

LIONS VISION



NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONSESS AND LEO CLUBS Spring 2012

The Eyes Have It!

Once again America is in the midst of a great debate. Pundits and talking heads apply their trade incessantly 24/7 on cable systems, broadcast TV, and talk radio. Within the past few years the great debate has now spread to smart phones, iPads, kindles, Face book social media and personal blogs.

Think about this....President Truman woke to an erroneous Chicago Tribune newspaper headline claiming Dewey the winner in the Presidential election of 1948. Today voting results are recorded instantaneously and the science of statistical prediction has advanced to the point that races are called a few minutes after polls close and only a small percentage of voting precincts have been tabulated. My, how times have changed.

As the great debate progresses, the country self divides by opinion into "red and blue" states...each side offering the argument that theirs is the right view, the right vision for America. And then somewhere in the middle of the population is this group that prides itself on being independent and not wanting to be associated with either of those two other groups who think they are right. As the process unfolds we see inaction and stalemate in Washington as each side jockeys for position among the electorate. "Compromise" becomes some kind of thing that no one wants to talk about. Successful businessman Donald Trump wrote a book called "The Art of the Deal." In business, concluding "deals" happens all the time, and it is not a dirty word; it is a commonly accepted practice for getting things done and getting them done quickly.

Our Lion population most likely falls into these three groups engaged in the great debate. However, when we wear the "Lion suit" something magical happens. Instead of focusing on the "Ayes and Nays" which divide us politically, we focus on the Eyes which unite us. The Eyes have had our undivided attention since Helen Keller gave us her famous challenge in 1925. Ever since, we have stood together and accomplished great things in our quest to eradicate

blindness world wide.

Our Lions Vision Center at Johns Hopkins is a shining example of the power of positive partnerships. I know the entire MD-22 Lions Family is proud of the work at our Center. Please encourage your club to contribute generously to its operation and to a special Dr. Arnall Patz Fellowship in support of the Dr. Arnall Patz Endowed Professorship at The Lions Vision Center. We Lions truly show how people with different opinions and beliefs can come together to accomplish great things for all people. "Mr. Speaker, by unanimous consent, the Eyes have it!"

John J. Shwed
Development Chair



In This Issue

2011-12 Officers

Chairman's Message

Useful Information

Dr. Bob Massof's Commentary

*Lions of MD-22 and the Dr. Arnall Patz
Endowed Professorship*

In Memory of PDG Gene Hoffmaster



2011-2012 OFFICERS

Chairman
PCC John Lawrence

Vice Chairman
PDG Ted Ladd

Secretary
PDG Dalton Mann

Treasurer
PCC Richard Liebno

Immediate Past
Chairman
PDG Robert Muchow

TRUSTEES 22-A

DG Owen Landis
IPDG John Cullison (1 year)
Lion John W. J. Watkins (2 years)
PDG Dick Bloomquist (3 years)

TRUSTEES 22-B

DG Dave Studley
PCC John Lawrence (1 year)
PDG Dalton Mann (2 years)
Lion Dr. Debbie Steele-Moore (3 years)

TRUSTEES 22-C

DG Rich Barb
PCC Ken Watson (1 year)
PCC Mike Bleything (2 years)
PDG Ted Ladd (3 years)

TRUSTEES 22-D

DG Ken Chew
PCC Clyde Bragg (1 year)
PCT Janet Brown (2 years)
Lion Fred Williamson (3 years)

TRUSTEES 22-W

DG Steve Finger
Lion Paul Hawkins (1 year)
Lion Robert Johnson (2 years)
Lion Robert Bullock (3 years)

WILMER REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Robert Massof
Dr. Gislin Dagnelie
Dr. Judy Goldstein

DIRECTOR, WILMER EYE INSTITUTE

Dr. Peter J. McDonnell, M.D.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Heather Mays
Lions Vision Research Foundation
P.O. Box 1714
Baltimore, MD 21203-1714
410-955-1833 hmays@bpcl.net

BOARD ADVISORS

ID Ted Reiver
Pip Clement F. Kusiak
PID Darley Travers
PID Joseph Gaffigan

EDITOR

PDG Ted Ladd
301-937-6796 tedladd02@aol.com

Chairman's Message

By PCC John Lawrence, Chairman
LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

STOP!! If you have not yet read the message from Dr. Bob Massof starting on page 4, please do so now, and then come back.

This is the year we are celebrating 20 years since the establishment of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins Medical Center. What a twenty years it has been. Just look at what has been accomplished thanks to the partnership between the Lions of Maryland, Delaware and D. C. and professional staff of the Lions Vision Center. As Dr. Massof says, *"Low vision has gone from something that very few knew anything about to the point where now it is a central issue in health care and in people's lives."*

Twenty years ago, it took real persuasion to attract staff into a new area of research and rehabilitation. Today, there is a real competition for our fellowship position, now filled by Dr. Tiffany Chan. Low Vision Rehabilitation has become a more significant part of eye care. This is due in no small part to the efforts of the Lions of MD-22.

