



THE EYE CATCHER

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Publication of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

2016 – 2017 Volume 51 No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It happens every year We are fast approaching the close of the financial books of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund for the lions year 2016-17. The total donations are gratefully running a bit beyond last year's total; but still short of our goal of 1 million. Time is short especially since many of you are still at the International Conference. We will have but a few days to shake the trees once everyone is back. I have noted some clubs that are substantially less than they were at the end of last year and we will try to figure out what happened.

It is not all bad news however, I believe we have achieved many of the initiatives we set out last year; most notably our version of "MLERF Lions on the Road". By all accounts the initiative was a total success; well attended in every district and enjoyed by all who participated. Each of the 5 districts had record turnout and I am certain that a lot of lions now have ---a better understanding of what Mass Lions Eye Research is all about.

Our Orientation series presented by PDG Matthew Richardson has gone a great distance in helping the MLERF Directors understand the workings of the corporation; how and why we do what we do. This in turn, along with understanding the monthly reporting was designed to make the directors more conversant in MLERF when visiting the clubs. Part of that initiative was to ensure that all clubs were visited by a member of the board and I am not totally certain that happened in all cases.

On another front, we have upgraded our website to make it more appealing and interactive. Great strides have been made to this end and I hope to have the site live by the time of the Installation Banquet. This site will be a source of pride to our efforts and will be able to take all kinds of donations to grants, Journey for sight, T&E and Memorials directly from the website. If promoted effectively, it can also be used by anyone Lion or not to donate to MLERF In addition it will be a source of information including issues of the eyecatcher, updates on research being done by the eye institutes we support and stories of the fundraising events conducted by the clubs.

So, all in all, I believe we have set the MLERF on a course of improvement and success. I believe I am turning over a stronger, more informed board to incoming President, PDG Roger Jones; but I am fully aware that our success is your success and you all deserve the accolades.

Lastly, as I ride off into the sunset, I must offer my humble thanks to the Executive Committee of the corporation, who have helped me set the course, especially to 1VP Roger Jones, who stepped in on several occasions when I was unable. This has been the ride of my life and I am in complete awe for the help, encouragement and support of all the Lions of MD-33.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do.

PDG Ned Merrick
President



EDWARD "NED" MERRICK, PDG 33K



Board of Directors

Corporate Officers/Executive Committee

PDG Edward "Ned" Merrick	33-K	President
PDG Roger Jones	33-Y	1st Vice President
PCST Robert Haskell	33-A	2nd Vice President
PDG Jeanne Farrow	33-N	3rd Vice President
PDG Matthew Richardson	33-K	Secretary
PDG Dr. James Roth	33-K	Treasurer
PDG Matthew Richardson	33-K	Executive Director
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DG Lisa Nelson 33-A
DG Joan Parcewski 33-N
DG Andy Porter 33-K
DG Sharon Audette 33-S

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PDG Matthew Richardson 33-K
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PCST Colleen Onkay 33-A
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PDG Pat Kalicki 33-K
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2VDG Stephen Karch 33-Y
2VDG Tim DeVault 33-A
2VDG Frank Bertolino 33-N
2VDG Debbie Hayes 33-K
2VDG Kathy Salem 33-S

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

Directors – 1st Vice District Governors

1VDG Sharyn Wentworth 33-Y
1VDG Todd Karkane 33-A
1VDG Jim Wagner 33-N
1VDG Margaret Menard 33-K
1VDG Deb Grassi 33-S

Directors - 2018

Maryann Bankman 33-Y
Jeanne Lillie 33-A
Marcel Plouffe 33-N
PZC Gino Angelone 33-K
PDG Ray Moreau 33-S

Directors - 2020

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PCST Denise Andrews 33-A
PDG Jane Fanjoy 33-N
PRC Diana Faust 33-K
IPDG Roland Grenier 33-S

Eye Catcher Reporters (NV)

