

LIONS VISION



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

Spring, 2019

Plaques on a Wall Say It All!



BUT, DO THEY? Most Lions have recognition plaques hanging on a wall somewhere in their home or place of business. I am no different. I have been very fortunate to receive service recognition plaques such as the Melvin Jones Fellowship and the Arnall Patz Fellowship. Like you, I felt all warm inside from all that Lions pride when someone presented them to me.

As I reminisce about the activities that resulted in the recognition plaques, I realize that the real reward is in the lasting legacy we Lions have created together. We were there on the front lines as Knights of the Blind engaged in world wide humanitarian efforts to rid the world of preventable blindness. We were there together working for those who suffer from low vision when we created the MD22 Lions Vision Research Foundation.

What really counts here in MD22 is that we Lions have done things that have what I call a "forever factor". We achieved a \$4 million Endowment goal so we will have a Lions Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute forever. Now we have taken on another challenge: to raise a new \$2.3 million Endowment Fund to forever fund the Fellow at the Lions Vision Center. This challenge, like the first, is worthy of our support because Fellows trained at the Lions Vision Center take their knowledge in low vision to all parts of the world. Through an expansion of medical knowledge we Lions provide assistance to the 5 million people in the USA and 25 million people world wide who suffer the effects of low vision for which there

is no present medical cure.

Successful completion of goals such as these are what is really behind the meaning of the plaques on the wall. Like mountain climbers who risk all to climb the highest peaks "because they are there", we Lions have learned that working together we can leave behind a lasting legacy that is priceless. Two Lions, Dick and Sharon Hott, left behind a beautiful legacy. They were both enthusiastic, dedicated members of the Cumberland, Maryland Lions Club. I know most of you in MD22 will remember them. They had many recognition plaques hanging on their walls, but now they have given one of those "forever" gifts. Lions Dick and Sharon Hott left an estate gift of just under \$200,000 to LVRF from the sale of some of the property they owned. Their gift when combined with what the Lions of MD22 have contributed will result in a jump start to our campaign to endow the LVC Fellow. If you know any surviving relatives, please thank them for Dick and Sharon's generous gift.

Feel good about those plaques on the wall, but feel even better about the lives impacted by your humanitarian service. And then, **do it again!** There are millions out there who need our help.

*PDG John Shwed,
LVRF Development Chair*



John Shwed

LVRF Chairman's Message

I am happy to report on lots of exciting activities associated with LVRF as we move into the spring. First and foremost, the trustees have formally agreed to establish the Lions Low Vision Fellowship Endowment Fund with the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins. The fund will be kick-started with a \$250,000 donation to build towards the full endowment amount. This significant start in funding the Fellowship Endowment is the result of a generous bequest by the Hott Family to LVRF and donations from Lions across MD22. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of LVRF and its mission.

We have also made it easier than ever for individuals to donate to LVRF with the addition of an on-line donation button that allows you to electronically send funds using either PayPal or a debit or credit card. Keep LVRF in mind when you start making your annual charitable contributions.

We are also excited to be joining the Clarksville Lions Club in hosting a golf tournament on June 7. More details are included in this newsletter, but there are numerous ways that Lions or their Clubs can support us. Aside from golfing, there are sponsorship opportunities or ads in the program book with the proceeds going to LVRF.

In our pursuit of sponsors for the golf tournament, we have received a few donations that we think will have great appeal to all the Lions of MD22. Consequently, we will have 4 round-trip tickets on Southwest airlines and jewelry from Smyth Jew-

elers available for bid at the MD22 Convention. So be sure to stop by the LVRF exhibit table at the Convention to place a bid on the auction items and check on the other things going on with LVRF.

Finally, we are also looking for an administrative assistant for the foundation. For the past several years, PDG Susan Timmons has taken on the duties of the Administrative Assistant for LVRF, which allowed us to direct monies previously spent on a salaried employee towards paying for our annual fellowship. PDG Susan has helped organize our record keeping while stream-lining our procedures; she reports spending an average of 4-5 hours per month on the LVRF administrative tasks. We are looking for someone to work with PDG Susan to start learning the ropes of the administrative duties and assisting her in carrying them out. So if you have the talents and time and are able to help or would like more information on what is entailed, please email lvrinfo@gmail.com.



