

Lions Pride Endowment Fund
Written Report to D1 Cabinet Members
October 16, 2011
Lions Pride Campaign Chair Steve Knapp

Please accept my personal regrets for having missed our Cabinet meetings; knee replacement surgery in June and again in October at Mayo (Phoenix) are the reason. There is a lot newsworthy concerning the Lions Pride Endowment Fund; please take the time to read these highlights—especially the Club Leader’s Guide. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or thoughts: 608-332-4660; skprocomm@gmail.com. Thank you.

Let’s Make D1 Next: 100% Club Districts Gift/Pledge Distinction

In June 2010, Lions Pride Chairman, PCC Dewey Carl discussed the possibility of B1 becoming the 2nd District in the State to have 100% of its Clubs make a gift or pledge to the Lions Pride Endowment Fund with incoming Governor Jerry Post. Governor Jerry said he would do his best and with the help of PDG Tom Clausen, PDG Herb Schneider, PDG Ken Wallander and PDG Len Quinn, this June, District 27-B1 has achieved 100% Clubs having given to Lions Pride.

B2 was first, B1 is second, which District will be next? *D1 is closest to being able to achieve the same status, followed closely by E1.* The race is on! Talk to your Club about joining the Pride Family. Need more information on how to get involved? Invite an Ambassador to make a presentation at your next Club meeting. Just call the Pride Office at 715.677.7000 or send an email to pride@wlf.info to schedule your presentation.

LIONS PRIDE: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

These are exciting times for the Lions Pride Campaign and the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. The process of creating a new non-profit corporation that will be known as the Lions Pride Endowment Fund, Inc. is underway. The new corporation will be fully in place operationally effective January 1, 2012.

Chairman Dewey Carl and the Pride staff are pleased and have encouraged this development for some time. As noted by WLF President Dave Kaiser, “My fellow Directors and I strongly believe that this restructuring [of the Lions Pride Endowment Fund and Birch-Sturm Fund] into separate 501(c)3 non-profit corporations] is in the best interest of the Lions of Wisconsin.

“This decision was made after many months of research and planning and was highly recommended by the WLF Long Range Planning Committee (two members of that committee are Past International Directors that have professional financial backgrounds to their credit), our Auditors at Kerber, Rose & Associates, and two attorneys from the highly-regarded Milwaukee Law Firm of Whyte, Hirschboeck, Dudek S.C.”

Chairman Dewey notes that, “The sole purpose of Lions Pride remains the same: to preserve and protect and provide significant financial support ... today’s help, tomorrow’s hope... to further the exempt projects of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.” While separate corporate entities, the parties will always share common interest in the projects of WLF and those they serve. Continued collaboration on communications opportunities also serves the interests of both.

Continuity of Pride strategies and plans are essential, including those established by our Investment Board. To that end it is most gratifying that all Investment Board members have chosen to continue to serve on The Lions Pride Endowment Fund Inc. Board of Directors as we move forward, with two additions: DG Rick Koch, serving as the Council Representative on the Board and PDG Stan Carlson (Lion Stan was also a member of the original Pride Steering Committee).

For filing purposes the following Investment Board Members were slotted into the following positions: Corporate CEO/President, DuWayne Carl; Vice President, John Suby; Secretary, Greg Pryor; Treasurer, Mike Lisle. In the future, positions will be filled according to the By-Laws of the Lions Pride Endowment Fund, Inc.

What is the impact of forming the new Lions Pride Endowment Fund Inc? First and foremost, the mission of Pride to provide support for all the WLF projects remains unchanged. What does change, however, is that management is provided at the direction of an independent and dedicated Board of Directors--both Lions and Non-Lion members--each of whom brings in-depth business, finance, accounting, non-profit or other professional experience perspectives to bear on growing the Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

Please see following “Club Leaders’ Guide to Pride” Summary ...

Club Leaders'
GUIDE TO PRIDE
Today's Help, Tomorrow's Hope

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation represents a unique common service resource for all Wisconsin Lions Club communities.

Lions Camp was its first project in 1956. It is a place for campers with special needs—vision, hearing, cognitive, diabetes—to be with others like themselves. Some 68,000 campers have attended Lions Camp free ... about 1,400 yearly from some 400 communities across Wisconsin.

Additional initiatives have grown into WLF projects. They include an eyeglass recycling and distribution center (one of only 17 in the world), as well as multiple health related projects in collaboration with Wisconsin professional organizations representing children's vision screening, hearing, and diabetes education, prevention and control.

The challenges of today and tomorrow are now clear. In the last decade, WLF expenses have increased substantially. Annual Club donations to WLF are critical and will always remain so, but inflation and other costs defy control and continue to escalate.

There is one promising and lasting solution. It lies with interest earnings from the permanent ***Lions Pride Endowment Fund*** dedicated to continuing WLF operations. Reaching our \$25 million goal can produce \$1 million (@4% interest) toward a year's operations while the Fund continues to compound.

Carrying forward the legacy of Wisconsin Lions depends on your leadership:

Build *Club* member understanding of WLF. Maintain/enhance regular annual club donations. Encourage Club commitment or recommitment to a special gift or pledge to the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

Encourage *personal* giving to the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund by members and others (gifts, estate and planned giving). Refer potential donors to the Pride Office—introduce Lions, friends, family, or community influentials with significant net worth and potential interest in WLF projects.

Resources you can use:

Great WLF and Lions Pride Endowment Fund Information: Visit www.lionspride.org

Arrange Club presentation (Ambassador visits), refer high net worth personal giving prospects, arrange a Camp visit, or for general information ...

Call, fax, mail or email the Lions Pride Office:

**Lions Pride Endowment Fund
3834 County Road A
Rosholt, WI 54473**

Phone: 715-677-7000 Fax: 715-677-7001 Email: pride@wlf.info