



EYE CATCHER

Fall/Winter 2023 Volume 54 No. 1



Donations

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Research Success

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Welcome message from new MLERF president, John Riemer of the Grafton Lions Club

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Meet the Officers and Directors of MLERF and see the Committees they volunteer on

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

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Dear Fellow Lions and Leos,

Thank you for the privilege and honor to serve as MLERF's 57th President for the current Lions year.

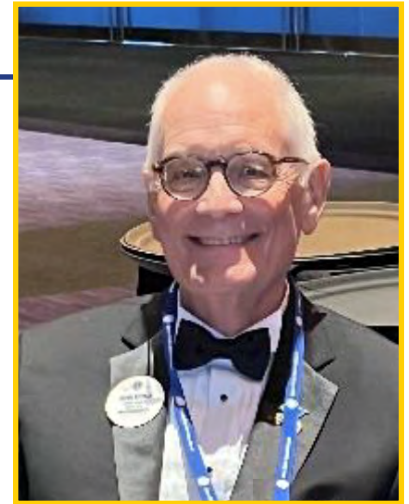
I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work over the past year to in helping us reach our goal of raising \$1 million to fund the cutting-edge research our researchers are doing to find a cure for blindness, vision impairment and diseases, that effect vision in individuals of all ages. It is my hope that we will be able to reach this same fundraising goal this year.

Lions, Leos and their friends and associates are benefiting from our agreement with our six primary research institution partners to provide access to 2nd medical opinions from world renowned experts at those institutions. Requests coming from Lions go right to the top of the list and allow us to be scheduled and assessed in a few weeks vs. 8 to 9 months if the patient tried to schedule on their own. Over the last few months, we have received over twenty of these requests. Over 75% have led to life-changing treatment or surgical recommendations with the rest confirming the diagnosis provided by the patient's local Doctor. Please contact me directly (john@riemerassociates.com) if you or someone you know would benefit from this wonderful benefit. I will put you in touch with your District rep who make this happen for you.

I must say that the opportunity for me to visit clubs, get to know some of you and learn about your projects, results and all the challenging work you have done is special for me. It is so clear to me that clubs are focused on initiatives that truly are improving the quality of life for residents in our communities. What a satisfying and wonderful thing! It makes me proud to be a Lion.

Kind regards,

John Riemer



\$1,066,064

Ways You Can Support MLERF

Direct Donation

MLERF is a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation. You can donate directly to MLERF by visiting our website at www.mlerfi.com and click on the donation link in the upper right corner, or the How to Help link at the top. A check may be made payable to Mass Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc., c/o Treas. Dr. James Roth, 43 Stewart Terrace, Belmont, MA 02478. A donation can also be made to your local Lion's club, earmarked for MLERF, and have them forward the donation to the above address. Additionally, we have memorial/honorarium envelopes if you wish to honor someone special. See your district MLERF Director or officer for an envelope.

President's Circle Pin \$20.00

Please consider joining the President's Circle and show your pride and support of MLERF with this beautiful President's Circle lapel pin. If 2000 Lions/Leos of Massachusetts purchase this pin that would be \$40,000 raised to help fight blindness. Can we afford not to purchase this pin? This small donation will help fund our annual grant goal of \$1,000,000.00 for our research institutions, who are looking to find cures for all blindness and vision-related diseases.



Journey for Sight - Pennies for Sight

Another great way for our Lions/Leos to help support MLERF, is to place penny canisters in their communities or in their homes. The change you get back from your daily cup of coffee or that sandwich you buy at lunch, can change the vision of someone in need. These canisters are also a great way for our communities to learn about Lions, Leos and MLERF. Ask any MLERF Director about the canister program and they will get you everything you need.



Facebook Special Occasion Fundraiser

If half of the Lions/Leos in Massachusetts host a \$100 Special Occasion Fundraiser on Facebook we could raise about \$300,000 for MLERF. It's easy to do, just login to your Facebook page, click on the fundraising link on the left and select raise money for a non-profit. Type in MLERF in the search bar and select Massachusetts Lions Eye Research. Edit the information in the left sidebar and click create. It's that simple...tell your fellow Lions/Leos, friends, family and co-workers! When your fundraiser is over, send an email to the MLERF President and Treasurer, with your name, your district, your club and the amount raised, and your club will be given credit for the donation.

