

NEW MEXICO LIONS EYE FOUNDATION
Minutes
OFFICERS & TRUSTEES MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President PDG Tom Himrod at 9:05 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Juan Lucero. PDG Ruben Vigil led the Lions prayer.

Present: President PDG Tom Himrod, Secretary Bernie Holzapfel, Treasurer PDG Ruben Vigil, DG 40N Chuck Easton, DG 40S Kitty Callender, VDG Miriam Stucker, MDCC Jeff Kriz, Gemma Ferguson, Rita & Juan Lucero, Bryson McCool, Heidi Martinez, Phil Marvel, PID Ray Marley, George Mulholland, PID Gordon Post, Melissa Washburn.

Absent: Chuck Galusha, John Miller.

Secretary's Report: Chuck Galusha requested in an e-mail dated September 16, 2008 that the minutes of the September 6, 2008 meeting be corrected with regard to the legislation requiring that every child in New Mexico up to the third grade receive an eye screening. He suggested the following wording: Legislation calls for "a Temporary Advisory Committee to be set up to craft the standards that will constitute eye screening as called for in the legislation. In a meeting in Santa Fe on June 24, 2008 Lions Chuck Galusha and Bill Waugh were appointed to that Advisory Committee. It was requested by the Committee head Dr. Mary Ramos that to avoid appearance of impropriety (i.e. 2 Lion members on the Board) that only one Lion be the Lions representative. Due to time and distance to attend the meetings Lion Waugh became that Lion". On motion by DG Chuck Easton, seconded by VDG Miriam Stucker the correction was approved. On motion by Rita Lucero, seconded by DG Chuck Easton the corrected minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: PDG Ruben Vigil reported account totals of \$106,309.00 as of November 15. Donations received were \$2,312.00. Expenses amounted to \$6,906.00. All VISA bills have been paid in full. On motion by PID Ray Marley, seconded by Juan Lucero the Treasurer's report was approved. During the meeting donations were received from ABQ Rio Grande, ABQ Northeast and High Rolls/Mountain Park. Special Olympics sent a check for the cost of moving the eye van to Farmington.

President PDG Tom Himrod welcomed all and briefly reviewed activities since the last meeting. He asked that everyone think about how we can best provide our services.

Committee Reports

Scheduling & Screening: Rita Lucero is sending out a new schedule. John Chess thanked the Foundation and Rita and John Lucero for bringing the van to Silver City. It was pointed out that we receive \$20.00 from the State per dilated diabetic up to a total of \$4,000.00 per year. It is important that we reach this limit to help with the van's operating cost.

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NM Lions Eye Van: Juan Lucero renewed his appeal for more drivers. The van currently is in reasonably good shape including the engine. Repairs during the last 60 days totaled about \$2,000.00 . Rebuilding the van would probably run \$20,000.00, most likely more. A new van would cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000.00. A good used 2-3 year old vehicle would cost \$30,000.00 to 50,000.00 with some additional expenses for modification and transfer of the medical equipment. PID Gordon Post pointed out that one of the reasons for operating the van is to give Lions greater visibility. MDCC Jeff Kriz agreed and suggested to keep the van going as long as we can. Hopefully by the time it needs replacing we could get a smaller vehicle and use telemedicine instrumentation. No vote was taken.

Operation KidSight: The Con Alma Foundation gave grants of \$25,000.00 to Lions state wide and \$20,000.00 to the Espanola/Los Alamos area for use in providing eye related services, such as Operation Kidsight and eye screenings.

Fund Raising: Rose Himrod suggested that instead of having an Eye Ball this year, we try a “Phantom Ball” to recognize and honor doctors who helped us with our eye screenings. She explained the mechanics which helped other organizations in raising funds. After discussion it was agreed that we would try this approach. The date will be April 1, 2009 (no fooling).

Old Business

MDCC Jeff Kriz reporting on the status of the UNMH project stated that the architectural plans are in and have been presented to the university’s regents for approval. Once their approval is given we will receive UNMH’s draft agreement for cooperation with the New Mexico Lions for review, changes and approval.

UNMH has started a telemedicine unit in Las Cruces. It is operated by a technician with the results being forwarded to UNMH’s offices in Albuquerque for reading and recommendation of further treatment. They are planning to install five more next year throughout New Mexico. The cost of a stationary unit is about \$20,000.00, of a mobile unit about \$25,000.00. Funding is provided by UNMH.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted.
Bernhard “Bernie” Holzapfel, Secretary