



# ANNUAL REPORT

2025

[BIRCHSTURM.ORG](http://BIRCHSTURM.ORG)

# About Us

For many years, the Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) Board of Directors, along with their Auditing Firm, felt that the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Endowment Fund should be recognized as a separate non-profit organization. In 2011, the WLF Board retained a law firm that specialized in forming non-profit organizations to start the process, and on January 1, 2012, the Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc. became a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.

The sole purpose of this fund is to ensure the future of the Foundation. Only the interest and dividends earned from this Fund may be used for the WLF projects and programs.

The Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc. is under the supervision of its Board of Directors and reports to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Board of Directors and Council of Governors.





# Board of Directors



## **President**

Brian Dulmes

## **Vice President**

Greg Clark

## **Secretary**

Jim Olson

## **Treasurer**

Denise Gibbons

## **Director**

Darrel Dwyer

## **Director**

Patty Krug

## **Council Representative**

DG Kayleen Rosman



# Presidential Message



I am reminded on many occasions how wise the Lions before us have been...The decision to establish the Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) to manage and enhance the projects that help people: Eyeglass Recycling, Diabetes Awareness, Vision Screening, Hearing Assistance and Lions Camp (including Ray Hempel who not only talked with those blind kids, but also acted upon what he heard); and the wisdom of the WLF Board to establish the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund (BSMF) as a separate entity to raise funds and invest those funds to support the WLF projects.

In the past year, the BSMF Board has focused on getting the word out to those Lions who are unaware of the importance of the BSMF by attending all the District Conventions, as well as starting to put an article in the *Wisconsin Lion* Newspaper. We have also obtained a Gold Star rating with Candid, which is a website for philanthropists to learn of non-profits and then direct funds towards those that fit their beliefs. Our investment advisor, David Miller of the Cetera Networks, has helped us to realize additional gains by implementing covered call options. He is also mindful of keeping the balance of the fund at a point where our vulnerability is limited. Under his guidance, the fund has done very well and is in a favorable position.

I would like to thank those who make serving on the BSMF Board an enjoyable experience: As mentioned, David Miller, who is very attentive to the Fund's position, several WLF Staff members who work behind the scenes to make sure things are running smoothly (we contract with the WLF for administrative duties), the individuals, clubs, and Districts who reward deserving people with a Birch-Sturm Fellowship, and finally, the BSMF Board members who work well together for the success of the Fund. Not only was my time on the Board enjoyable, but I gained many friendships, as well.

In closing, I want to congratulate incoming President Lion Greg Clark who will do a great job in the coming year. Thank you all for allowing me to have this experience over the past four years.

**Brian Dulmes**  
President



# Financial Information

The Wisconsin Lions Birch–Sturm Memorial Fund remains in a strong financial position. 2025 saw the Fund’s assets grow by over \$1 million, with 91 new fellowships and 6 progressive fellowships awarded.

**2025**



**\$10,454,239**  
**Net Assets**

**2024**



**\$9,360,996**  
**Net Assets**

# Financial Information Revenue

2025

2024

Memorials

**\$180**

**\$184**

Birch-Sturm Fellowships

**\$101,505**

**\$107,413**

Interest & Dividend Income

**\$189,546**

**\$191,307**

Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments

**\$1,232,822**

**\$1,443,465**

Total Revenue

**\$1,524,053**

**\$1,742,369**

# Financial Information Expenses

**2025**

**2024**

Income Transferred to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.

