

Proposed 49A Lions Joint Sight Committee
Second Meeting June 23, 2025

Called to order at 6:19pm, Monday, June 23, 2025

In attendance:

Esther West, Benton Bay Athletic Lions, Anchorage
Connie Taylor, Benton Bay Athletic Lions, Anchorage
Dr. Patrick Campaign, Mountain View Lions, Anchorage
Pat Chapman, Ketchikan Lions, Ketchikan
Joy Blackburn, Mountain View Lions, Anchorage
Hari Dev Khalsa, Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions, Juneau
Mukhya Khalsa, Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions, Juneau
Heidi Richards-Mazon, Juneau Lions, Juneau
Deb Thomas, Willow Lions, Willow
Sid Bertz, Willow Lions, Willow

Introduction of attendees and their associated clubs.

Election of Oversight Board of Directors tabled due to insufficient club representation present.

Funding and grant subcommittee appointments tabled.

The 49A Joint Sight Committee website needs a Domain name. Prefer the names “Alaska” and “Lions” before “49A”. Several suggestions were made. A consideration may be “Alaska Lions 49A Vision”. The Site should have a list of clubs in each city with the club’s criteria so those who need help can connect with a club in their city. The site should also include links for those who want to donate. Links to clubs should also be set up. Connie can be contacted for offering suggestions regarding domain name, club criteria, and the subject of links. Update-our new domain name is registered- alaskalions49avision.org

Esther reported that there have been requests to the 49A Foundation for funding for individual’s sight projects. However, the Foundation only funds grants for community needs, not for individuals. Since there are no longer VSP Vouchers for those with no insurance Esther proposes, through a collaborative effort of all clubs in District 49A, the new committee can ask for a continuing grant from the Foundation for the eye care needed within the 49A community. The committee would then dispense 50% of total eye care cost encumbered by a club (similar to what Foundation would do if granting funds). Esther would, therefore, like to get each club to submit an estimate of each club’s need in this area, so she can request an initial grant of \$10,000 from Foundation.

Esther reported that the clubs in District 49A can use the Eye Glass Recycling Center to get glasses for individuals in need by simply getting a current prescription (not complex) from an eye care professional and sending the “script” to her. She will send it to the Aurora Borealis Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. If the prescription is in their inventory, they will pull an assortment of glasses that are near the original script and mail them back to Anchorage.

Meeting ended 7:15 PM.

Thanks to Deb Thomas for taking the minutes