

# LIONS VISION



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

Spring, 2020

## A DIME IN A CRACK



This past fall, like many sport fans, I enjoyed my home town Friday night football games. At one of these Laurel Bulldog games, as I approached the snack bar, I noticed a bright, shiny dime lying in a crack between the concrete sections of the walkway. My ole bones don't bend as easily as when I was a younger Lion so I did not make an attempt to bend down and pick it up. I thought "Surely some kid will pick it up in the next few minutes and spend it at the snack bar."

Later, towards the end of the game, as I was making my way towards the exit, there to my amazement was the bright, shiny dime still lying in the crack. This time although I admit I struggled a bit. I managed to bend down and pick it up. I thought to myself "How many

people passed over it?" Hundreds of patrons went to the snack bar at half time. "Were the people indifferent because it was just a dime?" "What was your story, dime?" "How many hands, pockets or purses have you passed through before you got to mine?" "If you could talk, what stories could you tell us about the adventures you have had passing from one person to another, from one cash drawer in a store to another?"

Lions work hard to make sure no one in need falls through the crack or is ignored. Lions world-wide see every human as a person of beauty and value. Over our 100-year history Lions have turned dimes into dollars to serve those in need. Lions have taken on various challenges in their quest to rid the world of preventable blindness. Here in MD-22 your Lions Vision Center Team at Johns Hopkins is leading the way in low vision care, rehabilitation, and research. The organization needs your dimes and dollars for annual operations and the Endowment to fund in perpetuity the Fellow position at the Lions Vision Center.

The dime's story is not over. If the dime I found in the crack could smile I believe it would when I put it in the Vision Days collection jar in front of our local Wal-Mart. It would smile proudly because it knows, rather than lying unnoticed and unappreciated in the sidewalk crack, it now will take an exciting next step in its life journey. It shines even brighter because it knows that along with his fellow coins and dollar bills in the collection jar it is on the way to help someone see!

Who knows, perhaps he will even get to join his big brother dollars as part of the \$300,000 waiting for him in the Lions Vision Center Endowment. If he makes it there, it means his service to those afflicted with low vision will go on forever. You see, the story of the dime may not have a final chapter!



PDG John Shwed

*Over the years, the lead article of Lions Vision has been the work of Past District Governor John Shwed, the LVRF Development Committee Chair. The editors commend and thank him for these inspirational messages!*

# LVRF Chairman's Message



PDG Larry Burton

As I draft this message, there is 24/7 news coverage of the coronavirus and its impact around the globe with information that the worst is yet to come. We have already seen the cancellation of both the MD22 & LCI Conventions and most of our clubs have suspended activities to abide by social distancing guidance and state Executive Orders.

Many Lions fall into the highest risk categories so I hope that you are safe and taking appropriate measures to protect yourselves from this global pandemic.

LVRF has been similarly impacted, in that our March trustee meeting was cancelled as is our planned meeting at the MD22 Convention. The cancellation of that Convention also means we will not be having the seminar of patient testimonials and the positive impact low vision services at the Lions Low Vision Center has had on them.

At the start of the Lions year I laid out the following three goals for LVRF:

- ◆ To raise \$100,000 by the end of the Lions year for the Fellowship Endowment
- ◆ To submit at least one grant for funding
- ◆ To obtain donations from 100% of all clubs in MD22

We are on track to meet our first goal and have submitted a grant application to achieve our second. But unfortunately, it looks like we are going to fall short on our final goal. While there are still three months for clubs to give, we realize many clubs have been financially impacted by the restrictions put in place on our daily lives. My club is looking at losing 25%-33% of its expected annual income because of fundraisers that had to be cancelled in March and April. I had also laid out a schedule to visit clubs in 22-A to provide programs on LVRF activities to garner support but that has now been cancelled. Other Districts have had their LVRF rallies postponed. If your club is in a position to make a donation to LVRF and has not already done so, I hope that you will consider following through. But for all clubs, once we return to some level of normalcy and begin to construct a budget for next year, I hope you will earmark funds for LVRF. Achieving 100% participation provides strong leverage when making appeals for grants and we need your help to be put in that position.

