

North Carolina Lions, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, August 8, 2021
Camp Dogwood, Sherrills Ford, NC

Call to order by President Karl Ernst at 9:00am

Prayer was offered by

Pledge of Allegiance was led by 2nd Vice President Steve McLaurin.

President Karl welcomed everyone.

President Karl recognized the members of the International Family who were present:

- Past International President Sid Scruggs installed the officers, board members, and committee chairs who were not present at the Installation Banquet on Saturday night. Past President Sid had planned to speak on change, challenge, choice, and consequences. He did ask all officers, board members, and committee chairs to Accept the responsibility of the position, Believe that we can make a difference, and Commit to serve to make the organization provide service to more people. Past President Sid also presented PDG Paul Bledsoe with the Ambassador of Good Will plaque that he could not receive at the state convention.
- Past International Director Lacy Presnell was happy to be present.
- Past International Director Gwen While was also "still HAPPY"
- Past International Director Harvey Whitley recognized the 7 past NCLI/NCLF presidents in attendance. PID Harvey requested that recognizing past presidents be put back on the agenda.

Roll call:

- Present in Person: President Karl Ernst, 1st VP Skippy Jackson, 2nd VP Steve McLaurin, Secretary Laraine Dupree, Treasurer Carolyn Sprinkle, Council Chair Dale Dupree, Executive Administrator Durden Dean, Camp Administrator Tammy Thomas, 1st VDG Marilyn Wunderler (31-L), 2nd VDG Susan Fernandez (31-L), DG Wayne Kennerly (31-I), 1st VDG Bill Mathers (31-I), 2nd VDG Kathy Poirier (31-I), 1st VDG Lacy Petty (31-O), 2nd VDG Carlie Metts (31-N), DG Randy Oxendine (31-S), 1st VDG Jo Starling (31-S), At-Large Directors PDG Neal Alexander and PDG Carlton Metts, Committee Chairs Rahim Shomari (BV), PDG Dave Butler (By-Laws), PDG Wayne Faber (Camp Dogwood), PDG Ron Beltran (Fellowship and Partners), PDG Paul Bledsoe (Public Information), PDG Donald Cobb (Sight & Hearing Conservation), and PDG Robert Carroll (Volunteers).
- Via Zoom: DG Kenneth Beach (31-L), DG Barbara Thompson (31-O), 2nd VDG (Susan O'Brien (31-O), DG Robert Block (31-N), 1st VDG Mayra McCloud (31-N) (joined late), 2nd VDG Lorraine Dixon (31-S), At-Large Directors Lion Jim Turner, Eddie Weaver, and PDG George Suggs, Committee Chair Jim Chandler (Properties)
- Absent: Immediate Past President Curtis Erickson (hospital) and PDG Paul Marth (previously scheduled vacation).

Approval of Agenda: Motion by At-large Director Neal, 2nd by DG Wayne Kennerly. Motion carried.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Minutes had been emailed to all board members and committee chairs. Motion by DG Randy, second by DG Wayne Kennerly to approve as emailed. Motion carried.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: PCC Dave Butler accepted.

Remarks by State Council Chairperson Dale Dupree (Attachment #1)

Camp and Retreat Administrator's Report by Lion Tammy Thomas. (Attachment #2)

137 VIPs attended summer camp. 15 were first-time campers.

Goal for off-season usage income is \$300,000.00 this Lions year.

Due to current staffing shortage, Lion Tammy may need to ask volunteers to help staff events (kitchen and housekeeping).

Executive Administrator's Report by PDG Durden Dean:

Reiterated dealing with pandemic; totally shut down for 6 - 8 months.

Hopeful that staffing will improve when government funded unemployment ends.

Last year was a real challenge. Missed Brighter Visions goal. (Districts O & I were champions.)

Still raised over \$400,000.00 in a year with limited fundraising. New governors have pledged \$500,000.00 this year.

Still finding ways to serve. Sorted and shipped 9,000 pounds of glasses in spring; that many more to go.

Statewide membership has dipped below 5,000. Must deal with that reality. Up to remaining Lions to carry on the legacy of those who were lost.

Still providing eye surgeries with matching funds. Still doing eye screenings, sorting glasses, providing education grants for the children of blind/visually impaired parents.

Approximately \$200,000 budget request to purchase remainder of minivans has been included in the NC state budget. Waiting now for passage of budget.

COG has authorized application of and LCIF grant to fund the program. Follow-up mechanism is needed to make sure children are getting the assistance they need.

Thanked Lions for the support and all they have done over the past year.

Thanked PDG Paul Bledsoe for the new Camp Dogwood video which will be available this weekend.

Has new marketing ideas to promote camp.

Camp Dogwood is a unique facility, offering summer camp for the blind and visually impaired and open year-round to serve community.

Treasurer's report by Treasurer Carolyn Sprinkle. (Attachment 3) "Good for right now, but it takes a lot to keep Camp open."

