

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation July 19-20, 2013

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board of Directors met at the Minnesota Eye Bank for their annual training session on Friday, July 19th. The MLVF Board later that day toured the new Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic on the West Bank of the U of MN. The Board meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel Saturday, July 20th.

Board representatives from 5M-10 are Lions Brian Maki and Wayne Tieman.

The MLVF funds the operating expenses of the Minnesota Eye Bank and provides a board of directors that gives fiscal oversight to the eye bank. The MLVF partners with the Lions of Minnesota, the Eye Bank and the University of Minnesota to increase public awareness about eye and cornea donations, aids in funding research projects and equipment for the University of Minnesota, and collects used eyeglasses for recycling.

In the past 50 years, Lions have worked to build a Sight Program at the University of Minnesota that includes the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, the Minnesota Lions Children Eye Clinic, Ophthalmology research, and the Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children.

The MLVF had a good budget year in 2012-13. Actual income for the year was \$4,496,069. Projected expenses were \$3,774,266. Estimated net income (profit) is \$721,803.

In 2013 there were 14,049 referrals to the eye bank; 1,623 donors, and 1,107 corneas transplanted.

The Minnesota Lions have various opportunities to learn more about the work of the MLVF this fall:

- 1) At the Minnesota State Fair, we have a booth to provide information to the public. District 5M-10 will have their turn to be at the booth on Sunday, August 25th. Please volunteer.
- 2) Tours are scheduled for Lions on Saturday, October 12th to the Minnesota Eye Bank, Lions Macular Degeneration Center, and the Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic.
- 3) Thanksgiving for Vision will be held on Saturday, October 26th. Thanksgiving for Vision celebrates the miracle of restored vision. Thanksgiving for Vision begins with an educational symposium that focuses on research and clinical work taking place at the University. An inspirational luncheon follows, with a program featuring a corneal recipient or parents of a recipient. They speak about how their lives have been affected by the sight-saving work of the Minnesota Lions. Club Presidents and Secretaries will receive invitations for their clubs.

Lions Clubs in 5M-10 are encouraged to award the Helen Keller Award. For each \$1000 of donations, Lions Clubs can award a Helen Keller Award to a Lion or a community member who has provided outstanding service. Since 1992, clubs in 5M-10 have awarded 172.

Lions Brian Maki and Wayne Tieman serve on two committees each as part of their duties on the MLVF Board. Lion Brian serves on the Legal and Finance committees; Lion Wayne serves as the chair of Public Relations and on the Long Range Planning committee.