These next couple months also mark the end of my two-year term as LVRF Chair. I will, however, be continuing on as a District 22-A trustee and be involved in

efforts to raise awareness of LVRF and funds for its programs. I wish to thank the various trustees that have contributed their time and talents to strengthen LVRF and supporting my efforts to better position it to pursue funding of the Fellowship Endowment. Special recognition goes to those trustees who are completing a three-year term: Lion Pam Burton (22-A), Lion Dr. Kevin Darcey (22-B), PCC Dee Hawkins (22-C), PDG John Shwed (22-D), and Lion Paul Leatherman (22-W). Thank you all for your service. Similarly, a special thank you to PDG Susan Timmons who is stepping down as the LVRF Administrative Manager. PDG Susan stepped into this role as a volunteer several years ago when our paid administrator resigned and has saved LVRF untold dollars. She too will stay on as a trustee, so LVRF will continue to benefit from her experience and passion for supporting low vision services. Thank you Susan!

I look forward to supporting PDG Wayne Cole as he assumes the Chair position for the next two years and wish him the best of luck.

Take care and be safe.

## Extreme Decorating Nets Funds for LVRF

Lions Susan and Martin Bonura go all out with their Christmas decorations each year. Pictured below is a view of their home this past Christmas. Note the prominently displayed “**Donations Accepted**” sign! Many people who stop to see the exhibit show their appreciation of the display with a contribution to LVRF. This year, the total raised was \$351, which is the most that they have collected since they began accepting donations for LVRF. If you haven’t seen this display in person, mark your calendars for December, 2020.



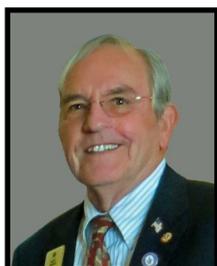


How often have you heard the lament that “Lions are the best kept secret”? It’s a typical excuse offered when we face declining membership totals. Seems like we all know about Lions but many of us have trouble letting others know what we do to serve those in need in our community and around the world.

Want to hear about another pretty well kept secret? Most of you have heard of **LOVRNET**, the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network that was born in our Multiple District 22 as an LVRF project. Many of you may also be aware of **LOVRNET** volunteers that conduct interviews of low vision patients. You might know that other **LOVRNET** volunteers are trained to provide transportation for visually impaired patients. But how many of you know that volunteers actually visit the homes of low vision patients enrolled in **LOVRNET** to assist them to put in place organizational processes and safety measures that allow them to function more freely and improve their quality of life? How many of you are aware of the **LOVRNET** Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization, created to administer and support the project and volunteers serving low vision patients and their families? How many of you know about the on-line stores on the **LOVRNET** website that offer materials for those with limited vision as well as optical devices that doctors can prescribe for low vision patients?

Lion volunteers make this project work. As **LOVRNET** has matured and grown new volunteer managerial positions have emerged that need to be filled to make our project more patient friendly and more effective in utilizing our volunteers. Financial support remains a challenge as well. Grants requests have been submitted to federal and private institutions. Additional requests are being explored. To meet immediate financial requirements pending grant approvals, the **LOVRNET** Foundation approved the initiation of a GoFundMe campaign directed to the general public that can be accessed on our website. The website also has a PayPal button. Lastly, we gratefully accept personal checks made out to **LOVRNET** and mailed to PCC Clare Newcomer at 19605 Grenada Ct, Hagerstown, MD 21742. These checks mean that your entire donation goes to support your program – nothing for those who administer GoFundMe or PayPal.

You, Lions, are needed to make others aware of **LOVRNET**. Tell your friends and acquaintances. Share our secret. Email [info@lovrnet.org](mailto:info@lovrnet.org) for more information or call the Lion **LOVRNET** volunteer you know.



*Paul Hawkins*  
**PDG Paul Hawkins**  
**Executive Director, LOVRNET**

## From the Administrative Assistant



**PDG Susan Timmons**

You are special and so are the members of your Lions’ club and your community. Is there someone you desire to recognize? There is still time to do so this Lions’ year. Where do you start? How do you know what you are able to do to recognize someone? Start by visiting the LVRF website [www.lionsvision.org](http://www.lionsvision.org) and reviewing the LVRF Recognition Program Brochure. If you still have questions, feel welcome to call the phone number listed on the website’s home page for the Administrative Manager and speak to a live person who will be glad to address your questions and concerns. Once you or your club decides who and how they desire to recognize a Lion or community individual that has helped your club to improve the lives of those living with low vision, complete the Recognition Request Form. This form is also available on the LVRF website. If you have difficulty in locating or completing the form, again directly contact the Administrative Manager. You will always be greeted with cheerfulness, enthusiasm and knowledge when answering your questions.

