

LIONS VISION

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

Fall 2023 Edition

A LIONS HOMECOMING

Thoughts of home warm the hearts and stir the emotions of people and creatures, large and small, world-wide. Whales travel thousands of ocean miles to birth their young in a special place. As part of their life cycle, the tiny, beautiful Monarch butterflies of North America migrate to a special gathering place in Mexico. If they can get by the hungry bears, salmon in the Pacific Northwest swim upstream, sometimes hurtling themselves over waterfalls or dams to spawn.



Many phrases and images have been crafted by humans to capture the very special meaning of “Home”. Roman Naval Commander and author Pliny the Elder in the first century AD is credited with creating the concept “home is where the heart is”. In 1829, a poem published in several US newspapers titled “Tis home where the heart is” reinforced his concept. Hollywood films have captured the emotion quite well. In the 1945 classic “Lassie Come Home” viewers fell in love with collie Lassie who struggles to find his way back home to the family who were financially strapped and had to give him up. A light hearted film of the 1990’s “Home for the Holidays” gave viewers the warmth we all feel going home. Our western singing cowboys affectionately sang about “Home on the Range.”

This November 18th the MD-22 Lions Family will be coming home to the Lions Vision Center and its parent organization the Wilmer Eye Institute after a three year absence caused by precautions related to Covid-19. Even the cartoon Lions created for our publicity flyer by Lion William Strauss are excited to be jumping into their vehicles and taking the trip to Baltimore to interact with other Lions, hear the latest eye research highlights, and tour the Lions Vision Center.

As a reminder the Lions Vision Research Foundation and the Lions Vision Center is “Home” for the Md-22 Lions Family as it is a unique organization established by a vote of the delegates to the 1988 MD-22 Lions Convention. I encourage all Lions to travel to Baltimore for this event. As with past in person Rallies there will be time on the agenda for Clubs and individuals to present donations in support of the work of your Lions Vision Center. We are currently in a campaign to endow the Fellow at the Lions Vision Center. The Fellow program trains eye doctors in low vision research, technology, and rehabilitative practices, Upon completion the Fellows take the low vision skills they have learned to eye centers world-wide. By the time this newsletter goes to press our Lions should have approximately \$700,000 raised towards our \$1 million goal, leaving about \$300,000 to go to complete the Lions’ share of the Endowment Fund. Wilmer Development will match the Lion’s share with an additional \$1 million.

I hope to see you there and greet you with a warm “Welcome Home”!

John J. Shwed

LVRD Development Chair

Lions Vision Research Foundation Chairman's Message

I want to echo what PDG John Shwed says in his column. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Lions home to Wilmer. As mentioned, it has been four years since we have been able to gather at Wilmer in person, and there have been so many changes and advancements in that time. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see and hear what is going on, while sharing in the fellowship of other Lions.



One of our signature projects has been the Lions Fellow at the Lions Vision Center. This program has had a tremendous impact, both locally and globally. The dream of LVRF and Wilmer is to endow this program, and we have achieved close to 70% of the Lions portion of the goal. That is thanks to you. Whether it is through your Vision or White Cane Days, a golf tournament, an LVRF Dinner, it is because of you, your clubs and your District that we continue to meet our goals to support low vision care.

Where there is a need, there is a Lion. That saying definitely applies to the Wilmer/LVRF partnership. Several months ago, Dr. Judy Goldstein brought to our attention the need to have volunteer services for low vision clients. This can include picking up and/or delivering vision equipment, transportation to and from a clinic, safety assessment in the home, to name a few. We reactivated our Volunteer Committee and asked PDG Bijoy Mahanti to step in as chair. Under his direction, a committee has been formed and has met with Dr. Goldstein to develop plans to have Lions meet these needs. As plans are put in place, look for more information on how you can be a part of this initiative to serve low vision patients in our Multiple.

Exciting things – our Homecoming at Wilmer, an endowment of the Lions Fellow and an opportunity for greater service.

