

Colorado Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community
(Colorado Lietuviu Bendruomene)

2019 Financial Audit

February 2020

The Audit Committee reviewed the Colorado Lietuviu Bendruomene (CLB) budget for calendar year 2019. The Audit Committee members are D. Lankeliene, D. Suziedelis, and A. Suziedelis.

The audit was based on a review of the CLB financial documents of 2019, to include checking account and savings account bank statements spanning late 2018 to early 2020.

Summary. The Committee conducted a financial audit and determined the following:

Comparing the results of the 2018 Financial Audit to the current budget shows that CLB President A. Jarasius and CLB Treasurer D. Juodzevicius continue to manage an effective accounting process for 2019. The financial records of major 2019 CLB events are stored in individual pocket folders that include store receipts, hand receipts, financial descriptions, and a summary worksheet. The CLB binder also often includes event descriptions and the numbers of community participants. Overall, from an audit perspective, it is helpful to have all financial matters placed into a single binder.

Findings. No new Findings were identified in the 2019 Audit. The two findings identified in the 2018 Audit need continued attention to remain mitigated.

1. *From 2018 Financial Audit, "The ledger needs to be more accurate."*

Although the 2019 ledger is generally accurate, there is at least one instance of an error on an event tracking sheet (\$10 math discrepancy). Additionally, especially at the end of the calendar year, it is important to account for all income and expenses. This can be a challenge during the holiday timeframe, but accurate end of year closeout is essential.

2. *From 2018 Financial Audit, "Some event receipts remain informal and handwritten."*

On a positive note, all event receipts remain either printed or clearly handwritten. Additionally, income receipts, expenses, and dues were generally listed separately at each event. It would be helpful to always keep expenses separate from income to facilitate budget review and audit.

Recommendations. In terms of addressing recommendations cited in previous audits, throughout 2019 the CLB made a commendable effort to follow through on a number of suggestions. The CLB continues to seek alternate facilities for events, to reduce the impact of price increases by the Latvian Hall. Community clubhouses and event facilities have been used to provide a range of larger venues for events. Additionally, the CLB conducted a survey of members to gauge interest in programming variety, venue size and location, and event costs. Recommendations for calendar year 2019 are:

1. Strive to complete financial transactions within the calendar year. (New recommendation)
2. Seek to increase revenue. Ensure fundraisers are worthwhile for the community and profitable. This includes increasing profit from the sale of adult beverages at events. (Repeat recommendation)
3. Increase the hosting of cultural food-related instruction events, as these seem to be very popular and do not typically require expensive rental facilities. (Repeat recommendation)

CLB Financial Position for 2019:

CLB Checking Account		
Opening balance	Jan 2, 2019	\$4474.36
Closing balance	Jan 2, 2020	\$4406.55
Delayed income	Jan 2020	\$140.00
Effective closing balance	Jan 2020	\$4546.55
Net increase		+\$72.19

CLB Savings Account		
Opening balance	Dec 31, 2018	\$7733.25
Closing balance	Dec 31, 2019	\$7742.24
Net increase		+\$8.99

Total Open (Savings+Checking)	\$12207.61
Total Close (Savings+Checking)	\$12288.79
Total 2019 Increase	+\$81.18

The current financial position of the Colorado Lietuviu Bendruomene is strong. After two consecutive years of double-digit budget growth (17% growth in 2017, 14% growth in 2018), a smaller number of community events in 2019 led to fewer opportunities to increase capital (0.7% growth in 2019). Although more people are participating at events, the fewer number of events are less profitable. Sponsored events included hosting cultural performers, commemorating historical remembrances, organizing a traditional Kucios evening, screening an exclusive documentary film, scheduling sporting events, and promoting local camaraderie. It is important to note the Colorado Lithuanian Children’s School and the Ruta Folk Dance Ensemble performed at events and received great community acclaim.

In summary, A. Jarasius and D. Juodzevicius have addressed previous findings, made adjustments to the operation of the CLB to accommodate recommendations to improve management, and currently execute an accountable budget. In fact, one member included a laudatory note to the CLB President, along with her annual member dues payment, thanking A. Jarasius for his tireless efforts to keep cultural programs strong and unite Lithuanians across Colorado. Both the CLB President and the CLB Treasurer should be applauded for their dedication in the service of the CLB executive board, and for their commitment to promoting Lithuanian-American issues, interests, and events.

Sincerely, the Audit Committee:

// Aras Suziedelis, 23 February 2020 / aps //

_____ *Aras Suziedelis*

// Dana Suziedelis, 23 February 2020 / ds //

_____ *Dana Suziedelis*

// Dalia Lankeliene, 23 February / dl //

_____ *Dalia Lankeliene*