



MASSACHUSETTS LIONS EYE RESEARCH FUND

EYE CATCHER

Spring/Summer 2019 Volume 53 No. 3

**65
YEARS**

**65 YEARS OF SUPPORTING
CUTTING-EDGE VISION RESEARCH**

**65
YEARS**



STAY TUNED FOR OUR
NEXT EYE CATCHER...

MA Lions Eye Research Gala
August 10, 2019
Crown Plaza Woburn
Meet the new officers & directors



See what the Lions of Massachusetts have
been doing to support cutting-edge vision
research.

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Dear Friends of Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your dedication to the cause of finding a cure for preventable blindness. We have all worked hard fundraising this past year, and although we did quite meet our goal, we did

come close and I thank you for your efforts.

The grants we gave out this year will help the researchers in our area institutions finding a cure for vision related diseases and one day, I hope, a cure for all forms of blindness. Every penny, nickel or dime could be the one that finds a cure... Please continue to give.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come to your district midwinters, advisory meetings and club meetings. It was a pleasure speaking with so many wonderful people in our state.

Again, thank you for your support and for your service.

Yours in Lionism,

Bob Haskell President
Mass Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

\$960, 570

Board of Directors

Corporate Officers/Executive Committee

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DG Debbie Hayes, 33K

DG Kathy Salem, 33S

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PID Chuck Kostro, Grants

PDG Wane Smith, Orientation/T&E/PR

PDG Jim Roth, Grants

PDG Roger Jones, Orientation

Dr. Kathy Prucnal, Grants

PDG Randy Pinch, Public Relations

Parliamentarians

PDG Ted Irvin

PDG Wayne Smith

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PCST Denise Andrews, 33A

PP PDG Louise J Wojtkiewicz, 33N

PDG Doreen Martel, 33K

Ted Cummins, 33S

2019 - 2020
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS



7/23/19 Annual Meeting/Grant distributions—
Boston Children’s Hospital – 6-8 pm
Longwood Inn, at 300 Longwood Ave., Boston

7/31/19 Dine out for MLERF
Texas Roadhouse

8/10/19 Annual Installation/Awards Banquet—
Crowne Plaza, 15 Middlesex Canal Park Dr.,
Woburn. Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30 pm.
Deadline for Reservations: 8/1/19

8/22/19 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

9/11/19 Children’s Hospital visitation
300 Longwood Ave., Boston

9/15/19 Eye Catcher reports are due to Deb
Hayes

9/26/19 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

9/28/19 District S-Blink of an Eye walk
Cape Cod Canal
contact a director or officer from S for details

10/10/19 Schepens Visitation

10/24/19 On the Road 33S
Raynham/Taunton Dog Track
1958 Broadway, Raynham, MA

10/30/19 Dine out for MLERF
Texas Roadhouse

11/2/19 A Night with Shamus Kennedy
Franklin Elks Lodge, 1077 Pond St, Franklin, MA
\$40, 8-11 pm. See PDG Pat Kalicki for more de-
tails.

11/14/19 On-the-Road-33A-details to follow
2020

1/10-12/20 33S Midwinter, Double Tree by
Hilton, Hyannis, MA, Theme: A Funny Thing
Happened on the way to Midwinter.

1/24-26/20 33Y Midwinter, Sheraton, One
Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144, Theme:
“As you are”

1/30-2/2/20 33N Midwinter, Theme “50’s”

2/7-9/20 33A Midwinter, Theme: Wonderland,
Location to be determined

2/15-17/20 33K Midwinter, Dedham Hilton, Ded-
ham, MA

2/27/20 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

3/12/20 Boston Medical Visitation

3/26/20 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

4/23/20 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

5/14/20 On-the-Road-33K, Location to be deter-
mined

5/28/19 Board Meeting
Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA

6/11/20 On-the Road-33N-details to follow

News From the Districts

District 33Y



PCC Jean Wilder

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A HUGE THANK YOU to each and every Lion, Leo, volunteer and/or family member who helped the Lions of 33Y and MD33 raise monies that were donated to Mass. Lions Eye Research. This is a 501 (c) 3 corporation owned by you, the Lions of Massachusetts. It doesn't look like we are going to beat IPP Roger Jones' level of \$1,070,000, but every penny we raise goes to the researchers in Boston. Every year we come one step closer to finding another miracle cure, treatment or piece of equipment that brings us closer to our goal of eradicating blindness.

Remember it was money you donated to MLER that provided the grant money over the past 25 years to Dr. David Hunter of Boston Children's Hospital to figure out what was required to develop the Pediatric Vision Scanner, aka The Blinq!!!! It was his brains, but our brawn that raised a lot of the money to fund his research, and now the Blinq is in production and being used by doctors to scan children for eye muscle disorders.

What is your definition of a Hero??? To the researchers every Lion & Leo is a Hero for the money we raise to fund the grants from MLER. To the child or adult who can't see and one of the researchers we support find advancements in treatment and/or a cure---the researchers are the Heros!!!

