

# LIONS VISION



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESSES AND LEO CLUBS FALL 2014

## Stars Over Broadway

Contributed by PDG John J. Shwed  
LVRV Development Chair



Humans have been fascinated with the stars since they first looked up in the night sky. On a typical night we humans can see thousands of stars, but there are trillions beyond the reach of our human eyesight. We humans and all living creatures depend on one star, our sun, for our very survival. Scientists tell us that man's unique ability to see patterns in the stars and how their positions changed with time resulted in using stars for navigation. Man was no longer confined to his cave or village. The age of scientific discovery was on its way!

We have transferred our fascination with celestial stars to human stars. Hoagy Carmichael gave us the classic "Stardust". Texas claims "The stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas". Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse have encouraged generations to "Wish upon a star". We humans have dubbed entertainers who reach the pinnacle of their profession "stars". The paparazzi go to extremes to get a prized photo. Exuberant, gushing fans long to catch a glimpse of or to get an autograph from their favorite star!

If I look at the present day in the context of our Lions/Wilmer partnership, I see stars aligned to form a "Galaxy of Goodness". The MD-22 Lions and the medical and research team at Wilmer and the Lions Low Vision Center are stars in their own right. In Baltimore, Broadway is a street which runs through the Johns Hopkins medical campus. That is where our world stage is located. Great discoveries there have helped thousands of people improve their quality of life through the research we Lions have supported with our energy and donations. In return, our Hopkins partners have developed a center of excellence in eye research and care that is second to none.

The Broadway Theater in New York City is a unique American contribution to the arts and international cul-

ture. The "Great White Way" theater district has thrilled millions of people with drama, comedy, and musicals. Broadway recognizes the best of their craft with the Tony Awards. Similarly, we Lions, working with our Wilmer partners, have made unique contributions to humankind world wide. Thousands world wide have new opportunities to see or to lead better lives because of the work done at the Lions Low Vision Center and its parent organization, the Wilmer Eye Institute. Our partnership recognizes outstanding performances through the Arnall Awards – the Dr. Arnall Patz Fellowship. The late visionary Dr. Arnall Patz acted like the North Star, guiding Lions to this place and creating this partnership.

I encourage you to join me at our annual celebration of joint discovery and accomplishment at the Lions Day at LVRV event on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Turn to page 7 of this newsletter to learn more and watch for club invitations in the mail.



And as manned and unmanned missions to deep space are launched over the next decades, I know humans will continue to look skyward and wonder what lies beyond our present knowledge of the universe.



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# The Chairman's Message

By Lion Rodney Timmons, Lions Vision Research Foundation

I am finding that I am among the generation which is experiencing more low vision than vision loss. How can Lions assist and improve our communities' sight? No longer is poor sight a difficulty that our parents or grandparents, aunts or uncles live with. We, our peers and neighbors, are experiencing life with sight issues on a day-to-day basis. What can we do? How can we help to improve the quality of life?

The year is passing quickly. The "Aim for Sight" shoots at Westminster and Pintail Point will likely be history when you read these comments. Several LVRF Banquets will be on the horizon and "Stars over Broadway", November Rally on November 8<sup>th</sup> will soon be upon us. The Rally will once again include tours of the Wilmer facilities of patient care and research. We look forward to special testimonials and comments from the Wilmer staff. Arnall Patz Fellows will also be recognized at a dessert reception after the Rally. Invitations are in the mail.

All LVRF contributors are greatly appreciated. Your efforts continue to improve the quality of life for those with low vision. We enjoy raising funds and learning about how to improve vision with such activities as the "Aim for Sight" shoots and banquets.

Such an example is the need to hold two "Aim for Sight" shoots so that we are able to shoot in the daylight instead of the twilight.

We are striving to shorten the time between a donation and the recognition and thanks for that donation. Arnall Patz Fellows are to receive their recognition from a Trustee. Become familiar with your District's Trustees and ask one to make a special presentation to a Fellow and/or Progress Fellow.

