

# LIONS VISION



NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONSESS AND LEO CLUBS Fall 2012

## Challenge, Hope, and the Human Spirit

Challenge and hope drive the human spirit. Humankind is a curious and social species. Down through the ages courageous explorers and adventurers dared to go where no one else had gone before. Brave sailors boarded sailing ships and explored the high seas while others waited on shore wondering if they were going to sail off the end of the earth. How many of us would have jumped on board just because some guy named Columbus or Magellan had the crazy idea that the world was round? Expedition by expedition, the brave adventurers opened the eyes of others to beautiful, new land masses around the globe. Then a second human characteristic – hope - kicked in and thousands quickly followed; all with hope for a brighter, more prosperous future.

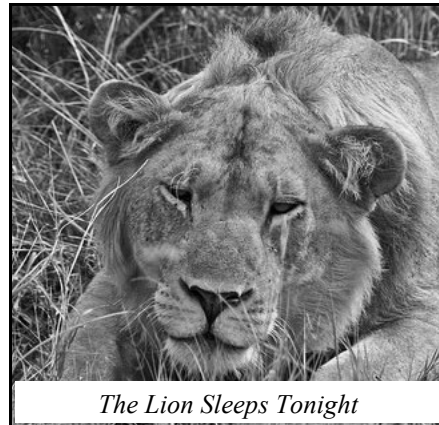
In just over 200 years our country has grown from a relatively small population nestled in the thirteen original colonies to nation of 300 million. Over that time span great innovations were recorded. The intercontinental railroad reduced transcontinental travel time from 90 days via wagon train to one week. Steel and oil production transformed our agricultural economy. Brilliant advances were made in medicine and life expectancy rose. Several great cities arose from the imagination of our architects and the risky work of the steel workers who braved breath taking heights building towering skyscrapers. The power of electricity and the atom were unleashed.

The present generation is definitely living in the age of instant information. Alexander Graham Bell has no idea how his telephone has morphed into this fantastic, high demand thing called a smart phone. Instead of the pony express taking days to deliver messages, with e-mail and the internet ordinary people can send messages worldwide in nanoseconds. Over 500 million people worldwide check their cell phones daily for the latest FaceBook or Twitter messages. The IBM's and DOS users scoffed at the upstart Steve Jobs with his Apple computer system. Critics said they would go out of business. Today Apple stock is \$700 a share; it is the nation's highest valued company and the iPhone 5 sold over 2 million units in literally hours. The human experience was changed forever because adventurers

such as these overcame challenges and dared to try something different.

We have been to the moon, built a space station, retired the space shuttles and have a new rover on Mars apply named Curiosity. Wonder if we will have a new Lions Club there some day? I can hear the skeptics chuckling now! NASA's deep space probes Voyager 1 and 2 have been traveling in space since 1977 and are about to leave our solar system. They are over 17.8 billion kilometers from earth. Imagine that distance! Most of us get restless on a 5 hour car ride!

In the 1960's the Tokens entertained us with a silly song, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." I'll bet most of my



