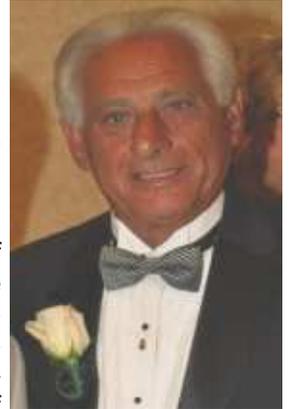


Publication of The Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

Fall, 2013 Volume 48 No. 1

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**RICHARD "DICK" FERRUCCI, PDG, 33A**



To all Lions, Lioness and Leos of MD 33, it is a honor and a privilege to have the awesome responsibility on being the 62<sup>nd</sup> President of your Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. (MLERFI)

As you all may or may not know the MLERFI is the statewide project voted by the Lions of Massachusetts. Our goal at MLERFI is to provide the much needed research grant money with the help of you the Lions of MD 33 to eradicate preventable blindness. We have in Massachusetts several outstanding research institutions which MLERFI has partnered with. They have with grants received to them from monies you have donated to the fund been on the cutting edge of research findings in achieving our goal to one day eradicate preventable blindness. All because of your support of MLERFI. The Lions of MD33 have to date contributed just under 30 million dollars in our goal of eye research.

During our Lions year all directors representing you on the board of MLERFI will be available for visitations to your individual clubs to tell you the story of MLERFI, also to share with you the new discoveries by the investigators, research doctors and hospitals. It is my wish and hope you all take advantage of inviting them to your lions clubs meetings.

As of this publication of the Eye Catcher I have witnessed the extraordinary achievements of our greatest group of humanitarians, you the Lions and your Lions Clubs. As President I have attended all five advisory meetings. Beginning on August 27<sup>th</sup> in District N, August 29<sup>th</sup> District S, September 9<sup>th</sup> District K, September 16<sup>th</sup> District Y and September 30<sup>th</sup> District A. Thank you Governors for your invite and your hospitality. I felt the excitement and commitment towards the goals of MLERFI on all these visitations. It is just amazing the broad scope of fundraising projects being held for our MLERFI fund.

My challenge of every Lion to consider making a personal commitment of \$33.00 to MLERFI has resulted in many answering the call. I'm asking all of you to consider making it a commitment of yours.

Our challenge as Lions to eradicate preventable blindness came to us in 1925 by "Helene Keller" when she addressed the Lions pleading for the Lions to accept her challenge to continue the fight towards preventable blindness. We here at MLERFI have and will always be dedicated to the challenge related to eye research. More than ever I am asking for your continued support of our efforts here at MLERFI. We cannot move forward in our quest without your support. We can only fund a portion of the grant request we receive from the hospitals. More monies are needed to continue our goal of providing the important seed monies for the advancement of research.

If you have any questions on our efforts here at MLERFI on your behalf please contact any member of the board. Better than that contact a director in your district and ask if you can attend a BOD meeting or plan a club visit to one of our research hospitals.

You the Lions of MD33 are "ordinary people -doing- extraordinary things". On behalf of Executive Board, Officers, Directors and all our Past Presidents thank you for your past support and future consideration towards MLERFI.

We all have made a difference in our quest to eradicate preventable blindness. Together we will continue to perform miracles.

Yours in Lionism,

*Dick*

Richard "Dick" Ferrucci  
President, MLERFI 2013-2014

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Corporate Officers/ Executive Committee

PDG Richard Ferrucci, 33A	President
PDG Randall Pinch, 33N	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
PCST Martin Middleton, 33S	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
PDG Edward Merrick, 33K	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President
PDG Roger Jones, 33Y	Secretary
PDG, PP William Murphy, 33S	Treasurer
PCST Robert Haskell, 33N	Executive Director
PDG, PP James Gracia, 33Y	Immediate Past President

## Directors- District Governors

DG Todd Cromack	33Y
DG Dennis Landry	33A
DG Jeanne Farrow	33N
DG Paul Calnan	33K
DG Ray Moreau	33S

## Directors - 2014

Jim Pietras	33Y
PCST Bob Haskell	33A
Marcel Plouffe	33N
PDG Matthew Richardson	33K
PDG Donald Hebert	33S

## Directors - 2016

PCS Christine Waller	33Y
PDG, PP Kevin Lashua	33A
PDG Jane Fanjoy	33N
Jim Cerutti	33K
PDG Joyce Middleton	33S

## Directors- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governors

1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Tom Sullivan	33Y
1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Susan Dunphy	33A
1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Joni Baptiste	33N
1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Pat Kalicki	33K
1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Bev Dillon	33S

