

LIONS VISION



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

Fall, 2019



Yes, we all climb mountains. A relatively small number climb the real ones, but thousands climb the “metaphorical mountains” known to us as challenges every day. Edmond Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay were the first to reach the 29,029 ft. summit of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953. Google reports that since then about 4,000 climbers out of a world population of almost 8 billion have also made it to the summit. Blind climber Eric Weihenmayer reached the peak in 2001. Hundreds have also died trying to reach the summit. Yet, each year more and more climbers take the challenge.



John Shwed

I don't have a personal goal of climbing Mt. Everest, but as a Lion, I feel like a mountain climber when I join my fellow Lions in taking on a humanitarian challenge. Over our 100 year history, Lions have been just as heroic as those who climb Mt. Everest. We have helped people see, provided clean drinking water in developing nations, joined with other world health organizations to fight the effects of diabetes and other medical issues.

At the local level we have helped young people get their start up life's mountains by awarding scholarships. We have helped build teamwork skills by supporting Little League baseball and soccer teams, built ramps for the physically handicapped, conducted eye screenings for preschoolers, and provided eye glasses and exams for needy people.

All people – the single mother who works two jobs to support her children, the soldier who defends our freedom in far-off

lands, the community volunteer who helps build a Habitat for Humanity home – all climb mountains every day.

A young 13-year-old girl I met for the first time this year has inspired me with her grit and determination. She is a cancer survivor. When she gets off the school bus she positions herself in a rolling walker and makes her way to her classroom. She works hard every day learning her lessons and never complains. She is truly a heroic mountain climber and makes the mountains I face seem trivial in comparison.

In partnership with Wilmer Development, we Lions of MD-22 have a special mountain to climb – **Mt. LVC Fellow Fund**. We are proud to support the Fellow program at the Lions Vision Center at Johns Hopkins which trains young eye care professionals in the latest low vision technology and rehabilitative practices. Graduating LVC Fellows have taken their knowledge to places world wide to help those afflicted with low vision climb the mountains facing them. When we reach the mountain top we will have attained a \$2.3 million Endowment Fund to guarantee the LVC Fellow program in perpetuity. Thus far we Lion climbers have raised \$300,000. We would like to add another \$100,000 to the balance before the end of June 2020. Lion climbers will be cheered on by special guest speaker former Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski at our **“Summit for Sight”** at Johns Hopkins on Saturday, November 16, 2019.

Lions, grab your climbing gear, gather your friends, fill your backpacks with club and personal donations and join us in Baltimore. We can do this if we **all climb together!**

John J. Shwed, PDG
LVR Development Chair

LVRF Chairman's Message

I'd like to reinforce the message of this issue of Lions Vision – we are planning our annual rally on November 16 and we'd love to have you and a friend (non-Lions are welcome) attend to learn more about the work down at the Lions Low Vision Center and the impact that it has on the lives of those receiving services there. We are excited to have been able to land former U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski as our keynote speaker. In addition, there will be updates from Wilmer low vision specialists on their research, patient testimonials, and tours of the Low Vision Center. All of that, plus lunch! We hope that you can make it, but please do RSVP because we also want to ensure enough meals for all who attend.

And speaking of excitement, at the MD22 Convention in May, LVRF presented the Wilmer Eye Institute, represented by Director Peter McDonnell, with a check for \$300,000 to provide the initial funding for the Lions Low Vision Fellowship Endowment Fund with the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins. Buoyed by a generous bequest by the Hott Family to LVRF that was augmented by more than \$100,000 in donations from Lions clubs across MD22 we were able to get an excellent start on raising the \$1.15M (for which Lions are responsible) of the \$2.3M goal to fully fund this endowment. Until that endowment goal is met, LVRF will continue to annually fund the fellowship so that the program can continue to provide the specialty training in low vision to a post-doctoral student. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of LVRF and its mission.

I'm also happy to announce that we raised over \$7,000 at our golf tournament in June. We joined with the Clarksville Lions

Club's annual golf tournament and exceeded our expectations for a first-time event. We are in the early planning stages for next year, so if you are a golfer, circle June 5 on your calendar to participate. We'll be soliciting for sponsors later in the year, so even non-golfers can contribute to the fundraising.