The message from Dr. Massof outlines other accomplishments resulting from our partnership. Our Lions Vision Center has served as a model for other centers around the country and the world. Thousands of people with blindness and low vision have been given more productive, satisfying lives thanks to our partnership. Medicare now covers expenses for low vision rehabilitation, thanks to the efforts of the staff at the Lions Vision Center. Occupational therapists, who often go into patients homes, are now receiving training in low vision rehabilitation.

On a more local level, hundreds of patients each year are seen by the doctors and staff at the Lions Vision Center. Clients come from all over the world, but especially from the Maryland, Delaware, and D. C. areas. Thanks to the efforts of the Lions of MD-22 in supplying funds for the fellowship, patients are now seen in 1 to 2 days rather than weeks. As Lions we have the right to be proud of what has been accomplished in our name through the partnership with the Wilmer Eye Institute.

The question now becomes, do we want to rest on our laurels and say, "What good Lions we are!" and declare the job to be done? Or do we want to forge ahead into new areas of service to our fellow man?

Dr. Massof talks about several possible directions we could go from here. With our aging population, there is increased need to educate both our citizens and eye care professionals in low vision rehabilitation. Thanks to medical advances, there is an increasing population of premature babies, with their special needs for more research and care. There is also a need to create a network of professionals in our local area to provide this care. The creation of the Arnall Patz Professorship at the Lions Vision Center will go a long way to assist in these efforts.

The last few years, we have seen a shortfall in donations to our Foundation. Please do not underestimate the accomplishments of the Foundation and our partnership with the Lions Vision Center over the past 20 years, and also do not underestimate the positive effect we can have on peoples lives by continuing our efforts to improve low vision rehabilitation in the years to come. As you are creating your club budgets for the next Lions year, consider a generous donation to LVRF. Also think about how you can acknowledge the efforts of your fellow Lions with an Arnall Patz Fellowship. To paraphrase Helen Keller, "Together we have accomplished much, and together we can accomplish much more."

Useful Information

Check out the LVRF Web pages at www.lionsvision.org

The address to send donation checks:
Lions Vision Research Foundation
P.O. Box 1714
Baltimore, MD 21203-1714

The Foundation and the partnership with Johns Hopkins was established in 1987 primarily through the efforts of Dr. Arnall Patz, then Chairman of the Wilmer Eye Institute, and Past International Director Murray Ryan, representing the Lions of MD-22

Dr. Bob Massof's Commentary
LVRFB Board of Trustees Meeting
25 Jan. 2012



Robert W. Massof, Ph.D., is Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is founder and Director of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center, a division of the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute.

Talking about operational funds is not exciting. The message has gotten complicated. With the Endowment Campaign we had a very well defined goal. We explained that the endowment would not be completed immediately but in the meantime we needed money (approximately \$200k per year) to establish the Center and keep it operating until the endowment was vested. Lions understood this and responded. Now that the endowment is complete we can no longer talk about operating expenses - that is what the endowment does. We have a Center, we get grants and we do the other things that were envisioned for the Center. Now we have new opportunities – the area of low vision is growing. Low vision has gone from something that very few knew anything about to the point where now it is a central issue in health care and in people's lives, especially with the boomer genera-

tion getting older. The \$4 million Endowment created the infrastructure for what we need to do. Now we need to define new goals and create new projects. Obviously we cannot take everything on, but training people is important since we do not have the service providers that we need. The field is so new that we need people like Dr. Tiffany Chan, our current Fellowship recipient, to go out and train others. We are training the next generation of people who will continue to carry this movement forward. The Fellowship is a very important program. It affects lives. This is listed as an expense of the Center but for a very specific purpose. We can define other necessary programs that are equally compelling.

More attention must be given to children now. That wasn't an issue when we began this program. Cortical visual impairment has become a big issue. Dr. Patz was famous for researching and finding a cure for the problem of excessive oxygen in the treatment of premature babies known as Retinopathy of Prematurity. With premature babies being saved at an even earlier age the problem has resurfaced in what is known as Cortical Visual Impairment in children. In this condition, the visual part of the brain, as well as other parts of the brain, develop abnormally because of the high oxygen. This is a new problem area that must be tackled. There are numerous other problems that must be addressed. We just need to identify an area that Lions wish to support. There is a lot to choose from. The Low Vision Education project was very well defined. We need to carry the message forward. The Lions are willing to become ambassadors for the blind but we need to educate them. The next step is to be able to provide more services. We need to train the nurses, doctors, and therapists – the type of people who provide these services. We need to educate the people in the community, the caregivers, so that they can better understand these problems and not be so afraid of them.

