

Board members present:

Manuel Rodriguez  
Chuck Easton

Harry Kovaschetz  
Bill Davis  
Lucky Sells

Joseph Saavedra  
Rita Lucero

Also Present: Lori Stampley, Executive Director

Minutes of New Mexico Lions Eye Bank Meeting  
December 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

The activity report was given by Lori Stampley. The 2nd quarter 2008 donor activity is as follows: 78 donors, 119 billable corneas, 17 reduced fee corneas, 32 discarded corneas, and 8 frozen whole eyes and transplanted. In the 2nd quarter 2007 there were 96 donors, 138 billable corneas, 10 reduced fee corneas, 36 discarded corneas and 8 frozen whole eyes and transplanted. The Eye Bank is about 19 corneas behind overall from last year.

For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Eye Bank has provided 104 corneas for an average fee of \$2312 per cornea. 20 of the 104 corneas were placed in October. The Eye Bank has one of the highest fees. Some eye banks discount the tissue. There have not been many discounted tissues from our Eye Bank.

A suggestion was made to include the announcement of the Eye Bank receiving the Eye Bank of the Year award in the Lions Roar.

Jasper Terry joins the staff has a full time technician. Jasper has a background in Biology and Experience Morphology Technician from the Office of the Medical Investigator.

With the Baltimore Marathon Run for Vision, the club raised over \$5000 for the Eyeglass Program. The 2007 Run for Mobility & Vision continued the trend of more runners and more funds raised, with 35 people participating on the TBI team and nearly \$100,000 contributed to TBI's Frederick N. Griffith Foundation.

Four applications for surgery have been approved in this fiscal year. There has been one approval for vision aid equipment. There have been 13 pairs of eyeglasses provided and several more applications pending approval. There are 7 more applications that are pending. The applications from Rio Rancho Host Club were received but were disapproved because the surgery was preformed before the application.

The Eyeglass Program was not created to take place of the help that individual clubs give to people who can find them and ask for help. The program was created for the large volume of calls that are received at the eye bank. The Eyeglass Program is for people looking for help and don't know how to find a club. Information needs to get into the Lions Roar.

In August, TBI began offering pre-cut corneal tissue for a new transplant procedure. The NEBC is one of the few eye banking facilities with the equipment necessary to provide these cornea grafts. The procedure is one of the latest innovations in corneal transplants. TBI recently was issued four patents for its line of allograft for use in spinal fusion surgeries. TBI distributes the corneas to Colombia and Panama.

The current financial report was given by Joseph Saavedra, Treasurer. The balance sheet was presented as of October 31, 2007. The income statement for the five months ended October 31, 2007 was also presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. The financial report was approved.

TBI has recommended that the Eye Bank maintain a three times annual operating income as a reserve for operations.

Old business -

The Band Foundation did not want to sign a loan as drafted. At the prior meeting there was discussion about the foundation paying off the loan with the raffle proceeds, however no vote was taken.

If we are using raffle proceeds for some other organization that would need to be disclosed on the raffle tickets. That was not done on this years raffle tickets. So there would be a problem if the proceeds of the raffle were used for the band.

The Band Foundation has over \$4,000 in the checking account. A motion was made to table the loan request until June 30, 2008, No second was made. The motion died for lack of second.

Board members on the Band Foundation should not be able to vote on Eye bank, due to conflict of interest regarding the Bank Foundation.

With the information that the club received, it was thought that the band was \$10,000 in debt. In good faith the club wanted to help. Since the Band Foundation is in better financial shape, a motion was made to rescind the offer to make the loan. The motion was approved.

There was a change on the raffle tickets. The printing on the back was eliminated but everything on the front is the same from prior years. There needs to be letter sent with the tickets to the clubs with specific instructions also, a specific cutoff date for returning the tickets needs to be included.

There was discussion whether the unsold tickets should be returned. Joe Saavedra explained that as a control, the unsold tickets should be accounted for. Provide instructions to the clubs to return the money for the sold tickets and all the unsold tickets.

Discussion regarding sending a designated number of tickets based on the number of members. The past tickets were sent to the president of each club. Some clubs are beginning to get saturated with the raffle tickets from the foundations. We could distribute 35,000 tickets bases on each clubs prorated tickets sales from last year.

Tickets will be distributed on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 9:00am. The cutoff date will be two weeks before the convention which is on April 18, 2008. The tickets will be sent back to the Eye Bank office.

A suggestion was made that each Board member be responsible for following up with certain clubs about the ticket sales. It was also suggested that we include in the letter what the raffle proceeds are used for. Also suggested, that one of the members could go and visit the clubs to promote the raffle.

New business -

A letter from the UNM hospital was received looking for money for the new research facility. UNM/ Lions Eye Institute will be on the building which will be located on University and Lomas. The building is going to be a research facility, testing hospital, and etc. The building will be good exposure for the lions club. The time table for the building is 1-2 years.

The idea is to get the Lions Club to raise \$2,000,000 towards the project from different clubs and corporate sponsors. The amount of money that needs to be raised for the project may be unrealistic for the Lions club. The hospital is a great concept, but the clubs should not give the hospital unrealistic expectations. This project would need to be a priority to the clubs if considering doing the project. The project will be considered in the future.

Open discussion -  
None

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45am.

Joseph V. Saavedra, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer