

District Cabinet Meeting – Sunday January 14, 2024

Wisconsin Lions Foundation Report

The WLF Directors met on December 9, 2023 at your Lions Camp. The main item on the agenda was the review and approval of the 2024 WLF budget. The Wisconsin Lions are very fortunate to have staff who work diligently to control costs while still giving topnotch service through the Foundation. The staff gave a detailed review of each of the five project areas of the Foundation and answered all the questions asked by the Directors. Lions Clubs and friends donations account for about 32% of the total budgeted revenue for 2024. Your Lions Camp accounts for about 52% of the total budgeted expenses of the Foundation for 2024. Your continued financial support is crucial to continue providing the campers with a top quality experience.

Other highlights of the meeting included a check presentation of \$50,000 from the Lions Pride Endowment Fund 2023 trap shoot at Milford Hills Hunt Club near Johnson Creek. In 2024 the trap shoot will be held on June 8th. Conrad Dreyer gave a report for the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund has funding available for the planned camp safety improvements.

Keith Mueller, WLF Project Director reported that 25 Lions Clubs had ordered 12,555 pieces of Diabetes Awareness material since July 1st. A Strides Event is planned for the State Convention by the Diabetes Awareness Committee. He has received vision screening reports from the District Chairs that 60,179 children have been screened since July. The processing of eyeglasses has increased since the 2 part-time staff have been hired. Since July 36 missions have taken eyeglasses to countries around the world. The District hearing Chairs met in October to discuss increasing the poverty level earnings guidelines. He has started providing the application process for hearing aids in digital form to help with the processing of applications.

Andrea Yenter, Camp Director said that the mild fall weather allowed for the completion of the camp improvements that were started after the last camper session in August. The improvements include a fire pit and shade shelter near the totum pole on the beach, shade structures in the swimming area, the new basketball/ tennis/pickleball court, and a rebuilt service entrance to the dining hall. She talked about packets that will be sent to Lions Clubs in January for school district staff about the camp and sessions offered. It is hoped that school districts will be able to promote the camp to special needs students in their districts and increase the number of campers to pre-pandemic levels. Recruitment of summer camper staff is on-going and she is working on an app that will provide on-line training for the camp staff.

Areas of improvement scheduled for 2024 were covered including the replacement of all the single pane windows in the Memorial Building, replacing 85 thermal pane windows in other buildings that have broken seals, replacing the walk-in cooler wall panels that have deteriorated because of moisture, and construction of a small kitchen in one of the cabins for rental groups to use.

Revenue sources outside of the budgeted ones included \$1,552 from the disc golf user fees, \$23,000 from the Hustle S'more event in August, \$48,750 from the Kids Raffle, and \$12,000 from the on-line survey campaign. Deer hide and glove sales have increased because of more social media visibility. The collection of deer hides is ahead of last year at this time even with fewer deer harvested and fewer licensed hunters statewide.

Here are a few scenes from the camp on December 9th:



If your Lions Club would like your WLF Directors to attend a future meeting and share more information about WLF, don't hesitate to contact us,

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