

Proposed 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee

First Meeting May 19, 2025

Called to order at 6:05pm, Monday, May 19, 2025

In attendance:

Esther West, Benton Bay Athletic Lions, Anchorage
Connie Taylor, Benton Bay Athletic Lions, Anchorage
Hari Dev Khalsa, Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions, Juneau
Mukhya Khalsa, Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions, Juneau
Karrie Youngblood, Katchemak Bay Lions, Homer
Tary Youngblood, Katchemak Bay Lions, Homer
Kimberly A Sinnett, Big Lake Lions, Big Lake
Tom Phillips, Willow Lions, Willow
Deb Phillips, Willow Lions, Willow
Sid Bertz, Willow Lions, Willow

The meeting was called to discuss funding costs for providing eye care for Alaska communities. Costs are increasing, VSP certificates that helped cover those costs in the past are no longer available.

Items discussed included

- Services the individual Joint Sight Committees are offering in their communities which include screening for children and adults and funding assistance for eye exams and glasses.
- Possible funding sources including, Lions Foundation, government and private grants, fund raisers

Conclusions

- To form a new committee: 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee. Each club in the district would have at least one member on the new committee. We would assume responsibility for activities pertaining to sight needs in our district and provide support to the local 49A Lions Joint Sight Committees.
- To set up an initial board of directors to oversee the formal organization of the 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee.
- To request all 49A Lions clubs to assign a member to participate as a member of the 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee.
- To request a startup grant from the 49A Lions Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. This would be requested as an ongoing grant so that additional funds could be requested when needed.

- To investigate avenues of getting donations. Several prospective donors were suggested McDonald's, Walmart, Costco, Office Depot, Rasmussen Foundation, as well as state and federal agency offices. To seek business that might offer programs similar to the Smile program Amazon once offered.
- To investigate what is involved in participation in the Pick-Click-Give program. Kim Sinnett volunteered to research and report back at the next 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee meeting.
- To create a 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee website to provide Alaskans with information on Lions programs that assist with vision and to provide contact information for all 49A Lions Joint Sight Committees. Connie Taylor volunteered to assist with the website.
- To consider ways that the Committee could recognize donors and professionals who provide services including their names and links on the website as appropriate.
- Suggestions for a Committee motto included Knights of the Blind, So Others May See
- To meet again on Monday, June 23 at 6pm.