

2020 Annual Council of Governors' Committee Report

Northwest Lions Foundation Report by: Bill Lundin - Board of Trustees -Chairman

Date Report Prepared: January 21, 2021

This will be one of the most somber reports I have ever presented to our Council and members.

2020 has been one the most difficult years for The Northwest Lions Foundation and SightLife, since we were founded in 1969.

Despite that, we do have some encouraging news. Both The Northwest Lions Foundation and SightLife (our eye bank) have survived the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A quick update of both.

The Pandemic has muted much of activities of all our clubs during this last year. School and public events have cancelled almost all our Health Screening Units activities. On the bright side, we were able to move our Large Health Screening unit from Longview to Wenatchee. Our new driver Skip Laney is on board and ready to screen in 2021.

The one Northwest Lions Program that was active in 2020 was our Hearing Aid program for low income patients. We operate that program in partnership with local MD-19 Lions Clubs. I am pleased to report that we have given the gift of hearing to 225 low-income patients. I need to thank our partner Lions Clubs, The Starkey Hearing, our Aid provider, and dozens of hearing care professionals in our Multiple District for their support.

As Chairman of the Board for both The Northwest Lions Foundation and SightLife it was more than a challenging time. Corneal Transplant surgery is considered an elective procedure in most hospitals. For the better part of 2020, that basically shut down much of our operations everywhere.

Because SightLife is one of the largest eye banks in the country, we did have many emergency placements. This was a fraction of what our normal volume would be.

Because of some outstanding leadership actions in acquiring some Federal Stimulus Grants, plus some very austere cost cutting were able to continue with limited operations.

We are still evaluating the effect of COVID to the Eye Bank Industry. It does not look good. Because of our volume, we may be one the few strong Eye Banks that survives.

As always, we Lions have been through many hard times in our history as one of the largest service clubs on the planet. As we pull together for 2021 and beyond, I want to thank you for your continued support, especially in you outstanding efforts in your White Cane Day fundraising for the Northwest Lions Foundation. We raised an amazing \$78,000 in a very tough year. Words cannot describe my gratitude.

Sincerely,

Bill Lundin

Board Chair, Northwest Lions Foundation

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