Another eye opening opportunity is *LOVRNET*. No money needed; only volunteer service. Currently, volunteers are being recruited to assist in the completion of pre-appointment paperwork for a low vision patient. Contact your District Governor, or LVRF Trustee if you wish to participate in the Lions' joint efforts between patients and low vision providers. We are also developing a website where one can shop and purchase vision devices.

Continuing forward momentum as we reduce low vision stress,

*Lion Rodney Timmons*

LVRF Chairman

## Meet our new Chairman

Lion Rodney "Rod" Timmons was born and raised in south central Pennsylvania. He attended a high school named after our 15<sup>th</sup> president, James Buchanan. After graduating from high school and on a whim, he applied to be an exchange student; he was accepted and spent a year studying in New Zealand. Upon returning home, he spent time studying at Penn State, Mont Alto campus.

He is married to his wife, Susan, and they have two children each of whom had three sons; thus they are proud grandparents of six grandsons.

He is a professional pilot and currently works for a private company which has contracts for government services.

He has been a Lion for almost 30 years and has served as Club President on two occasions; he has served District 22W as Zone Chair two times, Region Chair two times and as a cabinet member. He and his wife, who was District Governor in 2008-2009, have

worked as a team supporting all levels of Lionism.

He was asked to serve on the LVRF as a trustee for District 22W with the understanding that that appointment would lead to a chairmanship. After serving two years as vice chairman, he took over the chairmanship on July 19, 2014.



One of Lion Rod's goals as chairman is to add corporate sponsorship and support to the LVRF. He stated when addressing the LVRF board "We have the Lions support and private sector support and I think the third and final part of the picture should be corporate support." He continued, "With the *LOVRNET* initiative, we are in a perfect position for that. We will be recognized by professionals in companies throughout the industry."

## The LOVRNET Team is looking for help from MD22 LIONS

### **Become a Certified LOVRNET Interviewer**

Contributed by PDG Ted Ladd,  
Chairman of the Low Vision Patient Interview Program

The Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network (*LOVRNET*) is about to go into high gear. The first aspect of the program is to have trained and certified Lion interviewers make calls to referred low vision patients and interview them. To become a trained and certified *LOVRNET* interviewer, a Lion is required to take a Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) certification exam and also a course provided by the *LOVRNET* office. Both will be available on the Internet. Once certified, a Lion will be on the list to receive referrals of low vision patients who qualify for rehabilitative care. The calls will be made from home. Questions to be asked the patient are provided via the Internet and will appear on the Lion's home computer screen. The interviews take about an hour, or perhaps a bit longer. (Sometimes the patient may want to spend some time explaining certain problems, which will extend the time.)

Certified *LOVRNET* interviewers are expected to be computer literate, have a pleasant telephone personality, and be empathetic with patients. Since the calls will be made from home, prospective interviewers need a home computer and telephone.

As chairman of the Low Vision Patient Interview Program, I seek to enlist 20 willing Lions per sub-District, with a goal of 100 certified *LOVRNET* interviewers. The number of referrals in the first year is expected to be very high.

Volunteers are required to take the HIPAA compliance course which can be done using a home computer; the course takes about 30 minutes.

To sign up to become a certified Lion *LOVRNET* interviewer, please contact PDG Ted Ladd at:

tedladd02@aol.com  
301-937-6796 (home)  
240-381-2847 (cell)



### **Become a Direct Service Lion Volunteer**

Contributed by PDG Gary Burdette  
Chairman of the Direct Services to Low Vision Patients by Lions Program

The Lions of Multiple District 22 are about to launch a new program, called *LOVRNET*, that will provide much needed care for people with low vision in our local communities. Lions' participation in this program is vital if *LOVRNET* is to be successful.

How can Lions participate? We need Lion volunteers to serve on the front lines providing direct services to

patients. The type of services Lion volunteers will be asked to provide include: transporting low vision patients to and from doctor's appointments, troubleshooting patients' low vision devices and techniques, and assisting patients with safety and vision enhancing modifications of their homes.

