

LIONS VISION

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

Fall, 2017

“The Better Angels of our Nature”

John J. Shwed, PDG, LVRP Development Chair

These words were written and spoken by one of our Nation’s most eloquent Presidents – Abraham Lincoln. They are the last words in the last sentence of his first inaugural address delivered on March 4, 1861. President Lincoln was faced with the crisis of impending Civil War. In an attempt to preserve the Union, he challenged the people to focus on their humanity as creatures of God. He wanted them to think about man’s special relationship with God and the latent good in all humanity.

I believe President Lincoln would agree that America saw “The Better Angels of our Nature” on display in Texas, Louisiana, Florida and the Caribbean in the last weeks of summer. We saw Americans respond with great courage and generous hearts in response to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Volunteers came with their personal boats to rescue people trapped by the flood-waters. They rescued people of all races and economic status. The people being rescued didn’t care about the color of the hands that reached out to pull them into the boats. People watching newscasts saw rescuers save family pets and horses trapped in high water. “The Better Angels of our Nature” in action definitely lifted the spirits of those in the impacted flood areas. I believe all Americans felt a sense of pride as they watched the volunteers take the moral high ground. We watched Americans united for a common purpose.

When we Lions bring life to our “We Serve” motto through our world-wide humanitarian service initiatives, we rise to Lincoln’s challenge. As we begin our second century of service, reflect on all the good the Lions have accomplished in the first 100 years: eye exams and glasses for the needy, corneal eye transplants, leader dogs, disaster relief, pure drinking water, drugs to prevent river blindness, scholarships, equipment for Little League and Pop Warner teams; etc. Of course, our list would be incomplete if we did not include our low vision work at the

Lions Vision Center in partnership with the Wilmer Eye Institute.

One of those “Better Angels” in action was Dr. Arnall Patz, the visionary leader, who saw the value in promoting a partnership between the Lions of MD-22 and the eye experts at the Wilmer Eye Institute. Over

the 25 year history since LVRP’s founding, hundreds of Lions have acted as “Better Angels” by contributing financially to support the research and rehabilitation team at the Lions Vision Center. Lion “Better Angels” transported low vision patients to their appointments at the LVC and as part of the LOVRNET program interviewed low vision patients and met with eye care professionals across MD-22 to increase awareness of the LVC low vision services. Hundreds of other Lions let their “Better Angels” shine through as they stand in front of their local stores with their Vision Days canister in their hands. The “Better Angels” at the Lions Vision Center have helped hundreds of low vision patients lead more fruitful and productive lives.



Soon your Club will be getting an invitation to “The Rendezvous” the annual Rally which will be held at Johns Hopkins on November 18, 2017. This is a great time to learn about the latest eye research developments at the Wilmer Eye Institute. It is also time to show your Lions pride by bringing a donation to support the work of the Lions/Wilmer Partnership. Tours of the Lions Vision Center will be available.

I hope to see you “*Better Angels*” there!

Chairman's Message

Where will you be on November 18 at 9:30 am? I am going to be at the LVRF Rendezvous at Wilmer Eye Institute. What's a Rendezvous at Wilmer? - not really sure. I know about a bar that was called the Rendezvous back in the day. They had rendezvous when all the Buffalo hunters and mountain men got together to swap stories. So what will ours look like? I don't have a clue but can guarantee that with the Lions who are putting it together, you don't want to miss it. So see you on November 18th, a time for fellowship, giving of club donations and hearing about what good work your foundation is doing to help those with Low Vision.

As we enter our 26th year of LVRF, what an exciting time the first 25 have been! I can't wait to see what our future holds as one of the leading research and treatment centers of low vision in the world. And we, the Lions of MD22, have helped make that happen through the hard work of those Lions who have served LVRF and the Lions Clubs who have supported it and helped it grow. So we now have another challenge: the endowment for our fellowship that we support annually that would make it self-supporting, giving us more from our general budget for more research and even more service for those we serve with low vision.

I would like to encourage every club to do a Vision Day; what a great way to make some money to help those with Vision problems! It is so

much easier than chicken dinners or flipping pancakes, and it gives you a chance to share with the public what we do as Lions.

When was the last time your club had a program on LVRF? Your District Trustees and Appointees are only a phone call away - think about it.

This year has been a really tough year for our Lions in MD 22 and LVRF families and friends; please accept my personal heartfelt sympathy.