**\$400,000**

**\$300,000**

Office Supplies

**\$1,070**

**\$1,514**

Professional Fees

**\$8,250**

**\$8,000**

Administrative Fees

**\$8,500**

**\$8,400**

Plaques and Engraving

**\$11,177**

**\$10,613**

Promotional Items

**\$421**

**\$0**

Travel

**\$1,392**

**\$1,149**

Total Expenses

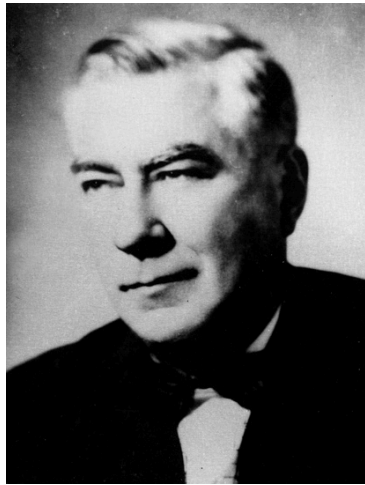
**\$430,810**

**\$329,676**

# Financial Information Cash Flows

<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Change in Net Assets	
<b>\$1,093,243</b>	<b>\$1,412,693</b>
Interest & Dividends Reinvested	
<b>(\$189,546)</b>	<b>(\$191,307)</b>
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	
<b>(\$1,232,822)</b>	<b>(\$1,443,465)</b>
Accounts Payable	
<b>(\$13)</b>	<b>\$213</b>
Purchase of Investments	
<b>(\$100,113)</b>	<b>(\$74,991)</b>
Sale of Investments	
<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
Cash - Beginning	
<b>\$55,648</b>	<b>\$52,505</b>
Net Change in Cash	
<b>(\$29,251)</b>	<b>\$3,143</b>
Cash - Ending	
<b>\$26,397</b>	<b>\$55,648</b>

# The Birch–Sturm Fellowship



Frank V. Birch



Clarence L. Sturm

In 1990, the Wisconsin Lions Foundation recognized the need to establish a special commendation for those who demonstrated excellence in their service to others. The Birch–Sturm Fellowship was developed for this purpose. The Fellowship is named in honor of the only two Presidents of Lions Clubs International from Wisconsin, Frank Birch and Clarence Sturm. The Birch–Sturm Fellowship is one way for clubs to honor anyone, living or deceased, who has displayed dedication and commitment to the Lions’ motto, “We Serve.”

Individuals may also donate to the Fund and become a Birch–Sturm Fellow. To obtain a Birch–Sturm Fellowship, an individual/group must donate \$1,000 to the Birch–Sturm Fund. Clubs are reminded that Birch–Sturm Fellowship donations should be above their Annual Donations to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation.

After the financial commitment has been met, the Birch–Sturm Fellow will receive a plaque, a vest patch, and a Fellowship lapel pin. Also, their name will be inscribed on the Birch–Sturm Fellowship Master Plaque, honoring all Birch–Sturm Fellows, located in the Foundation Office.

# 2025 Fellowships



## District 27-A1

Penny Harycki  
Bruce Hubbard  
Lil Jacobson  
Steve Labutski  
Frances J. Lyon  
Connie Mueck  
Deberah Peterson  
Glen Schaefer  
Dale Sosinski  
Scott A. Streich  
Casey Thornburgh  
Kathie Vanden Berg



## District 27-A2

Donna Bornitz  
Christine Cronk  
Suanne Ebert  
Gerald Falkenstein  
Lana Frank  
Roger Karrels  
Eugene Krol  
Larry G. Lloyd  
Dona Miotke  
Jim Scarpaci  
Mike Schueller\*  
Stanley L. Smith  
Jeff Watts  
Thomas G. Wendt  
Ronald Weyker  
Phyllis M. Wiggins, Ph.D.

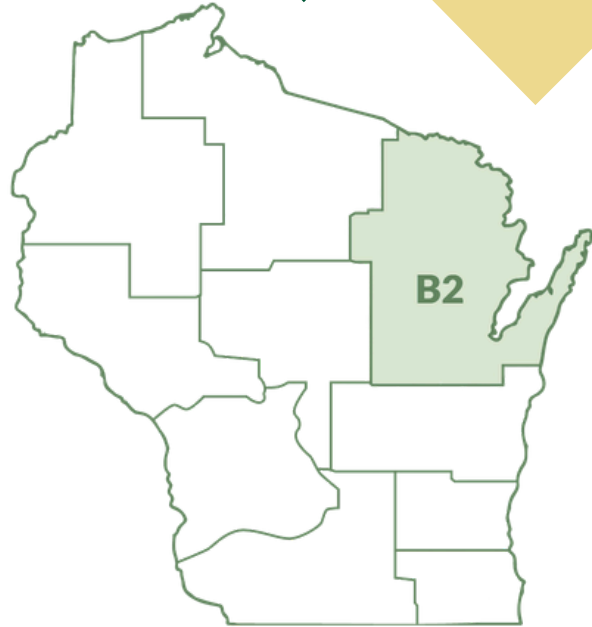
\*Denotes Progressive Fellowship

# 2025 Fellowships



## District 27-B1

Judie Belk  
Alan Depies  
Beck Hilliker  
Allen Kracht  
Daniel T. Mielke  
Kay Murray  
Earlene Samz  
Nancy Schumacher  
John Sisel  
Steve Stadler  
Katherine Suemnicht  
Julie Wigen



