

LIONS



VISION

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESS, AND LEO CLUBS

SPRING 2009

Chairman's Message

Robert Muchow, PDG, Chairman

LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Blindness and Low Vision Education Project

The Lions Blindness and Low Vision Education Project LCIF grant will be completed later this year. We are in the process of completing the closeout activities. One task is to complete visits to all Lions clubs to present the video. The second task is to hold at least two assessment presentations in each district to outside groups. In the assessment presentations, we ask attendees to complete two questionnaires about their perceptions about blind and low vision people. One questionnaire is completed before presentation of the program. The second questionnaire is completed after the presentation. By comparing the results of the two questionnaires, we can obtain a measure of the effectiveness of the presentation in changing perceptions. We expect that LCIF will make this an international project after receiving our results.

Extending Low Vision Services Throughout Multiple District 22

The LVRF Executive Committee is continuing to meet periodically with Wilmer professionals about providing low vision services in areas that are far away from Baltimore.

The preliminary concept is to have three levels of service in our multiple district. The levels would be basic, intermediate and complex. Basic service would be provided by eye care professionals and would include non-standard eyeglasses with high diopter readings and magnification. Intermediate service would add therapist service in the office and at home. Complex service would add extensive low vision rehabilitation.

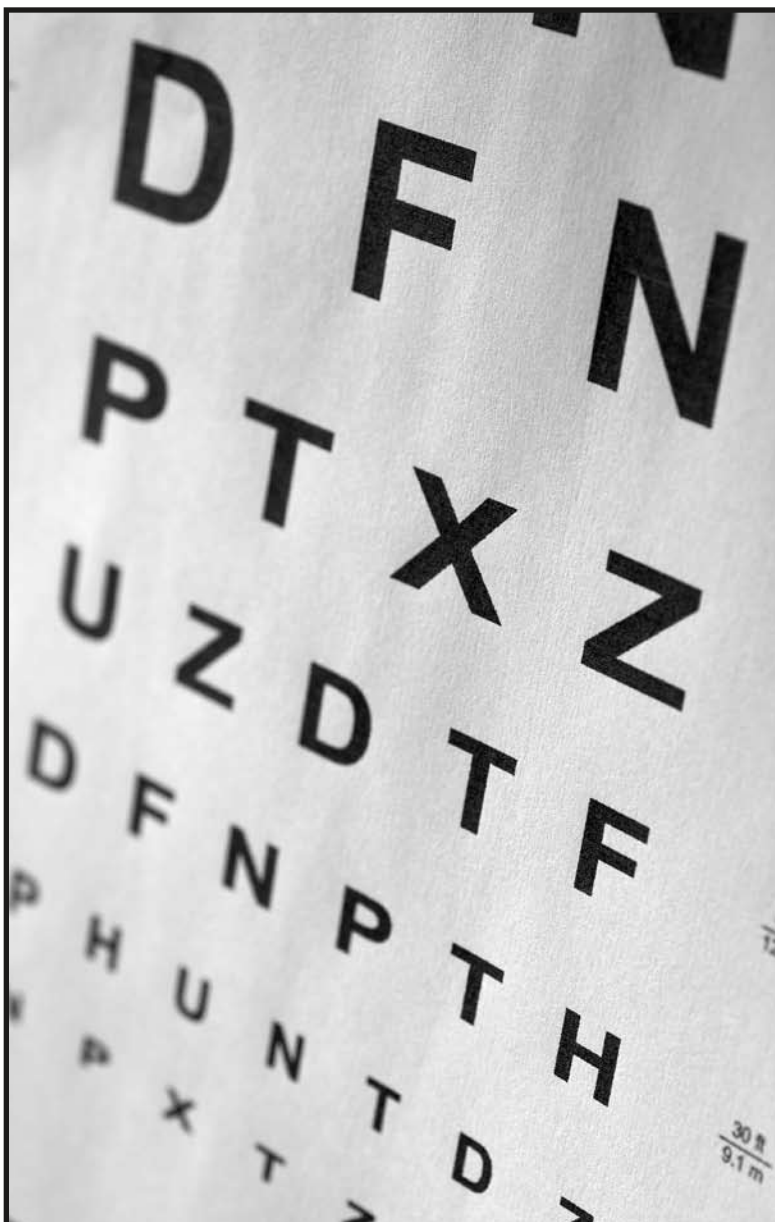
The preliminary plan is to have at least three basic service locations and at least one intermediate service location per sub-district. The complex service would be provided at Wilmer.