IGive.com

IGive.com is an easy fundraiser, which is similar to Amazon Smile. You create an account and choose MLERF as the non-profit you want to help, and IGive will donate a percentage of your total to MLERF.

MLERF DONATION “QR-CODE”

The MLERF QR code can be used on all fundraising materials to help educate others and raise funds for MLERF. Just snap a picture of this QR Code with any cell phone that is connected to the internet, and you will be directed to the MLERF website. The website will provide more information about MLERF and how to make a donation to MLERF.



2023 – 2024 Calendar of Events



2023

August 19

Full Board Meeting In-Person 10am
Grafton Lions Pavilion, Grafton

September 12 E-Board Meet. Zoom

September 28

Full Board Meeting In-Person
Bauhinia restaurant, Shrewsbury

October 17 E-Board Meet. Zoom

October 19 BU visitation 5:30pm

October 26

Full Board Meeting In-Person
A & D restaurant and Pub, Millbury

December Tufts Visitation 6pm

December 7 Full Board Meet. Zoom

Dec. 17-23

A Christmas Carol fundraiser
Hanover Theater, Worcester
Barre Lions for MLERF, etc.

2024

January 12-14

33S Midwinter Theme "Disney"
Hotel 1620, Plymouth, MA

January 19-21

33N Midwinter Theme: Red Carpet - Star
DoubleTree Hotel, Andover, MA

February 9-11

33A Midwinter Theme "60s & 70s" Rock
Southbridge Hotel, Southbridge, MA

February 16-18

33K Midwinter Theme "Carnival"
Dedham Hilton, Dedham, MA

February 24-26

33Y Midwinter Theme "Fun & Games"
Springfield Sheraton, Springfield, MA

February 29 Full Board Meet. Zoom

March 7 Schepens – Zoom

March 27

Boston Children's Hospital Visitation

March 28 Full Board Meet – Zoom

April 6 Polar Plunge Lake Pearl

April 18 Boston Medical Visitation

April 19-21

MD33 State Convention,
Seacrest Hotel, Falmouth

April 25 Full Board Meeting – In-person

May 15 Joslin Visitation

May 23 Full Board Meeting – In-person

June 21-25

International Convention
Melbourne, Australia

June 27 Full Board Meeting – In-person

August 3

MLERF Awards Banquet
Southbridge Conference Center

Board of Directors

Corporate Officers/Executive Committee

PCS John Riemer
PDG Beverly Dillion
PDG Patricia Kalicki
Vacant
PRC Robert Grover
PDG Dr. James Roth
PCC Jean Wilder

33A President
33S 1st Vice President
33K 2nd Vice President
33A 3rd Vice President
33K Secretary
33K Treasurer
33Y Immediate Past President

**Assistant Treasurer
(Non-Voting)**
PDG, PP Jeanne Farrow, 33N

**Directors
District Governors**
DG Jeffrey Turner, 33Y
DG Curt Jameson 33A
DG Elizabeth Pettis, 33N
DG Ivette Mesmar, 33K
DG Deborah Horner, 33S

1st Vice District Governors
1VDG Thom Swift, 33Y
1VDG Denise Andrews, PDG 33A
1VDG Mark Alexander, 33N
1VDG Diana Faust, 33K
1VDG Michael Middleton, 33S

**2nd Vice District Governors
(Non-Voting)**
2VDG Vacant, 33Y
2VDG Vacant, 33A
2VDG Katie Sirois, CST, 33N
2VDG Anthony Baliola, 33K
2VDG Steve Garran, 33S

Directors - 2024
James Allen, 33Y
William Johnson 33A
Michael Gmitter, 33N
Richard MacPherson, 33K
PDG Kathy Salem, 33S

Directors - 2025
Vacant, 33Y
PCST Lionel Carbonneau, 33A
PCST Brenda MacPherson, 33N
PDG Dr. Deb Wayne, 33K
PCST Lorraine Thompson, 33S

Directors - 2026
PZC Maryann Bankman, 33Y
Barry Alman, 33A
PCST Jeralyn O'Connor, 33N
PDG Debbie Hayes 33K
PCST Patricia Salvas, 33S

Directors - 2027
Vacant, 33Y
Vacant, 33A
Alice Gaudet 33N
PCS Tim Munn 33K
Steve Garren, 33S