DG Linda Carr 33-Y
PCST Denise Andrews 33-A
PDG Louise Wojtkiewicz 33-N
PDG Doreen Martel 33-K
PDG David Barbour 33-S

Assistant Treasurer (NV)

PCC, PDG William Murphy, PP

PID Chuck Kostro, PP Grants
PDG Jim Roth, PP Grants
Dr. Alan Bachrach Grants
Joan Stein-Streilein Grants

Parliamentarians

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



News From the Districts

District 33Y



DG Linda Carr
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District 33Y is proud of our seven members of the Board of Directors for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund who have been visiting all the clubs in District 33Y to talk about the great things that are happening in eye care because of the donations that are being made. Hats off to VDG1 Sharyn Wentworth, VDG2 Stephan Karch, PCST Claudette Plazcek, PZC Maryann Bankman, PDG Ken Larkin and PZC Raymond Lacourse.

This past October, District 33Y hosted a Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund's Directors meeting in Northampton. It was the first time that MLERF Directors had come to District 33Y and it was extremely well attended with over 100 Lions making the trip. Everyone was impressed with what going on with MLERF.

At the District 33Y Mid-Winter Conference, all 16 Lions Clubs and the Hoosac Valley Leo Club in attendance made donations to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. The grand total came to over \$47,000. A special congratulations goes out to the West Springfield Lions Club – they continue to give \$15,000 annually from their proceeds throughout the year.

Many Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund projects are being planned for the spring including pancake breakfasts & ziti suppers. We look forward to more donations at the State Convention and our Final Advisory in June.

Respectfully submitted,
DG Linda Carr, 33Y

Springfield 16 Acres Lions Club
MLERF Fundraiser



News From the Districts

District 33A



PCST, Denise Andrews

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I cannot believe that we are at the end of another Lionistic year. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Lions of our District, their families, friends and the communities that they serve for their generous donations in helping to support the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund in their efforts to help eradicate blindness. As of May 17th, our District has raised \$56,421.59. We have since received donations at the State Convention and at our last Advisory meeting which have brought our total donations to over \$70,000.

MLERF, Inc. is celebrating its 65th Anniversary this year. Since its beginnings in the 1950's MLERF has continued to fund cutting-edge research. Some of the funding supported:

- ◆ The Ophthalmic Plastics Laboratory, which developed pure plastic corneas to be used for people afflicted with scarred corneas.
- ◆ The Joslin Clinic, which developed the "Lions Laser Lens," a device that can detect diabetes in the eye before any other physical signs appear.
- ◆ Tufts New England Medical Center, which developed radioactive isotopes to cure eye and brain tumors.
- ◆ Schepens Eye Research Institute (formerly known as the Retina Foundation), which constructed the first "upside down" operating table to repair detached retinas.
- ◆ Boston University Medical Center, which conceived and devel-

oped the first photocoagulator ophthalmic laser and the first clinical specular microscope.

◆ Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, whose researchers led to the first FDA-approved drug treatment for Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

These are but a few of the many success stories resulting from the donations that are made to this very important fund each year. You can see more of these stories on the MLERF website at: masslionseyeresearchfund.org. One hundred percent (100%) of all funds donated are awarded in grants for eye research projects.

This being the final issue for the 2016-17 year, I want to say that it has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Eye Catcher Reporter this year. I want to thank each and every club and member for your support and for all of your fundraising efforts throughout the year. It is thanks to all of you that MLERF can continue to fund these hospitals in their research to someday find a cure to prevent and eradicate blindness. Please let me know if there is anything that you would like to see included in future editions of the Eye Catcher – any fundraising ideas or projects that you are doing, etc. I am proud to be a member of District 33-A, the AWESOME District.

Thank you again for all that you do and keep up the great work!!

Yours in Lionism and friendship,
Denise, 33A



News From the Districts

District 33N



PDG/PP Louise J Wojtkiewicz

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The 2016-2017 year is coming to an end. The District took in at the 4th Advisory Meeting a total of \$124,981.63; without the walkathon money. Many clubs are still doing their fund raisers and we are waiting for the funds to arrive.

I would like to thank all the clubs and members for making donations after reading my last article in the Eye Catcher. One of my members sent me a \$100.00 check. Thank you all for continuing to support this worthy cause. We really need to eradicate blindness.



Our 2017 “Walkathon” Chairperson Lion Marcel Plouffe has written an article for the readers of this column regarding what took place at the walk. The article is as follows-

“District N 2017 MLERF – Journey for Sight “Walk/Run”. This year our goal is to raise between \$8,000 - \$10,000 for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. The “Walk/Run” was held on Sunday June 4th, 2017 located on scenic Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield MA. Families gathered at the gazebo at 8:30 am and were treated to coffee,

doughnuts and friendly conversations. Kids were offered opportunities to play games and win great prizes. For a small donation, participants could throw a pie at Governor Joan Parceski, 1st VP Jim Wagner and 2nd VP Frank Bertolino. Participants made their way to the starting point around 10:00 am. All who come are welcome to either walk or run this 5K. Approximately a half hour before the event the kids “fun run” started. Cones are set up by the gazebo for the children to race each other. After the 5K walkers and runners could purchase refreshments such as hot dogs and water for a small donation. 50/50 and Raffle basket tickets were sold throughout and drawn at the end. This year we had 9 donated baskets filled with an assortment of gifts.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Marcel Plouffe,
MLERF “Journey for Sight” Chair

Thank you Lion Marcel for your leadership and efforts!

Your clubs will be receiving invitations to the 65th Annual Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers to be held Saturday, August 5th, 2017 Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048, Social 6PM Dinner at 7PM.

My wish to you all a very happy safe summer and remember the new year starts July 1st, 2017 put your thinking caps on to come up with some idea’s that we can continue to raise money for Eye Research. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Louise J Wojtkiewicz, 33N
“Blindness Knows’ No Age”



News From the Districts

District 33K



PDG Doreen Martel

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Fellow Lions,
It is hard to believe that the 2016-2017 Lions year has already come to an end. This has been a remarkable year, by any account. Lions in District 33K surpassed last year's donations to Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. meeting (and possibly exceeding) IPDG Andy's goals. Not that anyone is surprised; time and time again, the Lions of District 33K rise to challenges, often exceeding them.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that every Lions Club in District 33K contributed to MLERF this year. That is a major feat, one that every one of us should be proud of; not only does it show your ongoing commitment to MLERF but also a resounding show of support for IPP Ned, and IPDG Andy. Every club, and every Lion, should be proud of what we have accomplished this year. IPDG Andy and IPP Ned are certain proud of what you have accomplished.

I join with every single Lion and Leo in District 33K in extending our thanks and congratulations to IPDG Andy and IPP Ned. You have both given us much to be proud of and we thank you for your leadership during this past year. The time, energy, and sacrifices you have made leading us during this past year have not gone unnoticed and are appreciated by all.

District 33K Lions have proven time and time again they are willing to go the extra mile to support MLERF. As we move into the 2017-2018 Lions year, it is time to once again start thinking about what we can do to further our goals and raise more funds than ever before for MLERF. DG Margaret is raising the bar for us again — she is asking our Clubs to raise

10 percent more for MLERF during the 2017-2018 Lions year. She is confident we can do that and more. Keep in mind, there are hundreds of ways you can increase your donations. You can do penny collections, white can drives, or challenges inside your club. Encourage members to come up with new ideas and hold a fundraiser specifically to raise funds for MLERF. Talk to your members; see if there are events you can think of where you can raise an extra \$100, \$500, or even \$1,000. Every dollar you raise does so much good for so many people.

As we have done every year, it is time to rally around each other, strive to make a difference in the lives of everyone we serve and support District Governor Margaret, 1st VDG Debbie, and 2nd VDG Dawn. Remember, you do not have to do this alone! District 33K is fortunate to have a team of dedicated members who serve on the Board of Directors of MLERF; each one of them is available to visit your club and talk about the difference your donations make. Let's all get together and make sure that we work hard to exceed the work we have done this year and show IPP Ned, IPDG Andy, and DG Margaret how seriously we take our commitment to MLERF. Have a safe summer and let's get to work and make 2017-2018 the best year yet for MLERF and District 33K.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Doreen



News From the Districts

District 33S



PDG David A. Barbour
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Greetings Fellow Lions,
As we near the end of the 2016-2017 Lion year, District 33S is hoping for another banner year in their donations to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. Through May 15th, the District has raised just over \$187,000.00 for the Fund with over a month to go. Lion District Governor Sharon Audette, her Leadership Team, and the District's four MLERF Director's, have been busy throughout the year speaking on behalf of the Fund.

An update on the happenings in District 33S in support of the Fund...



-Coming in Fall, 2017!

Lions District 33S MLERF "Blink of an Eye" 5K Walk/Run Event

The Lions District 33S annual MLERF "Blink of an Eye 5K Walk/Run Event" is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Scusset Beach State Reservation in Sagamore Beach, MA along the scenic Cape Cod Canal. This annual event, organized this year by incoming District Governor Deb Grassi and incoming 1st Vice District Governor Kathy Salem, features great food, entertainment, music, and fun for Lions of all ages attending from throughout the District. Lions secure pledges in advance for their run/walk during the morning and enjoy the scenic view of the Cape Cod Canal as they complete their walk/run. The event traditionally raises between \$10,000-\$15,000 for the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. Lions in District 33S who would like to join the Planning Committee for the event should contact incoming 1st Vice District Governor Kathy Salem of the Abington Lions Club at 781-308-2881. All ideas, and many hands, are welcome!



"Lions Day 2017 at McCoy Stadium"
Sunday, June 11, 2017 1:05 p.m., Pawtucket, RI
District 33S
Chairperson- Nate Helgerson,
Seekonk Lions Club

On a bright and sunny, perfect baseball day, Lions from District 33S along with Lions from across Massachusetts and Rhode Island gathered at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, Rhode Island for the Annual "Lions Day at McCoy Stadium" for the MLERF. In pre-game ceremonies, Lions proudly marched their Club banners into the stadium and onto the infield grass. Lion International Director Joyce Middleton of the Bridgewater Community Lions Club was the special Lions guest for the event and threw out the ceremonial "First Pitch"...of course, a strike! District 33S was well represented at the game.

Special thanks and appreciation to our District 33S "Lions Day at McCoy" **Chairperson Nate Helgerson** of the **Seekonk Lions Club** for his organization of our District 33S participation in the event.



Above- Lions 33S District Governor Sharon Audette is joined by the PawSox mascots, fellow Governors Lisa Nelson (33A), and Lion International Director Joyce Middleton.



Above Left- Pawtucket Red Sox mascots "Paws" and "Sox".
Above Right- Lion International Director Joyce's "First Pitch".



News From the Districts



Thank You



(L to R)- PDG Bev Dillon, IPDG Roland Grenier Jr., and PDG Ray Moreau

“Thank You” to our 2016-2017 District 33S MLERF Directors for their Club Visitations this Lions year. The District is fortunate to have four Past District Governors serving as their MLERF Directors this year with each Director’s focus on visiting their assigned Club’s during the year and educating Lions members on the workings of the Fund, the importance of our Lions support to the Fund, and answering questions members may have.

As the year comes to an end the District’s MLERF Director’s have visited most of their assigned Club’s based on each Club’s ability to schedule them to visit. The Director’s Club assignments were as follows-

MLERF Director: IPDG Roland Grenier Jr.	MLERF Director: PDG Bev Dillon
-Chatham-Nauset	-Provincetown
-Dennis-Harwich	-Barnstable-Yarmouth
-Lakeville	-Bridgewater
-Acushnet	-Bridgewater Academy
-Lakeville Old Colony	-Bridgewater Community
Acushnet Freetown	-East Bridgewater
-Kingston	-West Bridgewater
-Abington	-South Attleboro
-Rockland	-South Attleboro Village
-South Carver	-Fall River
-Plymouth	-Easton
-New Bedford	-Norton Community

MLERF Director: PDG Ray Moreau	MLERF Director: PDG David A. Barbour
-Sandwich-Bourne	-Falmouth
-Rehoboth	-Somerset
-Rehoboth Anawan	-Middleboro
-Dighton	-Dartmouth
-Attleboro Tri Boro	-Seekonk
Raynham	-Rochester
-Mattapoisett	-Taunton
-Fall River Carousel	-Westport
-Norton	-Fairhaven
-Hanover	-Duxbury
-Halifax	-Brockton

-Spring & Beyond...

District 33S Club Events for MLERF

The Lions Club’s of District 33S continue their hard work this year raising funds for Lions causes and community support. Here are a few of the District events that have been conducted, or scheduled, for the Spring and beyond with the proceeds going to the MLERF-

-South Attleboro Village Lions Club

- “Brown Bag Auction” (Twinning)
- Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:00 p.m.
- North Attleboro Elks Lodge, North Attleboro, MA

-Bridgewater Community Lions Club

- “Famous Half Rotisserie Chicken Dinner” (Twinning)
- Wednesday, April 19, 2017 7:00 p.m.
- Bridgewater Cole Yeaton Senior Center

-Dartmouth Lions Club

- “Comedy Night”
- Friday, April 21, 2017 7:00 p.m.
- White’s of Westport Restaurant, Westport, MA

-Dighton Lions Club

- Annual Cow Chip Weekend”
- Friday, June 2 thru Sunday, June 4, 2017
- Dighton, MA

-Raynham Lions Club

- “Robert McCabe Memorial Golf Tournament”
- Friday, June 9, 2017 7:00 a.m.
- Olde Scotland Links, Bridgewater, MA

-Easton Lions Club

- “19th Annual Easton Lions Golf Tournament”
- Monday, September 25, 2017 10:00 a.m.
- Easton Country Club, South Easton, MA



Respectfully Submitted.

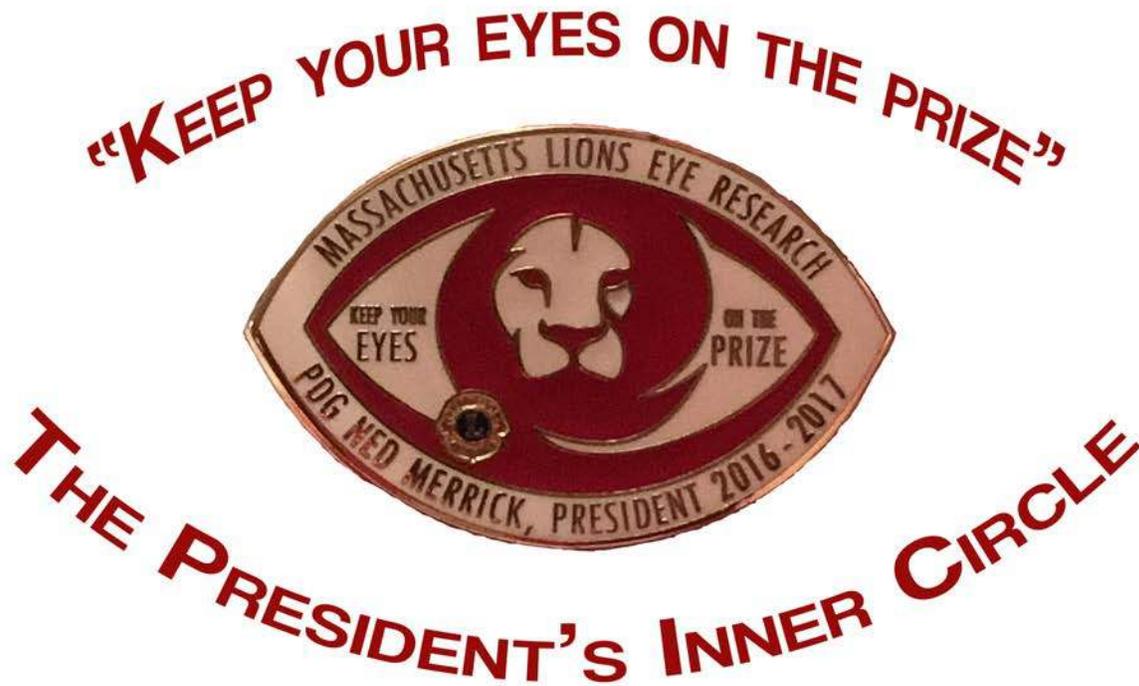
Lion PDG David A. Barbour
MLERF “The Eye Catcher” Reporter
District 33S



Upcoming Events

- Saturday, August 5th: EYEBALL GALA - MANSFIELD HOLIDAY INN 6PM \$30/PP

-Saturday, September 30th: Lions District 33S "Blink of an Eye" 5K Walk/Run at Scusset Beach along the Cape Cod Canal.



\$33

**MLERF President Ned Merrick
has designed a special pin for you.**

**Become a member of the "inner circle" and show your
MLERF pride and support by purchasing a pin to
commemorate president Ned's year.**

All proceeds will go directly to MLERF.





You are cordially invited to attend the

**65th Annual
Awards Banquet
&
Installation of Officers**

*2016-2017 MLERF President Edward "Ned" Merrick, PDG
2017-2018 MLERF President Roger Jones
and welcome the incoming officers and directors
and thank the outgoing officers and directors*



Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Social 6:00 pm – Dinner 7:00 pm

Holiday Inn

31 Hampshire St.

Mansfield, MA 02048

over





Your choice of meal: \$35.00 per person
 Prime Rib of Beef R.S.V.P. for meals by July 22, 2017
 Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole
 Vegetarian (Penne Primavera)

All clubs in Massachusetts making a donation of \$5,000 or more in 2015-2016 will be honored and provided with two complimentary meals. Clubs reaching lifetime donations of \$200,000, \$300,000, \$400,000, \$500,000, and \$600,000 will also be honored and provided with two complimentary meals. No matter what your contribution, we hope you will be in attendance to support the new officers and directors and to honor all the clubs who make our research grants possible.

Join us in honoring:

2016-2017 MLERF President Edward "Ned" Merrick, PDG
 2017-2018 MLERF President Roger Jones, PDG

and welcome the incoming officers and directors and thank the outgoing officers and directors.

Accommodations are available for Lions at \$119.00 per room plus tax. To book at this arranged/reduced rate call the Holiday Inn – Mansfield/Foxborough directly (508-339-2200) and mention "Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Lions" when booking the room. Cut-off date for reserving rooms at this rate is July 9, 2017.

Please complete the registration form below and mail with check for \$35.00 per meal.

Clubs entitled to complementary meals shall receive a special invitation.

For questions please call Dick Ferrucci at 508-981-8761 or email him at dick@wmrcradio.com.

For all other clubs or guests attending, please use registration form below.

Mail to: PP, PDG Dick Ferrucci, Chair
 P.O. Box 2013, Mendon, MA 01756

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE to: Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

NAME: _____ TITLE/POSITION IN CLUB: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME: _____ TITLE/POSITION IN CLUB: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

MEAL SELECTION: SOLE: _____ PRIME RIB: _____ PENNE PRIMAVERA: _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$35.00 PER MEAL AMOUNT OF CHECK: \$ _____

THE EYE CATCHER

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CHAIR PDG DAVID BARBOUR, 33-S**

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