To become a direct services provider, Lion volunteers will be required to: complete an on-line Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance training; complete training (online or in class training) in the area where volunteers will be teaching patients and providing assistance; and undergo a background check, a necessary requirement since volunteers will be placed in direct contact with patients.

Our initial goal is to enlist at least one volunteer from every club in MD22. That may sound like a lofty goal, but it's not, especially when you consider there are over 12,000 people in Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, DC, in need of low vision rehabilitation services.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about the direct services program, please contact:

PDG Gary Burdette at: gldurd54@comcast.net (301) 916-3098 (Home) (301) 928-5095 (Cell)	PDG Sandi Halterman at: cab22c@aol.com (301) 751-8627 (Cell)
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### **An Easy Way to Financially Support LVRF**

Contributed by Lion Robert Johnson  
Chairman of the Speakers Bureau

Did you know that you can support the LVRF simply by purchasing Fuller Brush products? The Fuller Brush Company is a well-known company and provides modern remedies to make home cleaning much faster, better and easier. One of Fuller Brush's marketing programs allows non-profit organizations to act as sales representatives for Fuller Brush and their other product lines such as Stanley Home Products.

The Lions Vision Research Foundation is one of the participating nonprofit organizations under this program. This means that you can support the LVRF by purchasing Fuller Brush and associated products on line. There is no additional cost to you over what you would normally pay. Simply log on to [www.fullerdirect.com](http://www.fullerdirect.com) and enter **1317191** in the box following, "Please enter your Fuller Brush Login ID to continue:". Hit *Enter* and you will be on the shopping site. Place your order and the associated profits will automatically accrue to the LVRF. You do not have to be a Lion to utilize the LVRF login ID so pass the number on to your friends and encourage them to support the LVRF also.

## Looking for Eye Care Professionals for LOVRNET

Contributed by Lion Dick Bloomquist, PDG  
Chair, Ophthalmologist Outreach Program for Lions LOVRNET

The Lions *LOVRNET* project, our new low vision pilot program, needs your support and input to help identify the eye care professionals in your community and get them involved as an integral part of this new program. Lions *LOVRNET* addresses both the chronic shortage of low vision rehabilitation specialists, and the increasing number of persons with low vision. This project, to be effective, needs your input. "Eye care professionals" include ophthalmologists, occupational therapists, vision teachers, rehab counselors, and social workers. These pros will receive special training with professional continuing education credit. The educational resources are free and include online video vignettes. They are intended to help provide low vision evaluations, optimize vision enhancement with low vision devices, and provide patient education and counseling.

We are expecting all Lions to participate in the program in some way. To get the ball rolling we need to identify those eye care professionals you recommend as program participants. You may recommend your personal eye care professional as a start. Each club is to encourage their members to help by providing the names of their eye care professionals in their service area. You are not limited or bound by service area; we just need the names and contact information for now. This information and your questions can be provided to your club's secretary and to our Project Administrator, Tanesha McLeod, at:

[tmcleod@lovrnet.org](mailto:tmcleod@lovrnet.org) ✧ (410) 737-2671

As of September, we have identified via the internet more than 800 ophthalmologists in the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia (MD22) geographical areas. We will be narrowing this list down by using your inputs and sorting those who are members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Lions *LOVRNET* team will be contacting those eye doctors with info on this project and invitations to participate. We are not expecting you to contact your eye care professional although this would be helpful if this fits your comfort level. You are encouraged to make suggestions on how best to contact those individuals and to advise on their potential role in the program.

Now is the time to get aboard this program and help build your community outreach and service.

You may contact PDG Dick Bloomquist at:

[dicklb@verizon.net](mailto:dicklb@verizon.net)  
(410) 647-7135

## Prosthetic Low Vision Rehabilitation Curriculum

Contributed by Gislín Dagnelie, PhD

It has been over a year since the retinal implant Argus II received approval from the FDA for clinical implantation in retinitis pigmentosa patients, but until now only about a dozen patients in North America have received such an implant, as compared to about 50 in Europe and Saudi Arabia. You may wonder what is holding things up? Mostly it is our medical insurance system, unfortunately: While Medicare has approved the implant for reimbursement, the local Medicare carriers and secondary insurance companies are slow to follow. But things are beginning to move. Before the end of the year the retinal implant team at JHU, led by Dr. Gislín Dagnelie and retinal surgeon Dr. Jim Handa, hopes to perform the first implant since the summer of 2009, when the last one was performed as part of the Argus II feasibility study.



