

MEMO

January 1, 2024

Hello, ALL Lions of Pennsylvania!

With the holidays behind us, please take just a few minutes to help our PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp with a special request. We are asking ALL LIONS in PA to customize the attached letter template, email and MAIL USPO to your State Senator and State Representative. If you are unsure of who they are, see the link provided <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>. Click on "find your legislator"; you may search by entering your home address.

This is simple! You only change the highlighted areas of the letter:

1. Add your name, address, and phone #
2. Add your State Senator's name and email address
3. Add the date of your letter
4. Add your name at the bottom of the letter

Next...

5. Save the revised letter so you can print and use it for your State Representative
6. Print both, sign in INK, and snail mail it via USPO
7. Email your letters (if you don't see their email address, GOOGLE their office)

IF ALL LIONS do this, we CAN make some noise and get back some allocated monies that were taken away in 2010. Our PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp needs us to assist with getting funding. **Please HELP!**

This letter writing campaign is a nice way to give back and show our 14K Pride as a Lion. It will take just ten (10) minutes and two stamps!!

If you have any questions, please contact us

Thank you so much!

PDG Debbie Lillegard

PDG Kathy Duelley

PA Lions Beacon Lodge Board of Directors

PDG Debbie Lillegard deblillegard@yahoo.com 610-739-9434

PDG Kathy Duelley kathyduelley@gmail.com 484-802-2386

Your Name
Your Address
Your City, State ZIP
Your phone #

Your Legislative Representative
Their Address
Their City, State ZIP

Date of Letter

RE: PA LIONS BEACON LODGE CAMP

Dear **Their Name**,

Recognizing the need of a camp for blind people of Pennsylvania was extensively discussed at a meeting of a group of blind people in Philadelphia on November 9, 1947. After several meetings, a corporation was formed in Mifflin County and approved by the Mifflin County Court in 1948 to establish "Vacations for the Blind" camp. In 1953, the camp's name was changed to "BEACON LODGE CAMP for the BLIND", in 1994 the camp's name was changed to "PA LIONS BEACON LODGE CAMP" to reflect the support of the camp that comes from the Pennsylvania Lions and to indicate at the camp serves more than just the visually impaired.

PA LIONS BEACON LODGE CAMP is situated on 583 beautiful acres in the natural woodlands along the Juniata River in Central Pennsylvania, near Mount Union. It is where children and adults with visual, hearing, mental, and physical disabilities gather from all other Pennsylvania (and surrounding states) for a relaxing and fun vacation.

The camp is divided into an Adult Camp and a Childrens' Camp. A camp for Veterans and their families was established in 2014: Project New Hope. Each camp is run separately. Campers can participate in fishing, bowling, swimming, wall climbing, archery, miniature golf, and much more. The camp emphasizes what the camper CAN DO instead of what they cannot do. The camp, being a non-profit, depends on funding from the Lions of Pennsylvania and other sources for donations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, camper enrollment was down and the cost to maintain the camp increased with some high-cost repairs that must be addressed. Previously, the State of Pennsylvania had "budgeted line item of \$155,000" for PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp. That funding was eliminated in 2010. As a Lion in Pennsylvania, I know firsthand the *impact this camp has had for children, adults, and veterans each year, and I humbly ask you for support for legislative appropriations for the camp to be reinstated.*

Through the combined fundraising efforts of Lions across PA, we are still in need of financial assistance to keep PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp going. **I ask for your support of allocated appropriations to assist the PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp provide specialized recreation for special needs adults and youth campers and our Veterans.** (Visit www.BeaconLodge.org for more information.)

Sincerely,

Your name