

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LEARNING CENTER

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NEWS RELEASE: International Bible Learning Center Poised for Growth

The regents of IBLC's board of directors met in Mission Viejo, California in early 1998 to select new officers and lay plans for growth in 1998. The Council of Advisors remains as: Leslie McCullough, Leon Walker, John Robinson, Samuele Bacchiocchi, Craig White. Should readers be interested in involvement with the IBLC in any way, or have any suggestions, please contact us.

According to the bylaws of the organization, the position of chairman rotates among the regents as a new calendar year begins.

"We deliberately set up the bylaws to keep a single regent from having too much influence over organizational goals and direction. We also believe that our procedure ensures a smooth and voluntary transition from one chairmanship to another," said outgoing chairman Dr. John Merritt. Dr. Merritt, one of the founders of IBLC, will now serve as the board's director of development and chief liaison to the Sabbatarian community.

New officers include Linda Hardy White, chairman of the board; Rick Stanczak, treasurer; and Carolyn Scharpen, secretary. John Barry Skidmore, co-founder of IBLC and Friends of the Sabbath, has stepped down from his duties as secretary/treasurer, but will remain as the fifth regent on the board and will take on ad-hoc responsibilities.

IBLC completed its move from Hawkins, Texas earlier this year to a new location in Southern California, where two of the regents live. "The move itself only cost us about \$500," said Dr. Merritt. "We greatly reduced our expenses by hiring one employee to handle order fulfillment and administrative tasks and by delegating functions to the different regents, who serve without compensation. All told, we implemented a reduction of more than 70% in overhead and personnel costs to maximize operational efficiency. We ended 1997 with a surplus and now have more funds available for marketing to the Sabbatarian community at large."

Ms. White, the new chairman, is confident that IBLC can continue providing its 600 students with solid courses that delve deeply into the Scriptures.

"In the computer industry we often say that a system is transparent to the user. This expression simply means that the user is only aware of the services that he or she receives from the system, while the system itself remains invisible. In our typical church-related experience, however, the system has been extremely apparent," said Ms. White, a longtime computer industry analyst. "So at IBLC, we work from the premise that the regents should remain in the background as we push services to the forefront. We have been privileged to line up a roster of fine Sabbatarian instructors, and we want people to focus on them and their inspired teaching. IBLC's reputation is being built on the Biblical expertise that Mark Kaplan, Dr. Ralph Levy, Ron Dart, Dr. David Antion, and our other excellent instructors bring to their classes."

IBLC recently conducted a survey of students and donors to gauge interest in current curricula and plans to use the data to further its goal of improving customer satisfaction.

"Working outside a church environment gives one an entirely different perspective on customer satisfaction. I take customer service very seriously, and, along with the other regents, want to make sure our students will come back for more courses," commented Ms. White.

Rick Stanczak, president of a high-tech company in Salem, Oregon, will serve as treasurer during 1998. Currently, Mr. Stanczak is preparing IBLC records for its annual audit to be conducted by a CPA firm. Carolyn Scharpen will take on the duties of IBLC secretary. By profession a career counselor, Ms. Scharpen is also the mother of two young children.

As part of its desire to better serve its students, IBLC recently sponsored a free seminar in Dallas conducted by Dr. Ralph Levy. The seminar was taped in a classroom setting and is being offered as the January 1998 course.

Courses under consideration for 1998 include one on personal ministry and evangelism, a package of classes on Sabbatarian church history, Biblical archaeology, a seminar geared for youth, and additional seminars on the Holy Days.

"We are also assessing the possibility of having our first course in Spanish," noted Ms. White, who formerly served as editor of WCG's Spanish version of the now defunct Good News magazine. For more information, visit IBLC's home page at <http://www.netinfo.com.au/~quokka/fos/>, or call the IBLC representatives on (02) 9542 1490 in the first instance or (02) 9745 2964. **NOTE: In Australia only audio tapes are available. Please send bank drafts and international money orders in US funds only (Australian cheques and cash will be returned).**