PCC Dee Hawkins, LVRF Chair

It's All About Uplifting Lives

If there's one thing I've learned in my years working with the Lions, it's that at the heart of their mission is people. I feel so privileged to be a part of this extraordinary effort. When I see the huge difference our partnership has made in advancing vision science, I know it is because there is a dedicated, compassionate team of people who genuinely care about how that science will uplift lives.



Dr. Judith Goldstein

The transition to autumn at the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center has been a busy time, abuzz with activity now that the Lions Fellow and ophthalmology trainee rotations for 2023-24 year have begun.

One exciting focus of recent activity with the Lions has been establishing direct service for both transportation to vision appointments and delivery of visual assistive equipment. This will provide an added convenience to patients who rely on these services, as well as wonderful volunteer opportunities for Lions.

Of all the things we learned from the pandemic, the one big thing is just how important being social is to our health. Now that the seasons are changing and the cooler weather is creeping in, let's be sure to stay healthy by staying social. Getting out and getting together with others is proven to benefit well-being — I can see the difference in my patients who are socially active versus those who are not. The good news is that we have lots of opportunities to get together and do great things coming up soon!

Many of our Lions Districts are planning Fall banquets, the Aim for Sight event, and of course, the big Annual Lions Rally. And I am so happy to report that for the first time in several years, the Annual Lions Rally is going to be held in-person at the Wilmer Eye Institute.

Please join us on Saturday, November 18, at the Wilmer Eye Institute as we celebrate 10 years of Multiple District 22 and over 30 years of the Lions Vision Center. We have an exciting program planned that begins with morning tours of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center, followed by presentations from our colleagues who will share some exciting cutting-edge research.

Those who choose to take a tour will be happy to know that the Rally is being held just steps away in the same building. So convenient!

We'll also hear from past and current directors Drs. Morton Goldberg and Peter McDonnell, along with trainees, Dr. Colette Houssan, our Lions 2023-2024 Jones Fellow, and Sherwina Adams who is currently rotating under the Center's Kristen Shifflett, OT, CLVT. And I am particularly looking forward to hearing from patients and Lions — celebrating the incredible and productive collaboration shared between LVRF, MD-22, and the Wilmer Eye Institute.

As we prepare for an exciting rally and transition into colder weather and the holidays, let's do our best to get out and socialize in a safe, healthy way and be sure to get your flu shot!

I hope to see you at Wilmer in November. Rally on, Lions!

Judith E. Goldstein, Chief, Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center



LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2023 HOMECOMING RALLY



Date & Time: November 18, 2023 ~ 9:30 am

Place: Chevy Chase Auditorium, Johns Hopkins



Highlights of Homecoming Rally

- ◆ Tour the Lions Low Vision Center ~ 9:30 - 10:30
- ◆ Wilmer Eye Institute Presentations ~ 10:40
 - ◇ Lions Vision Center
 - ◇ Research
 - ◇ LVC Fellow Program and more...
- ◆ Patient Testimonials
- ◆ Jim Deremeik Service Award
- ◆ LUNCH (RSVP so that we have a good count)
- ◆ Closing Ceremony
 - ◇ Wilmer Eye Institute Update, Dr. Peter McDonnell
 - ◇ Fellowship Endowment Update
 - ◇ Club Donations

Donations

Bring your donations. If you are unable to attend, mail donation check payable to LVRF, with *Homecoming Rally* on the memo line, to SVDG Martin Bonura, LVRF Treasurer, PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203.