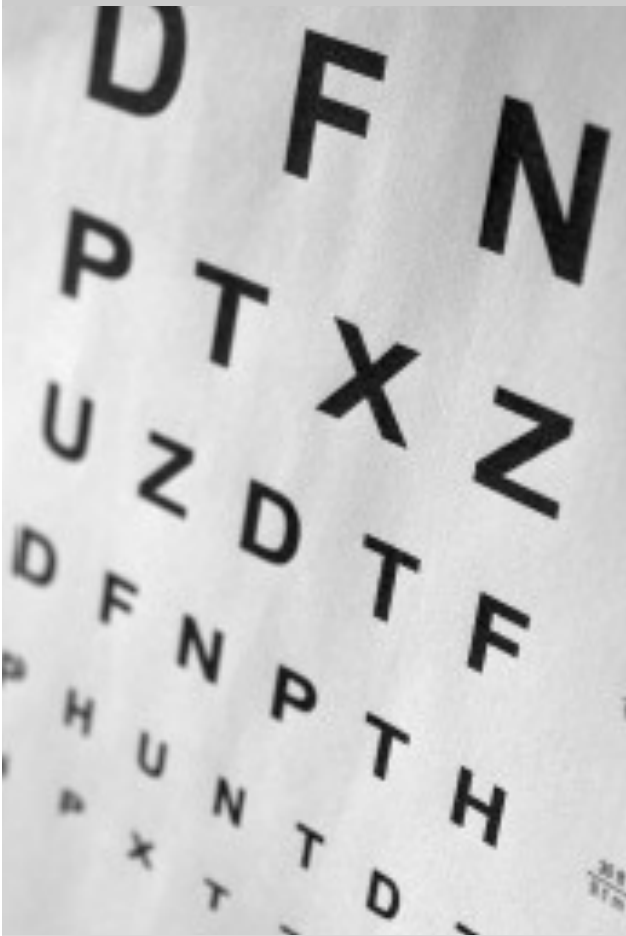
*The Lion Sleeps Tonight*

readers can hum that catchy tune. Now that I have you thinking about that I don't want you to be a sleeping Lion. I want to encourage you to join our "Safari for Sight" on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at Johns Hopkins. As Lion adventurers we are on a great quest

into the unknown just like all those other adventurers that came before us. With our Wilmer eye research partners we continue to explore the unknown in response to a challenge and because our work offers hope to humankind. We Lions and our Wilmer research team will find the answers to the problem of low vision. It is more a question of when, not if. The African continent has been a source of mystery and fascination for centuries. Since many were too timid to enter the African jungles, Hollywood took us there in films such as "King Solomon's Mines" and "Tarzan."

You never know what you may encounter on safari, but we have excellent guides who guarantee your safety, just like Columbus and Magellan! Pack your enthusiasm and I will see you on the Serengeti Plain on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>!

*John J. Shwed*  
Development Committee Chair



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## Chairman's Message

By PDG Ted Ladd, Chairman  
LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Congratulations to Dr. Bob Massof on being recognized as a Champion of Change at the White House on Oct. 3. Dr. Bob is one of just 11 Lions from around the country who were so recognized.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Tiffany Chan on completing a remarkable fellowship with the Lions Low Vision Clinic, accepting a faculty appointment at the Wilmer Eye Institute, and then opening a satellite of the Wilmer Eye Clinic in Bel Air, Maryland. Those are significant achievements that bring great credit to her, the Lions Low Vision Center, the Wilmer Eye Institute and the LVRF.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest Lions Low Vision Fellow, Dr. Nicole Ross. You can read about Dr. Ross's experience on page 5.

I trust that many Lions in our Multiple District will take the opportunity on Saturday, Nov. 17 to come to our annual Lions Day with LVRF at the Wilmer Eye Institute. The program starts at 9:30 a.m., lunch is provided, and tours of the Lions Low Vision Center will be available after lunch. You may call Heather Mays at 410-955-1883 or e-mail her at hmays@bcpl.net by Oct. 24 to make reservations. Reservations are important for planning lunch and seating.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the annual "Aim for Sight" will take place at two locations, Queenstown and Westminster, Md. The drawing for the Trunk of Treasures is planned for that day. There is a need for sponsors of the Aim for Sight, for prizes, and participants. Find information about the Trunk of Treasures on page 5. Contact PDG Dal Mann at 410-673-9085 e-mail dmamm@bluecrab.org for further information on the Aim for Sight.

Lions Vision Research Foundation dinners are planned in Districts 22-B, 22-D, and 22-W. I understand that these dinners are really great. They always have an excellent keynote speaker with up-to-date information on the Lions Low Vision Center, and may also highlight personal testimony from people helped at the Wilmer Eye Institute. Check the item on page 6 that provides details on dates, times, and locations.