Leader Dog is a very successful because it has a very simple message – Kids and Dogs. We need something with similar appeal. We are encouraged to set some goals and work toward achieving them. The staff can help us define the content for those goals once they are defined. We have invested the money to create the infrastructure now let's build upon it.

MASSOF
continues on page 5

MASSOF

continued from page 4

When we began this program Low Vision Rehabilitation was an area which was not a part of ophthalmology. It was a matter of educating the professionals. The fact that the Lions established the \$4 million endowment, that we created the Center which had the Lions name on it, having Johns Hopkins associated with it and having Dr. Patz getting the message out from his position of leadership was huge. The American Academy of Ophthalmology created a Low Vision Rehabilitation Section which they had never had before and that reports to the board. It is now a very active organization. We have affected change in Medicare policy. They now pay for low vision rehabilitation which they never did before. As a result of what we did the American Occupational Therapy Association now certifies therapists getting trained in low vision rehabilitation, which they were never interested in before. There are Low Vision clinics popping up all across the country, many with Lions names on the door. The most recent one was in Alexandria. Some of them use the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center name. We are being copied. It has gotten to the point where we can go to a meeting and people know about the Lions Vision Center. They might not know about Johns Hopkins or Wilmer but they know about us. We have alumni from the center all over – our footprint is all over. Dr. Gary Rubin, who was here for many years, is now the assistant Director of the Institute of Ophthalmology in London. He is one of the biggest names in the field. Everyone knows that he spent his formative years here. A huge amount has been built and there are numerous opportunities opening. The whole area of health care has become a major issue. People are coming to us to talk about this because they recognize that we are the people who have made a commitment to provide some leadership in this field.

We need to tell a story about what we have accomplished. Whether we know it or not the Lions name has a tremendous amount of credibility. When you put the name of an organization as big as the Lions on the program and then go out and raise \$4 million doors open to you because someone has made an enormous commitment to your program. That carries a lot of currency. People know that when we have this endowment behind us we are going to be there. This shows that we have a large group behind us and that there is a commitment to it.

We need to tell the story about what we have done and then set some new goals. One of the things that we have committed to and is paying off is the Fellowship program. This can be a goal within itself. It is an annual commitment. There are more opportunities each year so our funding should be growing, not receding.

Maybe we need to give added value to the recipients of the Arnall Patz Fellowship. One possibility is to have a Society of Arnall Patz Fellows that meets once a year for a big dinner for people who are Arnall Patz Fellows. At the dinner we could have a guest speaker and a special briefing. Not only would we be building leaders to go out and educate the Lions about the value of the program, it would also add value to the Fellowship. It would be an exclusive event, only Fellows invited. This would be something more tangible than just the recognition by itself.

In response to a comment that some small clubs could not afford to donate \$2,500 for a Fellowship Dr Massof pointed out that it is not necessary for a club to give an Arnall Patz Fellowship themselves. It could be someone in the community who wants to honor someone or themselves and are willing to donate \$2,500. They would get the recognition and the club would be credited with raising the money. We do not always have to think of the clubs as having to carry the weight of raising the money but they are the ambassadors who let the members of the community know about the program, plus it is another way of bringing attention to your club within the community. If there are people in the community who have the means to make that kind of contribution then the Arnall Patz Fellowship is a way to do that.



Lions of MD-22 and the Dr. Arnall Patz Endowed Professorship

Contributed by Molly Dolan, Assistant Director of Development and Judith Goldstein, Chief, Low Vision & Low Vision Rehabilitation Service at The Wilmer Eye Institute

Lions have long been dedicated to supporting research and development efforts that further its mission of making a difference in the lives of people with low vision.

Consider these factors:

- Through the foresight of Dr. Arnall Patz and his long standing relationship with the Lions, the Lions Vision Center was established at the Wilmer Eye Institute to study low vision issues and treat patients whose loss of vision has significantly altered their lives.
- In 2010, the LVRF Board of Trustees and the MD-22 Council of Governors decided to support the memory of our long-time friend, Dr. Patz, by helping the Wilmer Eye Institute's fundraising campaign for this endowed professorship.
- The Dr. Arnall Patz Professorship will benefit the Lions Vision Center through increased educational opportunities for patients and specialists, better low vision equipment, more research in the field of low vision, and more personnel.
- The Lions Vision Research Foundation has donated \$50,000 toward the Dr. Arnall Patz Professorship. Our goal was for the Lions Clubs of the Multiple District 22 to match this initial donation, and we are nearly half way there!
- With your Club's help, we can support the Lions Low Vision Center in perpetuity by raising \$100,000 towards the \$500,000 remaining to meet the minimum endowment of \$2,875,000 for a named professorship.
- We hope that every club in Multiple District 22 and its members will join the Wilmer Eye Institute in remembering this remarkable man by making a donation or pledge TODAY to support this vital professorship for the Lions Vision Center.

