



THE EYE CATCHER

Summer/Fall 2017

Publication of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. 2017 – 2018 Vol. 52 No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 2017-2018 President of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. I would also like to thank all the Lions and Directors for the help and support this year while at the Mid Winter's, but nobody more than our Immediate Past President for his guidance and dedication.

THANK YOU NED!

Like all Presidents before me, I also have some goals this year, and the number one goal is that we have 100% participation from all the clubs in MD33 to donate to Mass Lions Eye Research Fund.

This year and like the past years, directors will be visiting every club in the multiple and bringing information of new discoveries by the hospitals and medical researchers. This is only accomplished with the many fundraisers and contributions made by all the generosity of the Multiple 33.

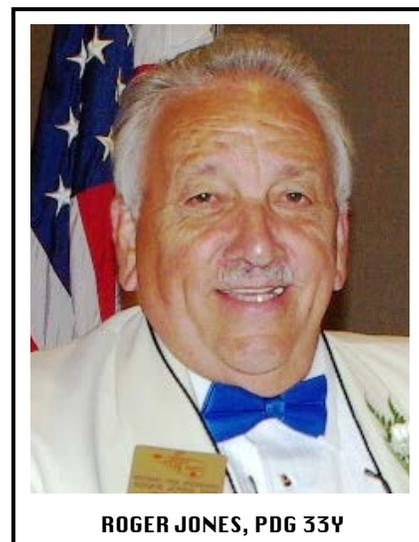
My biggest challenge this year is to get Club members to take a canister home on behalf of their clubs and donate the monies collected to Mass Eye Research Fund when full or at the end of the year. This will count as an added donation for their Club. I will be having more goals coming out soon!

If this year is going to be a success, we need the help and hard work from all the District Governor's, Director's and Clubs this year.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Past President's for their hard work, because without them the research facilities would not have accomplished the successes they have achieved and I am also proud to serve this year as the president of the MLERF.

Yours in Lionism,

Roger Jones
2017-2018 MLERF President



ROGER JONES, PDG 33Y

Board of Directors

Corporate Officers/Executive Committee

PDG Roger Jones	33-Y	President
PCST Robert Haskell	33-A	1st Vice President
PDG Jeanne Farrow	33-N	2nd Vice President
PDG Roland Grenier	33-S	3rd Vice President
PDG Matthew Richardson	33-K	Secretary
PDG Dr. James Roth	33-K	Treasurer
PDG Edward "Ned" Merrick	33-K	Immediate Past President

Directors – District Governors

DG Sharyn Wentworth 33-Y
DG Todd Karkane 33-A
DG Jim Wagner 33-N
DG Margaret Menard 33-K
DG Deb Grassi 33-S

Directors - 2018

Maryann Bankman 33-Y
Jeanne Lillie 33-A
Marcel Plouffe 33-N
PZC Gino Angelone 33-K
Ted Cummins 33-S

Directors - 2020

PCC Jean Martin 33-Y
PCST Denise Andrews 33-A
PDG Jane Fanjoy 33-N
RC Diana Faust 33-K
Ken Love 33-S

Directors (NV)

2VDG Arthur McConnell 33-Y
2VDG Colleen Oncay 33-A
2VDG David Wilson 33-N
2VDG Dawn Rice-Norton 33-K
2VDG John Babb 33-S

Directors – 1st Vice District Governors

1VDG Stephen Karch 33-Y
1VDG Tim DeVault 33-A
1VDG Frank Bertolino 33-N
1VDG Debbie Hayes 33-K
1VDG Kathy Salem 33-S

Directors - 2019

Jack Walsh 33-Y
2VDG Colleen Oncay 33-A
Mike Gmitter 33-N
PDG Pat Kalicki 33-K
PDG Bev Dillon 33-S

Directors - 2021

PCST Claudette Placzek 33-Y
PDG Mark E. Desmarais 33-A
Brenda MacPherson 33-N
PDG Andrew Porter 33-K
PCT Bob Brown 33-S

Eye Catcher Reporters (NV)

PCC Jean Martin 33-Y
PCST Denise Andrews 33-A
PP PDG Louise J Wojtkiewicz, 33-N
PDG Doreen Martel 33-K
Ted Cummins 33-S

Assistant Treasurer (NV)

PCC, PDG William Murphy, PP

Advisor

PID L Doug Sime, PP Orientation
PDG Wane Smith, PP Orientation
PDG Wayne Smith, PDG, PP Public Relations
PDG Randy Pinch, PP Public Relations

PID Chuck Kostro, PP Grants
PDG Jim Roth, PP Grants
Dr. Alan Bachrach Grants
Dr. Kathy Prucnal Grants

Parliamentarians

PDG Ted Irvin, PP PP, PDG Wayne Smith
PID L. Doug Sime IPP PDG Ned Merrick



News From the Districts

District 33Y



PCC Jean Martin
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Greenfield, MA 01301
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Hello Lions and Leos!!! The most important thing to say is THANK YOU to each Lion and Leo who has ever helped raise money for the Mass. Lions Eye Research Fund. And for all the hard work, time and energy put into raising the funds and spreading the word about our goal of raising over a Million US dollars a year for MLERF. These funds are granted as seed money to research centers in Massachusetts to be matched with additional funds for research to find cures for so many diseases that cause blindness.

So many of our clubs across the state put out canisters at local businesses or members fill them at home with spare change. Each coin you drop into that canister helps to find those cures that are so badly needed, and those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters add up fast. A good example is the Springfield 16 Acres who raised \$1000 for MLERF at the Cold Hollow Booth at the Big E with canisters, with more to follow from other canisters placed in their community. If you need more canisters, let me know, I will get them for your club.

Springfield 16 Acres Lions Melvyn Altman, Olive Wheatley and Blanche Warner are pictured here selling coupon books at a craft fair, and 1/3 of the proceeds are slated to go to MLERF. Go SPRINGFIELD 16 ACRES LIONS!!!



Canisters are not the only thing Lions do for MLERF. PDG2 Roger Jones is the President of MLERF for the 2017-2018 Lion year, and he hails from our own Agawam Lions Club, which is the largest contributor to MLERF from 33Y, and many years they have been the largest contributor in MD33 Massachusetts.

How do the Agawam Lions do it??? They work in their booth for the 17 days of the Big E fair selling Bar B Que Chicken dinners!!!!



Shown below is: Sec. Dick Lanier, Lion Harry Camyre, his volunteer sister, Joanne and Lion John O'Hare.



This year it took 60 Lions and 50 non-Lions volunteering throughout the fair (all day and night) and they sold 5 tons of chicken, 1200 pounds of baby back ribs, and 3000 Conewiches (filled with Mac & Cheese). Can you even imagine how much food that is?

To break it down here is the list from Secretary Dick Lanier: 2685 Chicken Bar B Que Dinners; 14 Family dinners (fixed menu & price for a family of 4); 1641 of the Bread cones (aka Conewiches); 3583 other items including: pulled chicken sandwiches, half rib dinners, chicken tenders chicken wings, meals for volunteers (335), French fries, Corn on the cob... And don't forget the drinks!!!

Continued on page 38



News From the Districts

District 33A



PCST, Denise Andrews

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Happy New Year! A new year has arrived; it is a time to start anew, a time when we want to make plans to do something that we always wanted to do or accomplish. I feel that it's the perfect time to say THANK YOU to all the Lions in District 33-A for their generosity to MLERF during the 2016-17 Lionistic year. The total donations from our Awesome District totaled \$111,270.29. This is certainly something to be very proud of. Way to go Lions!

In August, at the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund's Annual Awards Banquet, several of our clubs were honored for their donations. They were the: Mendon Lions (\$19,574.50); Milford Lions (\$15,000) and our #1 Club in the District – Millbury Lions (\$26,165.20). Congratulations to all, and thank you for all that you do for eye research in Massachusetts. It is not the size of the club or how much money a club donates, but the thought and the effort that they put into raising funds. For instance, the Barre Lions Club recently held a public service event where members of the Executive Board attended to help provide information to the community about what MLER is all about and also for the Barre Lions to promote their raffle that they recently held to benefit MLERF. Every penny or dollar

counts and goes to eye research, so plan those events,



collect pennies and do whatever you can to promote eye research and what it does. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Many of you know what MLERF is all about, but there may be members of your club who do not, especially the newer members. This would be a great opportunity for you to reach out to your District 33-A Directors to come speak to your club about the MLERF. The Directors this year are: PDG Mark Desmarais from the Winchendon Lions, Lion Jeanne Lillie from the Millbury Lions, PCST Colleen Oncay from the Mendon Lions and PCST Denise Andrews from the Fitchburg Community Lions. The Directors are advocates for the mission of eye research and club visitations and presentations are an important part of this role. Should they contact you to set up a time to visit your club, please give them the opportunity to come and talk about what the Fund does and why your donations are so vital in living up to the challenge that Helen Keller gave us to be her "Knights of the Blind". If you don't hear from them, give them a call, they would be a great speaker for one of your meetings.

Finally, I just want to say keep up the great work that you're doing in raising funds for eye research and Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! You are all AWESOME, and I am so proud to be a Lion and to be serving on the MLERF, Inc. Board of Directors representing District 33-A.

Respectfully submitted,

PCST Denise Andrews

News From the Districts

District 33N



PDG/PP Louise J Wojtkiewicz

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Congratulations to PP Ned for making your goal and then some too of \$1,001,272.10 and to the Lions of MD33 for making his dream come true. Let's keep up the work for the next year and the years to come. District 33N came through once again when asked to collect funds for MLERF to help eradicate blindness. Thank you on behalf of the Directors and Officers for your donation of \$264,735.65.

Our new year in our District is off to a great start with PDG Randy Pinch, PP; and Lion Mike Gmitter of the Wyoma Lions club locating 1,000 canisters for the pennies drive. Thank's to the following who had trucks to pick them up Directors Jane Fanjoy, Marcel Plouffe and 2nd VP Bob Haskell from District A. "A Real Team Effort" on behalf of MLER. I hope that all clubs will use them to collect pennies or change and not just store them in their basements. Collecting pennies and change is great for the smaller clubs to raise funds for MLERF.

District N has a new director from the Shoe City Lions Club Brenda MacPherson, welcome and good luck. Hope you enjoy your new venture in Lionism.

The clubs of District 33N have presented over 89 Sight Awards and there are many that can give Sight Award's to a deserving Lion or non-Lion; as the Chairperson for our District I will reach out to the clubs that are eligible and the ones that can give a Sight Award with an additional donation. There is no better way to recognize someone.

Other ways to make a donation to MLERF is to donate to the Trust and Endowment in Honor or in Memory of someone. The donations are as follows: \$1,000.00 is a Sponsor Award, \$5,000.00 Researcher

Award, \$10,000.00 Founder Award. These are forever donations in the person's name not just for one year to the grant fund. I hope the directors are explaining the different types of donations to the clubs when they visit them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

In closing if anyone in our district is having a fund raising event for Eye Research and has pictures or flyers please forward them to me via e-mail so that we can get them in the next Eye Catcher.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise J Wojtkiewicz, 33N



News From the Districts

District 33K



PDG Doreen Martel

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Fellow Lions,

The 2016 – 2017 Lions year was certainly a busy one. While we are well into the 2017 – 2018 year, it is important to look back at your accomplishments from last year. Are you aware that District 33K Lions exceeded expectations for donations to Mass Lions Eye Research, Inc.? YOU did — under the leadership of DG Andy and President Ned Merrick, the Lions of 33K donated \$232,305. 87, one of the biggest years in our history.

The creativity of the Lions of 33K never fails to amaze us; meat shoots, pancake breakfasts, Christmas Tree Sales, mint sales, can and bottle collections, white cane toll roads, penny collections and for the first time ever, a Polar Plunge. These are just a few of the ways that the Lions of District 33K band together, have some fun, and raise money for the important research done by the institutions we fund with grants.

It is important to understand how important the work, your contributions and your commitment to continue raising money for MLERF is to everyone involved. Thanks to Lions, researchers all across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are looking for solutions to some of the most devastating eye diseases which can lead to permanent blindness. Thanks to the work you do, we continue to meet the challenge laid out so many years ago by Helen Keller to being Knights of the Blind in the fight against darkness. IPDG Andy, and PDG Ned are proud of the efforts of every Lion in District 33K for their dedication and commitment.

Now it is time to look ahead — much like the Lions head on our ban-

ner, it is important for us to reflect on our past accomplishments — it is equally important to look towards the future. We know every Lions club has demands on the funds they raise. It is so important for each club to support the needs of their community. This support often comes in the form of providing scholarships, provided much needed funding for food pantries, assisting local law enforcement with their needs, and helping in a million small ways with providing opportunities for members of their community to get back on their feet. We understand!

However, we must not lose sight of our bigger goals. We know raising money is hard, particularly when membership is declining, or there are other organizations in our towns who are competing with us for the donations that businesses, and individuals are willing to provide. This is why we like to encourage every Lions club across District 33K to get the word out about how much good the money that is donated to your club really does.

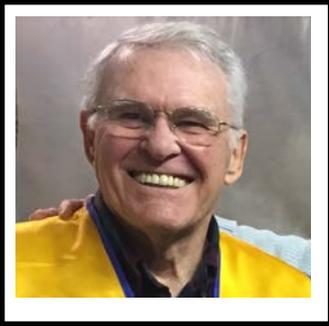
Although MLERF may seem like it is not "local" few things are further from the truth. Thanks to MLERF those living in your community with diabetes may not have to suffer the possibility of being blind. Members of your community who are living with AMD (age related macular degeneration) are given a chance to experience a slower progression of the disease thanks to the great work of the researchers MLERF supports. These are just a few of the ways the donations you make help members of your community.

DG Margaret is committed to doing even better with donations to MLERF this year. Imagine, if every Club in our District donated only \$60 more during 2017 – 2018 than they did last year this would mean more than \$2,500 in additional funding; a modest increase to be sure, but an increase of 10 percent over last year. It is not that difficult. This is not a lot of money! You can do this by holding a club raffle, adding a new toll road to your schedule, holding an additional raffle at an existing fundraiser, or using a coupon program at a local



News From the Districts

District 33S



PDG Wayne Smith, PP MLERF

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A criticism of the National Institute of Health (part of our Federal Government) is that the NIH gives money to follow up on something that has been researched and shows promise but give no money to new ideas. That is where the Lions of Massachusetts comes in. We give that money for researchers with new ideas. And that funding has led the Boston area to be the number one eye research eye care center in the world.

Dr. Hunter at Children's Hospital said, "Massachusetts Lions guarantee the new young researchers a hope to stay in research with funds unavailable anywhere else." Dr. Schepens noted, "The new advances with eye disease will not come from the noble lariats, but from scientists breaking the old research theories." And you, the Lions of Massachusetts, are giving them the funding to do their initial research.

The Department of the Army gave Schepens Eye Research Institute twenty million dollars after MLERF funded initial research to prevent our military men and women from becoming blinded by blasts in combat. The Lions of Massachusetts have helped keep the Boston Hospitals and research centers on the cutting edge of new advances in eye care.

There is no question that the Lions of Massachusetts have raised millions. And you are all to be congratulated. Many Lions give to our foundation in time, projects and activities. I wonder how many of us think about giving directly to MLERF. It is why many of us are Lions.

So, at this time if you are able, think about a special direct donation to MLERF. Make the check payable to Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. and give it to your club for them to send in to our foundation.

In District S, we have a dedicated fundraiser for Journey for Sight, a component of MLERF. Our "Blink of an Eye Run and Walk a Long" was held September 30th this year. To date, we have raised over \$11,000 with more donations still coming in to the committee. Individual clubs also hold MLERF specific fundraisers throughout the year. Perhaps you can help spearhead an event in your club.

Thank You, Lions, for all you do.

PDG Wayne Smith,
District S & Past President MLERF



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS

**Mansfield Holiday Inn
August 5, 2017**

SPECIAL AWARDS



PDG Matthew Richardson (K) received the *President's Visionary Service Award*



PDG Roger Jones (Y) received the *President's Visionary Service Award*



PDG Dick Ferucci (A) received the *President's Visionary Service Award*



PDG/PP Louise J Wojtkiewicz (N) received the *President's Visionary Service Award*



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Huntington 2016-2017
\$5,061.00



Millbury 2016-2017
\$26,165.20



Mendon 2016-2017
\$19,574.00



Milford 2016-2017
\$15,000.00



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Lynnfield 2016-2017
\$5,200.00



Lowell 2016-2017
\$5,233.00



Lynn Shoe City 2016-2017
\$5,534.00



Billerica 2016-2017
\$5,770.00



Twerksbury 2016-2017
\$5,700.00



Amesbury 2016-2017
\$6,576.63



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Plainville 2016-2017
\$5,294.00



Natick 2016-2017
\$5,861.73



Millis 2016-2017
\$7,232



Randolph 2016-2017
\$5,286.00

Medway 2016-2017
\$9,205.00



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Quincy 2016-2017
\$9,298.00



Middleford 2016-2017
\$5,274.80



Rockland 2016-2017
\$5,368.00



Westport 2016-2017
\$5,500



Hanover 2016-2017
\$5,800



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Fall River Carousel 2016-2017
\$6,176.00



Fairhaven 2016-2017
\$5,553.17



Rehoboth 2016-2017
\$6,805.00



Dennis-Harwich 2016-2017
\$7,907.67



Dighton 2016-2017
\$8,006.80



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Bridgewater 2016-2017
\$8,883.25



Reading 2016-2017
\$10,100.00



Lynn-Wyoma 2016-2017
\$.11,615.04



Concord 2016-2017
\$12,375.00



Pepperell 2016-2017
\$.12,400.23



Woburn Breakfast 2016-2017
\$13,485.00



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Woburn Host 2016-2017
\$16,020.00



District K 2016-2017
\$\$232,305.87



District S 2016-2017
\$323,122.40



S. Attleboro Village 2016-2017
\$10,871.97



ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET PHOTOS



Abington 2016-2017
\$11,069.66



S. Attleboro 2016-2017
\$10,871.97



Rehoboth Anawan 2016-2017
\$11,166.42



West Bridgewater 2016-2017
\$11,477.21



Mattapoisett 2016-2017
\$13,244.00



Somerset 2016-2017
\$14,046.80



IN LOVING MEMORY



PDG EDWARD "NED" MERRICK
2016 - 2017 MLERF PRESIDENT



MLERF FINANCIALS - ANNUAL REPORT

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

Treasurers Report - Final Year End 2016-2017

7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Balance Forward:		\$1,365,661.59
Current Income		
Grant Contributions		
District Y	\$69,797.89	
District A	\$111,230.29	
District N	\$261,595.65	
District K	\$224,657.25	
District S	\$318,082.40	
Total Grant Contributions		\$985,363.48
Interest		
CD's	\$8,155.42	
Annuities	\$23,573.97	
Total Interest Income		\$31,729.39
Other Income		
Installation & Awards Night	\$3,570.00	
Miscellaneous	\$30.00	
T&E Donations this year	\$15,908.62	
T&E Interest 2016-2017	\$67,557.00	
Total Income 01July - date		\$1,104,158.49
Committed Donations		
Grant Donations this year 2015-2016	\$985,363.48	
Grant Donations last year 2014-2015	\$0.00	
Presidential Grant 2014-2015 (Tufts)	\$0.00	
Presidential Grant 2015-2016 (Joslin)	\$78,549.00	
T&E Donations	\$0.00	
T&E Interest Committed to Pres. Grant	\$67,557.00	
Total Committed		\$1,131,469.48
Current Expenses		
Approved Grants		
BU School of Medicine	\$160,000.00	
Joslin Diabetes Center	\$160,000.00	
Mass Eye & Ear	\$160,000.00	
Schepens Eye Research Center	\$160,000.00	
New England Eye Center (Tufts)	\$160,000.00	
Childrens Hospital	\$160,000.00	
Presidential Grant 1015-2016 (Joslin)	\$0.00	
Presidential Grant 2014-2015 (Tufts)	\$27,753.11	
T&E Donations	\$15,908.62	
Total Grants and T&E		\$1,003,661.73



MLERF FINANCIALS - ANNUAL REPORT

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

Treasurers Report - Final Year End 2016-2017

7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Administration expenses:		
General administrative	\$592.95	
Bank charges	\$31.50	
Directories	\$1,907.24	
Auditor	\$6,355.00	
Bond	\$820.00	
Mid-Winters & Conferences	\$1,472.60	
Plaques and Adwards	\$5,524.45	
President Awards	\$350.00	
Committee expenses		
Eye Catcher	\$4,565.36	
Canisters & Pennies	\$0.00	
Grants	\$192.84	
Sight Awards	\$1,380.10	
Memorials	\$1,453.00	
Installation & Awards Night	\$11,563.93	
Public Relations	\$54.78	
T&E	\$247.40	
Jouney For Sight	\$320.05	
Administrative & Committee Expenses		\$36,831.20
Total Expenses & Committed Donations		\$2,171,962.41
Uncommitted Funds		\$297,857.67
Ending Balance		\$1,429,327.15



MLERF FINANCIALS - CLUB DONATIONS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

DISTRICT "Y"

7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Journey for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Adams	2,130.21		246.00		1,500.00		1,746.00	1,746.00
AIC Amer Int'l Coll	115.00						0.00	0.00
Agawam	10,847.89			365.00	6,000.00		6,365.00	6,365.00
Agawam Lioness	800.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Amherst	0.00						0.00	0.00
Amherst Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Ashfield	500.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Belchertown	3,200.00						0.00	0.00
Charlemont	0.00						0.00	0.00
Cheshire	0.00				750.00		750.00	750.00
Cummington	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dalton	3,800.00			100.00	2,500.00		2,600.00	2,600.00
Deerfield	450.00				400.00		400.00	400.00
East Longmeadow	5,157.39	224.78			4,550.00		4,774.78	4,774.78
Easthampton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Granby	600.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Granville-Tolland	0.00				800.00		800.00	800.00
Great Barrington	1,000.00						0.00	0.00
Greenfield	0.00				250.00		250.00	250.00
Hadley	500.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Hampden	500.00			325.00	1,000.00		1,325.00	1,325.00
Hatfield	1,500.00				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Hinsdale	1,000.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Holyoke	0.00				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Hoosac Valley Leo	100.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Huntington	3,877.85	70.00	1,316.00	175.00	3,500.00		5,061.00	5,061.00
Indian Orchard	165.60						0.00	0.00
Lee	1,500.00				300.00		300.00	300.00
Ludlow	1,048.47	20.00			1,000.00		1,020.00	1,020.00
Montague Erving	500.00						0.00	0.00
North Adams	0.00						0.00	0.00
Northampton	8,855.65	1,324.11			6,000.00		7,324.11	7,324.11
Pelham	100.00			35.00	100.00		135.00	135.00
Pittsfield	1,354.00	626.00			374.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
South Hadley	200.00						0.00	0.00
South Hadley Leos	0.00						0.00	0.00



MLERF FINANCIALS - CLUB DONATIONS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

DISTRICT "A"

7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Ashburnham	700.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Athol	1,250.00				750.00		750.00	750.00
Auburn	0.00						0.00	0.00
Barre	75.00						0.00	0.00
Berlin	0.00						0.00	0.00
Blackstone Valley Leo	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Bolton	1,500.00				1,250.00		1,250.00	1,250.00
Boylston	3,000.00				3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
Brookfields	4,400.00			50.00	3,500.00		3,550.00	3,550.00
Charlton	300.00	302.24			300.00		602.24	602.24
Clinton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dudley	500.00	200.00					200.00	200.00
Dudley Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Fitchburg Community	1,275.00	250.00		25.00	1,000.00		1,275.00	1,275.00
Gardner	1,102.30			325.00	750.00		1,075.00	1,075.00
Gardner Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Grafton	2,000.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Grafton Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Harvard	2,500.00				3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
Holden	0.00			100.00			100.00	100.00
Hopedale	0.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Hubbardston	2,024.00				514.00		514.00	514.00
Leicester	1,050.00	33.00	66.00				99.00	99.00
Leicester Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Leominster	300.00	33.00		100.00	500.00		633.00	633.00
Lunenburg Turkey Hill	0.00	55.35			3,000.00		3,055.35	3,055.35
Mendon	9,645.90	100.00		150.00	19,324.50		19,574.50	19,574.50
Milford	15,000.00				15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00
Millbury	16,900.00	70.20		345.00	25,750.00		26,165.20	26,165.20
Monson	0.00		204.00				204.00	204.00
Montachusett Reg Leos	0.00						0.00	0.00
Northboro	2,500.00				2,500.00		2,500.00	2,500.00
Orange	40.00		33.00				33.00	33.00
Oxford	1,000.00						0.00	0.00
Palmer	1,309.60			175.00	1,000.00		1,175.00	1,175.00
Paxton	325.00						0.00	0.00



MLERF FINANCIALS - CLUB DONATIONS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

DISTRICT "N"

7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Journey for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Acton	24,240.00	4,066.00	200.00	1,000.00	18,100.00		23,366.00	23,366.00
Amesbury	5,000.00	26.63	350.00	200.00	6,000.00		6,576.63	6,576.63
Ayer/Shirley	145.00		150.00	25.00	300.00		475.00	475.00
Beverly	0.00				10.00		10.00	10.00
Billerica	6,893.00	53.00	1,617.00	300.00	3,800.00		5,770.00	5,770.00
Billerica Leo	80.00		200.00				200.00	200.00
Burlington	0.00						0.00	0.00
Chelmsford	3,450.00	250.00	100.00		3,000.00		3,350.00	3,350.00
Concord	11,000.00		100.00	200.00	12,075.00		12,375.00	12,375.00
Danvers	200.00				50.00		50.00	50.00
Dracut	1,100.00			25.00	500.00		525.00	525.00
Dracut Leo	800.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Dunstable/Tyngsboro	1,032.00		100.00				100.00	100.00
Essex	150.00		266.00				266.00	266.00
Essex County Reg.	260.00		125.00				125.00	125.00
Groton	550.00		580.00				580.00	580.00
Haverhill	2,350.00		200.00	2,880.00			3,080.00	3,080.00
Ipswich	1,175.00		200.00	150.00	4,000.00		4,350.00	4,350.00
Lawrence	0.00				10.00		10.00	10.00
Lawrence Latin	1,250.00				10.00		10.00	10.00
Lexington	25,131.88	100.00	21,000.00	100.00	6,000.00		27,200.00	27,200.00
Lowell	5,050.00	1,000.00	733.00		3,500.00		5,233.00	5,233.00
Lynn	2,500.00						0.00	0.00
Lynnfield	0.00				5,200.00		5,200.00	5,200.00
Magnolia	200.00				200.00		200.00	200.00
Melrose	5,000.00		100.00		3,000.00		3,100.00	3,100.00
Merrimac	0.00				2,300.00		2,300.00	2,300.00
Methuen	225.00		133.00		100.00		233.00	233.00
Middleton	71.52						0.00	0.00
Nahant	365.00	652.00	100.00		4,000.00		4,752.00	4,752.00
Newburyport	38,100.00	95.55	225.00		25,000.00		25,320.55	25,320.55
Newburyport Leo	0.00				10.00		10.00	10.00
North Andover	1,345.00		190.00	1,775.00	1,000.00		2,965.00	2,965.00
Peabody	1,860.00		133.00	470.00	3,500.00		4,103.00	4,103.00
Pepperell	8,504.50	267.23	133.00		10,000.00	2,000.00	10,400.23	12,400.23
Reading	10,100.00		100.00		10,000.00		10,100.00	10,100.00
Reading Mem Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00



MLERF FINANCIALS - CLUB DONATIONS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

DISTRICT "K"								
7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017								
Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Arlington	200.00				200.00		200.00	200.00
Ashland	28,300.00		66.00	150.00	22,000.00		22,216.00	22,216.00
Ashland Leo	0.00				25.00		25.00	25.00
Bellingham	1,500.00				3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
Belmont	26,355.32	135.06		1,035.00	26,000.00	1,000.00	27,170.06	28,170.06
Blackstone	1,086.00				1,200.00		1,200.00	1,200.00
Boston Chinatown	1,013.31				2,025.00		2,025.00	2,025.00
Boston Host	150.00		33.00	25.00	500.00		558.00	558.00
BU Eye Assoc	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Cambridge	300.00				200.00		200.00	200.00
Canton	3,300.00				3,600.00		3,600.00	3,600.00
Charlestown	200.00				20.00		20.00	20.00
Foxboro	1,200.00				1,200.00		1,200.00	1,200.00
Framingham	7,467.00	407.41			7,500.00		7,907.41	7,907.41
Franklin	620.25				250.00		250.00	250.00
Greater Ashland	3,701.00	275.00			2,700.00		2,975.00	2,975.00
Greater Boston Hispanic	0.00				50.00		50.00	50.00
Himalayan NE	0.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Hingham	0.00		543.00				543.00	543.00
Holliston	11,845.00	291.00	99.00		11,000.00	500.00	11,390.00	11,890.00
Holliston Leo	0.00				25.00		25.00	25.00
Hopkinton	188.50				700.00		700.00	700.00
Hull	2,102.00		33.00		2,200.00		2,233.00	2,233.00
Hyde Park	275.00	66.00	33.00		500.00		599.00	599.00
King Philip Leos	150.00				550.00		550.00	550.00
Malden	6,258.97		33.00		1,450.00		1,483.00	1,483.00
Marlboro	2,300.00		33.00	50.00	2,150.00		2,233.00	2,233.00
Medfield	5,500.00		116.00	450.00	5,500.00		6,066.00	6,066.00
Medford	0.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Medway	7,990.00	66.00	66.00	788.00	5,650.00	2,635.00	6,570.00	9,205.00
Millis	7,758.00	66.00	66.00	100.00	7,000.00		7,232.00	7,232.00
Natick	1,710.00	61.73		750.00	5,050.00		5,861.73	5,861.73
Needham	5,000.00				2,500.00		2,500.00	2,500.00
NE College of Optometr	250.00				50.00		50.00	50.00
Newton	4,000.00					1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Norfolk	3,000.00		11,108.90		5,500.00		16,608.90	16,608.90



MLERF FINANCIALS - CLUB DONATIONS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

DISTRICT "S"

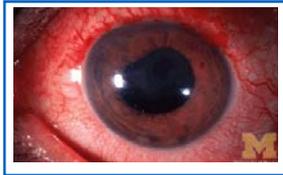
7/1/2016 ---> 6/30/2017

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Abington	11,926.15	744.17	921.00	20.00	9,384.49		11,069.66	11,069.66
Acushnet	27,997.00	147.00	1,156.00	775.00	25,070.04		27,148.04	27,148.04
Attleboro Tri Boro Com	1,340.90		436.80	200.00	500.00		1,136.80	1,136.80
Barnstable Yarmouth	600.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Barnstable High Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Bridgewater	8,515.09	33.00	940.25		7,910.00		8,883.25	8,883.25
Bridgewater Academy	12,007.48	1,011.76	754.42	50.00	63.00		1,879.18	1,879.18
Bridgewater Community	2,101.21	96.58	391.80		269.00		757.38	757.38
Bridge/Raynham Leo	21.00						0.00	0.00
Brockton	200.00	17.45			50.00		67.45	67.45
Chatham/Nauset	4,200.00				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Dartmouth	5,554.34	348.48	148.53		250.00		747.01	747.01
Dennis/Harwich	5,065.31	257.67	2,465.00	135.00	5,050.00		7,907.67	7,907.67
Dennis Yarmouth Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dighton	7,460.00	845.00	841.80	1,120.00	5,200.00		8,006.80	8,006.80
Dighton Rehoboth Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Duxbury	772.00				600.00		600.00	600.00
East Bridgewater	5,449.23	565.90			1,575.00		2,140.90	2,140.90
Easton	50,572.38	1,476.45	206.00	4,100.00	36,000.00		41,782.45	41,782.45
Easton Oliver Ames Leo	52.00		145.00				145.00	145.00
Fairhaven	5,000.34	200.00	303.17	950.00	5,100.00		6,553.17	6,553.17
Fall River	2,640.00	100.00	120.00		2,000.00		2,220.00	2,220.00
Fall River Carousel	6,254.00			50.00	6,126.00		6,176.00	6,176.00
Falmouth	760.00	100.00	529.01		500.00		1,129.01	1,129.01
Freetown	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Greater Attleboro Leo	50.00						0.00	0.00
Greater Taunton Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Halifax	575.00		65.00	500.00			565.00	565.00
Hanover	5,000.00				5,800.00		5,800.00	5,800.00
Kingston	1,750.00				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Lakeville	5,444.80	844.80		330.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,174.80	11,174.80
Lakeville OCA	1,700.00			100.00	1,500.00		1,600.00	1,600.00
Lower Cape Cod Light	0.00						0.00	0.00
Mansfield	0.00						0.00	0.00
Mattapoisett	10,082.34	500.00	500.00	100.00	12,144.00		13,244.00	13,244.00
Middleboro	5,120.00	124.80	150.00		5,000.00		5,274.80	5,274.80



SOCIAL MEDIA CLIPS

MLERFi Success Story: Inflammation inside the eye is called uveitis. It is the third leading cause of vision loss in the United States. While most uveitis responds to steroid therapy, 20% do not, and the uveitis becomes chronic. Researchers at the Boston University School of Medicine have found that there may be a way of developing long-term suppression of uveitis by using specific proteins always found in the healthy eye. These proteins stop immune cells from making inflammation, and make the immune cells themselves control each other from making inflammation.



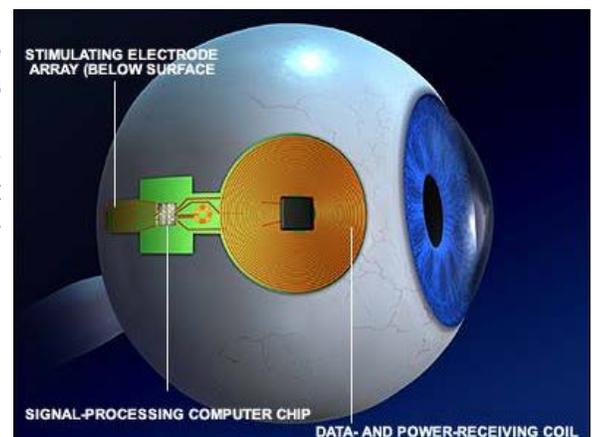
BU has demonstrated that they can make this target only the eye. This prevents accidentally stopping other immune cells fighting infection; this is something that current therapies cannot do. Researchers are now collecting immune cells from uveitis patients to see whether the immune cells respond to these proteins, and control themselves. The goal is to find a way to suppress inflammation within the eye to preserve vision in patients with chronic uveitis.

MLERFi Success Story: Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital have been conducting research which combines neurophysiology, visual psychophysics and computational modeling to investigate how neural circuits store, represent and process visual information in the human brain. By recording the activity of neurons and neuronal ensembles in cortex, the Kreiman Lab is providing insights about how the brain interprets the visual world. Inspired by the architecture and neurophysiology of the visual system and funded by the Lions, the laboratory has developed computational models that may enable machines to see and understand visual information. By combining computer vision with neurophysiology, the lab is working toward a day when prosthetic devices can be connected directly to the brain to restore the gift of sight to all who have, through trauma or disease, lost it.

MLERFi Success Story: Support of the Department of Ophthalmology at Boston Children's Hospital in the 1980's was critical in allowing the hospital to explore the use of Preferential Looking Testing as a method of measuring infants' visual acuity before they were able to name symbols or read an eye chart. The fact that babies will look reflexively towards a series of black and white lines if they can resolve them is the basis of the test. Drs. Anne Fulton and Louisa Mayer studied normal infant vision development and deviations from this normal development with great success, and Preferential Looking Testing became an international standard for measuring how well an infant can see, years before the child might be able to speak.

MLERFi and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary have been committed partners for more than two decades in pursuit of the most ambitious technological innovations to date—developing a retinal prosthesis designed to restore useful vision to patients who are blind from age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. The primary goal of the prosthesis is to improve the quality-of-life of severely blind patients by allowing them to navigate in unfamiliar environments.

Once achieved, the device also has the potential to facilitate other activities of daily living, like reading street signs, addresses on buildings, bathroom designations (i.e. male vs. female), and much more. Funding from MLERFi has supported efforts to overcome the many biological and engineering challenges inherent in developing, building and testing this highly sophisticated technology. In July of 2014 the National Institutes of Health approved funding to conduct FDA-required pre-clinical testing of the prosthesis.

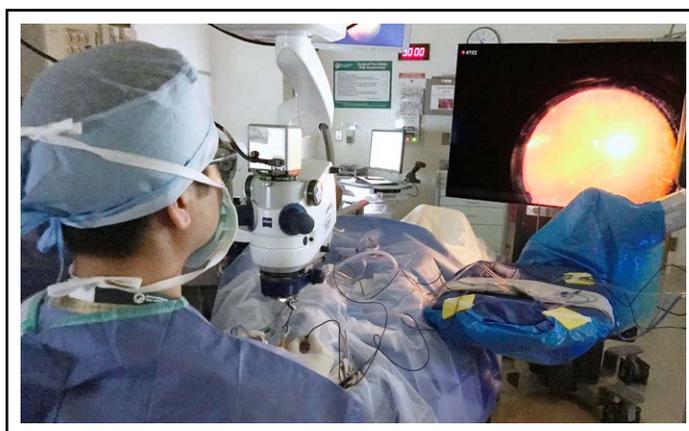


Massachusetts Eye and Ear first in New England to offer advanced, 3D surgical visualization technology to retina patients

State-of-the-art high-definition, platform aims to bring care of adult and pediatric patients to an unprecedented level

Boston, Mass. — Massachusetts Eye and Ear is enhancing the care it brings to adult and pediatric retina patients with a new and innovative vitreoretinal surgical platform, known as the NGENUITY 3D Visualization System. Designed to enhance the operating experience for retina surgeons and their patients, the new “heads up” technology offers surgeons better visualization in surgery, engenders a more collaborative operating room environment and helps reduce surgeon fatigue. Mass. Eye and Ear is the first medical center in New England to acquire the state-of-the-art system, which will be offered at the hospital’s two locations in Boston: 243 Charles Street and 800 Huntington Avenue.

NGENUITY is designed to enhance visualization of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue lining the back of the eye, giving surgeons and operating room staff exceptional resolution, image depth, clarity and color contrast. Two key features are the 3D view, which enhances depth perception, and the ability for surgeons to magnify an image while maintaining a wide field of view. Both features give surgeons an enhanced view of their instruments in relationship to the tissues or structures in the eye, which can improve surgical precision.



The NGenuity system may also facilitate collaboration and better communication among team members in the operating room. The importance of teamwork and its positive impact on patient care were the focus of a feasibility study conducted by a team of Harvard researchers (*Annals of Surgery*, March 2014). Nearly half of the participants (221 active operating room members) ranked “improving communication” as the most important change they would make in their clinical practice.

“Effective communication is vital to achieving optimal surgical care and patient outcomes,” said John B. Miller, M.D., an adult retina surgeon and Director of Retinal Imaging at Mass. Eye and Ear. “By giving everyone in the operating room the same great surgical view, we can work more smoothly as a team to provide even better patient care.”

With retina surgeries lasting from thirty minutes to three hours, the ergonomic “heads-up” design of NGenuity is designed to help reduce surgeon fatigue as well as degenerative back and neck disease, common after many years of traditional microscope use. During surgery, the team wears 3D glasses to operate while looking straight ahead at the magnified, high definition 3D screen. Rather than bending their necks to look through the eye-pieces of a microscope, surgeons can sit at their most ergonomic position throughout surgery.

“Heads-up surgery can decrease surgeon fatigue, which may translate into safer surgeries for patients, and longer operating careers for surgeons,” said Yoshihiro Yonekawa, M.D., a pediatric and adult retina surgeon at Mass. Eye and Ear and Boston Children’s Hospital. The enhanced 3D visualization also requires lower light levels while maintaining an ultra-crisp view of the retina. “This can potentially reduce light toxicity, which may benefit patients, because although rare, the retina can be damaged from light exposure of conventional surgery if the levels are too intense,” said Dr. Yonekawa.

“Leveraging this premium new technology continues our long history of leading surgical excellence in retina care,” said Joan W. Miller, M.D., Chief of Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear and Chair of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. “We are pleased to lead the region in providing the very best care to our pediatric and adult patients with retina disorders.”



News From the Districts Continued

District 33Y

This club also put out MLERF canisters (really their Tip Jugs) and raised \$1887.00. We don't have a final total on net profits for this event, but it will go a long ways in meeting the club's budgeted goal of \$9,500 for MLERF for the 2017- 2018 Lion year.

The Agawam Lions have additional fund raisers scheduled for MLERF as follows:

November Calendar Raffle: we expect to net at least \$1,000 for MLERF

Thunderbirds Night on March 16: District wide event – open to the public/Lions

Approximately an additional 50 canisters out w/members with a goal of at least \$33 per member (this club has over 80 members, so that's a lot of pennies)

West Springfield Lions, also a large club, has a food booth across the road from the Agawam Lions, and they sell hamburgs, hotdogs, etc. Hopefully I will have details on their sales for a future issue.

All clubs are not as big as the Agawam Lions but if you set your goals high, with the motivation, energy and enthusiasm that Lions have, you can all reach your goals. As an individual if you donate \$33 you will earn the President's pin from President Roger (I'm sure he'd love to pin you personally!). We are asking each member to donate what they can afford, the \$33 or spare change, or just your time helping at an event. I ask each club to set their goal at \$100 more than they donated last year----Let's make this year a banner year for 33Y and support President Roger and MLERF.

Please email me stories and pictures of any events your club does for MLERF, and watch for stories in future issues of the EyeCatcher. Thank you again for all you do!!!

HUGS!! (Helping us Give Sight)
PCC Jean W. Martin

District 33K

restaurant that allows you to get a portion of the tab back for every visitor. We can do this — when the Lions of District 33K make a commitment to reach a new goal, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

Let's all strive to provide the service our communities need, and make sure we never lose sight of all the good we do. As we enter the second half of the 2017 – 2018 Lions year, let's think about how easy it is for our clubs to come up with \$10 per month to help DG Margaret achieve her fundraising goals for MLERF. We can do this together! Keep up all the great work you do, it is more appreciated than you know. Your service and your efforts are appreciated by the leaders in our District, and across our Multiple District, but more importantly — by people you may never meet.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Doreen



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