The best part of being the LVRF Administrative Manager is helping the wonderful Lions in Multiple District 22 and others that find the Manager through the website.

There is always something new to learn because LVRF is actively working. Ask one of your Trustees to present a LVRF Program and expand your knowledge on how your club has helped and could help those living with low vision. There is nothing that makes a Lion feel better on the inside than to be thanked for something they have done to help another person. Tears of joy have been shared simply for listening and spending time with a low vision person during a **LOVRNET** Patient Interview. You may never have met or will ever meet the individual; however, that special feeling you receive when someone tearfully responds to you because you “were there” for them. This is what makes being a Lion worth your time and energy.

**GoFundMe**



Keep **LOVRNET** growing!  
 Share the link with your friends.  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Lions-LOVRNET>

Contributions may be made directly by sending a check made out to LOVRNET to PCC Clare Newcomer, 19605 Granada Court, Hagerstown, MD 21742.

**The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization!**

# From Beth 1.0 to Beth 2.0



Beth Hendler-Friedman

I am a mom, a wife, a daughter, a sister, a friend, a dog mom and until shortly after my diagnosis with Idiopathic Juxtafoveal Macular Telangiectasia Type Two, I was a vascular sonographer. Over the course of my over 20-year career I tested thousands of patients. As a vascular sonographer I was tasked with being the doctors eyes, detecting even the most subtle and early signs of vascular disease. I prided myself on providing the highest quality diagnostic images

as a part of a comprehensive medical care team. I loved what I did and each night I could put my head on my pillow with the comfort of knowing that I did my best each day.

Noticing details and finding the hidden object, particularly in *Highlights* magazine and *I Spy With My Little Eye*, has been a favorite of mine as long as I can remember. There were many times as a child that my dad would call me out of bed to observe the spots on the baby birds in a nest or the fuzzy feet on a creepy spider. So becoming a professional observer by way of sonography felt like a very logical path for me. In a world where we classify everything, I have been classified as a visual learner.

So what is a visual learner, an observer, a professional noticer to do when her vision is compromised? You throw a pity party! This party of one was long, boring and lonely. I isolated myself mentally from myself and could not find my way to retool that very fundamental part of myself. How was I to identify myself as a productive person without ultrasound? How was I to prove to myself that I still had value? How was I going to contribute to the financial needs of my family? How was I going to help others? I was reasonably sure that my skills could not and would not transfer to any other profession. I just did not have a value; I was defeated!

Beyond my professional collapse, I couldn't read for pleasure anymore. I love everything about books. There is no substitute for the feeling of a book in my hand, the tangible proof of other places and adventures. I read to learn, I read to escape, I read to cry and laugh and forget and remember. The truth is the only time I cried after my diagnosis was when I had to admit to myself that pleasure reading was just too difficult. I just cannot image a life without words. I had no choice; I had to find a way to "read" without print. Now the guests at my pity party became my professional identity and my book sorrow. Truth be told finding a solution to the book issue was front and center when I initially sought care from the Wilmer Low Vision Clinic. At the Low Vision Clinic I was presented with tools for every day living.

We addressed strategies for keeping organized, for making sure that I would not use the conditioner before the shampoo and keeping me safely behind the wheel for as long as possible. These tools were only a part of my journey. The incredible staff heard me and understood what is important to me. I was introduced to several audible options for reading. No, it is not the same as holding a book but it has allowed me to travel with new characters and friends just the same as I did when I met them on paper.

