

# LIONS VISION



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESSES AND LEO CLUBS      SPRING 2015

## Smiles Across the Miles

Submitted by: John J. Shwed, PDG, Development Chair

Stockholders anxiously check their favorite business news TV channel or the Wall Street Journal for the latest corporate earnings report to determine the reward for their investment. Corporate raiders pressure corporate boards into streamlining operations or spinning off part of the business into new ventures to increase shareholder value. Apple just set a milestone as the first American corporation to attain \$700 billion in value. Pretty impressive, but we Lions have them beat!



We use another metric to measure the value of our work – smiles! New parents are thrilled when their infant's smile appears for the first time. Since the 1500's art critics and others have been captivated by the intriguing smile on Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. I believe most people like receiving smiles. We MD-22 Lions receive those smiles across the miles: from the majestic mountains of Western Maryland, within the hustle and bustle of our Nation's Capital, along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, to the coastal beaches of Delaware and the Eastern Shore.....and beyond! Internationally, Lions receive the same reward.

Like many people, I am not wealthy, but my life has been enriched by the smiles on the faces of those I help. To me, this is a far greater reward than accumulated wealth. Bill Gates, the world's richest man, realized this as well. While he lives in luxury, he gave up stewardship of Microsoft to take up the mantle of global humanitarian service. Yes, he still receives millions on his investments, but he is also receiving smiles from the millions of people he is serving through his philanthropy.

I'd like to share a personal story. A few months ago, a woman in her early 20's came to see me. She said, "Mr. Shwed, my family and friends have advised me to

seek your help. They told me you work with the Lions and the doctors at the Wilmer Eye Institute." I replied, "Yes, how can I help you?" She answered, "I awoke one morning and couldn't see out of one eye." She was naturally depressed and certainly not smiling. She is a teacher and was concerned about her ability to do her job. I told her, "Our partners at the Wilmer Eye Institute are the world's best." "If you like, I will try to connect you to the right specialist." She replied "Yes, please do."

I took her contact information and sent an urgent email to Wilmer Development. Within 24 hours she had an appointment in Baltimore. Upon her return she greeted me with a smile of relief. She was diagnosed with "Cat Scratch Fever". As an aging rocker, I knew these words as a line in a Ted Nugent rock song, and didn't know it leads to an eye condition caused by inflammation of the optic nerve and retina. She was told she would be treated with medicine to slowly reduce the inflammation and hopefully restore her sight. When I talked to her again a few weeks ago she again greeted me with a smile and said her vision had improved slightly and that her several-month treatment plan was on track. I deposited another smile in my Lions reward bank account!

But the testimonial doesn't end there. As I was grocery shopping the other night a couple came up to me and introduced themselves as the teacher's parents. They thanked me, the Lions organization, and the medical team at the Wilmer Eye Institute for the quick and effective response to their daughter's eye condition. More smiles were deposited in my reward bank. This is what our Lions partnership with the Lions Vision Center and the Wilmer Eye Institute is all about! This is the reason for the fundraising, attendance at Board and committee meetings and the continuous creation of new eye services such as *LOVRNET*.

Many Lions throughout MD-22 have similar stories to tell. I have the privilege to lend voice to just one of them. I believe all Lions will agree that the smiles on the faces of those we serve make it all worthwhile. I'm smiling while I write this. Until next time, put a smile on someone's face through Lions service.



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### ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

*Kelly Zimmerman  
Lions Vision Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 1714 Baltimore, MD 21203-1714  
(410) 680-8686  
lvrf.kelly@gmail.com*

### BOARD ADVISORS

*PIP Clement F. Kusiak  
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(410) 756-4476  
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# Chairman's Message



The District 22 convention is fast approaching. Be sure to include the LVRF seminar on May 20<sup>th</sup> in your plans. If you wonder what LOVRNet is about and how the Lions participate, you will want to attend. Dr. Massof is the speaker

and he will talk about Lions participation, update progress and what to expect in the future. Also stop by the LVRF Booth in the Exhibit Hall. There will be lots of updated information available, attire and Trunk of Treasure goodies.

I always leave excited when I reflect on Dr. Patz's vision, to involve the Lions, helping the vision impaired right here in our multiple district and beyond. Helen

Keller asked the Lions to be *knights of the blind* and advised Dr. Patz that, "if you want to get something done, ask the Lions." LOVRNet is growing because of participation by Lions.

I want to express my appreciation for progress this year by the LVRF Board trustees and committees and the foundation's project LOVRNet.

Thanks goes to all the clubs and Lions for contributions. Your generosity is appreciated at LVRF and is evidence of your commitment to assisting low vision in your community.

Respectfully,

*Rodney Timmons*

LVRF Chairman

## Upcoming

### TRUNK OF TREASURES

There will be a Trunk of Treasures raffle this year. The tickets (pictured on the right) and the 2015 Trunk of Treasures will be at the LVRF booth at the MD22 Convention. The raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Pintail Point Aim for Sight fundraiser.



### AIM FOR SIGHT SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

Plans are in the making for a fundraiser unlike any other in the Multiple District. Due to scheduling last year, this sporting clay shoot event held in the western section of the Multiple District was cancelled. But it is coming back to Mayberry next fall on October 10<sup>th</sup>.



The event at Pintail Point located at Queenstown, MD, is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>, so put the date of the event in your area on your calendar now! If you really like this sport, come to both! They aren't that far apart!



Shown above is the Trunk of Treasures raffled off in 2014.

# LOVRNET NEWS

## Be a Certified LOVRNET Interviewer

Fellow Lions,

Early on, we established the goal of enlisting 20 willing Lions per sub-District as LOVRNET interviewers, with the objective of 100 certified LOVRNET interviewers. The number of patient referrals is expected to be very high, and we may need even more than 100. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile effort.

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, we have a total of 86 volunteer interviewers throughout the Multiple District. Of those, 27 have become certified by completing a Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) certification exam and another course on interviewing patients. Both are available on the Internet and don't take much time to complete. 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 appear on the Lion's home computer screen. The interviews take about an hour, or perhaps a bit longer. My interviews have taken longer than one hour. (Sometimes the patient may want to spend some time explaining certain problems, which will extend the interview.)

At the LOVRNET Committee meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, I pledged to have reached the goal of 100 volunteer interviewers by the MD-22 Convention that starts on 18 May. I feel comfortable doing that because I know that some readers of this message are going to step forward and volunteer, just as those other 86 great Lions have done.

If you wish to volunteer or obtain additional information, please contact me or Co-Chairman, PDG Richard Merriwether, [richmerriwether@hotmail.com](mailto:richmerriwether@hotmail.com),

My best,

Ted Ladd, PDG

Co-Chairman, Low Vision Patient Interview Program

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

## LOVRNET – a Chance to Give Back

I don't know about you, but I joined Lions because I wanted a chance to give back to my community and to help others. After I joined, I learned that Lions have a history of helping those with vision problems, and in particular, within MD-22, of helping those with low vision. If you are of the same mind, have we got a deal for you. LOVRNET (Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network), funded solely from LCIF, your LVRF endowment, and outside organizations, is designed to help those with low vision to get better medical care and to be able to get the most use of the vision they have. The eye care professionals on this project are busy with recruiting and educating ophthalmologists and optometrists for the network. Others are creating an online store where patients and doctors can order low vision aids and equipment. What we need now are Lions just like you to give of your time and energy in this effort.

How can Lions participate? First, we need Lion volunteers to serve on the front lines providing direct services to patients. Some of the services Lion volunteers will be asked to provide include: transporting low vision patients to and from doctor's appointments, troubleshooting patients' low vision devices, helping them organize their monthly bills, and assisting patients with safety and vision enhancing modifications of their home.

Second, we need volunteers to work with the doctors by interviewing patients prior to their medical appointments. This allows the low vision specialists to zero in on what help is most needed by the patients to improve their quality of life. It also provides a vehicle to measure the effectiveness of the low vision programs. Several interviews have already been accomplished and the doctors report that this has greatly assisted their working with those with low vision.

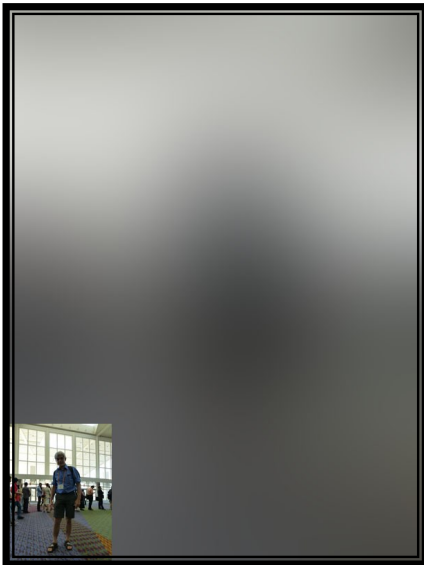
Training is provided for all volunteers. The interviews are done by phone with computer assistance from your own home, while the direct services allow you to interact with members of your community. With a few hours of your time, you can indeed give back to your community and help improve the lives of those with vision problems. Is this not why we are Lions?