How can we continue to be a Hero to these researchers??? I am glad you asked---we can raise more money!!! July 1st starts a new Lion year, and 365 more days to find ways to raise \$1,000,000 for next year. Are you getting tired of the same old fundraisers? Are they not working as well anymore?

How about you try something new, or maybe re-invent an old project that used to work but hasn't been used in a long time? Look around your district or at what other service clubs are doing---is there something out there that looks interesting? If the answer is yes, ask them how they do it, what supplies are needed, how much time it takes to plan it, etc. Then make it your own.

Ok, so you can't come up with anything new ideas? Here are some ideas of what Lions around the state are doing or have done to raise money:

- Sales: Brooms, lightbulbs, flowers, plants, candy, candles, Rada knives, Tupperware, baked goods, trash bags, cookbooks, Christmas trees, pumpkins;
- Raffles: Cars, 50/50, 20/20 club, calendar raffles with money or prizes, TV's, lottery trees, weekend get-a-ways;
- Sports: Golf Tournaments, walk-a-thons, swim-a-thons, bike-a-thons, bowl-a-thons, kayak races;
- Trips: Casino trips, sports events (Red Sox, Patriots, Thunderbirds, Bruins, Paw Sox, etc.);
- Meals: Pancake Breakfast (especially for a holiday such as Mother's or Father's Day), Ham & Bean suppers, Chicken Barbeques, corned beef and cabbage suppers;
- Dine out events: Texas Road House, 99 Restaurants;
- Collections: bottles/cans, recycle metal, large appliances;
- Then there's carnivals, dances, concerts, Bingo, dog shows, horse shows, truck pulls, art auctions, tag sales, Turkey Shoot, Road Blocks, cook book sales, ski & skate sales

Corporate sponsorship (talk to a director about a letter to use)---let them know their donation may be a tax deduction.

Use your fund raising event to advertise what Lions do, who we help, how Mass Lions Eye Research

News From the Districts

District 33A



1VDG, Denise Andrews

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Happy Summer, Lions!!

The warm weather has finally arrived and another Lionistic year has come to an end; and what a year it has been with the many fundraisers held for eye research! Lions Clubs all across Massachusetts perform fundraising activities throughout the year in order to support the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. Some of the activities this year included the selling of Texas Roadhouse gift cards where MLERF earned 10% of each \$25 gift card. Also, MLERF earns an additional 10% of your bill when using the card or a flyer at certain Roadhouses throughout the state (you can go online at <http://www.LionsMD33.org> for more information). This fundraiser expires on October 30, 2019. Other fundraisers included a polar plunge, golf tournaments, motorcycle rides, toll roads and more. The two major programs that support these fundraising efforts are the Journey for Sight and Pennies for Sight programs.

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. adopted "Journey to Sight" (created by LCI) shortly after the 1982 International Convention and later changed the name to Journey for Sight. The first Journey for Sight Weekend was held in May of 1983. The initial idea was for all Clubs to hold a Journey for Sight project on the same weekend of May each year. The purpose of this project was to generate additional funds for MLERF over and above a Lions Club's usual annual donation. Today, Journey For Sight projects occur all year long throughout the five Lions Districts (Y-A-N-K-S).

The Pennies for Sight program was created as another vehicle for Lions' clubs to generate funds for MLERF, literally one penny at a time. Lions clubs distribute

penny canisters containing the MLERF logo at local businesses or other venues. Program motto: "Your change changes people's lives". Any Lions club that donates \$100.00 receives a Banner Patch. Once a club has received the banner patch, in any year in which they make another \$100.00 donation, they receive a rocker patch for that year.

This being the final issue for the 2018-19 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 June 30th, District 33A has raised \$101,590 for MLERF. Way to go, Lions!!! This is a result of all the donations, small or large, from all the clubs who raised monies for this Fund. It is not the size of the club or the amount of the donation – every penny counts and makes a difference in helping to someday eliminate blindness.

In closing, on behalf of the Lions of District 33A, I want to extend a special thank you to our own Robert "Bob" Haskell for the outstanding job that he did as President of MLERFI this year. Bob puts his heart and soul into everything that he does. He is all about service and making a difference in the lives of everyone he meets. He is a Lions Lion, but most of all he is a true friend. He does what he does from the heart without expecting any type of award or recognition. What means most to him is a simple thank you, hug, or handshake. Well done, Bob!!! Thank you for all that you do in service to others. We are so proud of you!!!

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Eye Catcher Reporter; it is truly something that I enjoy doing. I look forward to serving in this capacity again next year.

Thank you again for all that you do and keep up the great work!! I am so proud to be a Lion and to be a part of this Awesome District!!!

Yours in Lionism and friendship,
1st VDG Denise, 33A

News From the Districts

District 33N



PDG/PP Louise J Wojtkiewicz

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Greetings; from your District 33N Bulletin Editor.

