Established
in 1981

Catholic Family Life Association

(formerly National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers)

4020 Merrick St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
844-462-2356
office@cfla.com
www.cfla.com

BOARD MINUTES

March 5, 2026 - 2 pm EST

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

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

P	President – Kathy Schmugge
P	Vice-President – Ed Hopfner
P	Region I – Craig Dyke
V	Region II – Vacant
P	Region III – Damon Owens
P	Region IV – Stacy Golden
E	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 – Diane Kledzik
V	Region XV – Vacant
E	Diocesan Section Representative – Chris O'Neill
P	Parish Section Representative – Bill Coffin
A	Organization Representative – Daniel West
A	Hispanic/Latino Representative – Carla Ferrando-Bowling
E	Episcopal Liaison – Most Rev. Jorge Rodríguez
E	USCCB Representative – Andrew Buonopane
P	Administrative Assistant - Mary Klucik
E	Administrative Assistant (interim) - Elizabeth Reha
P	Administrative Assistant (interim) - Crystal Painter

Minutes – Elizabeth (Secretary)

Approval of Minutes

Corrections:

Linda Ji noted that the region reports incorrectly listed her region as Region IV; it should be Region XI.

Diane Kledzik (Region XIV) noted that the minutes listed her as absent, though she was present.

Motion moved to approve the minutes with corrections.

Minutes approved with corrections.

Welcome of New Staff Member

Kathy introduced Mary Klucik, CFLA's new Administrative Assistant and Operations Coordinator, Mary Klucik. She has been married for two years to her husband, Robbie. She graduated Ave Maria University, with studies in politics and theology. They have a one-year-old daughter and they live in rural Massachusetts.

Crystal Painter announced that Mary Kulick now manages the office@cfla.com email address. Crystal and Elizabeth will continue transitioning responsibilities during the training period.

Treasurer Report – Bryce (Treasurer)

No Report

Old Business:

Membership Ad Hoc Committee Update

Kathy and Crystal Painter provided an update on membership discussions led by Socorro. Socorro and her committee proposed to distribute a brief survey (5 questions) to membership. It would include: What is working well? What should change? What should be added? The survey will be available in English and Spanish

Crystal noted the committee is also clarifying current membership benefits so respondents understand existing offerings.

Membership Structure & Fairness Discussion

Kathy raised questions related to membership categories and equity, including: Number of people included under diocesan, parish, and organizational memberships. Whether organizational members should take part in multiple regions? How to oversee organizations without a central home office? Is there fairness across membership types? Does the structure alignment with conference discounts and voting rights?

Members agreed these issues require further discussion and formal board voting after proposal development by the ad hoc committee.

Alternates for Representatives

Kathy emphasized the importance of appointing alternates for diocesan, regional, and organizational representatives. Alternates only attend when the primary representative cannot. Alternates must be approved by a vote of the

relevant group (per bylaws). If no alternate is named, the President may appoint one.

Conference Planning Update

Kathy presented updates from the Conference Committee. October 8–11. Details included the site of Marriott, North Charleston, SC. The room rate will be approx. $175/night. The contract has lower food minimums than previous venues.

The contract under professional review; not yet signed.

The preliminary Schedule will be Thursday–Saturday.

- Opening: Thursday evening
- Mass: Saturday at 4:00 p.m. (bilingual)
- Possible Saturday banquet as closing event
- Optional Sunday programming (light, optional)

The structure of the conference will be bilingual with bilingual keynotes and alternating breakout sessions

The proposed conference logo and possible merchandise (e.g., bilingual T-shirts) was discussed.

Conference Evaluation & Future Format Discussion

Sr. Candace Fier emphasized the importance of structured post-conference evaluation sessions immediately following the conference and with live discussions.

Further discussion included consideration of biennial in-person conferences. Off-year alternatives such as Online conferences, Regional gatherings, Strategic collaborations with partner organizations.

Budget constraints across dioceses and travel limitations are always a concern.

Education Commission Leadership

Kathy proposed Lisa Gulino lead the Education Commission, following Mario's inability to continue. Craig said Lisa Gulino is the Director at the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life, has a Doctorate in Ministry, is a faculty member in diocesan and seminary formation, and has a strong collaborative and pastoral approach.

The board members voted in favor of Lisa Gulino's appointment.

Resource Requests (Chat Discussion)

Bill requested resources regarding AI and families and Catholic resources for young adults on dating and relationships.

Members were encouraged to share links or email Bill directly. Kathy noted increasing demand for authentic messaging on chastity and dating, especially among young adults.

Mission & Audience Discussion

An extended discussion focused on CFLA's mission clarity and primary audience. CFLA was founded to support diocesan family life leaders. Membership remains diocesan, with parish and organizational participation. Suggested ideas were: strengthen mentorship for new leaders. Clarifying value propositions for each membership type. Creating a branding/mission

clarification committee. Leveraging regional activity to reach apostolates and underserved areas.
Further discernment and formal proposals will need to be discussed.

Other

Bryce Herrmann offered heartfelt thanks to Crystal Painter and Elizabeth for their sustained service during the administrative transition period.

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, April 9, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reha, Secretary

Regional Updates: No Reports