Parliamentarians
PID, PP Charles Kostro
PDG, PP Wayne Smith, Chairperson

Eye Catcher Reporters
PDG Debbie Hayes, 33K, Editor/Publisher
PCC, IPP Jean Wilder, 33Y
2VDG2 Denise Andrews, 33A
PDG Marcel Plouffe, 33N
PDG Debbie Hayes, 33K
PDG Wayne Smith, 33S

2023 - 2024 Committees

AWARDS - MLERF

Y Maryann Bankman, PZC
A Lionel Carbonneau, PCST
N Jeralyn O'Connor, PCST
N Katie Sirois, VDG2
S Lorraine Thompson
S Kathy Salem, PDG, (Chairperson)
K Dr. Jim Roth, PDG, PP

GRANTS

Y Jeffrey Turner, DG
A Bill Johnson, (Chairperson)
N Brenda MacPherson
K Dr. James Roth, PDG, PP** (Grant Writer)
K Dr. Deborah "Deb" Wayne, PDG
S Kathy Salem, PDG

AWARDS BANQUET

Y Thom Swift
N Mike Gmitter
K Anthony Baliola
S Pat Salvas, PCST
Y Jean Wilder, PCC, IPP, (Chairperson)
N Alice Gaudet
A Maureen Wojnar, President
Grafton Lions Club, Hospitality Room

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Y Jean Wilder, PCC, IPP (Chairperson)
All Past Presidents
S Michael Middleton, 1VDG
A Bill Johnson
S Kathy Salem, PDG
K Richard MacPherson
S Steve Garran, 2VDG
A Lionel Carbonneau, PCST

CLUB COORDINATION

Y Vacant
A Bob Grover, Executive Director & Secretary
Z Mark Alexander, 1VDG
K Diana Faust, 1VDG
S Michael Middleton, 1VDG
N Katie Sirois, 2VDG
K Anthony Baliola, 2VDG
S Steve Garran, 2VDG, (Chairperson)
K Tim Munn
A Barry Alman, ZC
N Alice Gaudet, PCST
N Jeralyn O'Conner, PCST
K Dr. Deb Wayne, PDG
S Pat Salvas, PCST
N Katie Sirois, 2VD

NOMINATING

K Jean Wilder, PCC, IPP (Chairperson)
Y James "Jim" Allen, PCST
A Denise Andrews, 1VDG
N Mark Alexander, 1VDG
K Diana Faust, 1VDG
S Michael Middleton, 1VDG

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Y Thom Swift, 1VDGA
A Barry Alman, ZC (Chairperson)
N Katie Sirois, 2VDG
K Debbie Hayes, PDG
S Steve Garran, 2VDG
K Anthony Baliola, 2VDG
K Richard MacPherson
K Tim Munn
S Lorraine Thompson, PCST

2023 - 2024 Committees

TRUST & ENDOWMENT

Officers

John Riemer, PCS, President

Dr. James Roth, PDG, PP, Ex Officio - Treas.

Jeanne Farrow, PDG, PP, Ex Officio - Asst. Treas.

Term Expires June 2024

- Y Maryann Bankman, PZC
- A Bill Johnson
- S Wayne P. Smith, PDG, PP** (non-director)

Term Expires June 2025

- A Lionel Carbonneau, PCST
- N Brenda MacPherson
- K Ivette Mesmar, DG
- S Steve Garran, 2VDG



Seeking 2nd Medical Opinions Through our MLERF Institutional Partners

• Targets for help

- For matters related to children
Boston Children's Hospital
- For matters related to diabetes
Joslin Diabetes Center
- For matters related to vision and hearing
 1. Massachusetts Eye & Ear
 2. Boston Medical Center
 3. Tufts Medical Center

• Information required from patient

- Name, address, and mobile phone number
- Date of birth
- Insurance plan and policy number
- Description of medical issue

All information should be passed on to your District rep

• MD33 District representatives

- District Y – PDG Jean Wilder – jwmartinhl@yahoo.com
- District A – PDG Dick Ferrucci – dick@wmrcradio.com
- District N – PDG Jeanne Farrow – lionjeanne33n@gmail.com
- District K – PDG Dr. Deborah Wayne – doctoradeb@comcast.net
- District S – PDG Kathy Salem – kathrynsalem@gmail.com

• Process to schedule appointment

- District rep will pass on patient information above to MLERF President John Riemer or Dr. Jim Roth to determine the right place to seek a 2nd opinion appointment
- They will schedule an appointment with the hospital
- Hospital will communicate the specifics (date, time place, Doctor's Name) of the appointment to the patient



News From the Districts

District 33Y



Maryann Bankman PZC

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Holyoke MA 01040
(H) 413 535 8533
mtmnovajo@aol.com

Dear Lions and Leos,

I hope you had a great summer and early fall seeing wonderful Eye-Catching Events. Did you attend the 2023 LCI Convention in Boston? Did you happen to see the amazing International Parade of Nations? Did you see and hear the wonderful Plenary Sessions with outgoing President Brian Sheehan? If he did not bring a smile to your face or make you laugh or have hope for the future of Lions you must have been sleeping.