In the meantime Dr. Dagnelie and his team have not been sitting still. With support from the MD-22 Lions Vision research Foundation and a 5-year grant from the National Eye Institute they are creating the tools that will help new implantees become competent users of their newly restored vision. Rehabilitation is a critical part of the process, because the level of vision that an image with just 60 dots – and very blurry dots at that! – can give a person can only become useful after much hard work. So the curriculum Dr. Dagnelie is building, with the help of rehabilitation specialists James Dere-meik, and Dr. Duane Geruschat, postdoctoral fellow Pam Jeter, coordinator Kemi Adeyemo, graduate student Mike Barry, and advisors Drs. Bob Massof and Judy Goldstein, will consist of a self-report questionnaire that can measure ultra-low vision and practice activities for in-home and community use. Many such activities have already been used by Dr. Geruschat to work with Argus II patients at other centers, but Dr. Dagnelie's project will allow the approach to be generalized to other patients with very limited sight, either their remaining natural vision or vision that will be restored in the coming years through novel approaches such as gene therapy and stem cells.

This is just another example of the worldwide impact the support by MD-22 Lions is having on new approaches to vision restoration.

# Lions Vision Research Foundation

## *Aim for Sight*

### Sporting Clay Shoot

**Saturday , October 11, 2014  
Mayberry Road, Westminster, MD**

**Saturday , October 18, 2014  
Pintail Point, Queenstown, MD**

#### To Participate or Learn More, Contact:

Lion Dal Mann,	410-673-9085	dmann@bluecrab.org
Lion Gary Burdette,	301-916-3098	glburd54@comcast .net
Lion John Lawrence,	410-725-0150	Lions@johnlawrence.name
Lion Richard Liebno	410-848-4929	richard.lion@comcast.net
Lion Clyde Bragg	302-284-8052	cib1147@aol.com



## LVRF TRUNK OF TREASURES

The Trunk contains dozens of treasures including an afghan hand crocheted by PDG Susan Timmons along with many books, adult beverages, baubles and a lot, lot more.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. You do not have to be present to win

Buy from any LVRF Committee Member or call (410) 310-6660 for tickets.

This fundraiser has allowed the establishing of several new clinics throughout the state and the country. Your donation will allow us to continue this outstanding effort.



No. 77777	<b>Lions Vision Research Foundation TRUNK OF TREASURES</b>	No. 77777
Name _____		Donation: \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00
Address _____	<b>We Serve</b>	Grand Drawing at
Phone _____		Aim for Sight Sporting Clays Shoot
		Pintail Point, Queenstown, MD
		SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014
		Winner need not be present to be eligible

