

LIONS VISION



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

SPRING, 2022

Be a Lion Influencer!

There is no doubt that we live in the Digital Age. Life changed dramatically in September 1998 when Google was founded and again in 2007 when Apple released the first iPhone.



PDG John Shwed

Those inventions spurred the creation of social media. Our language has been changed to accommodate the new technology. When we want to research something instead of going to an encyclopedia or a traditional library we say "Google it". The iPhone created the word "selfie" and unleashed a barrage of "emojis" - little pictures that convey feelings when attached to a message. The leading social media businesses like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube gave birth to the term "Influencer".

The classical definition of influence is to cause others to be persuaded or to act. What the social media companies learned is that their opportunities for business grew exponentially with international exposure more so than through broadcast television or print media. Some of America's leading companies like Amazon, Wal-Mart, Adidas, Nike, and Pepsi all pay people called "Influencers". Celebrities like Dwayne Johnson, Kim Kardashian, and Kylie Jenner are "Influencers". But, so is a 10 year old boy named Ryan Kaji, who with his family made an estimated \$30 million in 2021 promoting clothes, watches, sporting goods, furniture, and toys on his YouTube videos known as Ryan's Toyreview. His videos have had over 45 billion hits and he has 28 million followers.

We Lions have been influenced or persuaded by some well known individuals. That great lady Helen Keller challenged us to be "Knights in the crusade against dark-

ness". We listened and took up her challenge to eliminate preventable blindness world-wide. In 1988 the Lions of MD-22 were influenced by Dr. Arnall Patz to partner with the Wilmer Eye Institute and to create the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center focused on the problem of low vision for which there is no medical cure. Lions responded and completed a \$4 million Endowment Fund to create that Lions Vision Center. Now we are in the midst of another campaign to raise a \$2.3 million Endowment Fund to fund the training of a doctor in low vision eye care and technology annually. Following training, these doctors will take their low vision knowledge to eye practices world wide. One graduated LVC Fellow now practices in Bangkok, Thailand.

We need all Lions in MD-22 to become "Influencers" for this campaign. Get your Club to contribute to LVRF. Conduct a special fundraiser or a Vision Days solicitation in your community. Encourage potential donors with the ability to donate personally to do so. At the end of December there was \$770,154 in the Fellow Endowment Account at Johns Hopkins. At the end of March, when fund performance data is released, we will see that number jump up again since an additional transfer of funds was made into that account in January 2022. The Lions and Wilmer Development each have a goal of raising \$1.15 million, or one half of the \$2.3 million goal. The Jones Foundation of Annapolis has given us a window of opportunity to complete the Lions share in four years since they have agreed to contribute \$100,000 annually to support the LVC Fellow program. This means that except for operating expenses, LVRF can contribute the vast majority of its annual revenue to the Endowment Fund. Be a Lion "Influencer" and help us get this important task completed!

John J. Shwed
LVRF Development Chair

Lions Vision Research Foundation Chairman's Message

It's Convention Time!!

Isn't it wonderful that the Lions of Multiple District 22B can come together once again in person to celebrate the wonderful work we all do in our respective communities. I so look forward to seeing everyone in Gettysburg. The Board of Trustees of LVRF certainly have a lot to celebrate and we hope you all stop by our display table and attend our seminar, but I will talk more about that later in my article.

It is so hard to believe that my two year tenure as Chairman of LVRF is quickly coming to an end and I just want to say what a pleasure and a privilege it has been serving with such a great group of trustees, committee chairs, and advisors. Your dedication and commitment to this wonderful foundation overwhelms me and I just want to simply say "Thank You." Many of you have served multiple terms and will continue, as I will, to serve LVRF. For me the motivation to do everything that I can to make sure LVRF has all the resources necessary to assist our wonderful clinicians at the Low Vision Clinic comes from the feedback we get from patients that get care from our center. The Lions of Multiple District 22 took on a great challenge and a huge leap of faith when we made a commitment to raise \$4M initially to make sure our low vision clinic would operate in perpetuity. And now as we see and hear the results of what we have done and what we will continue to do has to serve as motivation for all of us. In our District, 22B, we hold annual LVRF Fundraising Dinners and we always have a patient testimony at each of our dinners. At one of the dinners this year, we had the pleasure of having twin boys who are blind that are now 11 years old present a patient testimonial along with their school teacher. Now to be honest, we have had these two boys present to us before but always with their mother. However, this year the boys took center stage and told us about the progress they are making in school and just how a typical day for them goes. To see the smiles and the excitement coming from these two wonderful boys and to hear how much credit they give to Wilmer and to their wonderful doctors simply will bring tears to your eyes. Even at their young age, these two so appreciate what the Lions are doing for them. Their future is so bright because of the commitment

