

# Wisconsin Lions Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund, Inc.

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## Annual Report

### 2020-2021



- Victoria Blahnik, President •Randy Kissack, Vice President •Dan Montaine, Secretary  
•Larry Testa, Treasurer •Mary Vrieze, Director  
•Darrel Blank, Director •DG Eric Zingler, 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.

### *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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# Presidential Message

**Victoria Blahnik, President**



It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund (BSMF) Board of Directors. I want to thank my fellow Directors for their dedication and support for the BSMF. This has been a year like no other in recent history, and I am grateful for the people I had the opportunity to serve on the Board with.

One of the biggest challenges this year has been how to best serve in the midst of Covid-19. This led to limited options and opportunities for clubs and individuals to fundraise and volunteer. Thus, making those who were able to show their support during these trying times even more appreciated.

Thank you to all the clubs and individuals who have shown their support and have named Birch-Sturm Fellows to help grow the endowment. This helps with the continued operation of your Wisconsin Lions Camp, as well as the other statewide projects, the Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) administers. The BSMF was able to present 40 Birch-Sturm Fellowships in 2020.

I would also like to thank WLF Executive Director, PCC Lion Evett Hartvig, for her assistance and guidance in making this year as successful as it could be. I know next year's Board of Directors, under the direction of incoming President Randy Kissack will continue to be great custodians of the Birch-Sturm Memorial Fund.

My sincere thanks for all that you do and those whom you serve.

# 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. (Organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

## *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

## *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## *Opinion*

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, 2020 and 2019, 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.

**KerberRose SC**  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
Shawano, Wisconsin  
February 24, 2021

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Memorials	225	2,160
Birch-Sturm Fellowships	112,991	114,531
Interest and Investment Income	151,432	156,569
<b>Total Revenues and Other Support</b>	<u>264,648</u>	<u>273,260</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program:		
Interest Transferred to Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.	200,000	150,000
Office Supplies	294	885
Printing		162
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<u>200,294</u>	<u>151,047</u>
Management and General:		
Professional Fees	6,693	6,467
Administrative Fees	3,213	3,346
Plaques and Engraving	5,406	7,822
<b>Total Management and General</b>	<u>15,312</u>	<u>17,635</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>215,606</u>	<u>168,682</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	49,042	104,578
<b>NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	<u>952,523</u>	<u>870,553</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	1,001,565	975,131
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING</b>	<u>6,380,592</u>	<u>5,405,461</u>
<b>NET ASSETS - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 7,382,157</u>	<u>\$ 6,380,592</u>

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

**Statements of Financial Position**

**As of December 31,**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	95,112	52,002
Investments	7,288,764	6,329,401
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>7,383,876</u>	<u>6,381,403</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,719	811
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	7,382,157	6,380,592
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>7,383,876</u>	<u>6,381,403</u>

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

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,001,565	\$ 975,131
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Interest and Dividends Reinvested	(187,827)	(191,349)
Net Realized and Unrealized Loss (Gain) on Investments	(952,523)	(870,553)
Fees Paid From Investments	36,395	34,780
Change in Operating Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	908	(81)
Total Adjustments	<u>(1,103,047)</u>	<u>(1,027,203)</u>
<b>Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>	<u>(101,482)</u>	<u>(52,072)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of Investments	(55,408)	(75,000)
Transfer to Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.	200,000	150,000
<b>Net Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>	<u>144,592</u>	<u>75,000</u>
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH</b>	43,110	22,928
<b>CASH - BEGINNING</b>	<u>52,002</u>	<u>29,074</u>
<b>CASH - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 95,112</u>	<u>\$ 52,002</u>



# **Birch-Sturm Fellowships 2020**

**District 27-A1**

Bauer Brothers

Robert Buell

Dick Cannistra

Michael C.  
Glodowski

Clarence Harris

Don Johnsen

James Kowalski

Richard Lynch

Daniel Mittelsteadt

Debbie Polzin

Patricia Redlin

Tom Romanowicz

**District 27-B1**

James Binder

Michael DeBaere

Max Harrington

Carl Lamers

Laurie Sasada

Luann Silver

Donna Stoeger

Pete VanAirsdale

**District 27-B2**

Troy Stevenson

Lowell Easley

**District 27-C1**

Elaine Neukirchen

Richard Hunsader

NorbertWozniak \*

**District 27-C2**

Bob Becker

Scott Martin

Sue L. Remley

**District 27-D1**

William Hustad

Geraldine Jacobsen

Geraldine Pufahl

**District 27-D2**

Linda Benjamin

Kathy Friske

LeRoy D. Holthaus

Joe Ketter

**District 27-E1**

Gary Licht

Tom Schimmel

William Volker

Neal Wellner

**District 27-E2**

Carol Breslin

Bruce Gonitzke

**District 27-A2**

Merlin A. Luedke

Robert Mercer

\* = Progressive

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

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