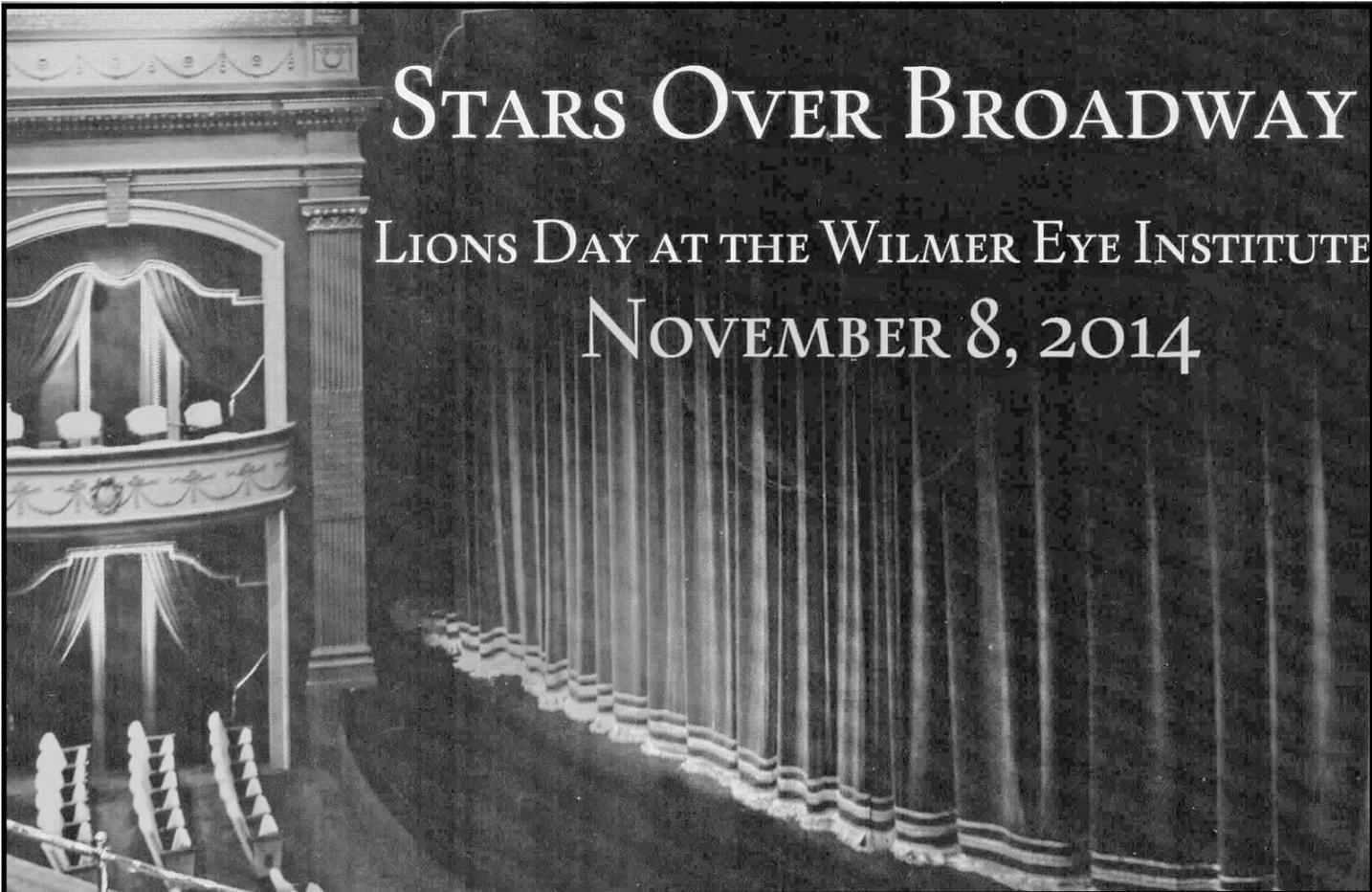
## *Lions Vision Days*

Lion Bob Bullock, Chairman of the Lions Vision Days Committee announced at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting that while Vision Days has traditionally been held in the fall of the year, clubs may hold their Lions Vision Days activity at any time of the year.

Those clubs who wish to obtain candy for their event may do so by contacting Lion Bob Bullock at:

(410) 848-7748 or [rlbullock@comcast.net](mailto:rlbullock@comcast.net)





# STARS OVER BROADWAY

LIONS DAY AT THE WILMER EYE INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

The Multiple District 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation  
Requests the honor of your presence at

## STARS OVER BROADWAY

Lions Day with LVRF  
and the Wilmer Eye Institute  
**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

8:45am Social  
9:30am Program  
11:30am Lunch

Johns Hopkins Owens Auditorium  
at the Koch Cancer Research Building  
1550 Orleans Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21231



Please reply with your request for a reservation via email:  
[lvrf.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:lvrf.kelly@gmail.com) by November 1, 2014



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

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Visit the LVRF website at:  
[www.LVRF.org](http://www.LVRF.org)