

**WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund**  
**D1 Cabinet Report March 13, 2009**

As Lion leaders we stand upon the shoulders of our predecessors. Our challenge is to inspire in others the same conviction and the will to carry on.

That inspiration will be built upon the insight our example provides. And that insight develops from our understanding and appreciation of our past, present and prospects for the future.

For those who will stand on our shoulders, conveying a positive personal appreciation is likely nowhere more important than the case of the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund. It is personal. And the future of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation depends heavily on the leadership we each provide.

The attachment includes an overview of Pride and WLF as well as a detailed questions and answers about the the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

Additional resources available to you include Pride Ambassadors Lions Manthe, Sherman, Utrie and myself; the Pride website ([www.lionspride.org](http://www.lionspride.org)), Pride Office personnel and special Camp visits (715-677-7000), literature, a video presentation and more.

Leadership goals for supporting Pride include:

1. Promote Pride presentations to Region, Zone and Club audiences.
2. Promote referrals and personal introductions (to the Pride Office) of Lions, friends or family with significant net worth.
3. Promote personal commitments to the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund (you too, please!). Examples: cash donations and multiple year cash donations/commitments, estate planned giving (e.g. wills, trusts), and various life income gift opportunities.
4. Promote regular and increased Annual Donations to WLF as a priority. Beyond that, many clubs have been enthusiastic about developing/devoting special fundraisers or using reserve funds to support the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Steve Knapp

## **The Case for the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund**

More than three generations of Lions have served Wisconsin citizens since the first Wisconsin Lions Club was organized in Milwaukee in 1921. And more than a half century ago, they formed the non-profit Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) to nurture free, life-changing experiences for special children from all our communities: Lions Camp.

That vision has since extended to include multiple services for statewide projects in which all local Clubs participate: children's vision screening, diabetes, hearing, eyeglass recycling, and more. The public need for shared Lions' services continues to grow.

Tens of thousands of people throughout Wisconsin support WLF through their contributions to local Club fundraisers, a portion of which finds its way to WLF as Clubs' Annual Donations. But these now account for less than half of annual operating expenses which continue to escalate.

It is the prospect of personal support of the *WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund* that represents the best hope for a solution. At its \$25 million goal, the interest from this permanent fund could contribute \$1 million annually to WLF operations.

Even in these unsettled conditions, many will consider personal tax or estate planning issues. Please consider positively what your commitment to the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund will do to help preserve the future of Lions Camp and other statewide WLF projects

### **Overview: the Wisconsin Lions Foundation**

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation is a singular resource for Lions service. It is living proof of Lions justifiable pride in preserving the special ability to have an impact well beyond local communities, but at the same time helping to serve citizens in each community. Consider what WLF does ...

- ☐ Serving some 1,500 special campers a year with vision, hearing, cognitive and diabetes challenges from about 400 Wisconsin communities (requires 50+ full and part-time staff); 65,000+ campers over 52 years.
- ☐ Maintaining a 440 acre property with private lake, 36 buildings, facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel.
- ☐ Nurturing and managing cooperative project relations with Wisconsin professionals: American Diabetes Association, Department of Health and Family Services (diabetes awareness, education and prevention); Prevent Blindness (Children's Vision Screening); more than 100 practicing audiologists (Hearing aids).
- ☐ Operating one of only nine Lions International Eyeglass Recycling Centers in the U.S.; processing one million pairs a year from multiple states for use on missions to developing countries by Lions and others.
- ☐ Providing administrative services for statewide project services: financial controls and reporting; fundraising; personnel; business advisory professionals; correspondence, communications and personal presence with a 21-member Board of Directors and Board committees, Lions leadership groups, Clubs, conventions, media and the public.