

Mercer Lioness Contribute \$1000 to Wisconsin Lions Pride Campaign



L-R, Mercer Lioness Club President Carol Van Patten looks on as Lion Geri Schlender, Lions Pride Campaign Coordinator for the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Rosholt, accepts a check last Tuesday for \$1000 from Mercer Lioness Club Treasurer Lynn Langhoff for the Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

The Mercer Lioness Club presented a donation of \$1000 to the Wisconsin Lions Pride Endowment Fund at last Tuesday's meeting of the club at the Anchor Inn in Mercer.

Lion Geri Schlender, Lions Pride Coordinator, offered a spirited presentation explaining the goals of the Pride Campaign and the project's mission, which is to provide an enduring multi-million endowment fund that will produce interest earnings sufficient to supplement annual club donations and help ensure operating income for the future of existing Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) projects - including the Lions Camp - as well as help accommodate expanded services and meet new needs that will undoubtedly emerge.

The WLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that administers Lions Club projects common to all communities statewide. WLF property encompass 440 acres,

the state's only private lake, 36 buildings plus equipment.

The Lions camp was the first and remains the largest WLF project. Expenses have risen 57% and the historic backbone of financial support, Lions Club donations, cannot keep pace, growing only 20%.

The solution depends on clubs and individuals who care and contribute to the Lions Pride Endowment Fund.

Lion Schlender encouraged the club to donate and invited individuals as well to seriously consider the Lions Pride Endowment Fund when they are planning their estates and donations.

"When Lions and Lioness clubs collectively and members individually donate to the Lions Pride Campaign, they are making a difference in the life of a special child," Schlender stated.

Lion Schlender noted that those who have healthy children and have

no need for the services of Lions Camp are very fortunate. Families with special needs children are able to send their loved ones free of charge and, for them, this service is a lifeline.

Schlender's offices are located at the Lions Camp and she sees first-hand the good it does for special needs children. Every dollar of each donation goes to supporting this project while the administration of the project is funded by an individual donor.

The Mercer Lioness Club is a service organization whose many projects go toward helping the local community as well as statewide projects such as WLF and the Lions Pride Campaign.

The club's next project will be the Senior Christmas Gathering to be held at the Mercer Senior Center on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1 - 3 p.m. -- just one example of the organization's commitment to the residents of Mercer.