

# Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.

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Annual Report  
2023



•Conrad Dreyer, President •Dave Strudthoff, Vice President •Brian Dulmes, Secretary  
•Darrel Dwyer, Treasurer •Brad Behrens, Director  
•Pat Hart, Director •DG Dennis Sykora, Council Representative

# *Wisconsin Lions*

## *Birch-Sturm Fellowship*

The Birch-Sturm Fellowship was created to honor those individuals who exemplify undying dedication and commitment to Lionism. The Fellowship is named after Wisconsin's only two International Presidents - Frank V. Birch and Clarence L. Sturm



*Frank V.  
Birch*

1924	Joined the Milwaukee Central Lions Club
1929-30	District Governor
1931	Elected to International Board of Directors
1934	Elected Third Vice President
1937-38	President of Lions International



*Clarence L.  
Sturm*

1929	Joined the Manawa Lions Club
1941-42	District Governor
1948	Elected to International Board of Directors
1956	Elected Third Vice President
1959-60	President of Lions International

The Birch-Sturm Fellowship is a way for districts, clubs or individuals to honor a person who displays dedication and commitment to Lionism.

In order to become a Birch-Sturm Fellow, a district, club or individual must donate \$1,000 to the Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.

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### *The Birch-Sturm Fellow will receive:*

- Lapel pin •Plaque •Patch
- Name inscribed on the Master Plaque, honoring all recipients- located at the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Office.

### *Multi-Level Fellowships*

Once a recipient has received the initial award, Multi-Level Fellowships are available in \$1,000 increments. For each additional \$1,000, a recipient will receive a diamond added to their lapel pin and a star added to their name on the Birch-Sturm Master Plaque.

### *Monies Are Used For*

All revenue received from the Birch-Sturm Fellowship Program is placed into the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund. Currently, only interest from the Fund is used to support the operating budget of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation.

### *A Special Note*

This donation should be over and above a club's Annual Donation to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.

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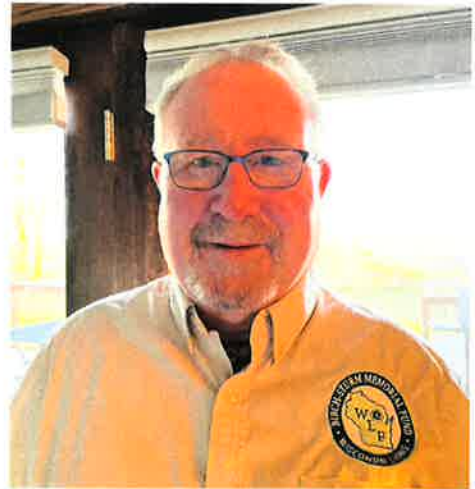
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# Presidential Message

**Conrad Dreyer, President**



The Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund (BSMF) was established in 1990 to provide funding for the projects of our Wisconsin Lion Foundation (WLF). Each of these projects are important to us as Lions. Specifically, the five statewide projects include Lions Camp, Eyeglass Recycling, Vision Screening, Diabetes Awareness and Hearing.

I would like to thank all ten of our Districts, our Lions Clubs, individuals and businesses who donated to and support the BSMF. It is your support that makes the Lions Projects so successful and thrive now and well into the future.

Our investments are managed by David Miller of Cetera Advisor Networks LLC. David attends all of our Board Meetings, providing insight into the market and our investments. Our funds are overall performing well due to David's recommendations and his collaboration with the Board.

The BSMF has improved its visibility and getting the word out by attending District Conventions and staffing the BSMF display table. We also supported each District Convention by placing ads in their Convention Booklet. Each year, we hold our Annual Meeting during the Wisconsin Lions State Convention and everyone is invited to attend.

Finally, it has been my honor to serve on the BSMF Board over the last three years, and especially as President this past year.

I would like to thank the Board Members for their dedication to the business of the BSMF, and a special thank you to WLF Executive Director, PCC Lion Evett Hartvig. Evett's guidance is instrumental to the successful functioning of the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund and its Board of Directors.

I am comfortable in reporting that the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund is functioning well, and I congratulate PDG Lion David Strudthoff as your 2024-25 President.

# FINANCIALS

# Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors  
Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.  
Rosholt, Wisconsin

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

## ***Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- ☐ Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- ☐ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- ☐ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- ☐ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- ☐ Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

**KerberRose SC**  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
Shawano, Wisconsin  
April 3, 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Memorials	306	180
Birch-Sturm Fellowships	119,534	106,210
Interest and Investment Income, Net of Investment Fees of \$44,691 and \$45,853 respectively	<u>146,890</u>	<u>127,459</u>
<b>Total Revenues and Other Support</b>	<u>266,730</u>	<u>233,849</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program:		
Interest Transferred to Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.	400,000	300,000
Office Supplies	<u>1,403</u>	<u>1,167</u>
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<u>401,403</u>	<u>301,167</u>
Management and General:		
Professional Fees	7,768	7,920
Administrative Fees	6,853	3,804
Plaques and Engraving	9,409	7,167
Promotional Items	1,426	-
Travel	313	-
Bank Fees	-	10
<b>Total Management and General</b>	<u>25,679</u>	<u>18,901</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>427,172</u>	<u>320,068</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NONOPERATING ACTIVITY</b>	(160,442)	(86,219)
<b>NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Realized and Unrealized Gain /(Loss) on Investments	<u>(1,142,494)</u>	<u>(1,433,327)</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	982,052	(1,519,546)
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING</b>	<u>6,966,251</u>	<u>8,485,797</u>
<b>NET ASSETS - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 7,948,303</u>	<u>\$ 6,966,251</u>