For further information and to volunteer, contact Tanesha Vasquez, the LOVRNET Project Administrator at [tvasquez@lovrnet.org](mailto:tvasquez@lovrnet.org) or 410-737-2671. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Measuring Ultra-Low Vision

Contributed by Dr. Gislin Dagnelie  
Associate Director, Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

We are all familiar with low vision, which may range from mild – for which a magnifier can provide an adequate remedy – to severe visual impairment – which may leave a person unable to read, recognize faces, or safely negotiate steps and curbs in unfamiliar surroundings. But what if vision gets even worse, down to finger counting, or beyond that, where you can see movement and shadows as in the picture shown below – hard to tell there’s a person standing there.



This level of vision is what we call ultra-low vision (ULV), and it’s roughly what a person with a retinal implant can see. You can imagine, though, that it should be possible to make out something, especially if you add movement, and that there must be some visual activities people with this level of vision can still perform – finding a door or window, seeing whether the light is on in a room, and other things a completely blind person could not perform.

So how do we measure this level of vision, for example when we work with a retinal implant wearer and want to make sure she is learning to see better with practice? Dr. Gislin Dagnelie at the Lions Vision Center and his team have been supported by a grant from the National Eye Institute for the last 4 years to develop the tools that will make this possible. One such tool is the ULV questionnaire, a battery of 150 questions asking people with ULV how difficult it is to see certain things or perform various tasks, all

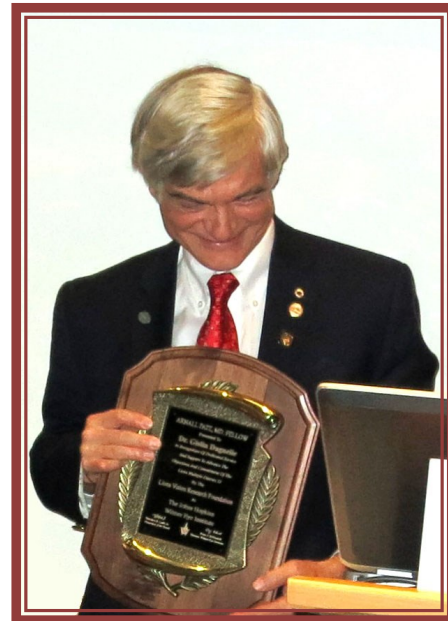
of which require only a little bit of vision. By asking many people to answer this survey they were able to measure the difficulty of each item and the ability of each person, and now they can use an “adaptive” version of the questionnaire allowing them to estimate a person’s visual ability in 10-20 questions.

A second approach to measuring ULV is to ask many individuals with ULV to perform a set of simple visual tasks and score how well or how quickly they accomplish these. This again allows us to estimate how difficult each task is, and how capable each person is. Right now each person performs 51 activities, but just like for the questionnaire we can design an adaptive version, allowing us to estimate the person’s ability with fewer than a dozen activities

Dr. Dagnelie plans to make the questionnaire and activities available to other researchers and clinics, so they too can measure vision in people who are almost blind, or emerging from blindness.

### ***EDITOR’S NOTE:***

Dr. Dagnelie recently became a citizen of the United States. Congratulations! We also offer condolences and trust he is well on his way to recovery due to a broken leg sustained on his way to the Naturalization Ceremonies!



Dr. Dagnelie was presented the Arnall Patz Fellow award at the Fall LVRF “Stars Over Broadway” meeting.

## 2015 MD22 Convention

If you are attending the Multiple District 22 convention at Dover, Delaware this year, be sure not to miss the LVRF Seminar on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 10:30 am in Kent Room #2. The presenter will be Dr. Robert W. Massof, PhD, director of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center. He is shown on the right.



The subject of the seminar is *LOVRNET*. LOVRNET is the \$567,647 grant from the Sight First Committee of LCIF with further funding from Readers Digest Foundation and a working partnership with BISM (Blind Industries and Services of Maryland). The purpose of LOVRNET is to provide needed eye care services for the estimated 12,000 - 15,000 patients with low vision issues in Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Maryland. Come hear about the progress of LOVRNET and how the Lions of MD 22 can help make this project successful. This program is presented only once.

Also, remember to visit the LVRF exhibit booth staffed by LVRF members who will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the Lions Vision Research Foundation. Also available will be LVRF brochures, raffle tickets for the Trunk of Cheer which will be on display (see page 3), LVRF apparel, LVRF ornaments and Jim Hindman's book, 'Was Blind, But Now I See'. You may see and purchase a "120 Club" lapel pin or see a sample Knights of the Blind Pyramid (see page 7).

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### FROM THE LVRF TREASURER

IPDG Mary Lee Phillips

All clubs, when sending in donations to the LVRF Treasurer, should make the payee "LVRF". There should be a donation form accompanying the check even if the donation is not known at the time. In that event, please make a note on the form that the recipient is "TO BE DETERMINED."

Typical Donation Forms are for a *Professorship* or *Vision Days*. Monies not destined for a specific program including "To Be Determined", should have a note attached that the check is for *Annual*.