Approval to accept Camp Administrator's and Executive Administrator's reports: Motion by DG Randy Oxendine, 2nd by DG Wayne Kennerly. Discussion followed. Director Neal Alexander asked for clarification of the financial challenges before us. What has the Budget & Finance Committee earmarked as the most pressing issues facing the running of camp. General direction needs to be given to Budget and Finance

Committee, addressing the specific needs of our organization. Motion to accept 3 reports (including treasurer's report) passed without dissent.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Communications: None
2. Treasurer's report
3. Recommendations from the Executive Committee:
 - a. Executive Committee voted in June that the trailer and truck (MSU) is not to be used with 2 exceptions - New Bern and Siler City have agreed to pay increased usage fee to have large unit. Will decide in future what to do with the unit.
Lion Carlton Metts read an e-mail from Brian Hoover with questions he is being asked. (Attachment 4). There are numerous opportunities to utilize the larger unit. Lion Carlton challenged the executive director and president to appoint an ad-hoc committee to work independently or with the Sight and Hearing Conservation committee to make proper recommendations on usage of the MSU with the minivans. Skippy made a motion that an ad-hoc committee be formed to investigate the MSU and the minivans usage and resolve current issues and co-exist and suggest that Carlton Metts and Dale Dupree be part of the committee. Second by DG Ken Beach. Discussion followed. Motion passed without dissent.
 - b. Funds are sitting in BB&T account that drawing little interest. Executive Committee recommends that Investment committee investigate for best return and availability of funds.
 - c. Executive Committee recommends that NCLI policy and duties be changed to reflect current practices. PCC Dave Butler has made appropriate recommendations (attachment 5). All board members will be sent copies.
 - d. The executive committee recommended funding for Executive Director Durden Dean (had not been included in current budget) not to exceed \$1500.00. Coming from a standing committee, no motion is needed. Board accepted executive committee's recommendation without dissent. Additional motion to amend the current budget from \$100 to \$1500 by DG Randy Oxendine to approve, 2nd by DG Wayne Kennerly. Motion passed without dissent.

During 10-minute session recess, 1st and 2nd VDGs will vote on respective members to the executive committee.

Session reconvened. 1st VDGs Marilyn Wunderler; 2nd VDGs elected Carlie Metts.

Lion Laraine presented Executive Director \$100.00 from weekend sales of history books and memorabilia. 2nd VP Steve McLaurin raised awareness of current policy/belief that employees will lose vacation time if not able to take it by December 31. This policy needs to be addressed due to current staffing shortages. PDG Neal recommended the matter be turned over to the personnel committee.

Committees Operating Under Second Vice-President Steve McLaurin:

- **Clinical Eye Research:** PDG Carlton Metts presented his report (attachment #6). In addition, he stressed the need to continue contributing to this fund to make it viable.
- **Properties:** PDG Jim Chandler presented his report via zoom (attachment #7). Question was raised about trees that may cause damage to dorms. This has been ongoing issue for past 3-4 years. **Lion** Jim recommended that this be considered for budget inclusion. During Covid, per Executive Administrator Durden, 3 trees were removed.
- **Public Information & Education:** PDG Paul Bledsoe presented his report (attachment #8). PDG Paul asked if governors had received his update on the state marketing plan. Reviewed targeted audiences (ages 25 – 54 years, almost 4 million people) on Facebook, streaming, pre-rolls, Spectrum, and other social media. Budget was \$19,698.00. Over 1 million hits each on Facebook and Video completions; over 4,000 on URL, reached over 42% of targeted base.
- **Sight & Hearing Conservation:** PDG Donald Cobb has no report at this time. He is ready to work with ad-hoc committee on the MSU/Mini Van policies.
- **Volunteers:** PDG Robert Carroll presented his report (attachment #9). PDG Robert plans to be at camp October 11 – 14 and will work on columns on Stickley at that time. He also stressed the need for volunteers during summer camping session, the deaf-blind retreat, and VIP fishing event.
- Motion to approve committee reports under 2nd VP Steve by DG Wayne Kennerly, 2nd by PDG Neal Alexander; motion approved without dissent.

Committees Operating Under First Vice President Skippy Jackson:

- **Pin Sales:** No report.
- **Constitution & By-Laws:** PCC Dave Butler presented his report (attachment #10).
- **Camp Dogwood:** PDG Wayne Faber presented his report. He thanked all for their support of his retirement from Apex Communications. He reported successful campaign to fund the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for campers to use. His request to fund heating and air conditioning needs in dorms has been met. Some money has already been received to replace the units in the Cates Room before it totally breaks down. He will also address need for funds for removing trees on campus as needed. Raffle tickets are available. Prize will again be \$15,000.00. Looking forward to seeing volunteers in October for glasses sorting event.
- **Fellowship & Partners:** PDG Ron Beltran presented his report (attachment #11).
- **Brighter Visions:** PDG Ray Shomari presented his report. He recognized the importance of club membership chairs and PDGs who can implement membership growth which can increase revenue potential. He also stated that Lions must raise awareness in their communities of programs we support. Successful Brighter Visions kickoffs in Districts S and N have been held, over \$12,000.00 collected. Challenges between zones in District N are a promising way to raise more money.
- **Budget & Finance:** Immediate Past President Curtis was unable to attend.
- **Nominations:** PDG Paul Silverman had to leave meeting. His report was read by Secretary Laraine.

- **Motion** to approve committee reports under 1st VP Skippy by DG Randy Oxendine, 2nd by DG Wayne Kennerly: motion approved without dissent.

President Karl recognized members of Nominations Committee as listed in NCLI Directory. This committee serves both NCLI and Council of Governors.

2nd VP Steve read the vacation policy as written in the current policies which states that vacation cannot be carried over from calendar year to calendar year. Executive Committee will address during called session in next 1 - 2 weeks.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

The next Council of Governors and NCLI Board of Directors Meetings will be held on November 12 – 14, 2021, at Camp Dogwood.

Respectfully submitted,

Laraine Dupree
Secretary, NCLI Board of Directors

Attachments

1. **Council Chair Report**
2. **Camp and Retreat Administrator's Report**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. **E-mail from Brian Hoover**
5. **Proposed changes to policies and duties**
6. **Clinical Eye Research Report**
7. **Properties Report**
8. **Public Information & Education**
9. **Volunteers Report**
10. **Constitution and By-Laws Report**
11. **Fellowships and Partners Report**
12. **Nominations Report**