On June 20th, I thought I was going in for minor surgery to clean out my right carotid artery that was 75% blocked. I came through fine, but had side effects from all the years of medications that did not agree once the valve was cleared. My body went into shock and I lost all memory for five days, on the fifth day I did recognize my family and they sent me to rehab for 10 days. I am now home with PT, Nurses and family helping me get back to normal. Thank you all for prayers and well wishes.

I want to thank all the Lions and clubs in District 33N for their donations to MLERF.

Special thanks to Lion Jane Fanjoy; for helping me in getting the Directors from 33N to collect donations from all the clubs. Thank You Lion Marcel Plouffe for running the District Walkathon, without all of your help and thoughts and prayers,

I hope to be able to attend the Banquet on August 10th, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,
Louise J Wojtkiewicz, 33N

“Blindness Knows’ No Age”

News From the Districts

District 33K



PDG Doreen Martel

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Congratulations Lions of District 33K. Thanks to your ongoing dedication to Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. our District once again broke through the \$200,000 ceiling on donations. Nearly every Lions Club in District 33K donated to MLERF, and I know that IPDG Debbie appreciates all your efforts.

Across the district, the Polar Plunge, Christmas tree sales, meat raffles, carnivals and pancake breakfasts helped clubs raise these funds and you can count on the Board of Directors of MLERF to make good decisions about where those funds are most needed. Without your support, the research hospitals across Massachusetts would not get the funding they need. These donations may not appear to initially have an impact on your community directly, but over time, they help not only our communities, but in many cases may help a family member.

While the 2018 – 2019 Lions year may be at a close and many of you have not had your first meetings for the 2019 – 2020 Lions year, it is not too soon to start thinking about how you can increase your donations to MLERF during the year. White cane drives are popular across the District, with many clubs raising as much as \$3,000 in just a few hours. Before launching a white cane drive, make sure you check with your local police department to find out what local restrictions or permits may be needed. Lions should also consider gathering their club members and instead of a standard dinner meeting,

plan to visit one of the research facilities. Understanding how the funds we work so hard to raise are being used is a great way to motivate your club members. Check with surrounding Lions Clubs and see if they might be interested in joining you and you get not only the benefit of seeing first-hand the important work the research facilities do, but you also get the benefit of sharing fellowship with another Lions Club.

Lions Clubs who donated \$1,000 more than last year's totals are entitled to request a Sight Award. These awards may be presented to a member of your club, or if you like, you may consider presenting to a member of the community. Either way, if you do present one of these awards, submit a press release and let your local paper know about the award. This type of publicity can help raise awareness of how important the work you do in your community is both at the community level and at the state level.

For new Club officers, if you are beginning to schedule speakers for your dinner meetings, consider reaching out to one of the Directors from Mass Lions Eye Research. Let them join you for an evening and give them five or six minutes to discuss the important work the board does as well as the importance of continuing to support MLERF. You will not be disappointed!

Please do enjoy the rest of the summer and while you are planning for the upcoming year, keep MLERF and all the good work they do on our behalf in mind. Let's make sure we show the same level, or a higher level of support, to DG Dawn as we have for IPDG Deb and those PDGs who were before them.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Doreen

News From the Districts

District 33S



PDG Wayne Smith
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Modern medical advances in eye research have helped millions of people to see better and longer in their life time.

I remember Dr. Howard Liebowitz while Chair of Ophthalmology at Boston University in the 1990's say the Lions of Massachusetts have had a hand in every major advancement in eye care over the past forty years.

Dr. Charles Schepens at Schepens Eye Research Institute said new breakthroughs will be made by young researches that have new ideas that will result in new breakthroughs in eye care.

Dr. David Hunter at Children's Hospital said the Lions of Massachusetts support young researchers that would never be able to have the funds to do their research.

Dr. Joan W. Miller at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary decided to do research on Age Related Macular Degeneration in the mid 1990's when this seemed to be a lost cause. Dr. Miller with Lions funding changed all that.

Back in the mid 1960's Lions funded research and a laser machine for Dr. Lloyd P. Aiello (William P Beetham Eye Institute at Joslin Diabetic Center) to prevent Diabetic Retinopathy. The results meant that most people with diabetic retinopathy would not go blind.

Dr. Jay S. Duker and Dr. Noorjahan Panjwani (New England Eye Care Center at Tufts Medical Center) are discovering a protein that will promote healing not only of the eye but other parts of the body.

It takes years to start from a researcher's idea to the conclusion. You the Lions of Massachusetts are the hero's. Funds not available elsewhere are supplied to you.

Thank you District Governor Kathy Salem and Lion Ted Cummins for your exemplary leadership and devotion to Lions causes. You were everywhere promoting and helping Lions.

As I write this the final figures for the year are not in. We need to continue to focus on our goal to eradicate the dreaded disease of blindness.

Continue your fundraising. Promote a Journey for Sight project if you don't already have one. And support District 33S Blink of an Eye on September 28.

Thank you again for all you do.

PDG Wayne Smith,
District S & Past President MLERF