Clubs are reminded that donation checks to Wilmer should be mailed directly to The Wilmer Eye Institute at:

The Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University  
The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
600 N. Wolfe Street, Wilmer 112  
Baltimore, MD 21287-9015

Checks for all LVRF programs should be mailed to:

LVRF  
P.O. Box 1714  
Baltimore, MD 21203

## New at Wilmer



Early in the year, the framed lithograph shown above was placed on a wall in such a location that Wilmer patients pass by it.

In the center is a lion with a rendition of Melvin Jones just below him. In large letters beneath are the words, "Serving the World". The rest is a collage of scenes depicting how and where Lions serve all over the world.

This is a "Limited Edition" so there are probably not too many of them around.

Standing on either side of the lithograph are from (L to R) Lion Bob Bullock and Council Chair Richard Liebno.

Some years ago (Lion Bob is not quite sure how many) Lion Bob was given this work of art by a lady Lion who had moved into the area from Illinois. He had it in his house for many years and this year donated it to LVRF.

Oddly enough, Lion Bob has lost track of the person who gave it to him and he has no information as to why it was crafted and for whom it was crafted. That remains a mystery.

As you can see, it's a very handsome addition to the walls of Wilmer. Maybe you or someone you know can solve this mystery so if you know anything about its origins or history, please get in touch with the editor.

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## Lions Club Programs

Club program chairs who would like to schedule a program about the exciting things that are going on in your Lions Vision Research Foundation, please be aware that there is an LVRF Speakers Bureau committee headed up by Lion Bob Johnson who will assist you do this. He, or any trustee of the LVRF Board are available to visit your club and make a well designed power point presentation.

For questions or to obtain a speaker, contact Lion Bob Johnson at (301) 606-5797 or rcyrilj@aol.com.

# LVRF Donor Recognition Program

Contributed by PDG Stephen Finger, Donor Recognition Committee



LVRF Trustees believe that Clubs and individuals who support our foundation are the best and want to show their sincere appreciation. The trustees recently made a change in the recognition program that now permits clubs and individuals to accumulate up to five years of donations towards the Knights of the Blind Pyramid and the Arnall Patz Fellowship. Previously, the funds for the Pyramid had to be

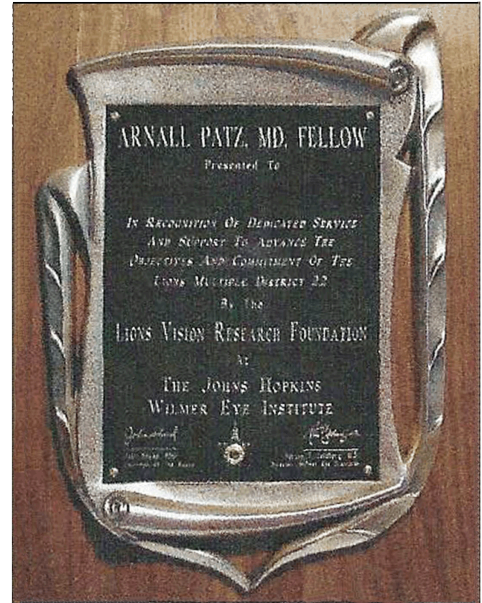
used in the year the donation was made, and donations towards the Arnall Patz Fellowship could accumulate for three years.

In remarks about these changes, LVRF Chairperson Rodney Timmons said, "Extending the accumulation period up to five years will give clubs and individual donors more opportunity to recognize Lions for their dedication, commitment and action in programs that benefit our foundation, our clubs, and our communities."

The donor form and request for recognition forms are being revised to make them easier to use. Prior to ordering recognition using the recognition form, contact LVRF Administrator Kelly Zimmerman at [lvrkelly@gmail.com](mailto:lvrkelly@gmail.com) to verify the amount available for recognition. The completed form can be mailed to Ms. Zimmerman at LVRF, PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203-1714 or scanned as an e-mail attachment sent to Ms. Zimmerman. Using Email is preferred, however you can call the LVRF main number at (410) 955-1883. There is no Fax line in service. Plans are being made to provide fillable donation and recognition request forms available on our website: <http://www.lionsvision.org/Donate>.



A donation of \$1,000 or more, excluding Arnall Patz Fellowships, is recognized by the presentation of this, the Knights Of The Blind Pyramid award. The name of the recipient is engraved on the base of the pyramid. The honoree will also receive the LVRF "120 Club" Lapel Pin.



A donation of \$2,500 is recognized by the presentation of the Arnall Patz Fellow plaque and pin shown above.

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



A donation of \$120 or more is recognized with the presentation of the LVRF "120 Club" lapel pin pictured above.



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**Visit the LVRF website at:**

***[www.Lionsvision.org](http://www.Lionsvision.org)***