As I write this, my wife Ann is upstairs with an eye patch on her right eye. She had cataract surgery

about five hours ago at Howard County Hospital by Dr. Dean Glaros of the Wilmer Eye Clinic satellite in Columbia. He performed similar surgery on Ann's left eye two weeks ago. He gave her instructions after the surgery, in my presence, and afterwards I told him that we were really impressed with everyone we had encountered at the Columbia satellite, that everyone was so polite and helpful. I suggested, and you may have heard this before, that all Wilmer staff must be required to take a course of about 6 semester hours teaching them how to be nice. He found that quite complimentary and said he would see Dr. McDonnell the next day and would pass that on. I didn't expect that reaction, but 'tis true.

Unfortunately, there are events referenced in this issue that are just days away, and there is no possibility of the hard copy version being delivered to MD-22 Lions through regular mail in time to respond to expressed deadlines. It is suggested that District Governors arrange to send this issue via e-mail to all concerned in their Districts, please.

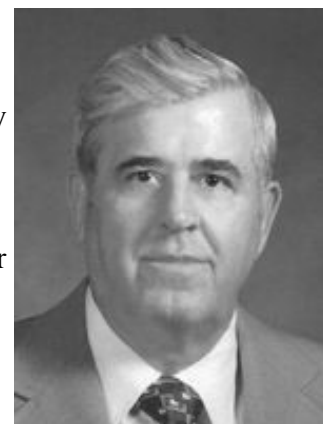
### In Memory of PDG Bill Yoho

PDG Billie Lee "Bill" Yoho, age 86, of Berkeley Springs, W. Va. passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. Bill served the LVRF as legal counsel for many years.

Bill was a practicing attorney for 58 years in Prince George's and Washington counties in Maryland.

Bill held many leadership roles, including Governor of Lions District 22-C, the Maryland Bar Association, and in Municipal Government. He participated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the Shriners, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and Knights Templar.

A memorial service was held on Sept. 22 at the Warm Springs Baptist Church, Berkeley Springs, W. Va. Many Lions and other friends from the Multiple District attended. There were heart felt testimonials to PDG Bill's dedication and deep and abiding faith. He will be sorely missed.



## Lions Low Vision Fellowship



*Dr. Tiffany Chan*

We Lions in MD-22 donate funds each year to support the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Clinic. I would like to describe one of the things we do with \$100,000 of these donations each year. That's the cost of our program to provide a post-Doctoral Fellow to work in the Lions Low Vision Center.

Dr. Tiffany Chan was the Lions Low Vision Fellow last year. She began her Fellowship on 1 July 2011. Very shortly after her arrival, she was credited with reducing the waiting time for patients at the Lions Low Vision Clinic at the Wilmer Eye Institute from more than a week to just 24 hours. At the end of her year with the Lions Low Vision Center she accepted a position on the faculty of the Wilmer Eye Institute. Since then, she opened a new satellite of the Wilmer Eye Clinic in Bel Air Maryland. There she specializes in visual function and rehabilitation to optimize the remaining sight of patients with chronic vision impairment.

Dr. Chan exemplifies the qualities of Doctors receiving this fellowship. She received her undergraduate training at the University of California, Davis and her optometric degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. She completed her residency at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center in New York with a focus in primary care optometry, low vision rehabilitation and vision therapy. Chan then completed the Lions Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship at Johns Hopkins in 2012. During her training, Chan received the Corrine Engwall Award for Clinical Excellence in Infant/Toddler Clinic, the Bernhardt N. Thal, OD VSP Excellence in Primary Care Award and The Louise L. Sloan Research Grant Award for her work in the comparison of physician estimates of rehabilitation potential to low vision rehabilitation outcomes. Chan was inducted into the University of California, Davis Cal Aggie Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012 for her collegiate accomplishments in gymnastics. She also sees patients downtown at 600 N. Wolfe St. in Baltimore.