everyday Lions like you and me made several years ago. People from all over the world come to this place we call the Wilmer Eye Institute and the Lions Low Vision Center, but for the patients who come for treatment and care, it is a place where "Miracles Happen."



PDG Wayne Cole

We hope that everyone attending the convention will attend our seminar that will take place on Friday, April 22 at 1:45 p.m. Come hear more incredible stories from our Leadership and Clinicians at the Lions Low Vision Center. You will hear from Dr. Judy Goldstein, Executive Director, of our clinic. Dr. Judy always gives Lions valuable updates as to what is happening there. Dr. Gislin Dagnelie will be presenting updates on the research presently being conducted at the clinic. You can also hear how you and your club can help the Board reach the goals of LVRF. Also, if you can't make it to the seminar, please make sure you stop by our information and marketing table. Members of the board will be manning the table and would so enjoy sharing with you and possibly selling you some LVRF merchandise.

I also want to give everyone a quick update on the Lions Low Vision Fellowship Endowment Fund. The Board of Directors voted to move \$100,000 from our general fund to the Endowment Fund at our January Board meeting. This will put us over \$800,000 so we are well on our way to the \$2.3 million that will fund this endowment. We continue to work jointly with the Johns Hopkins Development team to do our best to complete the funding of this foundation by June 30, 2026. I want to thank all Lions of MD 22 for your continued financial support.

Please enjoy our wonderful convention and thank you to the convention committee for a job well done. Thank you, again, Lions of MD 22 for touching the lives of so many that are suffering with Blindness and Low Vision.

PDG Wayne Cole

Dalton "Dal" Mann
1932 - 2021

PDG Dal Mann was born in Manns Harbor, North Carolina, in 1932. There he went through high school and graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in mathematics.



He then joined the US Air Force and served as a navigator during the Viet Nam war. He had various other jobs in the Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel while working in the White House situation room. Upon retiring from the Air Force, he continued working in the White House as a civilian. During this time, Dal became involved with the National Recreation and Parks Association to include becoming a chairman of one of their national committees.

Upon retiring in 1995, Dal followed his good friend Cal Butt to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. When Lion Cal invited Dal to a meeting of the Hurlock Lions Club, Dal became a member. As you might

expect, Dal quickly became involved with his club's activities and then began to serve at the District 22-B and Multiple-District levels as well.

In 1999, Dal became involved with the Lions Vision Research Foundation when he served as the Candy Day Chairman in District 22-B to raise money for LVRF. LVRF was a cause he truly believed in and he devoted his time and energy to it for the rest of his life. He soon served as a Trustee, both as an appointed position and as the District Governor of 22-B in 2004 - 2005. He worked on several committees, notably the Education Committee with PCC Rowe Haywood, and later became the Secretary of LVRF for several years.

In 2010, Dal and the Chair of LVRF organized the Aim for Sight Sporting Clay Tournament to replace the LVRF Golf Tournament. For the next 11 years, Dal served as the Chairman of the event, raising over \$100,000 over the years.

PDG Dal was very generous with his time and assets. He took the time to make everyone he contacted feel special. At our silent auctions, he would often bid up the price, win the bid, and then give away the item, frequently to the very person he had outbid.