## District 27-B2

David Boden  
Alan Breitenfeldt  
Tom Clark  
Jim Damp  
Kim Duffrin  
Doug Eskritt  
Mike & Deborah Handrich  
Paul Hoffman  
Jeff Keller\*  
In Memory of Kent Kostelecky  
Michael J. Martin\*  
John Moore  
Ruth Thielen  
Jenn Watson

\*Denotes Progressive Fellowship

# 2025 Fellowships



## District 27-C1

Grace Dietel-Ensign  
Evet J. Hartvig\*  
Vicki Lohr  
Cindy Manecke  
William Mueller  
Mike W. Roginski  
Nicholas Schoch  
Daniel Smith  
Bill "Sopie" Sopiarcz  
Norman Trickey  
Terry Wnek



## District 27-C2

In Memory of William W. Draudt  
Ronald Kautz  
Chuck Miller  
Vickie & Kevin Penkert  
Larry Voss

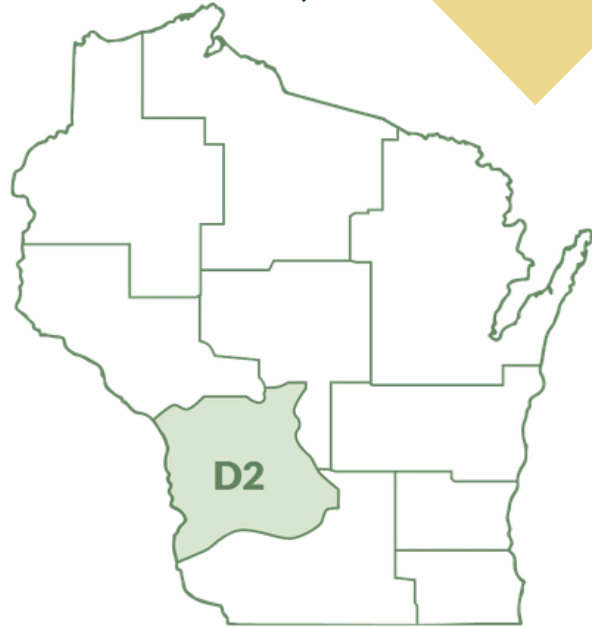
\*Denotes Progressive Fellowship

# 2025 Fellowships



## **District 27-D1**

Steve Huth  
James Klubertanz  
Kym Overcash  
Rob Sherman\*



## **District 27-D2**

Fred Fry  
Lawrence Koblitz  
Cynthia Lockington  
Aaron Stockwell

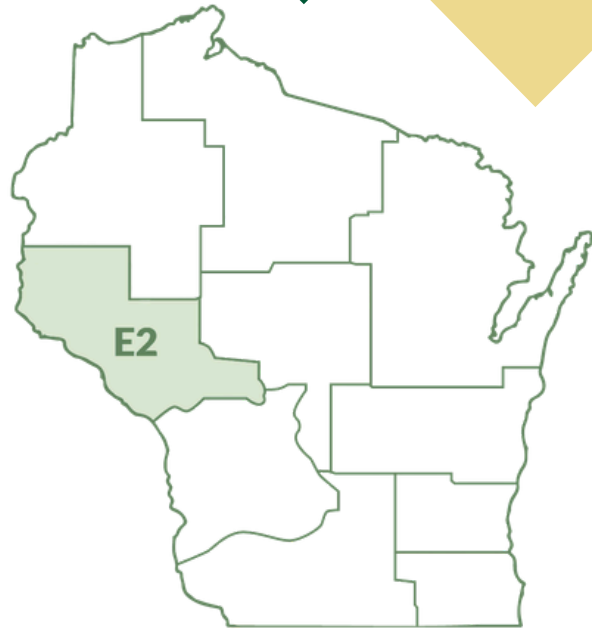
\*Denotes Progressive Fellowship

# 2025 Fellowships



## District 27-E1

Mark Arneson  
Rikki Donnellan  
Frank D. Foiles\*  
Gary Gienapp  
Paul H. Kaiser  
Mike Kelly  
Randy Kittelson  
Vince Seidling  
Shadick's Family  
Judith Simpson  
David Swanson  
Kathy Totten