Lions clubs have been responding to the request to identify eye care professionals in their areas, especially those providing service to Lions clients needing eyeglasses. In the near future, Wilmer staff will contact these eye care professionals to ascertain whether they want to add low vision services to their practice.



In This Issue...

- Sunglasses for Kenya
- 10th Annual "Swing for Sight"
- Bionic Eye
- In Memory
- Win a Split Side of Angus Beef



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Sunglasses for Kenya

LVRF Trustee, Lion Fred Williamson, is working with Missions International to provide non-prescription sunglasses to the needy in Salawa, Kenya. Lion Fred was contacted last year by Missions International via Lions International to supply glasses for these worthy missions. "We were able to help out by sending 400 pairs of regular and sun glasses in 2008, says Lion Fred. This year, we hope to send 500 pairs of glasses with the realization that if we can save one person from having cataracts our mission will be worthwhile."

It is estimated, that 300,000 people suffer from cataracts in Kenya. At the Lions Eye Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, some 200 cataract surgeries are performed each week. Lion Fred continues, "I am proud to say that getting these sunglasses to the needy is a combined effort of Lions International, the Lions of District 22D, and the Delaware Lions Sight Team, along with a local Lions Club in Nairobi and the Lions Sight First Hospital in Nairobi. This combined effort is but another example of the Lions motto, 'WE SERVE'."



10th Annual "Swing for Sight"

Charity Golf Tournament and Silent Auction Fundraiser
Supports Low Vision - Research, Education and Rehabilitation

Hunters Oak Golf Club
500 Amberly Farm Lane
Queenstown, MD
www.huntersoak.com

Date: Monday, September 14, 2009
Registration, coffee & pastries: 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: Noon
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Happy Hour/Silent Auction Start: 4:30 p.m.
Buffet Dinner/Awards/Silent Auction 5:00 p.m.

Prizes to 1st, 2nd, Place, most
accurate drive, closest to pin

Putting contest

Door Prizes

Tee Signs: \$100.00

Program Book Ads

Full Page \$200.00

1/2 Page \$100.00

1/4 Page \$50.00

Business Card \$30

HOLE SPONSOR
TEE SIGNS

\$100

NAME ON SIGN

PROGRAM
BOOK ADS

Send ad or message.
If no message provided,
we will use an appropriate
one for you.

Price per Golfer \$125.00 | Dinner & Auction only (non-golfing) \$25.00 | Registration deadline September 1, 2009

Registration Form:

Your name or Club or Company: _____

Please make checks payable to:

LVRF Golf and mail to:

PDG Ken Draper

2 Quail Ridge Road, Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 301-412-3903

E-mail: ckdraper@verizon.com

TEAM Members:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Bionic Eye

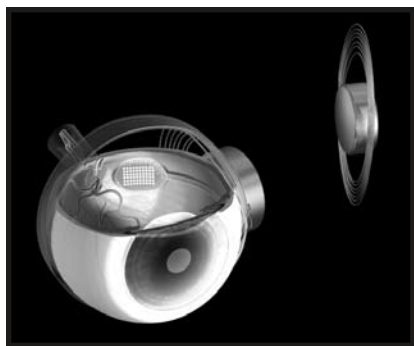


Photo courtesy of Second Sight Medical Products

Dr. Gislin Dagnelie presented a BBC video at the LVRF Board meeting held on March 28 on the subject of the bionic eye. Dr. Dagnelie has a good deal of experience with this concept and introduced the subject at the “Vision 2005” conference in London on April 5, 2005. As it happens, the BBC video also shows

a patient using the same system that has been implanted in four patients at Wilmer, the Argus II implant made by Second Sight Medical Products. He showed the video to illustrate the kind of research being done at The Wilmer Institute.

At the conference in April 2005, Dr. Dagnelie said, “The planned retinal implant contains tiny electrodes. If you stimulate a single electrode, the person will see a single dot of light. They have already tested implants containing a handful of electrodes, but the end device will contain 50–100 to give a better overall picture. We are hoping this will be enough for the person to be able to make their way through a building, find a door or window and avoid obstacles for example. To us, the images look very basic but for someone who was previously blind they are a massive step forward.” But he added, “There is still quite a bit of work that will be needed to fine-tune it. Being able to see faces will be quite a bit down the line.” He said training the individual to learn how to interpret the blurry images should help.