**WISCONSIN LIONS BIRCH-STURM MEMORIAL FUND, INC.**

**State of Activities**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

**WISCONSIN LIONS BIRCH-STURM MEMORIAL FUND, INC.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 52,505	\$ 62,336
Investments	<u>7,895,798</u>	<u>6,906,425</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>7,948,303</u>	<u>6,968,761</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	-	\$ 2,510
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	<u>7,948,303</u>	<u>6,966,251</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 7,948,303</u>	<u>\$ 6,968,761</u>

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 982,052</u>	<u>\$ (1,519,546)</u>
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Interest and Dividends Reinvested	(191,581)	(173,312)
Net Realized and Unrealized (Gain)/Loss on Investments	(1,142,494)	1,433,327
Fees Paid From Investments	44,691	45,853
Change in Operating Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	(2,510)	837
Total Adjustments	<u>(1,291,894)</u>	<u>1,306,705</u>
<b>Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>	<u>(309,842)</u>	<u>(212,841)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of Investments	(99,989)	(99,973)
Transfer to Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.	<u>400,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
<b>Net Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>	<u>300,011</u>	<u>200,027</u>
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH</b>	(9,831)	(12,814)
<b>CASH - BEGINNING</b>	<u>62,336</u>	<u>75,150</u>
<b>CASH - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 52,505</u>	<u>\$ 62,336</u>



# **BIRCH-STURM FELLOWSHIPS 2023**

<u>District 27-A1</u>	<u>District 27-A2</u>	<u>District 27-B1</u>	<u>District 27-C1</u>	<u>District 27-D2</u>
Cass, Steve	Blank, Darrel	Brinkman, David	Bahr, Darrell	Dalberg, Dick & Lorraine
Ebbert, Michelle A.	Bornstein, Robert	Fiedler, Thomas A.	Bartelt, Beth	Finnigan, Deanna
Eggleston, Tim	Buchmeier, James	Harder, Leon	Coggan, Billie	Finnigan, Nick
Hobbs, Mike	Casetta, Glen	Hartman, David	Heise, Christine	Friske, Jane
James, Linda	Craig, Paul	Clueger, Louis J.	Hovendick, Nichole	Friske, Larry
Kingston, Robert	Horen, Donald	Knier, Bernard "Pat"	Kachel, Zakary	Mohs, Dale
Kmiec, Steve	Jasinski, David	Lee, Susan M.	Kundinger, Jim	Page, Deb J.
Maciosek, Jon	Jentges, John	Mompier, Pamela	Sanborn, Cecile	Westpfahl, Julie
Malone, Steve	Kuepper, Ralph	Reuter, Steve	Sanborn, Conrad	
McDonough, Jim	Lehnerz, Diane	Schultz, Ann	Schiessl, Jerry	
Moore, Matt	Laatsch, Don *	Schultz, Eric	Schmidt, John & Kathy	<u>District 27-E1</u>
Neckar, Sue	McCune, Paul & Patricia	Stutzman, Betty	Schwede, Billie	Bernier, Dan
Penn, Patty	Nettesheim, Margaret	Thielmann, Frank	Slattey, Kris	Dugan, Susan
Salisott, Alexandra	Patterson, Keith	Thompson, Steve	Sweet, Roger	Dulmes, Barbara
Smyczek, Tom	Roller, Don		Turnquist, Dennis	Gaare, Ron
Uhrman, Ronald	Siudak, Eric	<u>District 27-B2</u>	Witkowski, Gerald M.	Meyer, James
Wolski, Bob	Steele, James	Dugenske, Kenneth		Persells, Dennis
Young, Eric	Van Aacken, Robert	Forseth, Robert	<u>District 27-C2</u>	Ring, Mike
Young, Jennifer	Weyker, Rosie	Gutho, John	Bredesen, Tom	Sloniker, Gary
	Zillmer, Rita K.	Handrich, Terry	Dahnke, Ken	Woodcock, Bob & Kathy
		Hotvedt, Thomas	Hanson, Dave	
		Jacobson, Steve	O'Brien, John "Jack"	<u>District 27-E2</u>
		Sabatke, Gerald	Theisen, Don	Beilke, David
		Tober, Arlyn & Janet		Erickson, James
		Wilmot, Vern	<u>District 27-D1</u>	Kreutzer, Wyatt
			Dallman, Michael	Schultz, Todd
			Kuznacic, Eric	Sternke, Jeanne
			Stephen, Michael	Truax, Tyler
			Thieding, Ernie	

\* = Progressive

(IMO) = In Memory Of

**WISCONSIN LIONS BIRCH-STURM MEMORIAL FUND, INC.**

3834 COUNTY ROAD A

ROSHOLT WI 54473

1-715-677-4969

BIRCHSTURM.ORG