the National Council.

e. Such other duties as assigned by the National Council.

The President, Secretary and legal counsel of the Union shall be present, when possible, in meetings of the Credentials Committee in an advisory capacity.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE #4—AUGUST 2020

CURRENT: ARTICLE 2 SECTION 6 (ONE PARAGRAPH FROM THIS SECTION)

A Trustee appointed by the Board of Trustees will be appointed for a term of office of up to one year. Such appointed Trustee must be Catholic, a benefit member in good standing and meet all other requirements established by the Board of Trustees. Any appointment or reappointment shall require a 2/3 vote of the Trustees then in office, excluding the appointed Trustee.

PROPOSED: REMOVAL OF HIGHLIGHTED SECTIONS ABOVE

A Trustee appointed by the Board of Trustees will be appointed for a term of office of up to one year. Such appointed Trustee must meet all requirements established by the Board of Trustees. Any appointment or reappointment shall require a 2/3 vote of the Trustees then in office, excluding the appointed Trustee.