Thanks for all you do each and every day and I'll see you at the Rendezvous on November 18.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Lion Karl E. Gude
Chairman, LVRF



Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.

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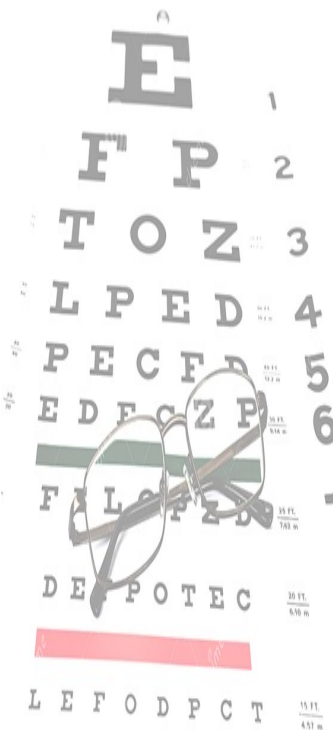
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Editor's Note:

In the Spring 2017 issue of Lions Vision, we initiated a series bringing back former Fellows of the very successful LVRF financially supported Lions Vision Center Fellowship program and the new initiative to accumulate \$2.5-2.8 million to endow the Fellowship program at the Lions Vision Center in perpetuity.

By doing this we will all know the tremendous impact these Doctors are making as a result of their Fellowships at the Center.

The second in the series features Dr. Nicole Ross.



Nicole Ross, OD, MS, FAAO

Currently I am an assistant professor of optometry at the New England College of Optometry where I lecture in the low vision rehabilitation course, supervise clinic interns in low vision clinic, and also have continued my low vision research with my colleagues and graduate students. This past year I initiated a new course at the

college entitled, "Advanced topics in low vision rehabilitation", suited to students seeking to explore a residency or fellowship in low vision.

The Lions low vision rehabilitation fellowship allowed me not only to learn to practice low vision rehabilitation at a high level, but also to question and to consider how to move the field as a whole forward. My fellow, "Fellows" have routinely lectured at the American Academy of Optometry, participated in the low vision sections at major conferences and have contributed to some of the latest research that has changed and defined practice patterns in our field. It is a pleasure to continue to engage and to continue to work with those from the Lions Fellowship program on a national level year after year. It is a life long fellowship.

Dr. Ross has accomplished much as she pursues her goals. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Specialty and Advanced Care. Her clinical area of expertise is in low vision rehabilitation. She is a clinical instructor for optometry interns in low vision at New England Eye Commonwealth, and Perkins School for the blind. At the college, Dr. Ross is an instructor for the following courses: Low Vision Rehabilitation throughout the Life Span and Principle and Practice of Optometry I and II.

She matriculated from the New England College of Optometry dual degree OD / MSc program achieving honors with distinction in both degrees. She conducted her dissertation work in low vision research at Schepens Eye Research Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ross was presented with the 2009 Atwell Award in low vision at the annual AR-VO meeting for this work. She then completed her residency in vision rehabilitation at Ohio State University where she also

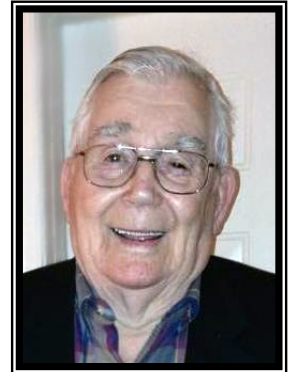
supervised and participated in the clinical teaching of student interns.

Dr. Ross' research focuses on evaluating outcomes of low vision rehabilitation care and low vision aid device development.

In Memorium

PDG Robert C. Paxson, 1922-2017

Multiple District 22 lost a well-respected and dedicated Lion. PDG Robert C. Paxson, Jr., 95, a past Chairman of LVRF, died peacefully in his sleep on August 11, 2017. He is survived by his three daughters: Kathryn Crum; Judith Maisel (Kurt); Mary Lu Churchill of Annapolis, MD; and his son, Robert Paxson, III (Susan) of St Louis, MO. He is also survived by his eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and his brother Benjamin Norris Paxson of South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63



years, Margaret Caldwell Paxson.