PDG Dal was a devoted Lion and a Lion of a Mann. He is sorely missed.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Lion Sue Parks

Lions Vision Research Foundation

P.O. Box 1714 Baltimore, MD 21203-1714

Bus: (410) 953-1883—Voice mail (only) to be returned.

sparks@severnriverlions.org

EDITOR

Lion Bill Strauss

(301) 667-4516

williamstrauss@msn.com



WILMER FACULTY & STAFF

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DG Dave Studley

PDG Wayne Cole (3rd of 3 years)

Lion Michelle Holland (2nd of 3 years)

PCC John Lawrence (1st of 3 years)

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PDG Paul Hawkins (3rd of 3 years)

PDG Andrea Cumberland (2nd of 3 years)

PCC Dee Hawkins (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-D

DG Dave Mitchell

Lion Paul Sattelmeyer (3rd of 3 years)

PDG John Shwed (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Mary Lee Phillips (1st of 3 years)

TRUSTEES District 22-W

DG Charles Croft

Lion Jack Niemiec (3rd of 3 years)

IPDG Evan Gillett (2nd of 3 years)

PDG Susan Bonura (1st of 3 years)

FROM THE LIONS LOW VISION CENTER



Dr. Dominic Brown

My name is Dominic Brown, and I am the current 2021-2022 Lion's Low Vision Fellow. As a reminder: I am a Baltimore native who studied at the University of Maryland in Baltimore County and received a bachelor's degree in Biology. I then went on to obtain my Doctor of Optometry degree in 2020 at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. I completed my residency training at the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center in low vision and ocular disease. It's been approximately eight months now that I've begun the Lion's Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital. I continue to manage patients with a wide variety of common and rare ocular conditions on their journeys to overcoming their low vision. To date I have provided two grand rounds presentations, submitted an original project for the Institutional Review Board which was accepted, and submitted a research abstract to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology which was also accepted. My current research project explores the effectiveness of low vision services in reaching patient-oriented goals. It's bittersweet to know my time at Wilmer is slowly coming to an end, but I'm excited to finish my fellowship strong. I am very grateful for all the support I've been granted thus far, and am looking forward to the next phase of my optometric journey



Dr. Katie Kerr-Newmann

Hello Lions!

My name is Katie Kerr-Niermann and I am one of the newest faculty members to join the Lions Vision Research & Rehabilitation Center. I am so thankful to be joining such a dedicated team and to have the Lions' support behind it all. I was previously working in St. Louis, Missouri as a faculty member of a College of Optometry where I taught courses in low vision rehabilitation and ophthalmic optics. Moving to Baltimore was a big change for my family (my husband, two young kids, and two cats), but we feel at home already.

I graduated from optometry school from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee and completed a residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation at the University of California- Berkeley, School of Optometry. As if all that schooling wasn't enough, I am now pursuing my Master of Science in an online program from the University of Illinois with a concentration in Health Communication.

My inspiration to enter low vision rehabilitative care came from my grandmother, Dorothy. She spent her life as a farmer in a small town in Southern Illinois. She was legally blind since her 20s with a rare retinal condition

(pseudoxanthoma elasticum). It was always difficult for my family to understand her vision loss, for instance, she could not tell who was right in front of her but she could pick up a penny from the floor using her peripheral vision. She did not have access to vision rehabilitation services during her lifetime and I often wonder if adaptations could have improved her quality of life. I am reminded of my grandmother often and it sparks motivation to give the best care I possibly can to each patient that comes through the door.

Although this biography is supposed to focus on me, I want to shift the focus over and thank YOU. Lions have always been special in my life. During optometry school, I volunteered in vision clinics in Mexico, Colombia, Jamaica, and Belize through the Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH). The organization of the clinics and our lodging was supported by local Lions in each community. I have been nothing but impressed with every Lion I have met. Thank you for your dedication to community and for supporting missions to help those affected by vision loss.



Dr. Suzanne Kim

Hello Lion Members!