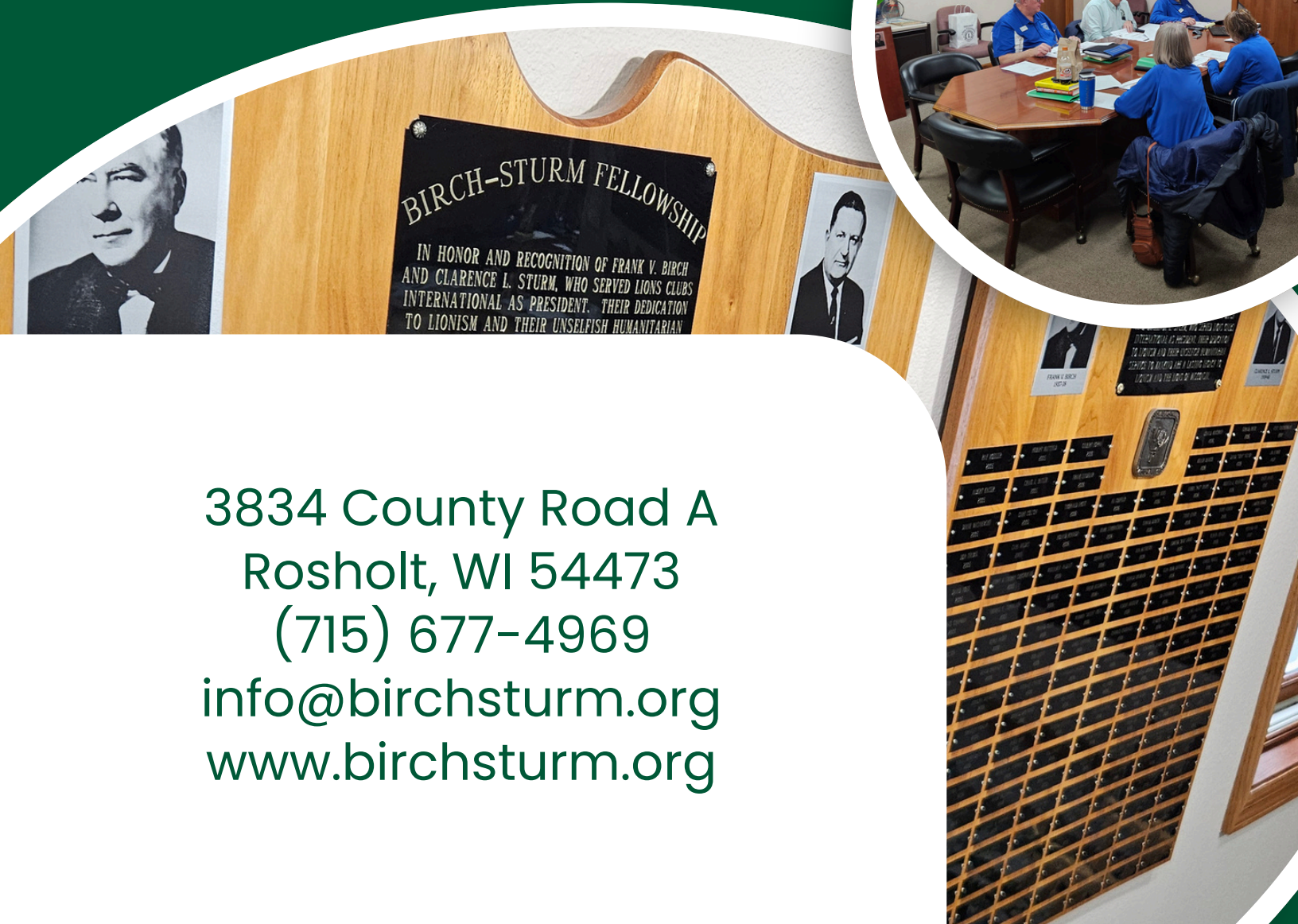


## District 27-E2

Steve Aaby  
Ronda Bierbrauer  
Eric Buss  
Lee Christenson  
Larry Knegendorf  
Dave Okas  
David Suttie  
Jim Winzer

\*Denotes Progressive Fellowship

# Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.



3834 County Road A  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
(715) 677-4969  
[info@birchsturm.org](mailto:info@birchsturm.org)  
[www.birchsturm.org](http://www.birchsturm.org)