



## Sight & Hearing Committee

February 10, 2019

### Donations

Donations for this 2018/2019 Lions year are \$10,745 so far: \$2,345 for S&H; \$5,005 for Pilot Dogs; and \$1,450 for the S&H Foundation. The allocations for the Sight & Hearing Fund donations for the 2018/2019 year will be Pilot Dogs 76%, PBO 12%, Ohio Radio Reading Service 3%, NewsReel 3%, Columbus Speech and Hearing 3%, and Ohio Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation 3%. The PBO amount was increased due to the strategic alliance discussed below.

### Vision Screenings

Vision screenings continue to increase. Last year we did 787 screenings, and this year in just 6 months, we have completed 515. Let's keep pushing so that we can serve over 1,000 individuals.

The District received the LCIF grant and we now have 4 new vision screeners in the District, with Athens and Gallipolis Lions Clubs purchasing a screener and being generous enough to use these machines and serve their larger areas. Training was completed in September on how to use them, and they began to be used almost immediately!

### New Resource for Eye Exams and Glasses:

- 1) The State Sight & Hearing Committee has entered into a strategic alliance with Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO). PBO is willing to provide eye exams and eye glasses for any referrals to Lions Club (must be within 200% of Federal Poverty Level). This will be at no cost to the Lions Club or the individual in need. Please see the letter included from PBO on how to access this service. If a Lions Club would like to use this resource, it is requested that the Club consider a donation to the Ohio Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation from the funds now freed up by not paying for these exams and eye glasses. This will enable the Foundation and PBO to help more people in Ohio as we refer to each other for he needs individuals have.
- 2) Bridge Vision and WalMart – Bridge Vision is an online service that allows a Club to allocate an amount of money for eye glasses and exams at their local WalMart Vision Center. Single Vision glasses start at \$38. Eye exams are provided for about \$60, but a Club may be able to negotiate with the local provider at the Vision Center. Visit [www.bridgemart.com](http://www.bridgemart.com) or call 1-888-752-1120 for Customer Service to learn more.

Respectively submitted,

Chair, OH7 Sight & Hearing

*Dear Lions,*

*We have a wonderful opportunity to help needy people in our community by partnering with Prevent Blindness. They have unlimited access to eye exams and eyeglasses in all 88 Ohio counties. If our clubs partner with their program, we can invest our limited resources in other areas of vision preservation for which we have no other options such as helping pay for eye surgeries, co-pays and medications.*

*If you choose to join the Sight and Hearing Committee in partnering with Prevent Blindness to provide individuals who come to your club for help with eye exams and glasses, you have two options:*

- 1. Direct Client Access Option: Provide the following telephone number, 800-301-2020, to the needy individual and Prevent Blindness will qualify them over the phone and navigate them through their system of donated vision care. If there is a need for transportation assistance for clients in your area to get to the eye doctor, Prevent Blindness will provide your phone number to the client to help, but your club is under no obligation to do so. As we all know, sometimes transportation is an issue in getting eye care and someone in great need cannot be helped because they have no way to get to the eye doctor.*
- 2. Partner Organization Access Option: This option involves your club as the advocate/helper to the individual receiving the free eye exam and eyeglasses voucher from Prevent Blindness. Using this option, your club will enter a client application on the Prevent Blindness website and when they have qualified the client, all information about the individual's eye doctor appointment options and eyeglasses options will be provided to your club so that you can assure that the individual gets the care they need and help them with transportation if needed.*

*If you choose the Partner Organization Access Option, you will work with Prevent Blindness to submit client applications, confirm the eye appointment details with the clients and provide them with a voucher for glasses. For more information about becoming a partner agency, please reach out to Kim Luebke at 614-464-2020, ext. 116 or [kiml@pbohio.org](mailto:kiml@pbohio.org)*

Lilane Fox  
Chair, MD13 Sight & Hearing Committee