I am honored to introduce myself to the community as one of the new low vision optometrists joining the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Center at John Hopkins. I feel privileged to continue pursuing my passion for low vision and provide services to those living with low vision. I originally hail from Southern California where I completed my undergraduate degree at UC San Diego and my optometry degree at Western University of Health Sciences. Upon completion of optometry school, I went on to do additional specialty training in low vision rehabilitation, acquired brain injury rehabilitation, and ocular disease at the West Haven Veteran Affairs Medical Center. I then moved to Richmond, Virginia to serve as the director of the MEDARVA low vision and traumatic brain injury (TBI) clinic for five years. During that time, I had the pleasure of serving low vision and TBI patients in the central Virginia area and educating the local community about low vision rehabilitation. I also founded a low vision support group where we met monthly to provide a safe space for patients to discuss challenges of living with low vision and there was great camaraderie that was fostered. We did outings to the beautiful Lewis Ginter botanical garden and enjoyed audio description plays at the Virginia repertory theater. My professional life has been guided by the belief that all individuals should be given the tools and resources that will allow them to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling and meaningful lives. I look forward to continuing to provide low vision services that would improve the quality of life for our low vision patients.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Lions of Multiple District 22 will come together to celebrate 100 years of service on August 12-13, 2022 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott, in Hunt Valley MD. Lions, Leos and special friends of our Multiple District will host our International President for that year, as FVP Brian Sheehan will be with us for the weekend. Many events have been scheduled for this jam-packed two day event. The special event will kick off with a formal dinner Friday evening, as International President Sheehan will bring us the keynote address. The Leos of MD 22 will be competing with our Special Olympians in Bocce Ball tournaments on Saturday. We will open Saturday morning with a breakfast with a very special guest speaker. We will have a large historical room, where the five sub-districts will be sharing the history of their districts. We will be entertained on Saturday night by The Fabulous HubCaps following an informal dinner. Two tours have been set up for Saturday including a trip and tour of the Wilmer Eye Institute and a trip to Hampton National Historical Site in Towson, MD. Dr. Don Newberry of Texas will serve as our Master of Ceremonies for the weekend. For those that stick around the convention center on Saturday afternoon, you are welcome to join your fellow Lions as they take part in several Service Projects put together by our MD 22 GST Chairperson, Susan Cox and her team of District GST's.

As the Lions of MD 22 prepare for our Centennial Celebration, we must never forget the one constant service project that has been the true concentration area for us and that is "Vision." For 100 years the Lions of MD 22 have provided any resources we have at our disposal to insure that those who are suffering from blindness and low vision are treated and cared for. In the sixties and seventies, the Sub Districts purchased Sight and Hearing Vans, traveling all over their districts offering free testing in an effort to prevent serious eye disease. We all knew early diagnosis was key. Some Districts still today have those testing vans and are offering services to their citizenry. Testing and early diagnosis of Amblyopia led the Lions of Multiple District 22 to purchase cameras designed to test very young children and get almost immediate results. This testing was performed in elementary schools, nursery schools, daycare centers, and many community events. The success stories from all over the Multiple District led to the creation of the Lions Saving Kids Sight Foundation. There are numerous cameras around our Multiple District today and thousands of children are tested annually.

In May of 1988 at the 66th Multiple District Convention, Lions of the Multiple District voted to formally establish the Lions Vision Research Foundation. This was at the urging of Dr. Arnall Patz who at the time was the Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute and the world's leading eye surgeon. In March of 1991, Dr. Robert Massof, the Director of the Lions Low Vision Center, recommended that the Center's research be focused on Low Vision. Dr. Massof proposed that the Lions establish a \$4 million endowment fund to guarantee the Lions Low Vision Center would operate in perpetuity. This endowment was completely funded in 2007. Patients from all over the world are now being

cared for and treated at this center. Invaluable research conducted by clinicians at the center is resulting in new treatments and new devices for those who are blind or suffering from low vision. With the establishment of the Lions Low Vision Fellowship program, our center is training new low vision specialists who are going out into the world to treat those in need of these special treatments. In 2013 LVRF launched its Low Vision Rehabilitation Network with grants from LCIF Sightfirst and Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation. LOVRNET is a community based program designed to promote the expansion of low vision services by local Lions.

Every sub District of MD 22 is connected in some way to the Medical Eye Bank of Maryland or the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley. Financial support is given annually to the Eye Banks from not only clubs but local Lions. Many Lions are cornea donors, while many other donate their time to volunteer and to promote these wonderful organizations.

From collecting used eye glasses, to buying new eye glasses for those less fortunate, to driving a patient in need to an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist appointment, or to referring a patient to our Lions Low Vision Center, the local Lions of MD 22 for 100 years have been the "Knights of the Blind" that Helen Keller asked us to be.

As we gather together on August 12 – 13, 2022 to celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a Multiple District, let us also celebrate the huge difference we are making in improving the lives of our fellow citizens who are blind or are coping with low vision. Please plan on attending the Multiple District 22 100th Anniversary Celebration. Every sub district has a representative on the MD 22 100th Anniversary Committee and additional information can be obtained from that representative. Please encourage your Leos to attend this special event as they will be the foundation for the next 100 years of service. Please be on the lookout for registration and ticket information, along with Hotel Reservation information very soon. Local clubs and Lions can help with financial support of this event by purchasing ads in the program book. This information will also be coming out very soon as well.

