Established
in 1981

Catholic Family Life Association

(formerly National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers)

844-462-2356
office@cfla.com
www.cfla.com

BOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2026 - 2 pm EST

Meeting Called to Order by: President, Kathy Schmugge
Prayer was offered by: Kathy Schmugge

Attendance: P = Present / A = Absent / E = Excused / V = Vacant

P	President – Kathy Schmugge
E	Vice-President – Ed Hopfner
P	Region I – Craig Dyke
V	Region II – Vacant
E	Region III – Damon Owens
E	Region IV – Stacy Golden
P	Region V and Secretary – Elizabeth Reha
P	Region VI – Terri Yohman
P	Region VII – Kelly Johnson
P	Region VIII – Sister Candace Fier
P	Region IX – Matt Selby
P	Region X – Luisa de Poo
P	Region XI – Linda Ji
P	Region XII and Treasurer – Bryce Herrmann
P	Region XIII – Deacon Michael McGrady
P	Region XIV – Alternate Louis Nieves
V	Region XV – Vacant
P	Diocesan Section Representative – Chris O'Neill
P	Parish Section Representative – Bill Coffin
P	Organization Representative – Daniel West
P	Hispanic/Latino Representative – Carla Ferrando-Bowling
E	Episcopal Liaison – Most Rev. Jorge Rodríguez
E	USCCB Representative – Andrew Buonopane
P	Administrative Assistant - Mary Klucik
P	Administrative Assistant (interim) - Elizabeth Reha
P	Administrative Assistant (interim) - Crystal Painter

Minutes – Elizabeth (Secretary)
Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by Chris O'Neill. Second by Carla Ferrando-Bowling.
Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Bryce (Treasurer)

No Report

Old Business:

New Members Onboarding

- Mary will serve as the primary contact for onboarding new members, including obtaining login and contact information.
- A welcome email will be sent to the new member and the appropriate representative.
- Connecting new members with their regional representative and, where applicable, the Hispanic Federation.
- Regional representatives are asked to reach out to new members within one week.
- Regions will assign a mentor to each new member for accompaniment and guidance.
- Carla Ferrando-Bowling requested confirmation that she would be copied on correspondence involving Hispanic Federation members.
- Kathy confirmed and added clarification on mentor follow-up.
- Carla raised concerns regarding: Difficulty contacting Membership Ad Hoc Committee and the lack of Hispanic Federation information on the website.
- The website will be corrected and Kathy will schedule a separate follow-up meeting with Socorro, Carla, and others as needed.

Outreach to Bishops

Kelly J. proposed formal CFLA introductions to diocesan bishops when new members join.

- Discussion included:
  - Bishop-to-bishop letters (via Bishop Rodriguez).
  - CFLA follow-up communication.
  - Bishop-to-bishop endorsement.
  - Carla noted a sample endorsement letter previously used by NCPD as a resource.
  - Supplemental CFLA letters or videos in English and Spanish.

Conference Commission Update

Kathy Schmugge (in absence of Ed) shared the conference planning:

- Venue has been secured: North Charleston Marriott.
- Contract signed and deposit paid.
- Website registration will open shortly.
- The conference begins Thursday evening, October 8 and ends Saturday evening, October 10. The board meeting will be held Sunday morning, October 11 (proposed 8:30 a.m.).
- The conference highlights include: Saturday evening Mass will fulfill Sunday obligation and will be followed by banquet. The banquet may be on Friday. Regional meetings planned for Friday. Optional Thursday

training sessions. The ballroom reserved through Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

- Regarding the keynote speakers, we are awaiting the final response from Arthur Brooks. Craig Dyke offered to reach out to Esther Brooks as an alternate or joint opportunity.
- Early Bird Pricing will be as follows: Individual: $350 / Couple: $450
- The Early bird window will be limited. Scholarships will be available. It was suggested to extend discounted rates to Priests, Deacons and their wives. The registration team is ready to launch pending final approvals.
- Chris O'Neill recommended an automated email "drip" campaign from RegFox. The email pricing may apply; further review is underway. Chris volunteered to assist with this effort.
- Craig Dyke reported the conference sponsorship guidelines are being finalized.
- There will be clear tiers and expectations will be enforced this year.
- Board members are encouraged to identify and contact potential sponsors.
- Carla Ferrando-Bowling offered support and Spanish translation for sponsorship outreach.
- Conference chairs and Mary will manage publicity and promotion.
- Board members should route suggestions through the committee and CC Kathy for awareness.

Future Planning

- The survey feedback confirms the conference is CFLA's most valued offering.
- Early discussion encouraged for 2027 conference host dioceses and locations.

New Business

None

Kathy closed the meeting.

Closing Prayer was offered Deacon Mike McGrady.

If you have a regional or section report, please send it to the secretary and it will be put into the minutes. Use this link to send reports. Please send by the 20th of each month.

If you would like to put something on the agenda for next month's meeting, please contact Kathy.

Next Meeting: – Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Elizabeth Reha

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reha, Secretary

Regional Updates:

4/9/2026	VI	Terri Yohman	Brooke Warren	May 21 we will hear from Guest speaker about their attendance at the Marriage Summit	They would like to have the conference be every other

				We agreed that we would try to do guess speakers to see if more people attend		year-- agreed that with our two states of Michigan and Ohio and the vacant seats that there are truly only about six of us total that are actively involved.
4/8/2026	VII	Kelly Johnson	Deacon Doug McIlvaine	Working on our summer in person gathering		
3/17/2026	XIV	Diane Kledzik	Luis Nieves	Nothing new to report		
3/13/2026	XI	Linda Ji	John Prust	We discussed the possibility of future CFLA conferences being virtual or regional every other year. We also updated each other on the statewide Communio effort happening in California.		Are there any organizational members represented on the ad hoc committee for membership? We continue to have organizational members join our monthly meetings and want to get involved.
3/3/2026	VII	Kelly Johnson		Ideas Shared: Region gathering via zoom. With several new faces the group appreciated putting names and faces together. Additionally, the group shared which resources they each use for marriage inventory and marriage prep. Respect Life seems to be a (newer) addition to the duties for FL Directors.	High interest among the group for Catechumenal Pathways explanation/implementation at the regional level - with specifics of what each is doing. Seems that it will be addressed/completed at the Catechumenate Summit in March.? There was an interesting discussion on where 'mental health ministries' are housed in each diocese, and a few suggested resources.	Is there a way to offer 'scholarships' for Diocesan Directors to attend the Conference. Concern is that there's only $$ in the budget for one main Conference and while there is interest in attending it may not be feasible. Larger vendors have grants or can offer to sponsors. Is there a way to collaborate with some of these other conferences or summits so that Directors are not being pulled to both/many? (The group reacted positively to the Conference theme.)
3/3/2026	I	Craig Dyke	Kenneth Cramer	Region I Monthly Virtual Meeting was held on Feb. 26. Topics discussed: 1) Overview of "Una Caro"; 2) Upcoming events in each diocese. Future Discussions will be on the following: 1) Getting priests more comfortable with presenting the topic of NFP; 2) Marriage Formation.		