

District Cabinet Meeting – Sunday October 8, 2023

Wisconsin Lions Foundation Report

Campers attending the 10 sessions increased over previous years. A total of 857 campers attended with 133 of those from our District. With the end of the camper sessions in August construction has begun at Camp on three safety projects to improve some areas of Camp. Shade structures are being added to the swim area, adding shade to the boating area and reconfiguring the trading post loop for trucks and redoing the loading dock area on the back of the kitchen. Construction to create a multipurpose court to replace the worn out basketball court is getting done this fall. You can follow the construction progress on the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Facebook page.

With the start of the archery deer hunting season on September 16th the Deer Hide Collection Project is gearing up for another successful year. Each year it takes around 5,000 pounds of salt to preserve the deer hides at your Lions Camp in Rosholt. The Fleet Farm store in Wausau kicked off this season with a donation towards the first load of salt. Demand for deer hides to be made into gloves is very high, so please consider donating hides to the "Deer Hides for Lions Camp Project". There are a number of collection sites in our District that can be found at: [Deer Hide Collection | Wisconsin Lions Foundation \(wlf.info\)](https://www.wlf.info).

November is Diabetes Awareness Month and WLF has a number of resources that clubs can order for promoting diabetes awareness in their communities. Reach out to your local coffee shops and ask them if they would take coffee cup sleeves promoting diabetes awareness, the sleeves are available for FREE from WLF. A new children's book titled "Twas My Type of Christmas" is available for the holidays. You can order copies for school nurses and libraries from the WLF office.

Now is the time to schedule children's vision screening at pre-schools and schools with the start of a new school year. A new vision screening manual has been produced. Since the rollout of the new manual, 315 Wisconsin Lions have been certified as vision screeners. The vision screening certification is valid for 5 years. A number of schools are requiring the eye chart screening method be used for children over the age of 6 based on Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction protocol. For now, the training for using eye charts will only be provided by Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.

The Eyeglass Recycling Center has seen an increase in the number of outbound mission requesting eyeglasses. At the time of the WLF Directors meeting on August 26th eleven missions had requested eyeglasses. An anonymous donor gave WLF a large amount of "reader" eyeglasses. A marketing agency donated a large number of children's sunglasses. The readers and sunglasses are all available to distribute at vision screening events and other events. Interviews for the half-time position in the eyeglass recycling center were planned in September. The WLF does collect cell phones to be recycled with 1,600 phones collected last year that resulted in revenue of \$525 for the eyeglass recycling center. Eyeglass frames that contain gold are held out to be sold through a precious metal broker who watches the market for the best time to sell gold. Current WLF has about 26 troy ounces of gold on consignment with the broker.

The hearing project had received 16 applications for assistance at the time of the WLF Directors meeting. Those applications are in various stages of processing. In July 2023 WLF sent Starkey 2,402 used hearing aids for credit. A meeting of the District Hearing Chairs is planned in October to discuss Federal Poverty Guidelines and about ways to streamline the application process.

The 26th annual Birch-Sturm Memorial golf outing took place on July 22, 2023 at the Glacier Woods Golf Course in Iola, Wisconsin with 145 golfers participating. The net income was \$30,459 which was a light increase over 2022. On August 12, 2023 the Hustle S'More full day of fun had 156 participants and had net income of \$22,555. The drawing for the Camp for Kids raffle was held at the WLF offices on September 27th. You can see a list of the winners on the WLF Facebook page. The total amount raised for the Camp was just over \$45,000 this year. We want to thank everyone for your continued support of your Camp and the other WLF statewide projects. Many clubs determine their annual donations to various projects and programs at this time of year. We strongly urge you to review the amount of your club donation to WLF and consider increasing the amount your club donates. If your club would like to learn more about the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, please contact us about a club visit at one of your meetings.

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