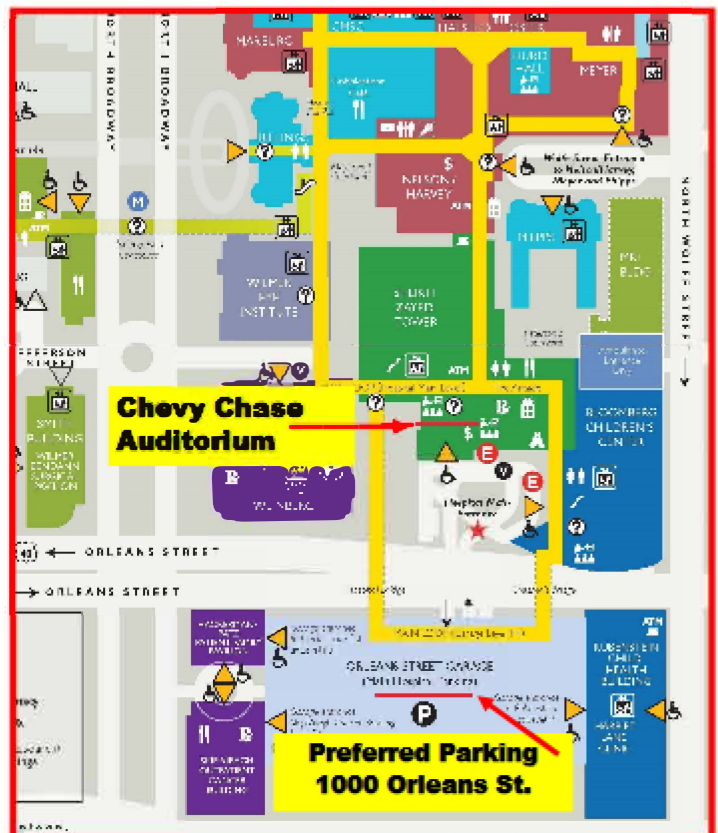
RSVP by 11/14/23

LVRF.rally@gmail.com

Include Name, Email, Club, District

Questions?

Contact LVRF Chair PCC Dee Hawkins
301-774-5229



Hi Everyone! My name is Colette Houssan, and I am the 2023-2024 Jones Fellow at Lions Low Vision Center, Wilmer Eye Institute Johns Hopkins Hospital. I'm honored to have been selected by the committee and am so excited to learn from everyone on this amazing team! I grew up in Millbury, MA with my parents, a sister, two brothers, and my whole family living no more than seven minutes away from us. I attended the College of the Holy Cross for my undergraduate degree and the University of New England for my Masters in Public Health. I graduated this past May from the Kentucky College of Optometry. Optometry has been a dream since I was ten years old when I got to look at my sister's fundus. It became a passion once my grandfather was diagnosed with the wet version of macular degeneration and progressively began to lose his vision. He worked with low vision specialists and from there I was determined to help people like my grandfather. This opportunity allows me to train with the best, so that I can give my best to patients who truly deserve it. I have learned so much already and look forward to all the skills I will gain as a clinician-researcher through this fellowship! So, thank you Lions for all you do for this program and giving me the chance to help those who need it most!



Hi Lions family! My name is Yingzi Xiong. I joined the faculty at LVRRC as an assistant professor of low vision research in May 2023. In the past few months, I have met some of you virtually or in-person at Lions events. I am honored to have your attention again in this newsletter.

I grew up in China in a small city called Yancheng (盐城). It's a cute, little city geographically close to Shanghai. As a coastal city, the summer in my hometown is humid, just like in Baltimore. In 2011, I went to Beijing, the capital city of China, for graduate school at Peking University. I received my PhD in vision science in the summer of 2016, soon after which I came to the United States for my Postdoc position at the University of Minnesota. The winter in Minnesota was not as scary as people said, and apparently not everybody goes ice-fishing in the winter there. In my first couple of years in Minnesota, I walked for half an hour to work in 30-inch snow and still felt alive (not anymore).

My postdoc work at Minnesota started my research journey in low vision and vision rehabilitation. My research asked how vision impairment affects an individual's reading performance, and how to facilitate low vision reading by accessible font design and display choices. Through my communication with my participants with low vision, I noticed the high co-occurrence of hearing loss among this population. Despite the high prevalence of dual sensory impairment in the older population, vision and hearing rehab care have been two separate systems. This observation prompted me to start my research on the impacts of dual sensory impairment on daily function and the rehab needs by this population.