**WE NEED YOU TO ATTEND THIS 100th
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF MULTIPLE
DISTRICT 22 TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS !!**



DISTRICT 22 D LVRF DINNER EVENT

Dear Club Presidents & Secretaries,

Your club members and guests are encouraged to attend an event on May 3, 2022 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. The Speaker for the evening will be Dr. Judy Goldstein and one of the new LVC Fellows from our own Wilmer Institute of Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Dr. Goldstein will bring us up to date on what is happening – despite COVID – in the world of low vision and how Lions help and continue to help.

This is also an opportunity to

1. Bring your pledge or endowment check for LVRF from your club
2. Honor a member (or 2 or 3) with Pyramids, Patz Fellowships or even a 120 pin (cost of those only \$120). If you are unsure if your club has funds on hand, contact Administrative Assistant Sue Parks at LVRF. (Her contact information is on page 3.)

The cost is \$25 per person. There will be a cash bar beginning at 5:30 P.M. and dinner will be served promptly at 6 P.M. after the opening ceremony.

The other trustees and I look forward to seeing each of you on May 3. If you have any questions, please call me at 302-841-4007...

In Lions Service,

PDG John Shved

Chair of LVRF Dinner Event

Trustees: PDG Mary Lee Phillips
Lion Paul Settelmeyer

Reservation Form- Please return by deadline of April 22, 2022

Complete, detach and return to:

CS Mary Lee Phillips, 123 Riverview Drive, Dagsboro, DE 19939

Please make checks payable to **DISTRICT 22 D** - Tickets will be picked up at the door.

Club Name _____ Contact Person _____

Check enclosed for number attending _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____

Names of Attendees (use reverse if needed):

Support LVRF

One way to support LVRF is to provide funds to support the training of specialists in low vision rehabilitation. The fellowship training program provides education in advanced clinical care, specific to low vision rehabilitation and vision rehabilitation research. Dr. Dom Brown is our current Low Vision Fellow. As a trainee, Dr. Brown will become highly skilled in diagnosis, treatment, management and direct care of low vision patients.

Another way to support LVRF is through the Donor Recognition Program. Recognition is available for dona-

tions of \$120.00 [120 Club Lapel Pin]; \$1,000.00 [Knights of the Blind Pyramid]; \$2,500.00 [Arnall Patz Fellowship Pin and Plaque]. If your club holds a Vision Days fundraising event, your club will receive a special Vision Days banner patch.

Donations of any amount can be made at any time by sending a check to the Lions Vision Research Foundation, PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203. Donations can be made on-line through the LVRF website (<http://www.lionsvision.org/>) by clicking on the "donate" tab.

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.



AIM FOR SIGHT



Aim for Sight has been an annual event since 2010, and since its inception has raised over \$110,000 for the Lions Vision Research Foundation. 2021 was no exception. Although the event was cancelled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the event was held in Western Maryland. Funds raised at the event in Western Maryland and from the program book which included both ads and sponsorships totaled a whopping \$9100.

Many thanks go to all the clubs and individuals who made the 2021 Aim For Site fundraiser a success!

Plans are already underway for the Aim for Sight fundraiser in 2022, with the hope that our pandemic has abated and that all will be able to hunt the clay pigeons in the fall.

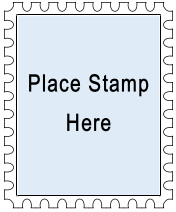
The Aim for Site fundraiser was challenged in 2021

because of a scarcity of ammunition. The event planners are considering asking shooters to provide their own ammunition in 2022 (a common practice for clay shooting events). It is felt that purchasing small amounts is much easier than one large amount. Shooters will be given early notice if this consideration becomes a requirement and if there are any entry fee changes. Stay tuned!

The shoot in Western Maryland will be on September 24, 2022 at Mayberry Game and Gun Club in Westminster, MD and the shoot on the eastern shore is tentatively set for October 15, 2022 in Henderson, MD. Stay tuned for the announcements and registration forms later this year. For further information, please contact PDG Wayne Cole at waynecole66@hotmail.com or PID Richard Liebno at richard.lion@comcast.net.



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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