



NORTHWEST LIONS FOUNDATION

Have you checked out our new

Website: <https://northwestlionsfoundation.org>

Cabinet Meeting 2/3/2024

Hello everyone. I will be combining my report to cover what I spoke about at the last cabinet meeting and for this meeting. Let me share with you the new changes to Northwest Lions Foundation “NLF”

Do you know our history? In 1968 Jack Radford heard a call on a HAM Radio that a doctor was in need of a cornea transplant for a young patient. This got Jack to thinking, that why couldn't Lions help with this in the future? Working with other Lions in the Pacific Northwest, the Dept of Ophthalmology at the University of Washington, and finding a funding source “White Canes”, the MD19 Northwest Lions Eye Bank was formed.

The first cornea transplant with tissue from our new Lions Eye Bank took place at the U OF W on 12/7/68. In the first year, we provided 45 Cornea Transplants. At our 50 year celebration in 2018, we had a grand total of 236,270 transplants over 50 years, and we honored the family's of the Lions who started all of this in 1968..

There have been changes over the years, but the most recent change happened on May 5, 2023 the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research and SightLife announced that the two organizations have come together as a single nonprofit corporation under the new name of Lions World Vision Institute (LWVI) out of Tampa Florida. Their foundation is much different than ours, so we must clarify who we are! Board is made up of distinguished business people, some are Lions.

Website for LWVI - Florida: www.lwvi.org They are the largest eye banking institute in the world. Having done, 20,000-25,000 per year. The mission: to elevate standards in sight restoration, tissue transplantation, Research and education. We are now a subset of this organization.

In 2004 we launched AUDIENT. Our new hearing aids are all brand new, no refurbished ones, from a company named Starkey. We have been busy in the state of Washington and Northern Idaho, but now we are able to help in Canada. Clubs will need to find a provider who is willing to work with us in the States. Provider Agreement for Canada to get (we have providers that will serve Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton.) W-9, Vendor Registration Form & Agreement. Required. All orders go to Marsha first.

We are checking to see if they can they bill in USA funds? ACH form, if auto deposit.

We have three (3) application/forms that must be filled out FIRST and sent to Marsha Rastatter in the Seattle office. Then we can begin to get your people tested and paperwork sent thru for new hearing aids. If you need those forms, please let me know, as I have them and can email up to you.

Hearing aids currently cost \$680.00. NLF pays \$340.00 and the club pays \$340.00. This is a great deal! Don't you think?

We mentioned White Canes. Were you aware that Wenatchee Central has the machine and makes the actual white cane that is shipped all over the United States to clubs? NLF pays Wenatchee Central for the canes that our office sends to you at no charge, when you send your donations for White Cane Days in each year.

I so look forward to attending our Spring Conference, and am happy to answer more questions should you have any. Until we get the first Canadian Club up and running, I'm sure we will have lots of questions and will walk thru them together to get the right answers.

Also, be sure to check out our website and check out our Grants that are available.

- A. Patient Care Grants
- B. Project Support Grants
- C. Lions Clubs Hearing Program

Sincerely,

Shelley Costello

PDG Shelley Costello

NLF Trustee