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 Manager for LVRF, which allowed us to direct monies previously spent on a salaried employee towards paying for our annual fellowship. PDG Susan will be stepping down from these duties at the end of June 2020 so we are looking for someone to work with PDG Susan to start learning the administrative ropes to be in a position to carry them out when she departs. The principal duties of the administrative manager are summarized on page 7 of this newsletter, so please review and if you have the talents and time and are able to help, let us know. This is a great service opportunity that translates into thousands of dollars saved by LVRF. If you would like more information on what is entailed, please email PDG Susan Timmons at lvrf.info@gmail.com.



**PDG Larry Burton,
LVRF Chair**

2019-2020 OFFICERS

Chair

PDG Larry Burton

Vice Chair

DG Wayne Cole

Secretary

PDG Dalton Mann

Treasurer

Lion Paul Leatherman

Immediate Past Chair

PDG Karl Gude

BOARD ADVISORS

PIP Clement F. Kusiak

PID Darley Travers

PID Joseph Gaffigan

PID Ted Reiver

PID Richard Liebno

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

PDG Susan Timmons

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



TRUSTEES District 22-A

DG Sam Foster

Lion Pam Burton (3rd of 3 years)

Lion John Feldmann (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Larry Burton (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-B

DG John Lawrence

Lion Dr. Kevin Darcey (3rd of 3 years)

PDG Ben Cassell (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Wayne Cole (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-C

DG Sonia Wiggins

PDG Dee Hawkins (3rd of 3 years)

PDG Rich Barb (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Paul Hawkins (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-D

DG Kenny Vincent

PDG John Shwed (3rd of 3 years)

PDG Mary Lee Phillips (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Ken Chew (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-W

DG Evan Gillett

Lion Paul Leatherman (3rd of 3 years)

PDG Susan Timmons (2nd of 3 years)

Lion Jack Niemiec (1st of 3 years)

COUNCIL CHAIR

CC Brian Cox

WILMER FACULTY & STAFF

Peter J. McDonnell, M.D..

Morton F. Goldberg, M.D.

★Robert Massof, PhD

★Gislin Dagnelie, PhD

★Judy Goldstein, M.D.

J.T. Dean

★ Trustee Members Representing Wilmer
on the Board of Trustees

Planned Giving!



PDG Susan Bonura

Have you considered making a tax-deductible donation to the Lions Vision Research Foundation? As a qualified 501(c)3 organization, LVRF can accept your donations of cash; stocks, bonds or other securities; qualified retirement plans such as 401K, 403B, Keogh, etc.; charitable IRAs; and, real estate such as a home, vacation home, undeveloped property or investment property.

Using your IRA to make a charitable donation can help you lower your tax bill and help the LVRF as it is a qualified 501(c)3 organization. Distributions must be made directly to the charity, not to the owner or beneficiary. All distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or they will be counted as taxable distributions.

Another way to donate IRA assets to the LVRF is through your estate after you pass away by naming the LVRF as the designated beneficiary of your IRA. LVRF will receive whatever percentage of your IRA assets you provide for on the beneficiary form.

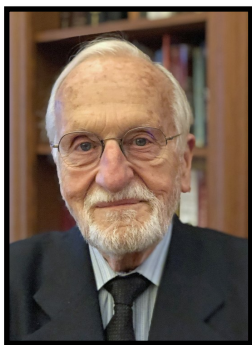
Traditional IRA owners must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) at age 70½ or face tax penalties. The charity must receive your donation by December 31 of the year in which you plan to apply the donation to that year's tax return.

Qualified charitable donations are also a good choice for individuals who otherwise could not deduct all or part of their charitable donations because of the IRS rule that says you cannot take a tax deduction for your donations that exceed 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). At first glance, this rule might sound like it only affects wealthy taxpayers who give generously, but it also affects anyone who is retired and has little to no income but still wants to make a tax-deductible donation.

Consult your tax professional and financial advisor when making decisions regarding charitable donations.

PDG Susan Bonura
Planned Giving Sub-Committee Chair

LOVRNET Giving



Lion Jim Miller

Want to hear about a 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 who 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 to allow them to function more freely and improve their quality of

life? How many of you are aware that the *LOVRNET* Foundation was created to administer and support the project and volunteers serving low vision patients and their families?

Lion Jim Miller is a member of the Kent Island Lions Club. He was elected Chairman of the *LOVRNET* Foundation in Ocean City last May. His passion in the *LOVRNET* mission is a result of his wife's degenerative eye disease and his blind grandson. One of his primary goals is to give every Lion in our Multiple District the opportunity to learn about low vision, how it impacts so many of our neighbors and what *LOVRNET* is doing to help.

Each District Governor has been asked to appoint a *LOVRNET* Champion for their District. Presentations at the District level (or Region/Zone/Club meetings) are needed to educate Lions on *LOVRNET* and encourage wider participation. The Champions would work with District Cabinets to identify and schedule visits by Jim and his staff at appropriate functions. A similar approach is being employed by the Lions of MD-33 to introduce *LOVRNET* to Massachusetts where they have successfully implemented their model of *LOVRNET*. The goal is to expand throughout the nation and introduce *LOVRNET* to the international community of Lions.

While volunteers make this project work, financial support remains a challenge. Grant requests have been submitted to federal and private institutions. To meet immediate financial requirements pending grant approvals, the *LOVRNET* Foundation approved the initiation of a **GoFundMe** campaign directed to all Lions and the general public. You Lions are needed to make others aware of *LOVRNET*. Share our secret. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Lions-LOVRNET>

That is all that is needed to give. Please share this with fellow Lions, friends and neighbors.

Welcome Dr. Gobeille 2019-20 LVRF Fellow



Dr. Micaela Gobeille

Dr. Micaela Gobeille is the newest and ninth Lions Low Vision Fellow and is serving from July 2019 through June 2020.

She was introduced to the LVRF Board recently and when asked what drew her to apply for the Lions Fellowship Program., she replied, "I was actually trained, as a student, by two former Lions Low Vision Fellows, Dr. Nicole Ross and Dr. Alexi Malkin. I knew I would receive very valuable training!"

Dr. Micaela Gobeille attended New England College of Optometry in Boston where she trained with two former Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellows. In addition to earning her Optometry Doctorate, Dr. Gobeille also received a Master of Science in Vision Science for her research which measured patient outcomes from low vision rehabilitation provided on a mobile clinic. Dr. Gobeille then completed a residency in Primary Care, Vision Therapy, and Low Vision Rehabilitation at the Northport Veteran's Affairs hospital in Long Island, NY. Dr. Gobeille has presented research at national and international conferences, and is eager to advance her clinical and research training in low vision while working with leaders in the field during her fellowship.



Summit for Sight

You Are Invited!

**To join other Lions, Lionesses and Leos and their Friends on Saturday,
at 9:30 am, November 16, 2019 at the Annual LVRF Rally!**

**The principal speaker will be Senator Barbara Mikulski,
Professor of Political Science at the JHU.**

**Tour the Lions Low Vision Center and meet the professional & technical
members of the staff who make this a world-famous facility!**

Relax and enjoy a box lunch of your choice!

**The Auditorium is located in the Bunting Baustein Research Building,
1650 Orleans Street, Baltimore, MD 21287**

Parking in the McElderry Parking Garage (*see page 7 for map*)

RSVP by November 12 for lunch count only:

Email to LVRF.info@gmail.com

Or call: (717) 597-4500

SUMMIT FOR SIGHT HIGHLIGHTS!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



Barbara A. Mikulski

We are most fortunate to have as our special guest speaker at the rally Senator Barbara Mikulski who will also be hosting a “Fireside Chat”.

Senator Mikulski was raised in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore. She attended Catholic schools, and was a social worker in the 1960s.

After organizing neighborhoods to fight a major highway project, Mikulski won election to the Baltimore City Council in

1971, where she served for five years.

In 1976, she ran for Congress and represented Maryland’s 3rd District for 10 years. She became the first Democratic woman senator elected in her own right in 1986. She served in the Senate for 30 years, becoming the longest-serving woman both in the Senate and in Congress. As the Dean of the Women, Senator Mikulski mentored other women senators through her bipartisan dinners and power workshops to train newly-elected women.