Anita Lifestone of London’s Royal National Institute for the Blind said, “This is a revolutionary piece of technology and really has the potential to change people’s lives. But we need to be aware it is still some way in the future.”

In January 2007, Second Sight Medical Products, based in Sylmar, CA, received approval from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to begin clinical trials for their Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System. The company was organized in 1998 with the mission of developing a “bionic eye” that could provide vision to people blinded with retinitis pigmentosa. The Argus II uses implanted electrodes to replace a malfunctioning retina. So far, the device has been implanted in 18 patients around the world. It uses a camera and video processor mounted on sunglasses to send captured images wirelessly to a tiny receiver on the outside of the eye. In turn, the receiver passes on the data via a tiny cable to an array of electrodes that sit on the retina — the layer of specialized cells that normally respond to light found at the back of the eye.

When these electrodes are stimulated they send messages along the optic nerve to the brain, which is able to perceive patterns of light and dark spots corresponding to which electrodes have been stimulated. The hope is that patients will learn to interpret the visual patterns produced into meaningful images.

The BBC followed a 73-year-old patient named Ron who received an Argus II in late 2008 at London’s Moorfields eye hospital. He says, “For 30 years I’ve seen absolutely nothing at all, it’s all been black, but now light is coming through. Suddenly to be able to see light again is truly wonderful. I can actually sort out white socks, gray socks and black socks.” He adds, “My one ambition at the moment is to be able to go out on a nice, clear evening and be able to pick up the moon.”

Ron’s wife, Tracy, is also encouraged by the progress he has made. She said, “He can do a lot more now than he could before, doing the washing, being able to tell white from a colored item. I’ve taught him how to use the washing machine and away he goes. It’s just the ironing next.”

Consultant retinal surgeon Lyndon da Cruz, who carried out Ron’s operation, said the patients were starting to get meaningful visual stimuli from the technology. He said, “We are very encouraged by the trial’s progress so far. The implants have been stable and functioning for six months, with consistent visual perceptions generated by the device. The trial remains inspiring in terms of presenting a very real and tangible step forward in treating patients with total vision loss. But with more than two years of the trial left to run, these are early days and continued testing will be crucial in determining the success of the new technology.”

Linda Moorfoot is one of a few American patients to be fitted with the current version of the implant. She had been totally blind for more than a decade with the inherited condition retinitis pigmentosa. But, with the aid of the camera mounted on a pair of sunglasses, she can now see a rough image of the world made up of light and dark blocks. She told Sky News, “When I go to the grandkids’ hockey game or soccer game I can see which direction the game is moving in. I can shoot baskets with my grandson, and I can see my granddaughter dancing across the stage. It’s wonderful.”

Ms. Moorfoot’s implant has just 16 electrodes but the U.S. surgeons have helped to fit an even more advanced device to the two British patients. The updated model has 60 electrodes to give a clearer image. Meanwhile in California, scientists are developing an implant with 1,000 electrodes, which should allow facial recognition.

Gregoire Cosendai, of Second Sight Medical Products, is convinced the technology will prove to be invaluable, but admits there is still much work to be done. He said, “We are trying to see what level of vision we can provide with this. Theoretically, the people should be able to have reasonably good level of vision. We are not there yet, but what we are trying to see how best they can use it in their normal life.”

To see the BBC video, go to <http://tinyurl.com/BBC4LVRF> Click on the “Video” button and then on the “Play” arrow.

(Much of the information in this article was gleaned from sources available on the Internet.)

In Memory of Lion Dick Hott



Lion Dick Hott

We remember Lion Dick Hott, always accompanied by his lovely wife, Sharon, at every Lions Vision Research Foundation board meeting, annual rally, or special function at the Wilmer. They were always friendly and outgoing to everyone. Lion Dick Hott loved the Wilmer's Lions Low Vision Center and the wonderful services that are performed there. He and Lion Sharon were faithful in their service and most generous in their donations to the foundation. Lion Dick was an outstanding

Lion and will be long remembered for his outstanding and devoted humanitarian efforts.

Few knew that his first name was Grover, or that he was such a giant in his community of Cumberland, MD. We just knew Lion Dick as a warm and friendly man who had an enduring desire to help others. He truly made a difference in the lives of many.