In this past research, I was fortunate to interact with and learn from vision rehab professionals in their practice. By shadowing them, I learned the complex nature of vision rehabilitation, which made me question how we can make low vision research more useful for actual practice. My motivation to find harmony between research and clinical practice has led me to this position at LVRRC. When I read the job description for this position looking for a candidate with "strong commitment to translational work bringing new and validated diagnostic and treatment procedures to patients with vision impairment", I said to myself, "oh, that should be me".

I moved to Baltimore with my husband and our 2-year-old boy. It has been a busy time setting up my lab, getting to know people, and applying for grants. My colleagues at LVRRC have given me tremendous support in this transition. I am more and more proud of our division as I learn more about the history of LVRRC and the involvement of Lions members in vision rehabilitation. I am honored to be a part of this family and will strive to continue this excellence through my research at LVRRC.

I am looking forward to my first fall and winter at Baltimore, and the many years to come. I also look forward to seeing many of you in future Lions events. Thank you for your support!

Having the opportunity to complete my Level II fieldwork experience at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute was, to say the very least, extraordinary. Being mentored by, Kristen L. Shifflett, OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV for 12 full weeks not only gave me a better perspective on utilizing my clinical reasoning to facilitate occupation-based interventions but also enhanced my ability to design intervention that focused on how to adapt and compensate for vision loss. Client's diagnoses varied, from glaucoma to macular degeneration to Stargardt disease to hemianopsia and everything else in between. However, regardless of the client's diagnosis, I learned the rewarding nature of working with these individuals, as it challenged me to create solutions to complex problems.



One of the most amazing parts of my level II fieldwork experience was the weekly excursions that I would go on to expand my knowledge of other health care professions and community resources that contributed to our client's care. For instance, I spent a day with The Department of Disabilities, Assistive Technology Program (MDTAP) an organization that provides assistive technology (AT) devices and services to many individuals with low vision. I found extreme value from learning about the programs and assistive devices that they offer, as this knowledge allowed me to refer clients that were in need of these specific services. Some of my other excursions included touring Maryland school for the blind, engaging in a driving rehab program, shadowing at Blind Industries & Services of Maryland (BISM), and even getting to observe an eye surgery. All of these opportunities allowed me to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how medical professions and practitioners can best support and empower their patients to engage in meaningful activities when vision cannot be medically restored.

Reflecting back on my last two years of education in becoming an Occupational Therapist, my course curriculum devoted a limited amount of time focused on visual impairment. So, when I was informed that I would have the opportunity to complete my level two fieldwork at the Wilmer Eye Institute for Low Vision, I felt both thrilled and nervous, as this niche field of occupational therapy felt intimidating to me. However, after being mentored by Kristen and the amazing team of health care professionals at Wilmer (Drs. Goldstein, Weinberg, and Brown, along with therapists Heather Connors and Jim Deremeik,) I quickly picked up on the unique medical knowledge and visual assistive equipment pertaining to low vision.

Being immersed in this environment, where I was working with patients with low vision, highlighted the critical impact that occupational therapy can contribute to an individual's life. When developing a treatment plan, we would first focus on how their vision deficits impact their function with everyday activities then suggest changes to their home/workplace in order to maximize function. One strategy that was effective in increasing the client's existing skills was offering alternative ways to complete tasks using adaptive equipment. For instance, when working with a patient that had lost half of their vision in each eye, and the ability to express speech and retrieve familiar and known words following a stroke, she was unable to read and effectively communicate. This made it difficult and frustrating for her to complete tasks that were important to her (e.g., to cook recipes and read emails/texts). Therefore, our intervention focused on sensory substitution as we used adaptive equipment such as speech output devices (e.g., smart reader) to elicit auditory commands as the patient's auditory comprehension could allow her to complete the tasks she once did before the stroke. Seeing the significant impact and success of this intervention reinforces the notion that low vision therapy is crucial for intervention in cases of chronic vision loss.