The personal attention and professional compassionate care I receive at the Low Vision Clinic helped enormously but there was still the matter of the pity party. I was still a regular attendee, maybe not as often. With the help of the low vision staff, particularly Kristen, my wonderful sisters, kids and husband, I found the courage to shake off the fear of reinventing

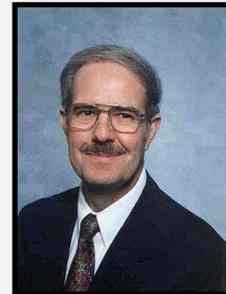
my professional life. I applied and badgered my boss until he gave me my current position. I am the clinical coordinator and instructor at Howard Community College, educating the next generation of sonographers. I love my job, I love my students and I love myself in this position. Yet still there was a nagging feeling of isolation and loneliness. Who am I, through the lens of low vision? I struggled with this for longer than I care to admit.

As a result of a research initiative led by Kristen Shifflet at the Wilmer Low Vision Center, SUN – the See Us Network was born. We are a group of diverse individuals supporting each other and working together to enhance our lives and to live our best lives. As a board member of SUN, I have met extraordinary, intelligent, witty, clever and slightly wacky individual's who are also negotiating the world with low vision. Being part of this initiative has been transformative. I am able to see Beth 2.0 more clearly. So the effects of the Low Vision Clinic are far more reaching than tools for daily living. It has helped me help myself, remember my value and getting back to my personal vision. My sight is not the same, but my insight has never been better.

## Editor's Note:

The See Us Network (SUN) was created over 1½ years ago and was a result of a project initiated by Kristen Shifflet, O.T., a low vision occupational therapist at the Lions Low Vision Center. It is a member led group and Kristen serves as the adviser and liaison to Wilmer. SUN can be defined as "a diverse group of individuals living with low vision, working to fulfill three objectives: (1) to empower each other to live a life with confidence and independence; (2) to decrease social stigma surrounding low vision; and (3) to participate in research opportunities to better educate the medical community about low vision."

## In Memoriam



PID Darley Travers

Darley Theodore Travers, age 79, quietly passed from here to Heaven on Friday, March 27, 2020 at Coastal Hospice at the Lake in Salisbury, Maryland. He was a member of the Hebron Lions Club for 45 years and served as Lions Clubs International Director from 1999 to 2001. He was the second LVRF Chairman, serving in that capacity from 1990 to 1992. He attended 2

International Lions Clubs conventions. In addition to his extensive Lions activities, he was a life member of the Hebron Fire Department, was a past president of the Wicomico County PTA, and a member of the Eastern Shore Liquor License Board. He was a Mason at Temple Lodge #170 and a member of the Boumi Shriners and the Eastern Shore Shrine Club.

PID Darley's Lions Club, District 22B, Multiple District 22 and Lions Clubs International have all benefited from his stewardship and leadership. Our sympathy is extended to his family, especially his wife, Charlene also a dedicated Lion.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## Where Are They Now? #6

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 sixth in the series, features Dr. Rath Itthipanichpong (just call me Dr. Rath!) who was the 2017-2018 Fellow. He is now working as a low vision and glaucoma specialist at the Department of Ophthalmology Chulalongkorn University and King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand.



**Dr. Rath Itthipanichpong**

During my working as a glaucoma fellow in Thailand, it was heart-wrenching to see a lot of patients' sorrow from irreversible visual impairment. Thus I promised myself I would find the way to help them to live better. During my low vision clinic rotation, I could see patients happily smile when they first used low vision devices, and they could read newspaper again. The happiness in their eyes can be seen vividly. That's why I decided to be a low vision specialist and joined the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship Program.

There is nothing that could replace for the extensive learning experience of the low vision fellowship program at Johns Hopkins. The fellowship has allowed me to become a better doctor, researcher and teacher by the excellent research opportunity, access to state-of-the-art technology for helping low vision patient and supportive learning environment by both clinical and research mentors at Wilmer Eye Institute.

Currently, I am working as a low vision and glaucoma specialist at the Department of Ophthalmology, Chulalongkorn University and King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand, where I take care of patients, lecture in the low vision rehabilitation to ophthalmology residents and medical students and also have continued my low vision research and technology development. Most recently, our team has developed a prototype of portable visual field screening glasses with artificial intelligence (AI) which aims at automatically screening of visual field defect in rural areas for an earlier treatment and thus preventing irreversible blindness from glaucoma.