Dr. Grover Daily "Dick" Hott, 79, of Cumberland, died on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, at The Lions Center for Rehabilitation & Extended Care in Cumberland. Born Nov. 6, 1928, in Kirby, Hampshire County, W.Va., he was the son of the late Grover Hilbert Hott and Bertha Virginia (Shanholtz) Hott. He was also preceded in death by eight siblings, Melvin Russell Hott, Pearl Estella (Hott) Combs, Leona Mae Hott, Woodrow Thomas "Fox" Hott, Thelma Virginia Hott, Earl David Hott, Eldon Elwood (John) Hott, and Mary Catherine (Hott) Bucklew.

Dick was a 1948 graduate of Romney High School. He received his Pharmacy Degree from West Virginia University. While in Morgantown, Dick was an active coach for Little League baseball.

He served in the U.S. Navy as a medical corpsman.

Dick was well known in Cumberland as the owner of Ford's Pharmacy on West Side. For over 40 years, he provided kind, compassionate service to his customers. In addition, Dick enjoyed participating in the community. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge 63; and Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge 271. He was a faithful and hard-working volunteer at the local V.A. Clinic. As a member of the Cumberland Lions Club, he held various offices. Dick and Sharon enjoyed attending the national conventions throughout the country.

He was an avid lover of flowers. Dick tended his own greenhouse, raising different varieties of flowers and plants. He enjoyed having his home included in two of the Cumberland Garden Club Home Tours.

Dick married Sharon Cooper on Dec. 29, 1952. She survives him, along with their son, David Lee Hott, of Cumberland; one brother, Arno Blake Hott, of Augusta, W.Va.; two sisters, Alta Juanita White, of Winchester, Va. and Wanda Eileen "Tommie" Montgomery, of Shanks, W.Va.; and several nieces and nephews.

In Memory of Lion John Saxon



Lion John Saxon

Lion John F. Saxon, 77, of Milford, passed away Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, at the Delaware Hospice Center in Milford, DE. Lion John was born April 20, 1931, in Blairstown, N.J. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He retired in 1991 after 26 years as an advertising manager with the Delaware State News in Dover, and from the County Post in Millsboro. Later he owned a weekly paper in Middletown, MD.

Lion John participated faithfully in activities of the LVRE, and supported the Lions Low Vision Center with fervor. Among his many contributions, he is remembered as an outstanding seller of raffle tickets. He usually sold more of the annual beef raffle tickets than anyone in the Multiple District. He was a shutterbug, and was frequently seen at various functions at the Wilmer, camera in hand.

Lion John was an active member of the Harrington Lions Club, a treasurer of the Pin Traders Club and a member of the Delaware Sight Team. He was also an active member of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Milford and an active member of the Milford community for 43 years. Lion John was fondly known by many.

Lion John was preceded in death by three brothers, Joseph and Stephen Sicaloski and Edward Saxon; and two grandsons, Timothy Saxon and Brandon Hastings. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carolyn; four sons and six daughters and their spouses, Stephanie Saxon of Atlanta, GA, Jean and Michael Fanning of Mount Airy, MD, Lee Ann Saxon of Roanoke, VA, Robert and Maria Saxon of Chesterfield, MO, Richard Saxon of Atlanta, GA, Nina Cameron of Georgetown, Catherine (Katie) and Derwin Rochester of Magnolia, Scott and Theresa (Terri) Saxon of Houston, Warren and Dana Saxon of Milford, and Nancy Saxon of Atlanta, GA, and 15 grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Tuesday, Jan. 13, in St. John's Catholic Church, 506 Seabury Ave., Milford.

Miss Me — But Let Me Go

Anon

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little — but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me — but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss Me — But Let me Go!

WIN A SPLIT SIDE OF ANGUS BEEF

Cut out the ticket below and mail the stub with your name, address and phone number, plus your check for \$5.00 payable to the LVRF, and you may win a split side of beef, already wrapped and frozen. Mail your entry to PDG Dalton Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655 by May 8. You may also drop your entry at the LVRF booth at the MD-22 Convention in Dover, DE by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. The drawing will be at the Victory Luncheon on Wednesday, May 20.

Many thanks to Lion Bob Bullock for making this LVRF fundraiser possible.

Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.

Raffle



Split Side of Angus Beef, Wrapped and Frozen
4 Winners

Drawings: May 20, 2009

Benefit: Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.

Donation \$5.00

No: 3146

Name

Address

Phone

No: 3146



The Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
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