

North Carolina Lions, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday, May 1, 2022  
Camp Dogwood  
Sherrills Ford, NC

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

**Prayer** was offered by NCLI Chaplain Bill Womack during earlier devotions.

**2nd Vice President Steve McLaurin led Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Opening Remarks:**

President Karl welcomed everyone. President Karl thanked everyone for their support during this year. It has been a good year with some challenges which were met. NCLI and NC Lions are getting back to where they need to be to provide needed services.

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

- Harvey Whitley
- PID Lacy Presnell

**Introduction of NC Representative Jason Saine** by Past NCLI President C. Neal Alexander

**Presentation Grant:** Representative Saine recapped the process for approving the grant. Rep. Saine liked the vision screening program from the beginning back in 2019 when he was first approached. This is one of the most effective uses of the taxpayers' dollars. He appreciates the fact that the Lions do all the work to make this program work. There was extraordinarily little opposition from the representatives. Representative Saine presented the check for \$194,604.00 to President Karl who immediately turned it over to Executive Director Carlton Metts.

**Role Call:**

- Present in Person: President Karl Ernst, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Skippy Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve McLaurin, Secretary Laraine Dupree, Treasurer Carolyn Sprinkle, Council Chair Dale Dupree, Interim Executive Administrator Carlton Metts, Camp Administrator Tammy Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Susan Hernandez, DG Wayne Kennerly (31-I), 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Bill Mathers (31-I), 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Kathy Poirier (31-I), DG Barbara Thompson (31-O), DGE Gary Greene, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG (Susan O'Brien (31-O), 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mayra McCloud (31-N) 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Carlie Metts (31-N), DG Randy Oxendine (31-S), 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Allen Swaim, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Lorraine Dixon (31-S), At-Large Directors PDG Carlton Metts, PDG Neal Alexander. Committee Chairs PDG Rahim Shomari, PDG Dave Butler (By-Laws), PDG Paul Marth (By-Laws Co-chair). PDG Ron Beltran (Fellowship and Partners), PDG Paul Bledsoe (Public Information), PDG Donald Cobb (Sight & Hearing Conservation) and PDG Robert Carroll (Volunteers).
- Attending via Zoom: Immediate Past President Curtis Erickson, At-Large Board Member Jim Turner, Eddie Weaver
- Absent: DG Kenneth Beach, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Marilyn Wunderler (31-L), DG Robert Block (31-N), PDG George Suggs, and PDG Jim Chandler (Properties),

- **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes had been emailed to all board members and committee chairs. Motion by DG Barbara Thompson, second by DG Randy Oxendine to approve as presented. Motion carried.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian:** PCC Dave Butler accepted.

**Remarks by State Council Chairperson Dale Dupree:** Another interesting year working with Covid and overcoming challenges. Now moving in the right direction.

**Camp and Retreat Administrator's Report** by Lion Tammy Thomas.

These recommendations are based on discussions at last night's Council of Governors work session. Lion Tammy had already begun thinking about some retreats later in the year for VIPs.

Summer camp is due to staffing shortages.

We will offer 3 weeks, Sunday through Thursday, of summer retreats with extremely reduced numbers: 25 – 30 including care givers.

This can be accomplished with the current staffing numbers.

VIPs will be required to be self-sufficient.

Cost will be reduced from \$225 to \$200.

If this plan is approved, staff will begin calling VIPs May 2 with explanations of the availability of the retreats with limited attendees and limited activities.

Weeks available are June 5, June 26, and July 10.

Counselors will be hired for the full 8 weeks originally offered them and will be cleaning and performing other duties during the non-retreat weeks.

If those 3 weeks fill with VIPs, can add additional weeks during the summer.

Camp Dogwood will not be able to accommodate the Governor Morehead School event this year due to the extreme structured experience required.

Activities will be limited; no swimming or kayaking or off campus trips will be available.

DG Randy Oxendine made the motion to accept the camp administrator's plan for the 2022 summer sessions; DG Wayne Kennerly seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Information about the fall retreat and the New Year's Eve retreat was made available.

Since January 1, Dogwood on Lake Norman has raised \$113,726, despite three events, LEO convention and two diabetic camps, being cancelled.

Lions were reminded that the camp needs cooperation from Lions in registering for Lions events at the facility to properly prepare food orders for the meeting.

Motion to approve the camp administrator report by DG Barbara Thompson, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Skippy Jackson; motion passed without dissent.

**Executive Administrator's Report** by PDG Carlton Metts: (Attachment #1)

Investments down now due to current Market Conditions.

VSP vouchers are available. Medicaid and Medicare are considered insurance, but it will cover the refraction costs when the exam is considered medical.

Motion to accept the report by DG Wayne Kennerly, seconded by DG Randy Oxendine. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Search Committee Update** per PDG Neal Alexander, (Attachment #2)  
Committee recommends to the Board of Directors, the position be retitled to Executive Director and to begin the process of changing all the NCLI by-laws and to be presented at the 2023 Annual meeting, to be effective July 1, 2023, to change the name from Executive Administrator to Executive Director. Motion to accept the recommendation by PDG Neal Alexander, seconded by DG Wayne Kennerly. Motion passed without dissent.  
Carlton Metts will continue to serve as Executive Director for the interim.  
Motion to accept the search committee report by DG Wayne Kennerly, seconded by DG Barbara Thompson. Motion passed.