## Directors - 2015

PDG Ken Larkin	33Y
PCST Colleen Oncay	33A
Neil Fanjoy	33N
RC Eddie Lee	33K
PDG Skip Becotte	33S

## Directors - 2017

Claudette Plazek	33Y
PDG Mark Desmeris	33A
Joan Stein-Streilein	33N
PDG, PP Jim Roth	33K
PDG George Hart	33S

## Non Directors

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors

	33Y
2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG E. J. Snowden	33A
	33N
2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Bill Donnellan	33K
2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Roland Grenier	33S

### Assistant Treasurer

M. Vale Sime

# News From The Districts



## DISTRICT 33Y

James A. Gracia, PDG  
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Hello Everyone! After a brief hiatus from being the EyeCatcher Reporter for District 33Y, I am back. I had gotten sidetracked for a couple of years while I moved up the chairs on the Mass Lions Eye Research Board. As you are probably aware, during my year as President last year, we achieved a fund raising goal that our corporation had not reached since 2004. We broke that magical million dollar glass ceiling, with a total of \$1,003,306.77 in donations. That number was a huge ego booster for me, as the sitting president, but also for all the Lions of our state who worked so hard to generate this income. It also gives our current President, PDG Dick Ferrucci, the incentive to go out and beat that total during his year. I have no doubts whatsoever that he will achieve his goals. For those of you who have met Dick or have heard him speak, you know what a dynamic personality he has, and his enthusiasm and support for the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund is as strong as ever. That combination will inevitably translate into success in our fund raising efforts this year.

As much as I am giving my thanks to all the Lions throughout the state, I have to give a special thank you to the Lions of District 33Y. In these tight financial times, it is extremely difficult to raise the amount of money we had raised during better financial times. We have a lot fewer Lions in the state now than we did in 2004 (15% less), so the fund raising burden has fallen on fewer and fewer Lions every year. In our case last year, I was the beneficiary of a significant one-time donation from our District which pushed my total over the top. That donation came from the dispersement of funds left over from the closing of our Orthoptic Clinic. When the clinic closed in 2008, we distributed some of the remaining funds to our other District corporations (33Y Emergency Sight & Hearing Fund and the 33Y Eyemobile), while reserving \$100,000 for Mass Lions Eye Research Fund Inc. We earmarked \$7,500 per year for distribution during PDG Roger Jones, PDG Ken Larkin, and PDG Bev Prentice's years as District Governor, which left a total of \$92,500 available for my year as President of the

MLERF corporation. It doesn't take a math wiz to figure out that without that \$92,500 from the Orthoptic Clinic, we would not have exceeded the million dollar mark last year. For that reason, I will be eternally grateful to the Lions of 33Y for making my year as MLERF President as successful as it was. It was my honor to serve on the Orthoptic Clinic Board for a number of years, so it is also very gratifying to see that money from the Clinic now being used to fund grants which will continue in the spirit of our clinic, that being to improve the lives of our citizens by healing and/or correcting their eye sight. Thank you District 33Y, for assisting in this noble cause.

While I am on the subject of the Orthoptic Clinic, I wanted to report on an opportunity I had to make, what I felt, were amends to our former Orthoptist, Shelley Klein. When we made the difficult decision to close the clinic back in 2008, the work involved with closing a corporation such as ours, was daunting. Not only was there physical work to clean out the office and vacate the building we had occupied for many years, but there were mountains of clerical work required to satisfy all of the legal requirements before the Attorney General's Office would consider our corporation to be formally closed. Without the tireless work of PDG<sup>2</sup> Jean Martin, we may still be hanging out there in space as a charitable corporation, with all the legal liabilities associated with that status. With all that said, the end of our association with Shelley Klein just drifted off into the wind amidst the clutter of closing the corporation. Over the ensuing years, I had managed to sporadically keep in touch with Shelley via left over clinic



IPP Jim with Shelley Klein, former Orthoptist for 33Y Lions Orthoptic Clinic

Continued on Pa. 8

# News From The Districts



## ***DISTRICT 33A***

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I always like start by thanking all the Lions from District 33-A as well as the Lions of Multiple District 33, their families, and friends for all the hard work they do each year in raising money for Eye Research. We have come a long way over the years in treatment of eye injuries and eye disease, and we would not be able to do this without your continued help and support. Two of our annual fundraisers did quite well this year, Our District Motorcycle Ride for Sight, chaired by our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor 33-A, Susan Dunphy, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor 33-A, E.J. Sowden, netted \$1,751dollars.

Walk for Sight at Southwick Zoo Mendon, Ma. co-chaired by Lions Cynthia "Cindy" Mainini, wife of PDG Babe Mainini, and Erma Whyte, netted \$4,800 dollars. Wonderful job. We thank all of you that gave your time, effort, and money to support M.L.E.R.F.

