

## **Minutes from the LWOC Board meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

**Call to Order:** President Carey Winkler, 6:03 pm, Big Red Keno, Lincoln, NE

**Present:** Carey Winkler, Judy Winkler, Donna Nissen, Shawn McGill, Jennifer Christensen, Joshua Michon, Laurie Stithem.

**Absent:** Vicky Sorensen, Zach Knaub, Natalie Sokolik

**Guests:** Ken Stithem, Jodi McGill.

**Additions/Corrections to Agenda:** Carey Winkler asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda and there were none.

**September Minutes:** Carey Winkler asked the board members if had a chance to review the December board minutes that were emailed with the agenda and if there were any additions or corrections. No board members had any revisions and Carey Winkler accepted the minutes as written.

**Treasurer Report:** Donna Nissen reported that the general account balance was \$21,759, and the fundraising account was at \$18,387. She informed the board that all tax information was shared with Burch & Associates and on schedule.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Foundation:** Judy Winkler informed the board that she had nothing to report this month.

**Fundraising:** Carey Winkler informed the board that there was no report on the fundraising committee this month.

**Lodge:** Committee chair Ken Stithem reported a new volunteer list has been created for the campground checklist. He asked Shawn McGill to send it to website manager Zach Knaub and would also be placing it at the Lodge refrigerator as well. He also informed the board that there would be a Lodge Committee meeting in the upcoming month and that the Spring Clean-Up would be discussed.

**Reservations:** Carey Winkler informed the board that Sharon Kimmons had nothing to report on the reservations committee this month.

**Social Media/Website:** Carey Winkler informed the board that there was nothing to report on the social media/website committee this month.

**Social/Fellowship/Programs:** Carey Winkler informed the board that there was nothing to report on the social/fellowship/programs committee this month.

**Youth Activities:** Carey Winkler informed the board that Linda Leatherman had nothing to report on the youth activities committee this month. However, Jennifer Christensen shared with the board an update on how the HUGS drive was divided up and delivered throughout the community. A brief conversation of enthusiasm and satisfaction with the drive ensued. They also visited about the past Feztival event and how many kids were affected by the popular event. Laurie Stithem let the board know that she would visit with Linda to get an update.

**Memorials:** Carey Winkler informed the board that there was nothing to report on the memorials committee this month.

**SCOYF:** Jodi McGill attended the board meeting to give an update on the SCOYF happenings. She shared with the board information on upcoming events and the progress of the Optimist ballfield fundraising efforts. She gave a detailed run-down on a hand-out that Shawn McGill displayed on the overhead television for all to view. The Build a Bed event being tentatively scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> will need many volunteers to be successful. There were several questions from the board members on the event that Jodi gave useful answers that pleased the group.

On the Optimist ballfield improvements fundraising efforts Jodi McGill informed the board members that the major donor phase has started now. She talked about the quality of the fields that were completed along with a video that was shared on the overhead television. The timelines of the improvements would depend on the progress of the campaign. During the conversation Judy Winkler shared her experience on the history of how the ballfields and that the club donated \$25,000 to the original efforts to build the fields. As a longtime member of the club and involvement with optimists she is very happy that the ballfields are doing well.

Jodi McGill then shared with the board members an update on the upcoming Homer's Heroes season. She informed the board that the SCOYF website was recently updated which will help visitors find the Homer's Heroes sign-up information. Conversation ensued on some of the details of the season including where to continue to find Buddy volunteers, and the approval of the new jerseys for the players.

**Finance:** Jodi McGill informed the board that she had nothing to report on the finance committee this month. Josh Michon asked about the club audit and if that was happening. Carey Winkler informed the board that Tom Higley previously agreed to conduct the audit but has now determined that he is not available for the task. The board talked about some options on who to approach next and Carey said she would reach out to a couple of people. A financial report to the club was also talked about during the discussion and it was decided that they would try to give this report

## **Unfinished Business**

**Recognition of Donors Ad-Hoc Committee:** Natalie Sokolik was absent from the meeting and Carey Winkler postponed this report until next month.

**Membership Applications:** Carey Winkler informed the board that she has not completed her revisions and would like to move this to the next board meeting.

**NG&P Lease:** Carey Winkler informed the board that she visited with previous president Ron Kallhoff on his experience with extending the lease on the lodge and campground at the Nebraska Game and Parks Branched Oak Lake. She will keep the board informed on the progress.

### **New Business**

**April Voting:** Carey Winkler had a brief conversation about the need for three new board members and one president elect at the April voting general meeting. She asked the board members to consider any members they believe would be good for the commitment.

Carey Winkler asked the board members if there was anything more to discuss. Everyone was satisfied with the meeting.

Carey Winkler adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Shawn McGill, Secretary