The Patz Professorship will honor the legacy of Dr. Arnall Patz, a pioneer in the development of treatment for blinding disease, and recipient of the prestigious Lasker Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the first Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research. Dr. Patz was a brilliant researcher who always emphasized the importance of low vision rehabilitation (LVR), the only treatment capable of improving the quality of life for people with chronic vision loss or blindness for which there is no cure.

Two of the LVC's greatest challenges in delivering LVR at present are limited staff capacity resulting from the steadily increasing population of patients with low vision and the extensive face-to-face time required for physicians to treat patients (there is a minimum of one hour per visit), and funding for visual assistive equipment (VAE) (e.g. microscopes, magnifiers, telescopes, prisms, etc.), which is not currently covered by patient insurance providers and Medicare.

The professorship will enable the LVC to appoint a second full-time clinician-scientist, expand the access and delivery of LVR services to satellite locations in order to accommodate the 70% of impaired patients who cannot drive, purchase VAE for patients who cannot afford treatment, and recruit and retain a clinical fellow who will be mentored by the future Patz Professor.

It is possible that the needed funds will be raised in time for our annual gala, set for November 17, 2012. Wouldn't that be Great?



Dr. Arnall Patz

Dr. Arnall Patz, 1920-2010

Doctor, Humanitarian, Friend

Join in the mission to pay tribute to Dr. Arnall Patz through the Patz Professorship to benefit the Lions Low Vision Center.

Make checks payable to **Wilmer Eye Institute**, note **Lions Patz Professorship** in memo and mail to:

Wilmer Eye Institute, Wilmer 112
Johns Hopkins Hospital
600 N. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, MD 21287

Contact PDG John Shwed at 302-875-5051 or jjshwed@verison.net for more information.

In Memory of PDG Gene Hoffmaster

PDG Gene Hoffmaster of Beltsville, a member of the Silver Spring Lions Club in District 22-C, passed away on Jan. 31, 2012. PDG Gene served as Chairman of the LVRF from 1992 to 1994, participated in just about every meeting since, and in every way enthusiastically supported the Lions Low Vision Center.

Dr. Bob Massof has this memory Past LVRF Chairman Gene.

“When Gene Hoffmaster was the new chair of the LVRF Board in 1992, about a year after the dedication of the Lions Vision Center at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, NASA announced that we would receive their Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. The purpose of the award was to recognize the work we did developing the Low Vision Enhancement System (LVES) with the support of the NASA Office of Technology Utilization. NASA hosted a large award dinner at a hotel in Washington, D.C. at which many different awards were being given, and I was told I could bring one guest to the dinner.

When I reported the upcoming award and event to the LVRF Board during the professional program, Chairman Gene was very excited about the honor and wanted to be sure that Wilmer’s partnership with the Lions would be mentioned during the award ceremony. I assured him that if I were given the opportunity to speak, I most certainly would recognize LVRF and the Lions of MD 22 (consisting of all Lions Clubs in Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.). I then off-handedly commented that NASA was limiting me to one guest; otherwise I would invite the entire LVRF Board. Gene immediately reassured me there was no problem. He was sure everyone would understand that he was representing all Lions in MD 22 when he accompanied me. Gene not only volunteered to accompany me, but also insisted that he drive me to the award dinner. Gene was a wonderful date. I rode to Washington in style and comfort and he was very attentive the entire evening. Gene posed for many pictures with NASA officials and other guests. He gave a big shout out from our table when the award was given and when I acknowledged our partnership with LVRF and the Lions Clubs of Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C. His enthusiasm infected the crowd and made the evening a much richer event and a greater honor than NASA could imagine.”

District 22-C scheduled a walk for the LVRF on April 12 in memory of PDG Gene who organized similar annual walks beginning several years ago.




PDG Gene Hoffmaster

Win a Split Side of Angus Beef

The Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc. is conducting a raffle to benefit the partnership between Multiple District 22 and the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute. The winner of each of four drawings will receive a split side of Angus beef. The donated beef will be wrapped and frozen. Donations are \$5.00 each, with four chances to win.

Ticket stubs and donations should be mailed by May 1 to PDG Dalton Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655 (dmann@bluecrab.org 410-673-9085) or turned in at the Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc. exhibit booth at the MD-22 Convention in Salisbury, MD by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11. The drawing will be held during the Victory Luncheon at the convention on Saturday, May 12, 2011.

Use the ticket reproduced below to enter the drawing. Make additional copies as necessary.

No. 3106	Name	Address	Phone	Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
				Raffle
				
				Split Side of Angus Beef, Wrapped and Frozen
				4 Winners
				Drawings: May 12, 2012
				Benefit: Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
				Donation \$5.00
No. 3106				



The Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
at the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
P.O. Box 1714 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1714

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FREDERICK, MD
PERMIT NO. 270