This also was a special year for M.L.E.R.F. Past President James A. Gracia, PDG District 33Y, his hard work and total dedication to our corporation has made him our latest President to go over the Million Dollar Mark, which all M.L.E.R.F Presidents strive for each year.

This can only be done through all the Lions of Multiple District 33 who want to see their Districts Presidents attain that goal. This year incoming M.L.E.R.F. President is our very own, PDG Richard "Dick" Ferrucci of the Mendon Lions Club.

President Dick would like to ask all the Lions of Multiple District 33 to show the world we care about sight and hearing as well as all health related issues such as diabetes, etc. One of the main things we are still doing is the car raffle. This is for a 2014 Chevrolet Cruise, the tickets are selling for \$50.00 each. There is about 300 hundred or so tickets left. It would make a great gift for anyone including yourself.

We are also doing a massive canister drive this year. When each club member brings to the club \$33.00 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, his or her name will be placed into a drawing for a package expense paid weekend to the State Convention, May 2-4 2014 Holiday

Inn, Mansfield, Ma.

I know there are new Lions out there that do not know much about who we are what we do, so I will take a minute of your time to explain. The challenge to prevent blindness was made at a Lions International Convention in 1925 when Helen Keller a blind and deaf woman, asked the lion members to become her "Knights of the Blind" in the crusade against darkness and help to cure and eradicate blindness throughout the world.

Well, to jump forward a bit, for the past 60 years or so we have given grant money to many of the hospital research centers throughout the State of Massachusetts. Each Club President will be given M.L.E.R.F Inc. Directory. There is a so much information to share with the Districts Lions membership about M.L.E.R.F. Information also available on web sites, and in your club directory.

Each District has five members that are on the Board Directors, we will come to your clubs to speak, and answer any question you may have. You also can make arrangements with them to come to a Hospital visitation in Boston.

Last night we had our first Advisory Meeting. With several quest speakers including our own PDG Richard "Dick" Ferrucci, this year's President of M.L. E.R.F. Inc. He did a wonderful job of pumping all of us for a spectacular year fund raising. Again, we still have tickets to raffle for the 2014 Chevrolet



Cruise. Tickets are \$50.00 each. This would make a wonderful gift for yourself, spouse, son, daughter, or college age grandchild.

We gave out over one hundred and sixty plus penny canisters last night, and asked all the Lions to fill them to help eradicate preventable blindness, and eye disease. One of the leading causes is diabetes. We also handed out M.L.E.R.F. Directories to all Club

Presidents in attendance.

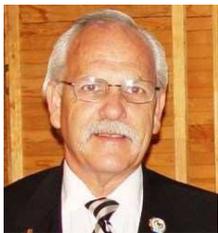
Please remember to help as much as you can. The sight we save, may someday be yours or a loved one, a friend or neighbor. Be good and take care. God bless all of you, for your work and dedication to those less fortunate than we.

Respectfully Submitted

***Bob Haskell, 33A***

***EDITOR'S NOTE:*** Congrats to Bob on his appointment as Executive Director of Mass Lions Eye Research Fund!

# News From The Districts



## DISTRICT 33N

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Some say that "**Competition Builds Character**" and I agree. If that is the case then District 33N will have added greatly to its character before the end of the Lionistic year 2013-2014. It's not surprising that since District 33N leads all districts in Massachusetts in its support of Mass Lions Eye Research Fund with over **\$8,500,000** in donations that there are 2 clubs in the district with over \$400,000 in donations and 2 clubs which have surpassed \$500,000. I am told that the spirit of competition is alive and well among these 4 clubs.

The **Lexington Lions** with **\$472,881** in total donations told me they have the Woburn Host Lions is their view and look to surpass them and the \$500,000 mark. However, the **Woburn Host Lions** at **\$498,769**, could easily surpass \$500,000 while protecting their lead over Lexington. At the same time the Woburn Host Lions Club is looking to catch the **Newburyport Lions Club** which has donated **\$538,162** but that won't be an easy task as the Newburyport Lions Club has for several years been the Number 1 Club in Massachusetts averaging about **\$35,000** in annual donations to MLERF. Of course the **Acton Lions Club** which leads all clubs in Massachusetts with **\$561,164** isn't looking back at the competition but looking ahead at possibly being the first club ever to reach \$600,000. Whichever club ends up on top it all means that MLERF and the eye research institutes we support will be better off for the friendly competition.