#### **New Business**

1. Communications: None
2. **Treasurer's report** by Treasurer Carolyn Sprinkle. (Attachment #3)  
Lion Carolyn reviewed the balance sheet and the income statement. The only concern is the difference between the budgeted income and the actual income. She noted that all assets of NCLI are now contained in the balance sheet. Motion to accept treasurer's report as presented by DG Wayne Kennerly and seconded by DG Randy Oxendine was approved without opposition.
3. **Budget Approval:**  
Motion by DG Barbara Thompson to accept the budget as proposed; seconded by DG Wayne Kennerly. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **Recommendations from the Executive Committee:**
  - a. NCLI has been approached by the South Iredell Lions Club to donate \$1,033,450 to be used for new construction on the Camp Dogwood campus. Only stipulation is that the South Iredell Lions Club logo be prominently displayed on the structure and the South Iredell club be invited to the dedication. One of the club members suggested an office building, but it is not mandatory. There is no time limit on the construction process. The club requests an answer about accepting the donation by May 31, 2022. Motion was made by Neal Alexander that the president appoint an ad-hoc committee to study the pros and cons of construction options and to report to the board. Motion by Neal Alexander to advise the South Iredell Lions Club that we do want to accept the proposal; seconded by CC Dale Dupree. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. NCLI staff is working with some Lions from District L regarding that district's obtaining a vision van on their own. Suggestion exists that this may be a conflict of interest. The executive committee has reached out to the group for an in-person meeting to discuss the possibilities on May 3 for clarifications.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** per Carlton Metts in Paul Silverman's absence. (Attachment #4)

6. **Reports of Ad-Hoc Committees** – MSU Ad Hoc – Carlton Metts Money from the state has been received; four vehicles have been purchased with money from the state, one vehicle has been purchased with funds from the LIB in Kinston. Money for one additional vehicle is expected soon from the Raleigh Host Lions Club. 2 Plus Optix cameras have been ordered as well as ancillary needed supplies. Hope to be fully functioning by the start of school in August 2022. Vehicles will be in each district with the district name on the back of each vehicle. Major competition in screenings in the schools will be the Prevent Blindness who already have a presence in thirty-eight of North Carolina’s 100 counties. Lions will be volunteering for the screenings while the other organization uses paid employees. All new vehicles are SUVs that will transport all equipment as well as up to three passengers. PCC Diane Whitley was recognized as chair of the MSU Kids Sight Committee which will work with the ad-hoc committee.

**Committees Operating Under Second Vice-President Steve McLaurin:**

- **Clinical Eye Research:** Per PDG Carlton Metts, received update from Duke University on NC Lions Ophthalmology Endowment showing the growth of the endowment over the years. In the late ‘90s, NC Lions Foundation made the \$500,000 original investment. As of June 20, 2020, the market value was \$1.4 million; as of today, the market value is \$2million. The Winston Salem Foundation was established by William Joyce for maintenance of Camp Dogwood; he contributed \$900,00 over his lifetime. **The foundation has provided 39-40k per year income.**
- **Properties report:** presented by Camp Administrator Tammy Thomas in the absence of Chair Jim Chandler. (Attachment #5)
- **Public Information and Education:** PDG Paul Bledsoe (Attachment #6)
- **Sight and Hearing Conservation:** PDG Donald Cobb presented his report. (Attachment #7)
- **Volunteers:** PDG Robert Carroll presented his report (attachment #8).
- Motion to approve committee reports under 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve by DG Barbara Thompson, seconded by DG Randy Oxendine, was approved without dissent.

**Committees Operating Under First Vice President Skippy Jackson:**

- **Brighter Visions:** presented by PDG Rahim Shomari. (Attachment #9)
- **Camp Dogwood:** PDG Wayne Faber presented his report. (Attachment #10)
- **Constitution & By-Laws:** PCC Dave Butler presented his report (attachment #11).
- **Pin Sales:** PCC Dave Butler presented the pin sales report (attachment #12)
- **Budget & Finance:** per IPP Curtis Erickson, chair.
  - **During Covid, NCLI started a \$7300 draw per month from the Stickley fund to meet expenses. Recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to stop the monthly draw from the Stickley account due to the \$236,000 drop in investments due to market conditions. This was discussed in the Finance Committee during February and in executive committee meetings.** Curtis presented this as a motion; no second was needed as it came from the standing committee. After a lengthy discussion, the motion passed without dissent.
- **Fellowship & Partners:** PDG Ron Beltran was not present due to family issues. Secretary Laraine Dupree read his report.

- **Motion by PDG Neal Alexander**, second by Treasurer Carolyn Sprinkle to accept the reports under 1<sup>st</sup> VP Skippy Jackson. Motion was approved.

No other business identified.

The next Council of Governors and NCLI Board of Directors Meetings will be held on August 12 – 14, 2022 at Camp Dogwood. Call the camp office for reservations.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laraine Dupree**  
**Secretary, NCLI Board of Directors**

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Executive Administrator's Report**
- 2. Search Committee Report**
- 3. Treasurer's Report**
- 4. Budget proposal**
- 5. South Iredell donation**
- 6. Report from Nominating Committee**
- 7. Clinical Eye Research**
- 8. Properties Report**
- 9. Public Information & Education**
- 10. Sight & Hearing Conservation Reports**
- 11. Volunteers Report**
- 12. Brighter Visions Report**
- 13. Camp Dogwood Report**
- 14. By-Laws Report**
- 15. Pin Sales Report**
- 16. Fellowship and Partners Report**