

LIONS FOUNDATION OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
April 29, 2023 10:00 am

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Mark Western.

- Present: President Mark Western, Secretary Janice Sowokinos, Treasurer PDG Steve Johnson, 1st VDG Lynn Grabow, 1st VDG Rick Stark, Milton Ota, PDG Gary Morel, PDG Kathy Boe, Doug Rothe, PDG Mac Beaudry, Executive Director Lois Reiersen, Dennis Friesz
- Absent: Vice President Kristi Swenson, Jed Geer, PCC Kevin Bean, DG Jeanette Bean
- Incoming board members: PDG Grant Kahlbaugh
- Guests: PDG Lewellyn Rustan

President Mark Western led the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. A quorum was established. There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Minutes: Motion was made by Lynn Grabow and seconded by Rick Stark to approve the January 2023 minutes as presented by e-mail. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Johnson presented the Treasurer's report.

- a. The balance in the Operating Fund at Gate City Bank was \$156,022.59 at the beginning of this quarter and \$153,074.31 at the end of the quarter. The operating fund includes these categories:

Administrative fund	\$ 2,621.00
Newsletter fund	\$11,123.14
Pending investment fund	\$55,263.57
Vision Grant Fund	\$55,173.22
Traditional grant funds	\$14,142.86
Sight 4 Kidz	\$14,750.52
- b. The amount available for traditional grants on 4/29/2023 is \$3,535.72.
- c. Investment funds (Ameriprise) are recovering. On March 31, 2023, the value was \$345,566.19, up from \$334,570.21 on December 31.
- d. The treasurer anticipates recurring annual shortfalls in the administrative fund. The balance with anticipated income is not sufficient to cover future costs. Currently, 10% of interest from the Eye Bank funds is transferred to the administrative fund. Steve Johnson made a motion, seconded by Kathy Boe, to change the policy to "The Foundation may transfer as much as 60% of the Eye Bank investment fund's annual earnings to the operating fund in order to balance the administrative fund." This is consistent with wording in the original LFND/ND Lions Eye Bank agreement. Motion passed.
- e. Investment funds are currently in one account at Ameriprise with three subaccounts based on investment strategy. Of the total, 60.24% is designated Eye Bank portion and 39.76% original portion; Steve Johnson would like these two portions to be put in separate accounts for ease of reporting. Steve Johnson made a motion, seconded by Lynn Grabow, to put Eye Bank funds and original funds in two separate accounts. Motion passed. When needed, earnings from Eye Bank funds will be used to fund vision grants; the original funds are invested for long-term growth.
- f. The treasurer's report was filed.

Old Business

Audit review of LFND –Jed Geer and Lois Reiersen have turned over material needed for an audit review to Frontier Payroll. The review was expected by the end of January but there has been no progress. Mark Western will make contact with the firm.

Executive Director – Options for filling the upcoming vacancy discussed. The three main parts of the job are (1) editing newsletter; (2) setting up quarterly meetings and (3) handling vision and traditional grant applications. A motion was made by Kathy Boe and seconded by Doug Rothe that with respect to the position of Executive Director, the "internal" responsibilities of administration and grant application review be subsumed by board members; the board will advertise the position of Newsletter Editor in the ND Lion; and the board will consider other possible applications and act in the interim prior to the July meeting. Motion passed.

Lois Reiersen agreed to continue receiving and giving feedback on grant applications. Kathy Boe will do some of the administrative tasks like setting up meetings.

New business

Traditional grants – A traditional grant application was submitted by West Fargo Lions for the Lions Den at the Ronald McDonald House. Motion was made by Steve Johnson and seconded by Lynn Grabow to approve \$1500. Motion passed.

Vision grants –Lois Reiersen reported that a vision grant application was received from Grand Forks Lions. Motion was made by Lynn Grabow and seconded by Janice Sowokinos to approve. Motion passed.

Officer Nominations – This slate of officers for the 2023-24 year was put forth by the executive committee:

- President: Mark Western
- Vice President: Kevin Bean
- Secretary: Kathy Boe
- Treasurer: Steve Johnson.

A motion was made by Doug Rothe, seconded by Mac Beaudry, to elect this slate of officers. Motion passed.

President Mark Western expressed thanks to board members whose terms are ending. They are Milton Ota and Jed Geer, both of whom served six years on the board, and Lynn Grabow and Rick Stark. And he expressed thanks to out-going officers, Kristi Swenson and Janice Sowokinos.

Reports

Executive director report – The mailing list for the hard copy newsletter was reviewed and 70 names were removed. Newsletter tips were presented at the 5NE spring rally in Jamestown. There will be a LFND table set up at the state convention in Minot.

Video Magnifier program – Dennis Friesz reported that about a dozen good, video magnifiers are available for loan. To get the word out, Janice Sowokinos may demonstrate the SARA-CE at the June meeting of the North Dakota Association of the Blind in June in Grand Forks.

Sight 4 Kidz – Steve Johnson reported receiving word of a bequest designated for Sight 4 Kidz. More information will become available.

Fargo Area Cubs Inquiry

Fargo is setting up a cooperative to assist with providing eye exams and glasses, and at the January, 2023, meeting they requested help from the foundation to meet future, growing needs in the Fargo area. Steve Johnson proposed that club donations to a vision cooperative qualify for vision grants. Doug Rothe made a motion, seconded by Janice Sowokinos, that Lions Clubs may apply for a vision grant when contributions are made to a vision cooperative; the maximum per club for the next fiscal year remains at

\$1500 and the maximum total of all vision grants for the next fiscal year is \$7500. Motion passed. Grants are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is understood that a vision cooperative is an organization set up by local Lions Clubs; the coop receives donations from Lions Clubs and uses those donations to provide eye exams and glasses. The coop will have a designated official who will ensure that donations are spent on vision grant approved expenses. Currently there are two coops: Lions Sight Assistance Program in Fargo (Fargo, Fargo Gateway and Horace Lions) and Joint Sight and Hearing Committee in Grand Forks (Grand Forks, Red River and South Forks Lions).

Upcoming Meetings

July 29, 2023 in Bismarck
October 20, 2023 in Minot at State Convention

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Sowokinos, Secretary