Our new Lions Low Vision Fellow this year is Dr. Nicole C. Ross. Read about Dr. Ross's terrific background on page 5.

This is just one of the initiatives that our donations to the LVRF support. The \$4 million annuity that MD-22 Lions raised keeps the Low Vision Center in business. It's our additional donations today and tomorrow that will allow the Low Vision Center to explore new avenues of approach.

## Dr. Bob Massof Named "Champion of Change"

Dr. Bob Massof, founding Director of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center, a division of the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, was honored at the White House on October 2, 2012 for his record of exemplary humanitarian service

Massof is a member of the Baltimore Brooklyn Lions Club and was one of 11 Lions leaders from around the country to receive the "Champions of Change" honor at an event co-hosted by the White House and Lions Clubs International.

Massof is professor of ophthalmology and professor of neuroscience at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He works to restore and enhance the sight of people with low vision through technology. He has served as Director of the Lions Low Vision Center for 21 years.

Congratulations Dr. Bob. This is an honor you richly deserve, and you make us very proud once again.



*Dr. Bob Massof*

## Lions Low Vision Center Welcomes Dr. Nicole C. Ross

Dr. Nicole C. Ross will soon begin the competitive Lions Low Vision Fellowship program, serving individuals with vision impairment at the East Baltimore campus of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Ross is originally from Calgary, Canada. Due to her early experiences with her legally blind grandmother, Ross entered optometry school with a strong passion for low vision rehabilitation research and clinical work. She received her bachelor of science from Queen’s University and her doctor of optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry. At the New England College of Optometry, Ross enrolled in the O.D./M.S. four-year dual degree program and recently published work from her thesis, “Peripheral Prism Glasses: Effects of Dominance, Suppression and Background” in Optometry & Vision Science.

After optometry school, she accepted a residency position at The Ohio State University College of Optometry specializing in vision rehabilitation. Due to her strong commitment to low vision rehabilitation research and clinical work, she elected to continue her training applying for the low vision fellowship program at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Ross is excited to begin her work at Hopkins. She continues to have special interests in vision rehabilitation post-stroke and pediatric low vision management. To that end, she recently submitted a case report on the management of blue cone monochromacy, a congenital disorder, in a pediatric population. Dr. Ross looks forward to continuing her work and training in the multidisciplinary setting offered at the Wilmer Eye Institute.



Dr. Nicole C. Ross

### Buy Tickets for the Trunk of Treasures

The drawing for the Trunk of Treasures will occur on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 at the annual “Aim for Sight Sporting Clays” shoot being held concurrently at 511 Pintail Point Farm Lane, Queenstown, Md. and also 2555 Mayberry Road, Westminster, Md.

You may fill out the ticket below and mail the stub to PDG Dal Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD, 21655 along with your check made payable to “LVRFB Aim for Sight.”

PDG Dal will inscribe your name and contact information on genuine tickets and place them in the drawing. As you can see, the tickets are \$2 each and 3 for \$5. Just make out one ticket stub, indicate how many you wish to purchase, and enclose a check for the correct amount. PDG Dal will do the rest. This is one of our stellar fund raisers, and we need your help. The trunk is beautiful and it is full of excellent items just for you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

No 00520

Lions Vision Research Foundation

**TRUNK OF TREASURES**



Grand Drawing at

*Aim For Sight Sporting Clays*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012**



No 00520

Donation: \$2.00 Each  
or 3 For \$5.00

## New Technology May Bring Sight Back to the Blind



Dr. Gislin Dagnelie, Associate Director of the Lions Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation Center and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute was very upbeat at the Sept. 29 LVRF Board of Trustees meeting.

He had just returned from an all-day meeting in which a Federal Drug Administration (FDA) panel reviewed

test reports about a device that helps some blind people regain their sight. The device is called the Argus II and it may allow those who have gone totally blind to regain some of their vision. The panel gave unanimous positive advice to allow humanitarian use of this device in the U.S.