Throughout her career, Mikulski has worked to pass legislation to protect the most vulnerable members of society and to advance scientific research and democracy around the world. Senator Mikulski was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2015.

She retired from the United States Senate on January 3, 2017. She is the Homewood Professor of Political Science at John Hopkins University, and participates in national speaking engagements on topics of leadership, innovation, and women’s empowerment.

LIONS VISION CENTER TOURS

TOURS OF THE LIONS VISION CENTER OF THE WILMER EYE INSTITUTE WILL BEGIN AFTER THE MAIN FESTIVITIES HAVE CONCLUDED

RESEARCHERS WILL BE ON HAND TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE AND ANSWER QUESTIONS



A CHOICE OF BOX LUNCHES & BEVERAGES

LEAVE YOUR WALLET IN YOUR POCKET



LVRF PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE!



LVRF APPAREL AND ORNAMENTS FOR SALE!



LVRF DISPLAY TABLE

Lions Vision Days

Lions Vision Days is one of the traditional ways for Lions to raise money. In the early days it was known as Candy Days but over time the giving of candy in exchange for donations gave way to giving information. The Lions Vision Research Foundation “adopted” this fundraiser for raising funds for the LVRF.

A champion of Lions Vision Days is the Severn River Lions Vision Days Coordinator, Lion Clem Kusiak, better known by most as Past International President Kusiak. He and the other MD22 International Family members PIDs Dick Liebno, Ted Reiver, Joe Gaffigan and Darley Travers have sponsored LVD aids which are available on the LVRF website: LionsVision.org. You need only to click on PROGRAMS>Lions Vision Days to find them including a 20-page manual entitled, “How to Guide”.

Recently the Severn River Lions club held a Lions Vision Days event at Angel’s Market in Pasadena. They raised \$839. How they did this is summarized by words from Lion Kusiak.

.....

Our first step: Visit with the Owner of Angel’s Food Market requesting approval to hold Vision days, followed by a letter confirming the days.

On behalf of the Severn River Lions Club please accept our thanks for allowing our members to provide information about the Lions Vision center at the Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute on Friday, September 6 and Saturday, September 7th. The information explains how Lions support vision programs at Wilmer. We will also provide a news release announcing our presence at Angels in the Maryland Gazette and Pasadena Voice. In years past residents have given their used eye glasses; we will also collect glasses on the 6th and 7th. Please do not hesitate to contact me at We are Looking forward to our opportunity of community engagement....

Our Second Step: Create a Vision Days news release for local newspapers.

For Immediate Release:
On Friday September 6th and Saturday September 7th members of the Severn River Lions Club will distribute information related to the Lions Vision Center at the Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. The information will familiarize community residents on how Lions support vision programs at Wilmer. Also, Lions collect used eye glasses to help in their battle against preventable blindness in third world countries, so please drop off your recyclable eye glasses. For addition information: www.xxx.org or (555) 555-5555

As customers arrived, they were greeted by Lions in Lions apparel (see page 5) and informed about how vision was our main focus of Lions clubs in our District and around the world. Brief accounts were shared of how Lions have benefitted people with sight problems.

Many of the people donating also gave testimony to their knowledge of what Lions provide and they thanked Lions for providing this valuable service to the community. A collection container amassed donations for the LVRF program which will help to ensure our program will continue in local and worldwide communities.

Step involving the members: A presentation on the previous year Vision Days single-day event had taken place. Next, a volunteer sign-up sheet for Vision Days became the start of 5 teams for the two-day event. Each volunteer team was given a 10-minute orientation.

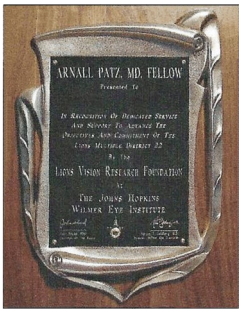
Finally each Vision Day volunteer was asked to fill out a questionnaire. Input from the questionnaire was tabulated and communicated to each volunteer. Next year’s Vision days will include the additions and changes.

What if all 211 clubs in Multiple District 22 did this? \$117,029 would be raised!



LIONS VISION DAYS AT ANGEL’S MARKET IN PASADENA, MD.

LVRF Donor Recognition Program



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

Recognition for donations is available to all clubs, individuals or groups. Total contributions over the past five years may be used for one of the recognitions shown on the left. All clubs (secretaries) should have recently received total funds available for their club to use in the recognition program.

In addition, donations may be used for memorials and honorariums. At donation levels of \$5,000 or more, donors may be placed on the LVRF Endowment Board at division levels of Contributor (\$5,000), Sponsor (\$10,000), Supporter (\$25,000), Associate (\$50,000) and Benefactor (\$100,000).

Detailed information and instructions about how to make a donation is available on the LVRF website www.LionsVision.org, including a downloadable Donation Form, Award Request Form and the Recognition Award Brochure. Get there by clicking on "Donate Now". If you prefer using your credit card or Pay Pal account, you may do this on the same website page.



A donation of \$1,000 or more is recognized by the presentation of the Knights of the Blind Pyramid shown above.



A donation of \$120 or more is recognized by the presentation of the "120 Club" Lapel Pin shown above.

GoFundMe



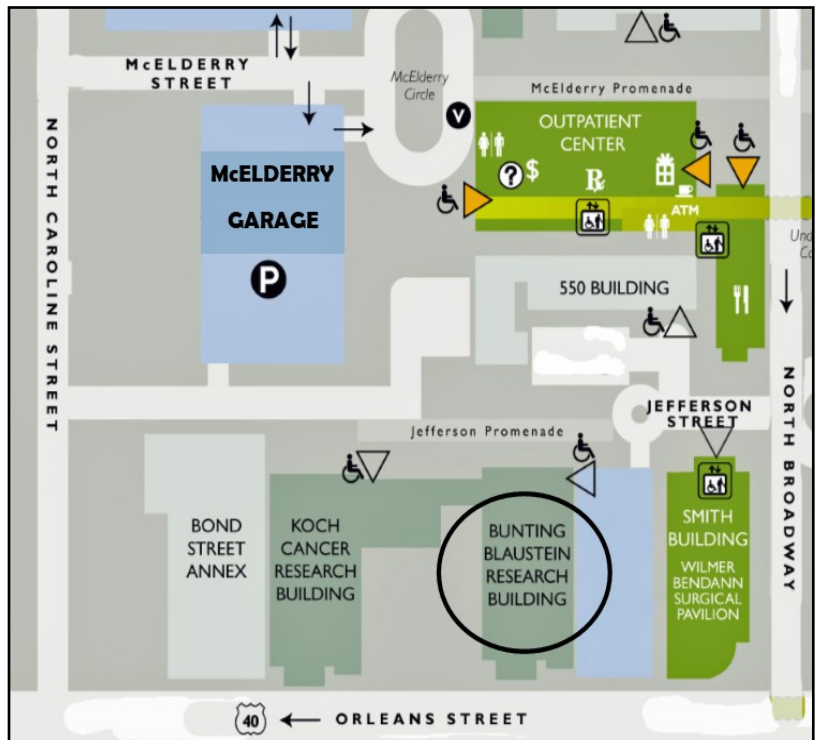
Keep *LOVRNET* growing!
Share the link with your friends.
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Lions-LOVRNET>

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!

LVRF Administrative Manager **Job Description**

- Respond to Voice Mail Messages at 410-995-1883
- Process deposits in bank
- Record donations in Access Database
- Prepare thank you letters and tax receipts
- Update District Donation Reports Monthly
- Track Recognition Program Results
- Track renewals, updates (Bulk Mail, Fidelity Bond Insurance, PO Box Rent, Website Renewal)
- Rally - Prepare & mail Invitations, Prepare Program, Coordinate lunch & refreshments, PR and Display Table
- Order Recognition Programs, process Recognition Program letters
- Update Arnall Patz Plaques at LVC
- Record donations in Access Database
- Record LCI numbers in Access Database
- Coordinate District LVRF Speakers and LVC Staff
- Coordinate/Record Presenters and Recognitions





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