He was a member of the 8th Air Corps Fighter Squadron as a P47 Thunderbolt Fighter Crew Chief stationed in England during World War II, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, and was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious conduct. He worked at David Taylor Research and Development Center as a Mechanical Engineer, most notably on a team that invented a part to enable submarines to run quieter, and retired after 35 years of service. Bob was an avid golfer, served as a Board Member for Anne Arundel Medical Center, was a member of Saint Anne's Episcopal Church and was a longtime member of the Annapolitan Club. Funeral services were held on Tuesday August 15, 2017 at the Hardesty Funeral Home with Interment later at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville, MD.

PDG Bob was a strong advocate for LVRF. He was an active participant in Development Committee meetings as we were launching the \$4 million Endowment Campaign - "Lions Vision 2000". He was very instrumental in promoting the LVRF annual Golf Tournament fundraiser which was the forerunner of our annual Aim for Sight. He was a big Navy football fan with a house just across from Navy Stadium in Annapolis. He approached all Lions projects with the tenacity of a bulldog, but he also had a compassionate heart of gold. My late wife, Lion Bobbie, and I had the pleasure of accompanying Bob and his deceased wife Margaret on a tour of Hong Kong and China. I can proudly say, Bob and I enjoyed the view from atop the Great Wall of China while our wives waited below. He also taught me the short cuts to the Bay Bridge on those backed up summer traffic days as we were returning from the LVRF Board meetings.

He was a Lion's Lion. We appreciate his many accomplishments. LVRF and Lionism in Maryland are where they are today because of PDG Bob's "roaring service".

Memorial contributions can be made to the Lions Vision Research Foundation at: LVRF, P.O. Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203, or www.lionsvision.org/Donate.

Editor's Note: This obituary was personalized by PDG John Shwed, who was a close friend of PDG Paxson.

More About Lovrnet

The official name is “*Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network*” while “*LOVRNET*” is the official acronym in use today.

LOVRNET is entering its fourth year and is now a flourishing business so let’s see what is going on with LOVRNET now and, more importantly, how you can be a part of it.

The network which included 6 sites (low vision eye care facilities) just 2 years ago has grown to 20 with the addition of cooperating Ophthalmologists and Optometrists. The original network was composed of the Wilmer Eye Clinic and its satellites. We’ve expanded with sites in Delaware and across Maryland from Oakland to Easton.

We are accelerating our quest for low vision eye care facilities (sites), so that eventually we will have an extensive network which will allow *all* low vision patients in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia easy access to the care and services they require. To prepare for the increases expected, we need more Lion volunteers.

LIONS ARE HELPING BUT MORE ARE NEEDED!

There are two areas in which Lion volunteers are needed now, Patient Interview volunteers and Direct Service volunteers.



Currently there are over 50 Certified Lion volunteer interviewers enrolled in the LOVRNET program. These volunteers are sent assignments by email and are free to decline the assignment if, for any reason, they are unable to comply. Many more will be needed as the number of patients enrolled continues to grow.

Direct Service involves such tasks as transporting patients to eye care providers and doing minor adjustments in the home, such as changing light switch covers to provide the contrast needed to allow the patient to see them. They are notified by phone. There are currently 11 Direct Service volunteers.

Why not consider yourself the next Lion to volunteer? It is easy to do - just follow the following steps:

Log onto the LOVRNET web site lovrnet.org.

Half way down the left-most column headed by “VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS”, click on the box with the words “Apply to Volunteer” in it.

You will be presented the application form for volunteering for four volunteer programs including Patient Interview and Direct Service.

Fill out the application online, checking the volunteer program(s) you are interested in, and finally click on the Submit box.

You are finished!

You will be contacted within a week by the LOVRNET Project Administrator who will provide instructions as to how to be certified.

Becoming certified involves the following:

Take and pass two on-line courses. Both telephone interviewers and direct service volunteers take the course on HIP-PA regulations. Telephone Interviewers take a second course on how to perform the interview while Direct Service volunteers take a second course on direct service. The project administrator will instruct you how to access these courses. (*Note: Your editor is a Certified Interviewer and if I can pass these courses, you can too!*)

Complete the paperwork for a background check through Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions which is necessary because some of the patients may become patients at the Wilmer Eye Institute. Here again, the Project Administrator will provide detailed instructions.

To begin this outreach process, each Lions club in MD 22 needs to become acquainted with the LOVRNET program if they aren’t already. In the spring of 2017, each club was supplied a folder with LOVRNET literature and a VIDEO, titled: “*There is something you can do.*” Why not have a LOVRNET introduction course at one of your meetings and show the video? If one of your members is already a volunteer, that Lion would be an excellent choice to organize it and also tell the club about his/her experiences as a LOVRNET volunteer.