PDG Larry Burton, LVRF Chair

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Lions Vision Research Foundation

P.O. Box 1714 Baltimore, MD 21203-1714

Bus: (410) 955-1883—Voice mail (only) to be returned.

Residence: (717) 597-4500

EDITOR

Lion Bill Strauss

(410) 756-4476

williamstrauss@msn.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Lion Phyllis Thompson

(301) 371-9429

bthom206@aol.com



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**Site of the 2019 MD22
97th Convention**

**Join us there on
May 13-16 2019**



What is Your Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) doing?

While you are at the 97th MD 22 Convention you will have the opportunity to see and hear about the remarkable things being accomplished. Make certain to visit the LVRF booth in the exhibit area. Then sign up to attend the LOVRNET Seminar scheduled for Room B. The two session seminar will start at 1:45 pm and run until 3:20 pm.

LOVRNET Seminar

This seminar is being hosted by PDG Paul Hawkins – he will be assisted by a panel of Lions and special invited guests.



PDG Paul Hawkins

Most of us have heard of LOVRNET but many do not know that the acronym stands for “Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network Foundation, Inc.” At a LVRF Trustee Meeting, a question was posed to the Trustees regarding the Foundation and the future of LOVRNET. In preparation for the meeting, the Trustees received background information and a history derived from the official minutes of LVRF and LOVRNET. It was an eye opening experience for many of those Trustees. *And will be for you too!*

Get the back room story of how MD22 Lions are leading the way in the low vision rehabilitation field. The panel of Lions and invited guests will offer you a history, current status, personal experiences, and plans for the future of LOVRNET. A Q & A session will follow.

At the LVRF Booth in the Exhibit Area



Ornaments



LVRF Ties



Publications



LVRF Polo Shirts

Silent Auction

See Page 5 for details!

4 Airline Tickets

Bracelet

Necklace

Where Are They Now? #5

Editor's Note: In the Spring 2017 issue of *Lions Vision*, we initiated a series entitled "Where Are They Now?" bringing back former Fellows of the Lions Vision Center Fellowship program. By doing this, we are learning of the tremendous impact these Doctors are making as a result of their experiences at the Center.

This, the fifth in the series, features Tiffany L. Chan, O.D., F.A.A.O who was the 2011-2012 Fellow. She is now in private practice and additionally is Chief of the Low Vision Clinic at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.



Dr. Tiffany Chan

I was born and raised in the small town of Grass Valley in Northern California, equidistant from Sacramento and Lake Tahoe. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis in psychobiology. Following in my parents' footsteps, I received an optometric degree from the University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry (yes, my parents are both optometrists!). During my student internships at the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Miami, Florida I managed geriatric eye care with heavy ocular disease emphasis. I also completed an internship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida in the pediatric and strabismus division. After graduating from optometry school, I completed a residency at the Northport VAMC in New York where I managed patients with macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, glaucoma, traumatic brain injuries, and neurologic vision impairment. I was planning on heading back to Northern California after my residency to join my parents' optometric practice, but I was encouraged to apply for the Lions Low Vision Fellowship. I was nervous about applying to such a prestigious program, but with the support of my family and low vision rehabilitation mentor at my residency program, I sent in my application and anxiously awaited response after the full day of on-site interviews. I was elated when I received the acceptance call from Dr. Judy Goldstein!

I feel so fortunate to have received such enriching experiences during optometry school and residency, however there is nothing that compares to the intensity and impact of the Lions Low Vision Fellowship. The Fellowship helped set up the foundation for my career and develop deeper knowledge of complex cases and confidence in caring for patients with vision impairment. People fly from all over the world to receive care at Johns Hopkins, which exposes the Fellow to rare conditions and difficult disease management. The program fosters teamwork both in the clinic, providing patient care, and also academically, in research and publishing manuscripts. Additionally, I gained confidence with lecturing and educating through national and international speaking opportunities.

