

District Cabinet Meeting – Sunday July 30, 2023

Wisconsin Lions Foundation Report

More improvements to your Wisconsin Lions Camp will be taking place once the summer camper sessions end in mid-August. Construction will begin on shade structures, shelter, and a fire pit area by the beach. The worn out basketball court will be rebuilt into a lighted multi-use hard court that can accommodate tennis, basketball, and pickle ball that will be fenced. All the funds for this project came from private donations. Summer camper registration for the ten sessions was nearly 1,000 campers compared to 633 in 2022. The camp staff worked hard to keep everyone healthy and safe. A new pontoon boat was donated to the camp by a loyal donor bringing the pontoon boat fleet up to three. The disc golf course will open to the public after the summer camp sessions end so more people can enjoy your beautiful camp.

Eyeglass recycling collections topped one million pairs of used eyeglasses dropped off at the eyeglass recycling center through June 30th. Mission groups took 165,000 pairs of eyeglasses to developing countries this past fiscal year. A new half-time position was approved to work in the recycling center to help with the over whelming number of eyeglasses coming in.

Vision Screening numbers are improving as Lions were able to enter daycares and schools this past year. The referral percentages have increased. Our District screened 10,627 children during 2022-23 with 1,026 of those referred for further examinations. Statewide nearly 90,000 children were screened through June 30, 2022.

The hearing aid project collected 5,130 hearing aids there were sent for recycling and 41 hearing aids were ordered statewide. Funds to purchase hearing aids come from the credit for recycling used hearing aids and donations from Wisconsin Lions Clubs and individuals.

There are numerous diabetes awareness materials such as coffee cup sleeves, children's books, water bottle labels, and printed materials available to clubs for diabetes awareness events. Clubs are encouraged to plan an event in their communities. Contact the staff at the Wisconsin Lions Foundation office to order materials.

The deer hide collection project has benefited our Lions Camp greatly since it was started in 1988. For over 20 years the same buyer has purchased the hides collected by Lions clubs all over Wisconsin. The hides are used to make gloves that are sold at Menards, Fleet Farm, and Cabela's. Under the direction of WLF Director Brad Behrens the most deer hides ever were collected and brought in almost \$110,000 for your camp. This past year the buyer offered WLF the gloves at cost to sell them through the Camp Trading Post website as a fundraiser. The gloves were very popular and Brad plans to attend all the District conventions ring the 2023-24 year with a supply of gloves. If you have questions please contact Brad Behrens at 715-323-8033 or behrens518@gmail.com.

The 26th annual Birch-Sturm Memorial golf outing took place on July 22, 2023 at the Glacier Woods Golf Course in Iola, Wisconsin. Last year the golf outing raised over \$30,000 for WLF. On August 12, 2023 the Hustle S'More full day of fun is planned at your camp. The morning will be the 15 mile bike ride, 10K run, and a 5k run/walk. In the afternoon people can enjoy a boxed lunch and access to 9-square, wagon rides, lawn games, shore fishing, gaga ball, archery, basketball & horse shoes. The waterfront will open for boat rides, swimming, and shore fishing. The rope courses and climbing wall will also be open for people to try out. Last the year the Hustle S/More event raised over \$8,200 for the WLF.

Just a reminder that the Lions Camp for Kids Raffle drawing is Wednesday, September 27th. The raffle brought in over \$45,400 last year for your camp. If you haven't gotten your ticket stubs and money turned in yet, please do so soon. Directors John and Jim will be attended the Director's meeting at the camp on Saturday, August 26th and could take them then so give us a call.

We want to thank everyone for your continued support of your Camp and the other WLF statewide projects. 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.

WLF Directors PDG John Elvekrog 608-575-7680 & Lion Jim Fletcher 608-712-8897