LOVRNET needs your help!

Where there’s a need There’s A Lion

Please Note:

The address for the Rendezvous on the invitations which were mailed via the USPS is incorrect due to a late scheduling change. The correct address is shown on the invitation on the opposite page.

To obtain a map of the JHMI Campus, go to:

http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/the_johns_hopkins_hospital/_docs/jhi_visitors_guide.pdf

RENDEZVOUS 2017

**Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation
Invites You To
Lions Days at the Wilmer Eye Institute**

Saturday, November 18, 2017

9:30 a.m.

**Johns Hopkins Hospital, Owens Auditorium,
Bunting Blaustein Research Building**

**1650 Orleans Street
Baltimore, MD 21231**

Parking: McElderry Garage

Tours of the Low Vision Center
available after Lunch provided by
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.

RSVP (Lunch Count): November 4, 2017

by email: LVRF.info@gmail.com

or by phone: 717-597-4500



Welcome to Dr. Rath Ittipanichpong

Editor's Note: One of the most successful programs of the LVRF is the funding of the Lions Vision Center Fellowship program. This was an experimental program at first to attract doctors who would study at Wilmer for a period of one year. It was felt that this program would not only help the Low Vision Center now but also in the future as they went out into the world and established their own practices and impacted on low vision people outside the Johns Hopkins domain.

Dr. Rath Ittipanichpong, the current Fellow, who hails from Thailand, is highlighted here. Like all those who preceded him, he is highly qualified and is using the knowledge and experience he gains in this program to enable him to meet the challenging goals he has set for himself.



Dr. Rath Ittipanichpong

It is a pleasure to introduce the current "Fellow" at the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Dr. Rath Ittipanichpong; Rath in Thai means "state/country" and Ittipanichpong means "success in business".

He is an instructor at the Low Vision unit, Department of Ophthalmology, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand.. He's a

board certified subspecialty trained glaucoma specialist and received his Doctor of Medicine degree with Honors from Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University. He completed his ophthalmology residency training and fellowship in glaucoma at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand. During his residency training, he received the Professor Tano Award for young ophthalmologists from the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO). He also won the first runner-up award in the ICO World Ophthalmology Quiz 2014 at World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC).

"Becoming a doctor has been a dream of mine since childhood", says Dr. Rath. Every time he was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, his only answer was "a doctor". His father's friends called his father "Mr. Doctor", not because he was connected with medicine but, as Dr. Rath's mother said, "because he was always helping others."

His mother, a professor of pharmacology, would bring him along to her workplace where he had opportunities to meet and talk with both physicians and researchers. This left a lasting impression on him that they were *knowledgeable, compassionate and respectable*.

That impression and the early death of his father in an automobile accident contributed to his decision to follow the path of medicine. He quickly discovered his true passion for the field

of Ophthalmology. Quoting Dr. Rath, "I soon realized that my strong points are matched by those of this field: *attention to detail, intellectual challenge, and enthusiasm for technologies and innovation.*"

Dr. Rath revealed that "After completing the fellowship training, I will return to Bangkok and work as a faculty member at the Low Vision Unit, Department of Ophthalmology, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

The department I will be working in is creating a new center of



King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

excellence in low vision. It is a non-profit organization which aims for the improvement of low vision care in Thailand, including one-stop service for taking care of low vision patients with other active ocular

diseases such as glaucoma and uveitis. It includes a cutting edge orientation and mobility training center, computer assisted vision rehabilitation, a self-training center, cane training, audio aids and a school for teaching visual rehabilitation science to healthcare personnel. It will be the first complete low vision care and vision rehabilitation center of the Thai Red Cross Society."

Dr. Rath also plans to teach basic ophthalmology to medical students, ophthalmology residents and optometrists. He plans to initiate a low vision technology center and develop smart devices that help low vision patients improve their quality of life, such as glasses and canes that have proximity sensors to decrease bumping and falling of low vision patients. "The devices must be inexpensive and affordable", says Dr. Rath.

Additionally, he plans to create a low vision recreational center to create a happier life for low vision patients. He envisions a center that will have a large library of audio books and a voice record room for recording audio books as well. The center would also provide digital magnifiers and projectors which would allow patients to bring their own books to read at the center.

He works with both MAC and Windows computer systems and enjoys computer graphics including 3D, animation, producing movies and building web pages. Using this computer knowledge, he has developed a new visual field-screening software for personal computers which can provide early detection for glaucoma in the rural areas of Thailand.

For relaxation, he likes to draw and paint using both water colors and crayons. For exercise, he enjoys both table tennis and swimming.

A Word from the Administrative Assistant

Many exciting things are happening throughout the LVRF because of its many supporters like you! Please help me to help you and your club. When donating and/or requesting a recognition of either the Knights of the Blind Pyramid, the Arnall Patz Fellowship or Progressive Patz Fellowship, please use the forms which are downloadable from the LVRF website www.lionsvision.org.



Press  to access the forms.



Recognition requests should be mailed to: LVRF, PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203. Or you may email your request to the official LVRF Email address at: LVRF.info@gmail.com.

I have been trying to share with the clubs the funds available to them for recognition; this, however, is an involved process. If you want the information, simply request your, or your club's donation balance available for use toward recognitions at the email address above and I'll determine what funds are available for either a pyramid or a Fellowship. Response time is usually no longer than 24 hours.

I want to thank the clubs for their warm and helpful response when I've needed to contact them for information about eye-glass donations from the community or to obtain information to appropriately direct donations as intended.

I am here to assist the LVRF Board but equally as important, I'm here to assist the Lions of Multiple District 22 and their communities to the best of my ability. If you need anything, such as arranging for a club program about the LVRF, a personal or club visit to the Lions Vision Center or simply need information, just contact me at the email address above. If you desire to speak with me, I'm available at (717) 597-4500. Please note that the LVRF phone number, (410) 955-1883 is a voice message machine only. Use of this number is sporadic and is only checked for messages weekly.

This is a great time of year to purchase LVRF Ornaments for a \$15 donation for your Holiday decorations or as a gift. The ornaments as well as LVRF shirts will be available at the **2017 RENDEZVOUS**, Lions Day at Wilmer Eye Institute on November 18th. (See Page 5)



Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

PDG Susan Timmons
LVRF Administrative Assistant



The Aim for Sight fundraisers took place on September 30th at the Mayberry Gun Club and on October 14th at Schrader's Outdoors, Henderson, MD. Both events were most successful.

Chairman PDG "Dal" Mann was the organizer of the event at Schrader's Outdoors and Co-Chair PID Richard Liebno was the organizer for the event at the Mayberry Gun Club.

Both organizers offer a mighty "Thanks" to all who participated in the LVRF Aim for Sight event. It is estimated that the proceeds will be about \$10,000 for presentation at the 2017 Rendezvous (Lions Day at the Wilmer Eye Institute).

A special thanks to the Denton Lions Club and Lion Dink Scurto for providing lunch at the Schrader's Outdoors event and Lions Roy and Bobby Davis for the BBQ beef lunch at the Mayberry event. A special thanks goes to Co-Chair PDG Gary Burdette for tallying up the scores.

The excellent event Program Book contained a record number of ads. Thanks to PCC Clyde Bragg and Lion Carol Schoonover who, through their charm and salesmanship, were able to sell a record number of 50/50 and Trunk of Treasures tickets.

The Trunk of Treasures accounted for about \$1,550 of the total and was beautifully restored by Lion Ralph Young. It was filled with a beautifully hand crocheted blanket by PDG Susan Timmons, a huge bottle of Crown Royal Whiskey by PDG Steve Borsh, several books, beer, wine, candles, etc. PDG Steve Borsh won the Trunk but returned it to LVRF for bid. PDG Sandy and Lion Bill Halterman were the high bidder at \$210.

A great time was had by all shooters at both venues.

The event will be held again next year on September 29, 2018 at Mayberry Gun Club and on October 13, 2018 at Schrader's Outdoors, so mark your calendars and tell your friends. We want to have more shooters next year.

Contributed by:
PDG Dal Mann, Chair
PID Richard Liebno, Co-Chair

Are you a collector or interested in marketing Lions pins?

The LVRF Treasurer has a very large quantity of pins collected by her late father, PDG Tom Shockley, who was one of the participants in the early years of LVRF. He let it be known that he wished to have the pins sold and the proceeds go to endowment.

She would like to sell them or would give to someone who would market them and contribute at least a part to the LVRF Endowment Campaign.

Interested? Contact PDG Phillips at lionm1phillips@aol.com



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



Rendezvous 2017

Coming your way on November 18 ~ See Page 5

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