Following the Fellowship, I joined the faculty at Wilmer Eye Institute. One of the goals of the position was to develop satellite low vision rehabilitation clinics in surrounding cities, outside of the main Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. These satellite clinics are important in helping care for patients with vision impairment, because we are able to serve a greater number of people by reducing the burden of transportation.

On August 12, 2016, my life changed in a big way. My mother suffered from a subarachnoid hemorrhage due to a ruptured cerebral brain aneurysm, complicated by a hemorrhagic stroke. We spent three grueling weeks on-edge in the ICU until she was finally discharged to an acute rehabilitation facility. I

am happy to say, with an amazing team of doctors, surgeons, therapists, countless hours of therapy and relentless dedication, she is doing extremely well now. The incident has given me an appreciation for the challenges and emotional impact of experiencing health crises and how life can change in a fraction of a second.

After my mom's incident, I moved back to California. I joined my parents' private practice providing full-scope optometry, including low vision rehabilitation. Additionally, I am able to continue working in academia as the Chief of the Low Vision Clinic at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where I provide low vision rehabilitation education to eye health professionals and the community, as well as provide clinical instruction to the ophthalmology residents. I have been invited to lecture about optics and low vision rehabilitation to multiple programs around Northern California.

I am extremely thankful for the Lions Low Vision Fellowship. It was an absolutely incredible opportunity, which opened the door to many possibilities. This program provides unparalleled experience and training, which prepares the Fellow to care for patients with vision impairment in any setting.

Fun fact: I was inducted into the University of California, Davis Cal Aggie Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012 for my collegiate accomplishments in gymnastics. I continue to hold UC Davis school records on vault, balance beam and floor exercise. I was also cast as a background elite gymnast in the Disney movie, "Stick It" starring Jeff Bridges.

Lion Ambassador Program

"Do you know someone who has low vision?" This is the first of many questions that I ask my patients when I meet them in clinic. It may be surprising, that the answer is almost always, "No." Most of my patients aren't born with vision impairment, but instead, acquire it with age. Regardless of the root causes of their vision loss, almost all of my patients share the experience of facing vision changes which impact their ability to complete everyday activities. New challenges to completing smaller tasks, such as operating a microwave and reading a newspaper, or larger tasks, such as driving and recognizing a loved one's face, often serve as impetus for patients to seek medical intervention with the hope that it will restore their vision.



Kristen Lindeman

While changes in vision can be scary and unsettling for many, each patient takes a unique path to managing these feelings. Although the current medical model addresses patients' initial questions, concerns and possible treatments, it fails to address the person behind the eye who ultimately needs emotional support to confidently face new challenges in his or her everyday life. The goal of the low vision clinic team, composed of optometrists, rehabilitation specialists and occupational therapists, is to create individualized treatment plans to ensure that each patient can maximize their use of their remaining vision. Unfortunately, for patients with chronic vision loss, glasses often have limited benefit. To regain function, patients with low vision instead need to shift their focus to learning how to use a variety of visual assistive devices and strategies.

(Continued on Page 7)

Hotts Leave Lasting Legacy



Dick & Sharon Hott

The story of Lion Dr. Grover Daily "Dick" Hott and Dr. Sharon Cooper Hott is truly an American success story. "Dick" Hott received a Pharmacy Degree from West Virginia University and was owner of Ford's Pharmacy for over 40 years. In addition to his service work with the Lions, "Dick" was a proud Navy veteran so he volunteered at the local V.A. Clinic. Sharon was devoted to the field of education. She earned a B.S. Degree in Biology and Education, two Master of Arts Degrees, and a Doctorate in Education. She served as Director of Nursing at Monongalia General Hospital, Morgantown, WV. At Allegany College, Cumberland, MD, she served as Director of Student Personnel Services and Admissions and as a teacher of psychology.

Lions "Dick" and Sharon enjoyed 56 years together until "Dick" died in 2008. Sharon died in 2011. During their time

together they enjoyed being members of the Cumberland, Maryland Lions Club. In addition to being active locally, they enjoyed attending National and International Lions Conventions. They both believed in the work of the MD22 Lions Vision Research Foundation. They were active in assisting with the annual Lions Day at Wilmer which promotes giving to LVRF. They were also members of the Team that lead the Campaign to raise \$4 million to endow the Lions Low Vision Center at Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. With Sharon's background in academia, they actively researched grant opportunities for the Campaign. As LVRF Development Chair I had the pleasure and distinct honor of working with these two outstanding Lions for many years.

During their Lions career "Dick" and Sharon received numerous recognition awards for their humanitarian service.

Prior to their death, Lions "Dick" and Sharon committed a portion of their estate to LVRF. That gift which is just under \$200,000 will be used to jumpstart the new \$2.3 million fund to endow the Fellow at the Lions Vision Center. They were enthusiastic Lions and LVRF supporters in life and now through their very generous gift they will forever help millions of people world wide who suffer the effects of low vision.

*PDG John J. Shwed
LVRF Development Chair*

About the Silent Auction at the LVRF Display Booth at the MD22 Convention (from Page 3)

Four (4) Southwest Airlines Round Trip Tickets

Offered singly and good for round trip travel to Southwest Airlines operated, published, and scheduled destinations

Lagos Sterling Silver Pendant with Pearl Necklace

Signature Caviar Beading on chain and pendant
8mm Cultured, natural-color pearl
Lobster Clasp, 16.5 inches long with a 2 inch extender
Retail value is \$195

Lagos Sterling Silver Bracelet

Signature Caviar Beaded Bracelet
Rope width is 6mm
Double Button Box Clasp
Retail value is \$350

Set your sights on this!

The Lions Vision Research Foundation Annual Aim for Sight Sporting Clay Shoot Events

Saturday, October 12, 2019 at

Schrader's Outdoors, LLC, 16090 Oakland Road, Henderson, MD 21640

&

Saturday, September 28, 2019 at

Maryland Sporting Clays, 2555 Mayberry Road, Westminster, MD 21158

Come out and test your shooting skills and sense of humor during this *fun* charity event. All proceeds will be used to support the Lions Vision Research Foundation.

The cost is only \$65 per shooter or \$240 per team at the Mayberry Sporting Clays venue where you provide the gun. The cost is \$75 per shooter or \$280 per team at the Schrader's Outdoors venue where shells and gun are provided if needed. Registration also includes lunch.

Prizes will be awarded to the top teams and individual shooters and everyone has a chance to win. Yes, everyone comes away a winner! You don't have to have a foursome to partici-

pate. If you cannot get a team, you will be teamed up with other friendly shooters.

Registration starts at 9:00 am at the Mayberry Sporting Clays venue and at 8:30 am at the Schrader's Outdoors venue.

To obtain a registration form or for more information contact:

PDG Dal Mann at (410) 673-9085 or dmanninmd@gmail

PID Richard Liebno at (410) 848-4929 or richard.lion@comcast.net

PCC John Lawrence at (410) 725-0150 or lions@johnlawrence.name

So you're not a shooter!

You can participate by purchasing an ad in the Sporting Clay Shoot event booklet. Ads range from \$40 to \$100. Please contact PDG Dal Mann for more information - his contact information is above.

"I Have a Dream!"



Dr. Martin Luther King spoke these famous words on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC in 1963. Dr. Robert W. Massof also had a dream in 2013 now known as **LOVRNET**. Dr. Massof, better known to the Lions of MD22 as Dr. Bob, is the founder and director of the Lions Vision Research Foundation or LVRF.

Dr. Bob's dream was to help serve the avalanche of people in MD22 experiencing low vision by providing them access to trained low vision providers. He began his pursuit of this dream by seeking support from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and by convincing the Lions of MD22 to support this project in their communities.

Dr. Massof asked LVRF to seek a grant of \$800,000 from LCIF in 2012 to fund his **LOVRNET** dream and he asked the Lions of MD22 to volunteer to make **LOVRNET** a reality. The LCIF Sight First Committee responded with a grant of \$567,647 in August of 2013. A second grant of \$300,000 was received from the Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation to complete this project. The **LOVRNET** dream was now ready to become a reality.

The first step in the project was to select an Executive Committee with one Lion from each of the five sub districts of MD22. This first LOVRNET Executive Committee was made of the following Lions:

District A – PCC Rowe Haywood

District B – PDG Charlene Travers

District C – PDG Ted Ladd

District D – PDG Ken Chew

District W – PCC Clare Newcomer

Dr. Bob Massof and Jim Deremeik were advisors and PIP Clem Kusiak was a representative of the LCIF Sight First Committee. This Executive Committee began having weekly conferences every Friday using a teleconference format.

The first action of the Executive Committee was to put together a Steering Committee with two Lions from each district. This committee was made up of the following Lions:

District A – PDG Dick Bloomquist and PCC Rowe Haywood

District B – PCC John Lawrence and PDG Dave Strudley

District C – PID Joe Gaffigan and PDG Gary Burdette

District D – PID Ted Reiver and PDG Charles Covington

District W – Lion Bob Bullock and PCC Clare Newcomer

The plan was for the Steering Committee, also using a teleconference format, to meet monthly on the first Friday of the month and then both the Executive Committee and Steering Committee would meet face to face after each of the LVRF bi-monthly meetings. Eventually, the Executive and Steering

Committees combined their meetings, again, using a teleconference format.

With the **LOVRNET** Executive and Steering Committees in place, the real work in putting together this model for care of low vision patients in MD22 was initiated. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was worked out with the Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) for them to have an office for **LOVRNET**. A Project Administrator, Ms. Tanesha McLeod, was hired and assigned to the **LOVRNET** Office at BISM which is located in Baltimore, MD. Emerald Educational Services, was hired to create the **LOVRNET** network that would become the backbone of Dr. Massof's dream.

Emerald Educational Services was tasked with creating the three parts of the **LOVRNET** Network:

1. **Learning Management System (LMS)**, where professional courses would be created for low vision eye care providers and their staffs
2. **Content Management System (CMS)**, where the on-line shopping cart would be created with low vision devices for doctors and patients
3. **Patient Management System (PMS)** where patient, interviewers, and low vision patients' schedules would be coordinated.

The Vision Council agreed to provide 14 Vision Kits with samples of low vision devices for **LOVRNET** to give to low vision providers who signed up with **LOVRNET**. Jim Deremeik, RT, CLVT at the Wilmer Eye Clinic of Johns Hopkins agreed to be the point person to enlist low vision providers as the **LOVRNET** Project Manager.

By January, 2014, everything was in place to build the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network. The Executive/Steering Committee needed now to get Lions trained and involved in Dr. Bob's dream. Lion Task forces were created and the Lions who made up the Executive/Steering Committee were given the job to head up the five key taskforces as follows:

1. **Ophthalmologists Outreach** - PCC Bob Muchow
2. **Telephone Interviewers** – PDG Ted Ladd
3. **Direct Services** – Lion Bob Bullock
4. **Administration** – PID Joe Gaffigan
5. **Sustainability** – PCC John Lawrence (added in 2015)

All that was needed now was to have an official Kick-Off Event for **LOVRNET** and this was held at BISM on June 9, 2014 with 85 Lions and guests attending including LCIF Chair PIP Wayne Madden.

The rest of the story is all the work that has been accomplished to make Dr. Bob's dream come true. There was a second LCIF grant of \$130,000. The Taskforces have continued to operate. Many changes of both Lions and other pieces of the project have taken place but the essential work of **LOVRNET** has continued.

Today, **LOVRNET** is up and running and trying to expand beyond MD22 with the Lions of MD33 in Massachusetts creating their own LOVRNET project. A new foundation, Lions Low Vision Network Foundation, has been established to accommodate the expansion process.

A dream is always a dream until every patient has access to low vision specialists who understand that the standard of care for low vision patients is rehabilitation. So like Dr. Martin Luther King's dream, Dr. Bob Massof's dream is still a work in progress. Dream on **LOVRNET!**

PDG A. Kendall Chew, III
Co-Chairman **LOVRNET**

Lion Ambassador Program

(Continued from Page 4)

During initial visits with the rehabilitation team, individualized goals are established, referrals to community programs are made, and devices are recommended. However, the transition to effectively use these devices and strategies can take months, or even years for patients striving to establish their new daily routines. If and when this transition occurs, patients return to our clinic with confidence and often report acceptance of their vision impairment diagnosis.

What if we could make this transition happen sooner for patients? What is missing from the current low vision rehabilitation model? Recently, I realized that my patients had been answering this question for me all this time. Their answer is peer mentorship. I have noticed that people have similar interests and traits and would pair them together. However, I didn't think that the patients that had accepted their vision impairment could help others who are in the transitioning phase. This concept is similar to the Alcoholic Anonymous model for recovery, they have sponsors and new mentors who will be there as guides during difficult times and cheerleaders during moments of success. We need this peer mentor-mentee relationship in the low vision community at Wilmer.

As an occupational therapist, I understand how imperative it is to establish strong rapport with patients. Even though I do not have a vision impairment, I strive to empathetically connect with patients by sharing stories of success and tribulation to affirm their own feelings and experiences. During these

personal conversations, I take note of my patient's interests, goals and challenges, which often bare similarities to those of another patient who has made significant progress. With permission from all parties, I have been able to establish mentor-mentee connections between some of my patients. By having the support of another person with vision impairment, a new patient gains the reassurance of knowing that a strategy has worked for others facing similar challenges.

In October 2017, I realized that I had several patients who should be recognized for their dedication to the Wilmer Low Vision Clinic and the low vision community. These patients served as mentors by sharing their personal stories with the community through publications, lectures, and Lions Rallies. The patient Lion Ambassador program was developed at the Lions Rally in 2017 with the purpose of providing empathy, support, and guidance through the initial transition of living with vision impairment to any patient in the Wilmer Low Vision Clinic. Over the past two years, we acknowledged nine patients who served as role models to the low vision clinic and to other patients with low vision. They were:

Sheila Ashley	Andre Carter	Verdell Clark
Kevin Cross	Tisha Guthrie	Brian Hargrove
Michael Spittel	Beth Hendler-Friedman	Carla Sullivan

Each year, we will continue to grow this group of Lion Ambassadors with the hope that our patients will know that they are not alone.

*Kristen Lindeman, OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV
Occupational Therapist
Wilmer Eye Institute*

Clarksville Lions Club

39th Annual Golf Tournament

Co-hosted by the

LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Friday, June 7, 2019

at the

Fairway Hills Golf Course

5100 Columbia Road, Columbia MD, 21044



Be a Golfer!

Cost: \$100 per golfer

12:00 pm Registration

1:00 pm Shotgun Start

Includes: Golf, range balls, goody bag, dinner, beverages, "No Stroke String", door prizes, raffle entry and Tournament Ad Book

You can register by sending a check made out to LVRF to the address below with the names of the golfers. Singles and twosomes will be paired up with other golfers.

Clarksville Lions/LVRF Golf Tournament
3175 Deths Ford Road
Darlington, MD 21034

Be a Sponsor!

There are 2 ways to be a sponsor:

- (1) Purchase an ad in the Tournament Ad book.
¼, ½ and full page ads cost only \$25, \$50 & \$100.
- (2) There are 15 levels of sponsorships ranging from \$25 to \$900.

To receive an application for purchasing sponsorship/advertisements available and specifications for ads in the Tournament Ad book, contact:

PDG Larry Burton

coach13@zoominternet.net

LIONS VISION

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



**Site of the 2019 MD22
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**Join us there on
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