

## NEBRASKA LIONS FOUNDATION MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2025  
Kearney, Nebraska

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kal Lausterer at 10:56 AM (CT). Chair Kal Lausterer led the Pledge of Allegiance, Lions Pledge, and gave the Invocation. The roll was taken by Secretary Edward Dunn showing 16 voting trustees present and 5 absent. Voting members reported on club visits which they attended. There were 64 Lions in attendance.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The June 6, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Ida Jane Martinez, and it was seconded by Ellen Olson to approve the minutes as published in the digital edition of the Lions Newspaper and as posted on the MD 38 Lions Website. Motion carried by the usual sign of the Lion with none in opposition.

Acceptance of the Treasurers Report: Treasurer Donna Darell provided treasurer reports as of 6-30-2025, which showed \$44,169.72 in the checking account and \$1,644,264.10 in investments, for total assets in the amount of \$1,666,301. A motion was made by Bob Arp, and it was seconded by Wayne George Witte to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Motion carried by the usual sign of the Lion with none in opposition. The Report will be placed on file.

### Committee Reports:

- Assistance: Seven members in attendance and two guests. There were 4 requests from 3 different clubs for a total of \$2,342 approved. (Broken Bow – \$500
- (Esophageal Cancer), Broken Bow – \$500 (Neuroendocrine Cancer), Millard – \$342 (Eyeglasses), Westside – \$1,000 (Colorectal Cancer). Two thank-you cards were received.
- Camp: Six members in attendance and one guest. Information was shared on the progress being made on the NE Lions Project New Hope, to be held at Camp Joy Holling, Ashland, NE, Sept. 26-28, 2025. They will have room for 10 families at this Combat Veteran focused camp. Camp Floyd Rodgers is June 21-27, 2026. Registration is in February and goes extremely quickly. Budget items will be discussed during the appropriate time in the meeting.
- Financial Investments: Six members in attendance. Endowments, no investment change at this time as the situation is so uncertain in the economy. Little change since last meeting. Investments continue to be approximately 60% equities and 40% bonds.
- Focus on Health: Five members in attendance and two guests. DG Karen Jackson reported on the 3 weeks of service from LCI: 1 – Mental Illness and Well-Being, 2 – Hunger, and 3 – Environmental. A thank you was received, and read, from the North Platte Lutheran Family Services for the \$1,000 donation. The committee is hoping to schedule a walk at Fall Rally and at the State Convention.

- Hearing: Three members in attendance. They received 19 in the ear and 112 behind the ear hearing aids, and hundreds of miscellaneous items. Vote was made and passed to pay \$3,500 for hearing assistance for replacement of bone anchor device. Donations – 295, Fitted – 8, Served – 472, total fitted to date – 840. Discussion was had as to why Committee chairs are not included in budget preparation. The question was asked, since the hearing camp did not take place was a refund issued? Discussed budget items for HearingU, Hearing Dog, and the need for a public relations line item. Requests will be discussed during the appropriate time in the meeting.
- MSU: Eight members in attendance. 2024-2025 Total schools screened 308, total student ~43,000. They are checking into the sensitivity setting on the Plus Optix. A total of \$41,995.12 was billed to the clubs, all is collected. The \$30,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield has been RECEIVED!!! Total expenses were
- \$106,206.15 which was \$18,793.85 under budget. Expected to serve 341 schools in the 2025-2026 year for an approximate kid count of ~45,000. August 11th is the official calibration and training day for the equipment. New Mobile Screening Unit Brochure was handed out. Need to replace MSU 2 as it has over 170,000 miles. Will need a fundraising drive to raise approximately ~\$15k to \$20k. The discussion was held as to whether or not to hold a zoom meeting for the committee prior to the NLF meeting as there is never enough time to cover all the necessary items for this committee.
- Opening Eyes: Two members in attendance. Next years Opening Eyes event is scheduled for May 22, 2026 at Creighton University. Opening Eyes has been paying for breakfast. A determination will be made at Fall Rally if the \$750 for breakfast is necessary.
- Resource Development: Two members in attendance. Update was given about Fruit Sales, finally report will be given by Chris Gentry. We will be doing a basket fundraiser for Fall Rally again, clubs and/or individuals can donate a basket filled with their hearts content for the silent auction. Still looking for fundraising ideas for State Convention as we will be giving the horses a break this year.
- Sight: Five members in attendance. Discussion was had as to what specifically counts in the budget for KidSight expenses. KidSight grants were briefly discussed with more follow-up necessary with the school nurses and day care administrators. Consent forms are necessary for day care screenings. The glasses storage facility is empty at this time. Reminder that there is a \$25 rental fee for the KidSight camera, paid to the NLF by the utilizing host club. The order for the new equipment at the Lions Eye Bank has been placed. Three new members were added to this committee, Charlene and Val Hunt, and Patricia Christen.

- Youth Program: Five members in attendance. All-Star Golf Tournament (22nd Year) was successful. The event was 2 days long with 14 girls and 12 boys competing. The free cookout was hosted by the Kearney Lions Club with the Hasting Lions Club providing the meat. Tom Vitamas put in 184 hours for the year to make this event special for the senior year golfers. Tom will put together talking points in paper format to present to groups or individuals. Youth Leadership Camp is for 6th-8th grade youth from across our great state. Research is being done by committee members to rotate areas of the state to host the Leadership Camp. Deposits and totals were discussed for campers. There is a fishing tournament in works for the summer of 2026 at Calamus River in Burwell, NE for Kindergarten – 6th grade children.
- Youth Disaster: Two members and two guests in attendance. Discussion was held about doing an inventory of supplies and posting needed items on the MD38 Website. Reminder was given to DG's if they need backpacks for their respective districts to reach out to the committee. A donation of washcloths, colored pencils, and erasers was received.

A thunderous Lions Roar was given to Lion Jose A. for his efforts in setting up the venue for today's NLF/COG meeting. Lunch was provided as a courtesy of the Holdredge Lions Club.

#### Old Business

1. No news on NLF pins or shirts.
2. Madison Bowers spoke about her family's appreciation for the generosity of the Nebraska Lions with her recent infant's stay in the NICU. He is doing well now but about six weeks behind mentally.
3. A generous Lions Roar was given to Allen and Donna Darrel for their efforts to get the NLF brochure out.

#### New Business

1. Trustee Vacancies – No vacancies at this time
2. Discussion was held on a Nebraska Football raffle.
3. Steve Johnson was presented with a progressive Melvin Jones
4. Who's Who distribution was handled by Dave W. and Jason R.
5. Motion was made by Leon S. to approve the 2025-2026 NLF budget as amended by the committees and it was seconded by Edward D. Motion carried by the usual sign of the Lion with none in opposition.
6. Committee Chair Vacancies
  - a. Public Relations

Next Meeting: November 7th at 2:30 PM (CT) During the Fall Rally

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M. (CT)

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Dunn  
NLF Secretary