My future goal is to improve ophthalmology healthcare and quality of life for low vision and blind people. From my keen interest in technology and innovation, I'm currently developing the new smart glasses, using mixed reality technology to help blind people navigate and prevent them from bumping. I believe this device will extensively improve the quality of their lives since they can walk freely.

I am confident that my Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship training has provided me with the life-long tools to take care of patients and help my nation create other competent ophthalmologists, optometrists, and health care personnel for the future of low vision care.



**A view of the Low Vision Center (on the left) in the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital (on the right)**

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# SUMMIT FOR SIGHT

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**November 16, 2019 is a date many of us will remember as one of the most successful "Lions Rallies" at Johns Hopkins in recent years. For those unable to attend, they missed seeing and hearing:**



**Dr. Peter McDonnell,  
Director of Wilmer  
Eye Institute**



**Special guest speaker,  
Senator Barbara Mikulski**



**Dr. Micaela Gobeille,  
current Lions Low  
Vision Fellow**



**Dr. Judith Goldstein,  
Chief, Low Vision and  
Vision Rehabilitation**



**Tom Lenhart, a patient who spoke  
to the value and appreciation of  
the care he has received at Wilmer**



**Dr. Lexi Malkin,  
the first Lions Low  
Vision Fellow**

**The meeting closed with a roll call which collected \$45,352.40. Thanks to all who contributed!**

**We retired to a delicious paper bag lunch and tours of Wilmer Eye Clinic! *Make your plans now for next year!***

# Clarksville Lions 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Co-hosted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year by the  
**Lions Vision Research Foundation**

Friday, September 11, 2020  
at the

Fairway Hills Golf Course  
5100 Columbia Road, Columbia MD, 21044



## **Be a Golfer!**

Cost: \$100 per golfer

Registration @ 12:00 pm

Shotgun Start @ 1:00 pm

Includes: Golf, range balls, goody bag, dinner, beverages, door prizes, "No Stroke String" 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  
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

## ***Set your sights on this!***

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

Saturday, September 26, 2020 at

Mayberry Game Protective Association, 2555 Mayberry Road, Westminster, MD 21158

&

Saturday, October 17, 2020 at

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



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 dmanning@gmail

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

PDG John Lawrence at (410) 725-0150 or lons@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.

# International President Visits LVRF



International President Jung-Yul Choi had to cancel his trip to Europe because of the coronavirus pandemic and elected to visit the east coast of the U. S. He was invited to visit MD22 and he accepted. He was welcomed by trustees of the LVRF Board on March 13 so that he could visit the Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute but the hospital had imposed strict visiting rules because of the coronavirus pandemic and the meeting was moved to IP Choi's hotel in Annapolis.

At the hotel, Lion Dr. Massof briefed International President Choi on the history of the LVRF after which PDG Paul Hawkins summarized the extension of Lions service into the current

## LOVRNET program.

On Saturday he visited Lions Camp Merrick and on Sunday he attended a formation meeting of a new American Asian Lions Club in Frederick, Maryland.

In the picture above, Lion Dr. Massof briefs the International President. Seated at the table are from left to right: CC Brian Cox, PID Ted Reiver, IP Jung-Yul Choi, Dr. Massof, DG Evan Gillett, DG John Lawrence, PCT Ann Reiver and PID Richard Liebno. PDG Paul Hawkins was in attendance and took the picture.

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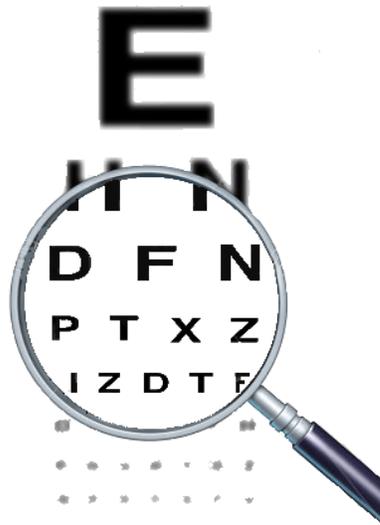
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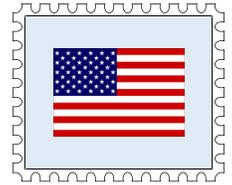
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The Multiple District 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.  
At the Wilmer Eye Institute, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
P. O. Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203-1714



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