

5M-5 Cabinet Meeting – March 30, 2026

Hearing Foundation Report

On Saturday, January 31, 2026, the Hearing Foundation Board of Trustees met for its quarterly meeting via Zoom. Dr. Samir Khariwala, Chairperson of the Department of Otolaryngology, presented research proposals and answered questions from the Board. The Board voted to fund four projects totaling more than \$35,000.

The Board also heard exciting news regarding the mobile testing van, to which the Hearing Foundation contributed \$125,000 for its construction and outfitting. The van's purpose is to provide hearing testing in underserved rural and urban areas across the state. It will be staffed by trained audiologists and physicians from the University of Minnesota Department of Otolaryngology as it travels throughout Minnesota. Currently under construction, the mobile testing van is expected to be completed in time for display at the Walk to DFeet Hearing Loss event. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the van, which is also expected to be featured at the State Fair.

The "Lions All Ears" hearing screening program continues to perform well, both in 5M5 and statewide. In 5M5, a team of eight Lions screened 430 students at Brooklyn Center Elementary School on November 11–12. Approximately 25% of students were referred for re-screening. During follow-up screening, one student was identified with total hearing loss in the left ear.

Save the date: June 6, 2026, for the Walk to DFeet Hearing Loss. The event will be held at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska and is the primary fundraiser for the Hearing Foundation. Arboretum admission is free. After exploring the beautiful gardens, attendees can enjoy a complimentary lunch provided by the Hearing Foundation. Activities will include games for children, face painting, a photo booth, mini donuts, cotton candy, and make-your-own snow cones.

Bring your family to the Arboretum and support the Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation. You can register at www.5mhf.org, <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/2026walktod-feethearingloss/>, or by scanning the QR code below.



The next Board meeting will be held on April 11, 2026, in St. Cloud.

Lion Cheryl Jechorek

PDG Kevin Walsh

Trustees, Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation