

# LIONS VISION

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

Spring 2023 Edition

## About \$360,000 to Go!

The late comedian, George Carlin, had fun with language in his stand-up comic performances. For example, George would say “Why do we call it a hot water heater when the device is really a cold water heater?” He would also say this “Have you ever been in the waiting area at an airport gate when the attendant would say “It is now time to get on the plane”. George would say to himself “I don’t know about you folks, but I’m not getting on the plane, I am going to get in the plane.” George also got a reaction from his audience when he talked about one of the most welcome words in the English language. He would say “Folks when you are standing in a long line waiting for service, when the clerk says “Next” and you are that next person in line it brings a sense of accomplishment and warms your heart no matter how long you have been standing in line.”



When I was a young engineer just starting out in my career at DuPont’s Nylon Plant in Seaford, Delaware I had a boss who told me my job was to instill confidence in the operators in the manufacturing areas. I paused for a minute as he spoke. He said “Yes John, we technical specialists have to present an image of confidence so that we build a trusting relationship with the machine operators especially when the processes may not be running very well” In other words, he wanted me to understand the important role we all have to play in building effective, supporting teams. From that day forward I always remembered that good advice.

It is in the context of my opening paragraphs that I chose the title for my article. I wanted the reader to think and react to my words. I didn’t precisely say we need to complete the Lion’s share of the Lions Vision Center Fellow Endowment at Johns Hopkins, but at the same time I wanted to highlight two big numbers and to instill confidence.

Due to the generosity of Lions Clubs and individual Lions in the MD-22 Family as of the end of December 2022, we have raised \$639,943 of the \$1 million needed to complete the Lions share of the Fellow Endowment Fund at Johns Hopkins. About \$360,000 is needed to celebrate achievement of this goal. Can we do it? You bet we can! I believe if we all work together as a strong, cooperative team we can finish this task in about 3 years. Here is how we do it. We are now in the second half of this Lions administrative year. By June 30<sup>th</sup> we should have some new money available from Lions Club fundraisers. I will be standing in front of the Seaford, Delaware Wal-Mart store collecting Vision Days donations from the public in March. I am confident there will be other Lions Clubs in MD-22 that will be sending year end donations from their local fundraisers.

Finally, there is the great opportunity that Wilmer Development has given us by getting the Jones Foundation of Annapolis to provide the \$100,000 to support the operational cost of the Fellow at the Lions Vision Center for the next few years while we maximize our donations to the LVC Fellow Endowment Fund. I encourage all Lions to be confident in our ability to accomplish our objective, and I know when that day comes all Lions will have that feeling that George Carlin described in the person in line responding to “Next!”

- John J Shwed, PDG  
LVR Development Chair

## **Lions Vision Research Foundation Chairman's Message**

As I sit here, thinking what to write, I am looking out a window at the very early signs of Spring. Crocuses and daffodils are blooming, in purples, yellows, and whites. Buds on the trees. Blades of grass reaching for the sun. Longer days of light. Because I am a Lion, I began thinking about those individuals in our community who cannot see the colors, cannot see the shapes, can feel, but cannot see the sunlight. It may be they have never experienced those wonders, or they have lost that joy. It might be a member of our family, a neighbor, a co-worker, or someone unknown to us personally.



Then I remembered the Lions Low Vision Center patient who shared her experience with us at our Rally in November. The focus that Dr. Goldstein, Jim Deremeik, Kristen Shifflett and everyone at the Lions Low Vision Center, give to each patient to bring back as much of the joy in their lives as possible was very evident. The dream that Dr. Dagnelie and the Research Team have for providing patients the possibility of sharing in those joys of sight is always an inspiration. The focus of the Fellowship Program to bring their knowledge and care beyond our area means you are bringing smiles of joy and wonder to individuals across the country and around the world.

This is your impact through your support of LVRF. You are impacting the lives of individuals, one at a time. We know the membership in MD22 is down, and Clubs are revitalizing their fundraising following COVID. As your Club makes its end of the year contributions and plans a budget for 2023-2024, please think about the colors and shapes you can see and help us to enable more individuals to experience that which, I know, I take for granted.

PCC Dee Hawkins, LVRF Chair

## In With a Roar!

As the weather turns warm and Spring arrives, we often reflect - it feels like a new beginning and a time to grow, take on new challenges and learn. At the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center (LVRFFC), we are taking the lead even before the first daffodil blooms.

Teaching, educating and learning are integral to grow knowledge and advance the field. During National Low Vision Awareness Month in February, our team led virtual low vision Grand Rounds to over 100 attendees. Our clinical team mentored ophthalmology residents to share cases on stroke-related vision loss, Dr Dagnelie spoke on our current research project involving scan-paths in hemianopia and Dr. Massof lectured on the characteristics and progression of visual impairments in retinitis pigmentosa. It is this sharing of information that fosters conversation and ideas among clinicians and scientists to innovate and advance care.



**Dr. Judith Goldstein**

On March 3, teams from the Flaum Eye Institute, ABVI Goodwill from Rochester NY and the Lavelle Foundation visited the LVRRC to spend a day of learning with our team at the Center. Their aim is to build a low vision program with special interest in understanding and applying our work in implementation science and clinical decision support to ensure referral of patients in need and utilization of care. It is our cutting-edge research in quality improvement that enables others to follow in our footsteps, implementing systems and ensuring the low vision care of people who need it.

Our training program in Low Vision Occupational Therapy is growing and this spring Kristen Shifflett will be the primary mentor for a 12-week field work rotation for an occupational therapy student. As OTs get little training in vision, this rotation at Wilmer offers in-depth exposure to diagnosing the managing functional deficits in the presence of vision loss. Kristen's skills and teaching ability are getting widely known, and just recently, Duke Eye Center requested Kristen provide student mentoring during the Fall semester.

Educating others is nothing new of Heather Connors, a Certified Ophthalmic Technician and Low Vision Rehabilitation Therapist at the LVRRC. As part of providing technician support in low vision, Heather has continually trained other technicians at Wilmer to perform intakes and visual field testing. On March 10, Heather took it to the next level when she lectured to the Academy for Certified Vision Rehabilitation Professionals on the topic of visual loss and driving goals.

Just because March goes out like a lamb doesn't mean we have to. We're going to keep roaring thanks to your support. Thank you, Lions!

Dr Judith Goldstein, O.D.

**“The importance of mentoring occupational therapists about vision impairment”**

**By: Kristen Shifflett OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV**

I'm in my 16<sup>th</sup> year as an occupational therapist (OT) and my professional career started at John Hopkins. I earned my Masters in Occupational Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis Missouri in 2006. At Washington University, we did have a course on low vision which was about 1 week seminar for about 2 hours a day. This course focused on assessing vision and how it impacted the patient's ability to function throughout the day. The basic information from the course was helpful as I had just started out in my career.

Fast forward to 2008, I went to a two-day continuing education course in North Carolina taught by Mary Warren, the occupational therapist low vision expert. Of course, I fell in love with the content and felt I found my niche. Taking the new information from the course, I realized that I needed to change the way I practiced with my patients – I really needed to focus on how their vision impacts their function with everyday activities. I signed up for the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) low vision certification program, which was a hybrid course (online and in person). For two years, I took a class each semester as well as maintaining a full-time job at Johns Hopkins Bayview in inpatient rehabilitation. The course helped me not only learn new medical knowledge and equipment pertaining to low vision, but also connected me to the community of occupational therapists who were interested in low vision. A part of my curriculum with UAB was to shadow low vision services in the community. I was lucky to have Wilmer Eye Institute in my backyard, so I was able to shadow Kat Cleveland (the OT prior to myself). I continued to work at Bayview, trying to find ways to start a low vision program there but was unsuccessful in forming a collaboration with a low vision optometrist. In 2013, Jim Deremeik notified me that they had an opening for an occupational therapist at Wilmer. I interviewed with the Low Vision Team and was offered a position shortly after.

Most of my colleagues who wanted to specialize in low vision have had similar paths to earn the certification of Specialist Certified Low Vision from American Occupational Therapist Association (AOTA) and/or Certified Low Vision Therapist from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Educational Professionals (ACVREP). Currently there are about 200 OTs who have their SCLV and around 500 CLVTs (a mix of healthcare professionals) that are active in the vision rehabilitation community. These numbers are extremely low considering there are around 256,000 active physical therapists and 120,000 active occupational therapists in the United States right now. In order to achieve the certifications, it is a big commitment. All certifications require service hours, which can be difficult especially if you are an established practitioner in a clinical setting that does not provide vision rehabilitation services full time.

There were 4 million visually impaired individuals in the U.S. in 2012, a number that is predicted to increase to 8 million by 2050, according to the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention. Most people with vision impairment have multiple chronic issues such as heart disease, respiratory issues, and history of multiple falls that cause admissions to hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. The rehabilitation team, such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists, are the main therapists taking care of this population, especially if they need extensive rehabilitation to gain independence. Rehabilitation therapists spend a lot of time with patients when they are recovering from a surgery, fall, or chronic condition.

Unfortunately, the generalist rehabilitation therapists do not have a lot of training in vision rehabilitation. Robin Deacy, an occupational therapist, surveyed occupational therapist educational programs in 2012 and determined that all academic programs varied on their course curriculum devoted to vision impairment. The average amount of time focused on vision impairment was about 1-2 hours in lecture. Therefore, most generalist therapists do not have the specific education on how to work with the visually impaired when they are a new graduate unless they participate in a specialist program (like I did with UAB), specialized fieldwork or participate in continuing education courses focusing on vision impairment.

Wilmer's mission focuses on research, patient care, and education. In order to make change in the rehabilitation world, I have focused on educating rehabilitation professionals about low vision. I have presented at departments throughout Johns Hopkins, presented at national

conferences, and have an upcoming presentation with the American Printing House in April 2023. The biggest contribution I have made in the past 5 years is mentoring current practicing occupational therapists as they work toward their CLVT and/or SCLV certification. I have been lucky to have mentored 5 OTs, three who have achieved their CLVT or SCLV certification and two who are in progress of getting their hours for CLVT. Each of these mentees have changed their work schedules to observe with me in clinic, working 10-hour clinic days for four weeks or taking a vacation day every 2 weeks to get their hours. Each mentee is becoming a leader in their community by starting their own business in low vision or developing programs in their current workplace focused on low vision.

Occupational therapy education programs require occupational therapist students to complete two three-month clinicals in their location of choice. I am excited that I will have one student from Towson this spring and am currently working with Duke University for a contract for fieldwork in the fall. I am hoping that the education of new occupational therapist practitioners will engrain the importance of vision on functional performance.

The number of people with vision impairment is not decreasing, despite medical interventions or treatments. Maybe new vision impairment will not be as severe with medical intervention, but patients will have an impairment. Rehabilitation therapists and low vision professional communities must merge in order to meet this demand. I hope that with my future research, patient care, and education of health care professionals we can start to make this statement a reality.

#### **International Director Dianne Pitts visits Wilmer During her Maryland Visit**

International Director Dianne Pitts and her Partner in Service PCC Joe Pitts were given a tour of the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute on March 3, 2023 prior to visiting the Eastern Shore for the District 22B Social. The tour was given by Kyoko Fujiwara and Heather Connors of the LVC staff. They were accompanied by PCC John Lawrence on the tour.



**Live at the Multiple District 22 Convention in Ocean City! Please join us!**

**An LVRF Presentation by Dr. Gislin Dagnelie, Ph.D.**

**"LVRF and MD-22 change the way low vision is detected and treated: Your volunteer efforts and dollars making a difference through the Lions Vision Center"**

**Friday, April 21st at 1:45pm**

# ***DONATION FORM***

**THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC**  
**at the Wilmer Eye Institute of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions**  
**P. O Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203-1714**

Enclosed is my/our contribution(s) of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the Lions Vision Research Foundation.

I(We) desire our contribution to support:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Operating Budget. (Please indicate Classification) \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Vision Days
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lions Vision Fellowship Endowment (supports a Lions Fellow into perpetuity)

I(We) request the following Recognition(s):

120 Pin \_\_\_\_\_ Knights of the Blind Pyramid \_\_\_\_\_ Arnall Patz \_\_\_\_\_ Progressive Patz \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete below if this is a tribute or a memorial gift. In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: MD 22 LVRF at address above*  
 Donations are deductible in accordance with applicable tax laws.

## **22ND ANNUAL LIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT IN HONOR OF RICHARD LIEBNO**



To Benefit  
**American Diabetes  
 Association®**  
**Lions Vision Research  
 Foundation, Inc.**  
**Abby's Carts of Courage**



Lions Clubs Region IV  
 Zone III (Carroll County)  
 Fundraiser

**Friday, May 26, 2023**  
 7:30 a.m.

**Oakmont Green Golf Course**

**Date:** May 26, 2023  
**Time:** 6:30 a.m. Registration and  
 Breakfast Beverages & Snacks  
 7:30 a.m. SHOTGUN START  
**Place:** OAKMONT GREEN GOLF COURSE  
 2290 Golfview Lane,  
 Hampstead, MD 21074  
**Price:** \$90 each golfer  
 \$360 per foursome  
**Format:** CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

**HURRY! LIMITED TO 144 PLAYERS  
 SO REGISTER TODAY!**

**GOLF PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Breakfast beverages & snacks
- Green fees & cart (18 holes)
- Gift bag for every golfer
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team Prizes
- Water, beer & soda provided on the course
- Fried chicken lunch served and prizes awarded in the clubhouse following the tournament

**MORE PRIZES**

Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive

Special Hole-in-One Contest with a  
 \$5,000 Cash Prize



**PLEASE LIST GOLFER INFO BELOW:**

**GOLFER #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**GOLFER #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**GOLFER #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**GOLFER #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY FORM  
 (with check made payable to)**

**LIONS CLUBS ZONE III FUNDRAISER**  
 c/o Tournament Treasurer Lion Martin Bonura  
 1743 Deer Park Rd, Finksburg, MD 21048

Online golf registration can also be made  
 at: [zone3lions.golfgenius.com](http://zone3lions.golfgenius.com)

*If you have any question or for more information,  
 call Lion Martin Bonura 443-472-5456  
 or e-mail: [lionsbonura@gmail.com](mailto:lionsbonura@gmail.com)*



## Lions Vision Research Foundation Member Recognition at the Multiple District 22 Club Level



### Lions Recently Receiving Recognition with a Knights of the Blind Pyramid



Lion Nancy Tracy, Lion Max Sempowski, Lion Brooks McBurney, Lion Laura Ganske, Lion Wayne Scull, Lion Steven Bready, Robyn Quinter.

### Lions Recently Receiving Recognition as an Arnall Patz Fellow



Dr. Laurie Conti, DG Daniel Elkins, Lion Charles Spadone, PDG Kelley Randolph,, PDG Paul Cannada, PDG Evan Gillett, Lion Tim Foltz, **Progressive Arnall Patz Fellow PCC Clare Newcomer**  
(Not in picture: Lion Carl Gilbert)

**Recognize your club members today!** To learn more about member recognition through club donations to Lions Vision Research Foundation, please click [here](#).

<b><u>2022-2023 Officers</u></b>		
<b>Chair</b> -PCC Dee Hawkins	<b>Vice Chair</b> - PDG Evan Gillett	<b>Secretary</b> - PDG Barbara Brimigion
<b>Treasurer</b> - PCS Martin Bonura	<b>Immediate Past Chair</b> - CC Wayne Cole	<b>Administrative Manager</b> - DG Sue Parks
<b>Board Advisors</b> - PIP Clement F. Kusiak, PID Richard Liebno, PID Ted Revier, PID Joseph Gaffigan		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> - FVDG Jeremy Bair (410) 596-2917    jebair2025@hotmail.com		

	District 22A	District 22B	District 22C	District 22D	District 22W
<b>Trustees</b>	DG Sue Parks	DG Carol Schoonover	DG Maxine R Hooker	DG Daniel Elkins	DG Nadja Muchow
Year 1 / 3	PDG Owen Landis		PDG Rich Barb	Lion Paul Settelmeyer	Lion Leon Cardiff
Year 2 / 3	Lion Dr. Bob Massof	PCC John Lawrence	PCC Dee Hawkins	PDG Mary Lee Philips	PDG Susan Bonura
Year 3 / 3	IPCC Larry Burton	Lion Michelle Holland	PDG Andrea Cumberland	PDG John Shwed	PDG Evan Gillett

<b>Wilmer Faculty and Staff</b>					
Peter J. McDonnell, M.D.	Morton F. Goldberg, M.D.	Judith E. Goldstein, O.D.	Gislin Dagnelie, Ph.D.	Kyoko Fujiwara	Daniela Fried

# LIONS VISION

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



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