That is not the only spirit of competition helping the Lions of District 33N build momentum to a great year for MLERF. With an increased emphasis on the **Pennies for Sight** program and an expanded rewards competition the **Methuen Lions Club** has issued their own challenge. For clubs who want to really support the Pennies For Sight project, the Methuen Lions have challenged all clubs to collect a "**Mile Of Pennies**". For those who don't know how many pennies that is it's a **LOT**. However, to be exact it is **84,440** or **\$844.40**. In order to further encourage support for the challenge **District Governor Jeanne Farrow** will present a special recognition award to every club that meets the challenge of the Methuen Lions Club

and collects a **Mile Of Pennies** or **\$844.40** for Pennies For Sight. Can your club meet the challenge?

District 33N is proud to welcome as its new **MLERF Director Joan Stein-Streilein, Ph.D.** of the new **Beverly Lions Club**. Joan is a relatively new Lion having joined the Beverly Lions shortly after it was chartered 2 years ago. Joan brings years of valuable experience to her position as a MLERF Director. Joan has been a Senior Scientist [for 17 years at Schepens Eye Research Institute](#) and is affiliated with Harvard Medical School, Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary. Lion Joan brings a great enthusiasm for our mission as Lions and a vast and valuable amount of experience in eye research. Joan has already spoken at Lions Club's meetings in District 33N



and has not only been most impressive in her knowledge but her ability to connect with her fellow Lions. Joan will be a valuable addition to the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund Board of Directors.

Once again I would like to remind clubs that they may be eligible to give a **Sight Award**. Sight Awards are earned when your club makes a donation of \$1000 greater than the club's previous year's donations. Any of the MLERF Directors DG Jeanne Farrow, VDG Joan Baptiste, 1<sup>st</sup> VP PDG Randy Pinch, ZC Marcel Plouffe, PDG Jane Fanjoy, Director Neil Fanjoy, Director Joan Stein-Streilein and MLERF Past President PDG Louise Wojtkiewicz can help you to determine if your club has earned a Sight Award. PP PDG Louise will handle your Sight Award application when you are ready to apply. Applications are available on the MLERF web site or from one of the directors. Last year 11 clubs in District 33N earned Sight Awards. Because this is not an easy award to earn it is even more prestigious when awarded to a deserving Lion. In District 33N only 71 Sight Awards have been presented compared to 447 LCIF Melvin Jones Fellowships.

In case you had not heard MLERF and the Lions of Massachusetts last year surpassed a **MILLION DOLLARS** in donations to the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund for the first time since 2003-2004. All Lions across the state are to be congratulated but that means we can't let up. We must try to equal and surpass the magical million mark again. It can be done if every club will work

Continued on Pa. 8

# News From The Districts



## *DISTRICT 33K*

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As we always do, the Lions of District 33K made great strides for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research during the 2012 – 2013 Lions year. We tend to come together to make our District Governor stand out in the crowd. While we were not the District who contributed the highest amount, we showed our commitment.

As we move forward into the 2013 – 2014 year, there still remains work to be accomplished and once again, the Lions of 33K are asked to step up and help out. Do you realize if each club merely contributed an extra \$100 this year that combined that would result in more than \$50,000 additional for MLERF? We can do this!

Some of the clubs in our District take on fundraisers that are specifically geared towards MLERF fundraising. For years, the Sharon Lions Club has participated in Journey for Sight. The Boston Chinatown Lions Club and Holliston Lions Clubs have consistently raised money for Pennies for Sight. The Ashland Lions Club commits a portion of the profits from their meat raffles to MLERF. Fortunately, some of these events are easy for clubs to participate in without a lot of effort, such as the Pennies for Sight.

If you're wondering how your club can participate in Pennies for Sight, it's really simple. Ask any MLERF Board of Directors member for canisters and get them out there! Banks, sandwich shops, coffee shops and even businesses that your club members own are great spots for these canisters. The best thing about this is that all you need to do is show up and empty out the full canisters, take the change to your local bank for counting and mail a check to MLERF.

Did you know: If your club contributes \$1,000 more to MLERF than you did last year that your club is entitled to present a Sight Award? You can find out more information about this by visiting the MLERF website or by asking a board member. Sight Awards can be pre-

sent to members of your Club who have contributed to sight-related activities, to a member of the community who offers extraordinary service towards your sight-related goals or even to your club if you prefer. The possibilities are endless and the publicity that can be generated not only calls attention to your club but also to the greater mission of preserving eyesight.



MLERF understands that clubs are under increasing pressure to raise money for a variety of pursuits. This year with the massive devastation caused by natural disasters, Lions are being asked to increase their support to LCIF, financial difficulties mean our community food pantries need us more than ever and of course; our various District charities still need your help. This is why the Pennies for Sight program is one of the easiest fundraisers that you can pursue; this option does not take away from your regular fundraising and still can accomplish the same goal: Increasing your donations to MLERF.