-Lilly Kennedy

2023 LVRF Aim for Sight Clay Shoot



Aim For Sight Sport Clay Shooting fundraiser was held on September 30th. We had the best turnout ever, with 57 shooters. The weather was wonderful, and everyone had a good time. The winning team was from Perry Hall, the top scorer was Lion Mike Klausmeler from the Perry Hall – Kingsville Lions Club. Congratulations to all. A special thanks to all the shooters who came to support the Low Vision Rehabilitation Foundation fundraiser. You made it a very successful event.

We want to thank all the Station sponsors and those who donated door prizes. The Stations sponsors were Deer Park Lions Club, CC Gary Burdette, Mallick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. PGD Bijo Mahanti, SVDG Martin Bonura, Silver Run Liquors, Taylorsville-Winfield Lions Club, Terra Rubra Lions Club, Thrivent Financial Central MD Team, Thurmont Lions Club, Wantz Chevrolet, Westminster Car Care, Westminster Lions Club, Win Transport, Inc., Federalsburg Lions Club.

Also, thanks to David & Wendy Jenkins for their donation of the BB Gun for the raffle which brought in \$166.00. Thanks to Michelle Vaughn and Ginny Fair for preparing and supplying the lunch. Thanks to CC Gary Burdette, DG Jeremy Bair and PDG Evan Gillett for their help and the Trappers at Mayberry.

We were able to raise about \$5,000. Thanks to everyone. The event will be held on Saturday September 28, 2024, next year, mark your calendars.

-PID Richard Liebno



International Director Visits Wilmer with District Governor and Past International President

International Director Anthony Paradiso started off his three day visit with District 22W at Wilmer Eye Clinic to learn about the LVRF program. The tour was given by Dr. Judith Goldstein. He was accompanied by PIP Clem Kusiak and District Governor Jeremy Bair on his tour.



District 22W Social Raises Money for Lions Low Vision Research Foundation

Within a night of excitement during the District 22W Social on October 7, 2023, the social committee raised about \$2,000 for Lions Low Vision Research Foundation.

Donations were raised during the silent auction with gifts donated by many clubs and overseen by the Hancock Lioness Lions, a Money Dance, Mrs. Bullock's Blueberry Pie by-the-slice donation and two cake auctions where Lion Mike Mykulyn won a cake for \$120 and the Greater Carroll Lions Club donated \$1,000 for a cake in honor of Lion Emerson Bair, the father of the District Governor.



(22W District Governor Jeremy Bair addressing the audience. Greater Carroll Lion Emerson Bair receiving an LVRF cake from Lion Bonnie Gillett and 60-year Lion Bobby Bullock. Lion Bobby Bullock presenting a slice of Lion Anita's Blueberry pie to International Director Anthony Paradiso.)



LVRF 22W Holiday Dinners



Experience a low-vision dinner with multiple vision simulators throughout a holiday dinner at the District Governor's House. Dinner guests will learn facts about low vision and the LVRF program during the experience while profit of donations go directly to the LVRF credit of their home club. Several challenges will be played throughout the evening.

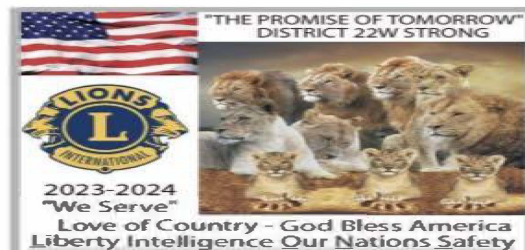
When: November 17 - Thanksgiving Dinner (Eve of LVRF Rally)
December 15 - Christmas Dinner

At what time: Social begins at 6:00pm
Meal begins at 6:30pm

Where: 199 Warfieldsburg Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Price: \$25 per guest RSVP: 410-596-2917
(Checks made to Jeremy Bair at above address)

- *50/50 Raffle and Silent Auction
- *All profit goes to LVRF
- *Bring your \$1 bills