Dr. Dagnelie has been part of this research from the very start, more than 20 years ago, at Wilmer. He is delighted with this advice from the FDA panel because more blind people may be able to take advantage of this technology. Over the last 5 years, 30 people worldwide have tested the device; after clinical approval was given in Europe, last year, 11 new implantees have joined them.

The following description of the Argus II system was found on the Internet at <http://health.howstuffworks.com/medicine/modern-technology/bionic-eye.htm> [with minor changes by Dr. Dagnelie]

“The Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System can provide sight -- the detection of light -- to people who have gone blind from degenerative eye diseases like macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. Ten percent of people over the age of 55 suffer from various stages of macular degeneration. Retinitis pigmentosa is an inherited disease that affects about 1.5 million people around the globe. Both diseases damage the eyes' photoreceptors, the cells at the back of the retina that perceive light patterns and pass them on to the brain in the form of nerve impulses, where the impulse patterns are then interpreted as images. The Argus II system takes the place of these photoreceptors [and].consists of five main parts:

- A digital camera that's built into a pair of glasses. It captures images in real time and sends [them to a belt pack].

- A video-processing [unit in the belt pack]. It processes images into electrical pulses representing patterns of light and dark and sends the pulses to a radio transmitter in the glasses.

- A radio transmitter that wirelessly transmits pulses to a receiver implanted [on the outside of the eye]

- A radio receiver that sends pulses to the retinal implant by a hair- thin implanted wire; and,

- A retinal implant with an array of 60 electrodes [measuring 4 by 6 mm, and attached in the back of the eye with a small tack]”

This is amazing technology. We can be sure that Dr. Dagnelie will keep us up to date on progress to make this procedure available to more blind people as well as improvements in the technological aspects

### Lions Vision Research Foundation Dinners

Mark your calendars for one or more of these upcoming fund raising LVRF dinners being held in Multiple District 22. These are terrific fundraisers, lots of fun, and you will hear about the latest research and developments at the Lions Low Vision Center.

#### **District 22-B**

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 at the Salisbury American Legion, 1109 American Legion Road Salisbury, Md. Cost is \$19 per person. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 18.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 at the Cecilton Fire Hall 110 East Main Street Cecilton, Md. Social at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$19.00 per person. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 1.

Checks should be made payable to District 22-B LVRF Committee and mailed to PDG Dal Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655.

#### **District 22-D**

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 5 p.m. at Dover Sheraton. Speaker Dr. Massof. \$17 per person. Contact Lion Mary Lee Phillips, 302-945-2607, e-mail lionsmlphillips@aol.com

#### **District 22-W**

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 at Mt. Zion Methodist Church, 16864 National Pike, Frostburg, Md. Social 5:45 p.m. & Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$17 per person. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 17, 2012. Send check payable to Grantsville Lions Club to Lion Gerry Beachy, P.O. Box 450, Grantsville, MD 21536.

## Annual Lions Day with LVRF & Wilmer Eye Institute

The Multiple District 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation requests the honor of your presence at “Safari for Sight,” Lions Day at the Wilmer Eye Institute on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012.

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Mountcastle Auditorium of the Johns Hopkins Preclinical Teaching Building, located at 725 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Md.

Lunch will be provided by the LVRF at 11:30 a.m., and tours of the Lions Low Vision Clinic will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Please let us know you are coming by Oct. 24. Call 410-955-1883 or e-mail Heather Mays at [hmays@bcpl.net](mailto:hmays@bcpl.net) You don't want to miss it.



# *Safari for Sight*

**Lions Day with LVRF  
& the  
Wilmer Eye Institute  
November 17, 2012**

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**Your Endowment Donations Built This House**



Now it needs to be "furnished" with exciting research projects, exceptional doctors to further the cause of ending low vision and satellite houses to meet the low vision needs in your community!

The Multiple District 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation needs your support to maintain this beautiful collaboration you've built!



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