Get creative, get involved and see if there are ways to help raise more money for MLERF this year. Consider joining with the Lions who participate in the multi-District bowling tournament, put canisters out in your community or designate a fundraiser specifically for MLERF. Let's show DG Paul that we can band together and show the rest of the MD33 Lions that the Lions of District 33K can raise more money this year than last year.

If your club is holding a special fundraiser, consider forwarding me the information at [Doreen\\_Martel@yahoo.com](mailto:Doreen_Martel@yahoo.com) and forward me the photos. We'd love the opportunity to showcase your efforts in our next edition.

Yours in Lionism,

*Doreen*

PDG Doreen

# News From The Districts



## DISTRICT 33S

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### ARE YOU KIDDING!

Wow-Fantastic-Superb-Colossal-Gigantic-Tremendous-Huge--Great-Impossible-Inspirational-Intense \* \* and any other adjective you can think of that describes the accomplishment of the LIONS of 33-S. CONGRATULATIONS!!! I don't know how you LIONS do or did it other than HARD WORK and DEDICATION that once again have made you the NUMBER ONE district in the multiple in total donations to M.L.E.R...\$311,108.26

What a year; A high five to the ACUSHNET LIONS ..top M.L.E.R. raiser with \$25,000.. Past district Gov. Dave is on cloud nine ..having the clubs amass an amount surpassing his goal of \$300,000. for M.L.E.R.. He cannot express his gratitude enough for your accomplishment!

Our Gov. Raymond Moreau has the confidence in us LIONS of 33-S to accomplish his M.L.E.R. goal during his year. He has set a realistic goal of \$325,000.01. His theme for the 2013-2014 year is "YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO THE PATH OF SIGHT " Piece of cake what with some 54 clubs in district 33-s..that breaks down to an increase of \$257.25 per club! It is hard for me to believe that we LIONS will not - cannot achieve this goal! If each club president asked their membership to donate 14 ..yes..fourteen cents at their next meeting in addition to last year's total donation then Gov. Ray will exceed this year's goal. His goal for J.F.s. donations is \$67,000. I will bet that the LIONS of our district will increase their donations by more than .14 per LION --- you can take that to the bank.

After some 5-6 years the LIONS of the multiple 33 have done it again ..yes, I.P.P. of M.L.E.R. James Gracia is smiling as his year end-

ed up with the multiple hitting 1,003,306.77 dollars for M.L.E.R. donations WOW CONGRATULATIONS to all the clubs for an outstanding job.

As a reminder to presidents that if you haven't already ordered that "SIGHT AWARD11 for a deserving individual based upon last year's donations to M.L.E.R. being \$1,000.00 over the prior year. It is not to late contact M.L.E.R. treasurer wild BILL Murphy.

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, your officers and directors of M.L.E.R. attended the annual presentation of grant monies to the various research hospitals in Boston hosted this year by Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute

The main lists of grants are:

- ◆ JOSLIN DIABETES CENTER \$169,000.-
- ◆ B.U. SCHOOL OF MEDICINE \$169,000
- ◆ SCHEPENS EYE INSTITUTE \$169,000
- ◆ MASS EYE& EAR INFIRMARY \$169,000. (which represents a total of \$5million dollars M.E.E.I. has received in grants from you LIONS)
- ◆ TUFTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE \$90,000
- ◆ CHILRENS' HOSPITAL \$110,000.

The grants were presented by Past President of M.L.E.R. JIM Roth which represented the funds raised during his year as president.

As of the date this article was written M.L.E.R. Richard "Dick" Ferrucci had not set his eye research goal for the year. Knowing Dick ... I am sure his goal will be not only to retain the \$1,000,000. figure but to add to it. GOOD LUCK "DICK"

This is another example of your M.L.E.R. donations at work and it shows the progress made in eradicating eye disorders

.. thanks to *you* all for the financial support *you* give to our research hospitals. I hope *you* are proud of your fellow LIONS and yourself! I am ! Why not invite a friend to join you at your next LI-ONS meeting so they too can feel the good that comes from helping others ?



Continued on Pa. 8

# News From The Districts

33 Y Cont. from pa 3

business, but always regretted that we never appropriately thanked her for her service.

I eventually learned that Shelley had settled in the Boston area and had taken a job at the New England Eye Center at Tufts University. When I became President, I enlisted the help of Dr. Noorjahan Panjwani, Director of Research, to get Shelley to our MLERF visitation this past May. Shelley did attend and I took the opportunity to formally thank her, on behalf of the Lions of District 33Y and in front of her peers at Tufts, for her dedication to our clinic for 29 years. I think I was more emotional about it than she was, but she was genuinely touched. That little 10 minute ceremony did as much for me as President of MLERF, as breaking the million dollar mark. Well, maybe I am exaggerating a little, but you get the picture.

