

## 49A Lions Sight Committee

August 19, 2025, 6pm via Zoom

### Minutes

1. Call to Order.
  2. Introductions. In attendance: Deborah Thomas Bertz, Sidney Bertz, Connie Taylor, Esther West, Michael McCart, Heidi Richards-Mazon, Robert Posma
  3. Report from Lions Club International Legal: See attached information Esther provided from her meeting with LCI Legal. This 49A Sight Committee must form as a committee under the District Cabinet and its budget must be a line item on the District's budget. The Committee can fund raise under the District's 503(c)3 status.
  4. There are thirty-two Lions Clubs in District 49A. Of these, twenty have sight programs. These twenty clubs will be asked to assign a member to participate in the 49A Sight Committee.
  5. It was determined that the 49A Sight Committee officers would be chair, secretary, funding director, and two board members.
  6. The initial 49A Sight Committee leadership to oversee the formal organization of the Committee and to prepare the request to be approved as a formal committee of the 49A District Cabinet is as follows:  
  
Chair – Patrick Campaign  
Secretary – Connie Taylor  
Funding Director – Heidi Richards-Mazon  
Board Member #1 – Sidney Bertz  
Board Member #2 – hold open for future election
  7. Next meeting: Heidi offered to contact the twenty member clubs and request that a person be assigned to represent each club on the committee and to poll those members as to a list of days and times that would be convenient for them to meet via Zoom. Dates for future meetings will be determined when this information is available
  8. Request official status from 49A District Cabinet: to be reviewed at next meeting prior to submitting to the District.
  8. 49A Lion Sight Committee Web Page was reviewed, <https://alaskalions49avision.org>. There is a page with information about the Committee and links to agendas and minutes of meetings, a page with drop-off information for used glasses, and a page with information about each club that provides eye care support to their community. The web site is a work in progress and information is added as available.
- Meeting adjourned.

UPDATE FROM CONVERSATION WITH LCI LEGAL (LION BRIAN POSHKA)

1. **Can a separate committee to address sight funding be set up independently from Foundation or the District?** No, the committee must be approved by the District Cabinet. It would be a line item on the District budget. The Foundation has no authority to set up a separate independent committee.
2. **Can the new committee solicit donations, funding?** Yes, but as a District project.
3. **Can the new committee issue checks and manage their own funds, set up their own checking accounts?** No, the funds will be controlled by the District Cabinet, checks issued with approval by the Cabinet by the District treasurer.
4. **Can an individual club set up a committee to handle the District sight program?** No, the committee members must be members of the club setting up the committee. Outside Lions would not have a vote in the committee business.
5. **Can the new committee offer donors a non-profit status for their donations?** Yes, under the District constitution and bylaws guidelines.
6. **Does the new committee need to be approved by LCIF?** No, it is just another line item in the District budget and retains the status of a non-profit.
7. The new committee's purpose is to collect donations for sight expense funding for individual clubs. **Can the new committee issue payments to the clubs?** No, the checks must be approved and by issued by the District Cabinet.