Happy Fall y'all

Recognition for donations is available to all clubs, individuals or groups. Total contributions over the past five Lions Years may be used for recognitions such as Arnall Patz

Fellowships, Knights of the Blind Pyramids, or even '120 Club' Pins. When I acknowledge receipt of a new donation, I advise Clubs about funds available to use for recognitions. I will also send this information to you on request. Detailed information and instructions about how to donate is available on the LVRF website www.LionsVision.org - including electronically-completable Donation and Award Request Forms and the Recognition Awards Brochure. Get there by clicking on "DONATE." If you prefer using your credit card or PayPal account, you may do this on the same website page.

And a final note, this is a great time of year to purchase LVRF Ornaments. Add to your holiday decorations or give as gifts. See pricing to the right. Call me (410) 979-3901 for postage cost if you'd like more than one.

Yours in Service,
DG Sue Parks, LVRF Donation Recognition Chair and Administrative Manager

Ready for some Holiday Shopping?

Consider an LVRF Ornament

Ornament Only	\$15.00
Ornament with Stand	\$17.00
Gift Box	Free

Plus \$6 Postage



Mail request and check payable to LVRF to:
Lion Sue Parks
8087 Clark Station Rd
Severn, MD 21144

Questions? Call me (410) 979-3901
or email - lvrf.info@gmail.com

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.

2023-2024 Officers

Chair-PCC Dee Hawkins

Vice Chair- PDG Evan Gillett

Secretary- PDG Barbara Brimigion

Treasurer- PCS Martin Bonura

Immediate Past Chair- CC Wayne Cole

Administrative Manager- DG Sue Parks

Board Advisors- PIP Clement F. Kusiak, PID Richard Liebno, PID Ted Revier, PID Joseph Gaffigan

Newsletter Editor- FVDG Jeremy Bair

	District 22A	District 22B	District 22C	District 22D	District 22W
Trustees	DG John Mosier	DG Kathy Crockett	DG Chris Wooters	DG Tommy Lu	DG Jeremy Bair
Year 1 / 3	IPDG Sue Parks	PDG Bijoy Mahanti	IPDG Maxine Hooker	PDG David Mitchell	Lion Leon Cardiff
Year 2 / 3	PDG Owen Landis	Michelle Holland	PDG Rich Barb	Lion Paul Settelmeyer	PDG Susan Bonura
Year 3 / 3	Lion Dr. Bob Massof	Melanie Donophan	PCC Dee Hawkins	PDG John Shwed	PDG Evan Gillett

Wilmer Faculty and Staff

Judith E. Goldstein, O.D.	Gislin Dagnelie, Ph.D.	Kyoko Fujiwara	Daniela Fried
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**Lions Vision Research Foundation
Member Recognition
at the Multiple District 22 Club Level**



Lions Recently Receiving Recognition with a Knights of the Blind Pyramid



Curtis & Darlene Carey, Willard “Sonny” Meck, Sharon Leister, Dennis Weeks, Sr., Charles Koeneke, Jr., William Dukes, Jerry Castellucci, Bev Topher, Larry Lyons, Steven W. Carroll, Lisa Taylor, Sheila Schieferstein, James Coverdale, Daniel Harper, Jalna Brown, Robert Nagyiski, Stephen Edwards, Ken Dallwig, Irvin Bohr, Jr., Harold Patrick, Anthony Rinaudo, John Bauer, PDG Susan Bonura, Joe Layos, Les Schneiderman

Lions Recently Receiving Recognition as an Arnall Patz Fellow



Pam Burton, Carl Gibson, John Valett, Ron Gartrell, David Endres, PDG Andrea Cumberland, Charles Gordon, Scott Stark, PDG Charlie Croft Jr., Laura Estilow, **Progressive Patz Fellow Arthur Lambert Rickey, Jr.**

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

Need to Know More?
Visit the LVRF website: www.lionsvision.org
for lots of great information.



**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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