I guess I carried on a little too long about our District and did not devote much time to what has been going on in the world of eye research, but I guess you will just have to invite one of our directors to visit your club and tell you, first-hand, what our money is being spent on. Please consider asking one of our Directors to be a guest speaker at your club. We would like nothing better to spread our enthusiasm for the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund to your club. The day is rapidly approaching when we can truly say we have defeated blindness. The progress being made every day of the year is so encouraging that we will make Helen Keller's dream come true in our lifetime.

Yours in Lionism,

*Jim*

PDG Jim Gracia, 33Y

Immediate Past President MLERF

33 N Cont. from pa 5

to surpass their own level of donations last year. **We need 100% participation.**

The Lions Clubs of District 33N have ALWAYS been the leader in total donations in Massachusetts. We all know why we support MLERF but we can also let the challenge of competition help us reach greater levels of support for MLERF.

As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Mass Lions Eye Research Fund I am not only proud of my home district 33N but of all the Lions of Massachusetts. Your support of MLERF is nothing short of amazing. Every penny, nickel, dime or dollar you raise makes a difference not only locally but around the world. The important research you support does what we as Lions do best **"We Change Lives"**. Your efforts on behalf of those who depend on **Your Service** improve the lives of people you will never know. Be proud of all you do in support of the mission of Lionism. **Thank YOU for your service.**

Yours In Lionism

*Randy*

33 S Cont. from pa 5

In closing" A LIONS PRIDE IS HIS FAMILY ...  
A FAMILY'S PRIDE IS THEIR LION".

LATER

*Arnie*

My sincere thanks to DR. JOSEPH CIOLINO of M.E.E.I for his contribution of the enclosed article: (See page 9)



# News From The Districts



## Cornea Division

Massachusetts Lions Clubs have supported our effort to develop a drug releasing contact lens. We believe that contact lenses can be used to deliver ophthalmic medications to the eye and could be used as alternative to eye drops, which are used to treat glaucoma, eye infections, inflammation (uveitis), dry eyes and other ocular conditions. Drops are often also used after eye surgery to prevent inflammation and infection. Eye drops themselves are inefficient and inconvenient. In fact, only 1% of the medication in an eye drop actually makes its way into the eye. That said; over 90% of ocular medications are delivered by eye drops and there are few alternatives. Moreover, eye drops are associated with notoriously poor adherence. Often times patients find eye drops difficult to administer and they are associated with stinging, burning and sometimes can cause bitter taste.

We believe a drug-releasing contact lens will offer patients an alternative that decreases the treatment burden, improves compliance and acts as a visual aide, which can correct refractive error -thus allowing patients with either near sighted or far sighted vision, to see better. The idea of a drug releasing contact lens goes back to the early 1960s. However, there are many challenges with developing a drug releasing contact lens. The contact lens needs to be optically clear; it needs to be comfortable and it needs to release a therapeutic amount of drug to the eye. Controlling the drug release out of the contact lens has been very difficult and at present no commercial products are available.

In this respect, we have had a medical breakthrough and have developed a drug releasing contact lens that uses a drug polymer film encapsulated within the lens to control the release from the lens. By doing this we are able to control the release of the drug out of the contact lens and allow for a steady rate of drug release for a long period of time - up to one month.

We are currently working on developing a drug releasing contact lens to treat glaucoma. We imagine a lens that can either stay in the eye continuously for one month or can be removed after two weeks or even daily. This will eliminate the need for repeated use of eye drops. We hope that this drug releasing contact lens will help to prevent patients from going blind from glaucoma. In addition, we are also working on delivering antibiotics and steroids to the eye. In some cases people who suffer from corneal infections need to take drops every half hour throughout the night, in order to prevent to the potentially blinding infection. We imagine a different treatment where an ophthalmologist can place the contact lens on the eye and then the doctor would take it off at the end of the treatment period; likely one day or two. Such a lens could also be used before or after eye surgery. The contact lens could be placed on the eye at the time of surgery by the doctor and removed from the eye at the one week follow up visit.

With the support of Lions we have been able to produce a drug releasing contact lens that releases a glaucoma medication for one month in animal studies and the amount of drug that is released is thought to be therapeutic. Our work has been published in ophthalmology journals, as well as in popular press, such as CNN.com, the *Boston Globe*, *Scientific American*, the *Economist* and others.

We believe we are changing the treatment of eye diseases and expanding treatment options for patients while decreasing patient burden. It was the support of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Foundation at the early stage in this research, which helped us obtain begin our successful research.

Joseph Ciolino, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology  
Harvard Medical School  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary  
Harvard Medical School

# News From The Districts



**Immediate Past District Governors of MD-33 are presented with Mass Lions Eye Research Fund Awards**

L to R ; PP PDG Jim Gracia, DG Rob Richards, 33Y; DG Mark Desmaris, 33A, DG Bob Sinclair, 33N, DG Tom Kerr, 33K and DG Dave Barbour, 33S. Story on pa 11

## Newburyport Road Race Celebrates 50 years of racing and giving



**NEWBURYPORT** — PDG Jon Pearson has spent the last 28 years directing the Yankee Homecoming 10-mile Road Race, an annual Newburyport tradition that offers a course filled with challenges, seemingly endless climbs, and every once in a while, a feeling of personal triumph.

In a way, the course personifies Pearson, a man who first started directing the race for 400 runners in 1982 and has overseen the race's growth to the point that he is now expecting 3,000 runners split between a 10-mile and 5K races at the 50th annual running on Tuesday evening, July 30th..

The race has brought Pearson the highest of highs and, perhaps, its own share of lows, too. Jon Pearson, a past district governor of the Newburyport Lions Club, never took a break from running a race that continues to grow in participation numbers and popularity. He said the race director responsibility becomes what amounts



to a full-time job roughly five months prior to the race. Ask him why the race has been so successful for so long, and



he'll cite the course, the water stops, the endless stream of spectators, the prize money for the winners, the family atmosphere — really anything other than the hard work he puts in as race director

The net proceeds have been designated for Eye Research with over \$450,000 donated to date.

In addition, the Newburyport Lions Club has donated \$35,000.00 annually to Mass Lions Eye Research and has been the number 1 club in donations for many years.



**I wear glasses because I like to dramatically remove them to display anger. It was awkward doing that with contact lenses.**

Comic Tim Seidel

# ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

## ID JOHN PETIS INSTALLS MLERF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14

On a hot August night this past summer, the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research held their 61<sup>st</sup> Annual



Installation Banquet. The location was the Doubletree Hotel in Milford and the proceedings were under the watchful eye of PDG, PCC, PP Sharon Brooks. Well over 200

Lions and guests were in attendance. Following the opening, all were treated to a special performance by professional opera singer, Mary Kathryn Withers, Mary Kathryn is the daughter of PDG Melisa Withers, who served as District Governor with incoming President PDG Dick Ferrucci back in the stone age.



Following a delicious meal, it was time for the business at hand – to install the officers and directors for the 2013-2014 year. The installing officer was newly minted International Director, John Petis who was there with his bride PCST Betty.

Installed at the ceremony was 1st Vice President PDG Randall “Randy” Pinch from 33N, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President PCST Martin Middleton from 33S, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President PDG Edward “Ned” Merrick from 33K, Secretary PDG Roger Jones from 33Y, Treasurer PDG, PP William



“Bill” Murphy from 33S and Executive Director, PCST Robert “Bob” Haskell from 33A Saving the best for last, PDG Richard “Dick” Ferrucci from 33A was

installed as President. PDG Jim Gracia assumed the post of Immediate Past President to round out the Executive Committee. Following the corporate officers, all directors were administered the Oath of Office by ID John.



At his inaugural address President Ferrucci stated his goal for 2013-2014 year was **“1.5 to stay alive”** He is asking everyone to help him raise 1.5 million in donations next year and he has several tricks up his sleeve to help accomplish his goal.



After the installation ceremony, Immediate Past President Jim Gracia presided over the important business of recognizing clubs and

District Governors for their support during the past year.

Receiving The Recognition of being the leading club in their district was;

- Y Agawam.....\$12,275.06
- A Milford.....\$15,000.00
- N Newburyport....\$34,500.00 \* number one in the State
- K Belmont.....\$22,500.00
- S Acushnet.....\$25,200.00

Receiving special awards of recognition for their support of Mass Lions Eye Research and the



# ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

total amounts donated by their top clubs was ;

33Y .....IPDG Robert Richards

Agawam.....\$502,368.12 \* becomes the third club in the state to exceed a half million dollars

33A .... IPDG Mark Desmarais

Milford.....\$212,617.75

33N. . IPDG Robert Sinclair

Newburyport.\$538,161.46

33K..... IPDG Tomas Kerr

Ashland.....\$407,012.78

33S.... IPDG David Barbour

Rehoboth.....\$206,823.71

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to all clubs who donated to Mass Lions Eye Research last year

Congratulations of all the officers and directors of the Mass Lions Eye Research and the clubs who have been so supportive of our state major project.



# ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



**CLUB AWARDS**

**33-Y**



You got a problem?



**CLUB AWARDS**

**33-A**



# ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



## CLUB AWARDS

33-N



# ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



## CLUB AWARDS

33-K



## CLUB AWARDS

33-S



# M.L.E.R.F. FINANCIALS—ANNUAL REPORT

## MASSACHUSETTS LIONS EYE RESEARCH FUND, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013

### INCOME:

Contributions of Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs

Including Memorials, Journey for Sight, Canisters and Individual Donations  
for Massachusetts Research Grants

	Percent	Amounts	Totals
District - Y	18.5%	185,820.85	
District - A	8.0%	80,470.58	
District - N	24.6%	247,048.71	
District - K	17.8%	178,857.98	
District - S	<u>31.0%</u>	<u>311,108.65</u>	
<b>Total Research Contributions</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		<b>\$1,003,306.77</b>
Other Income:			
Installations & Awards Night		1,840.00	
Interest Income		27,283.26	
Boston Biomedical Grant Return		15,000.00	
Eye Research 60 th Anniversary		6,125.00	
Hampden Lions Club Golf Tournament		27,599.00	
Uncommitted Funds used for Research Grants		748.98	
Trust & Endowment Fund Interest for Presidential Grant		59,748.98	
Trust & Endowment Club Contributions		2,785.00	
<b>Other Income</b>			<b>141,130.22</b>
Committed Donations:			
Trust & Endowment Fund Interest for Presidential Grant 2012/2013		59,748.98	
Club Donations 2012/2013		1,003,306.77	
Trust & Endowment Club 2012/2013		2,785.00	
<b>Committed Donations</b>			<b>1.065,840.75</b>

### EXPENSES:

Approved research grants and miscellaneous distributed:	169,000.00
B.U. Medical Center	169,000.00
Joslin Diabetes Center	169,000.00
Howe Labatory (Mass Eye & Ear)	169,000.00
Schepens Eye Institute	90,000.00
New England Eye Center (Tufts School of Medicine)	110,000.00
Childrens Hospital	75,000.00
T&E Fund Interest for Presidential Grant 2011/2012 BU Medical	27,599.00
Hampden Lions Club Golf Tournament	92,500.00
District Y – Orthoptic Clinic	10,500.00
T&E Club Donations 2011/2012	169,000.00

**Research Grants,T&E and Miscellaneous Distributed**

**1,081,599.00**

# **M.L.E.R.F. FINANCIALS—ANNUAL REPORT**

Administrative expenses:	
General Administrative	595.65
Directories	0.00
Auditor	4,350.00
Bond	780.00
Mid-Winters & Conferences	2,032.78
Plaques & Awards	4,944.66
Exchange & Miscellaneous	0.00
Committee expenses:	
Eye Catcher	1,733.25
Journey For Sight	261.20
Canisters	447.00
Sight Awards	1,199.03
Memorials	980.00
Installation & Awards Night	4,174.07
Eye Research 60 th Anniversary	6,937.42
Public Relations	0.00
Viridian	0.00
Grants	0.00
Long Range Planning	0.00
Constitution & By-Laws	0.00
Trust & Endowment	0.00
<b>Administrative &amp; Committee Expenses</b>	<b>28,435.06</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>1,110,034.06</u></b>

Overall Increase/Decrease of Income/Expenses for 2012/2013	47,290.38
Contributions Unused from previous years	0.00
Uncommitted Funds as of June 30, 2013	323,493.62

**TRUST & ENDOWMENT IRREVOCABLE TRUST FUND:**

BANK OF AMERICA	
Market Value as of July 1, 2012	1,242,509.90
Net Increase/Decrease in Market Value	<u>47,148.12</u>
<b>Market Value of Fund as of June 30, 2013</b>	<b><u>1,289,658.02</u></b>

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: PDG William T. Murphy, Treasurer**

**CLUB AWARDS**

**33-5**

**FROM PA 15**



**MORE BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS**



*The eye Catcher*

# ***PRESIDENT DICKIE 'S PENNIES FOR SIGHT CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP !***



President Dick Ferrucci has challenged every Lion in Multiple District 33 to make a personal donation of \$33.00 to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund "Pennies For Sight" campaign.

In doing so we can help him raise **"a million five to stay alive"**

Have you made your personal donation yet? See your district chair for Mass Lions Eye Research today and make your donation

# The Eye Catcher

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Visit our web site:  
[www.mlerfi.org](http://www.mlerfi.org)

The *eye* catcher

IS PUBLISHED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS LIONS EYE RESEARCH FUND, INC.

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