There were 3 amazing Keynote speakers: Skateboarding legend Tony Hawk, Oscar winning filmmaker Jimmy Chin and Adventurer Erik Weihenmayer, the first ever blind mountaineer to climb all Seven Summits. If music brings you happiness, then Killer Queen Tribute or 2021 America's Got Talent Finalist Victory Brinker provided amazing entertainment.

Our MLERF President John Reimer did a great MLERF presentation on Saturday in the Exhibit Hall. Did you see our Blink tester in action? Our MLERF funded the research for this amazing equipment. Did you know our 2nd Medical Opinion Process helped a foreign International Director at the convention receive help? Did you see the inauguration of new International President Patti Hill? She was a Keynote speaker at our district's Midwinter Conference. The Lion's International Challenge for the 23-24 year is to increase the membership to 1.5 million. Did you get to attend the Massachusetts Caucus at the Empire Garden Restaurant? That was a fun event and the food was delicious. This was my first opportunity to attend an international convention and I had wonderful time. I saw good representation from the MLERF Board of Directors and Lions from our district. I give my congratulations to the Host Commit-

tee and Chairperson PID Joyce Middleton and Vice Chairperson PCC Joyce Hogan and to all the Massachusetts Lions who volunteered and attended.

MLERF IPP Jean Wilder had an amazing year. She roared in like a Lion and accomplished a lot. (She left with a bang – not the kind we would wish for her. She is healing nicely and has a new car.) She created committees and worked with them to review and update the Constitution, Bylaws, Policy Manual and Orientation Guide explaining BOD member responsibilities and other committee duties. She did an amazing job with fundraising. Her challenge to the clubs to exceed their 20-year average donation stimulated some clubs to give a little more than in the past. Sixteen clubs in District 33Y met Jean's challenge. Total MLERF donations did exceed a Million dollars once again. Congratulations! President John will be having the challenge again this year. We will be receiving the challenge numbers soon.

The Awards Dinner meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield on August 5th was a great success. Grants were given to the six research institutes and awards were given to clubs. Researchers sat at tables and they had an opportunity to talk about their research projects and share their appreciation for MLERF funding. Eric Gaier was the researcher at my table. He conducts basic science research related to amblyopia using a mouse model. He explained the mechanisms that underlie visual experience-dependent synaptic changes in the brain. His research efforts are aimed at advancing our understanding of and developing new strategies to treat amblyopia. He also expressed real appreciation MLERF Grants.

Our MLERF Fund is unique because we give money for research for new ideas. Once the research shows promise the NIH or other Grant organizations can then provide ongoing funding. We are unique in Massachusetts because the funding that we have raised for MLERF has led our Boston area research institutes to become the number one eye research care center in the World. We have raised over \$40Million and you are all to be congratulated for that. Thank you so much

News From the Districts

A message from IPP Jean



PCC Jean Wilder
172 Hope Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(H) 413-774-5925
jwmartinhl@yahoo.com

Hello MD33 Lions and Leos,

A huge Thank you to all of you for all your hard work last year for MLERF, With your hard work we raised \$866,064.30, add the \$100,000 from LCIF and \$34,000 from the T&E for the Presidential Grant for a total of \$1,066,064.30 for a grand total. You all were an integral part of us beating our goal, and I appreciate every dollar you raised. Keep up the great job this year and lets help Pres. John beat the million too!!!

Last year a President's Challenge was issued to all Lion and Leo clubs in MD33. Congratulations and Thank you to the following clubs who beat the goal they were challenged with:

District 33Y:

Belchertown, Charlemont, Cheshire, East Longmeadow, Hatfield, Holyoke, Hoosac Valley Leos, Lee, Ludlow, North Adams, Northampton, Pelham, Pittsfield, Southwick and Williamsburg.

District 33A:

Ashburnham, Barre, Blackstone Valley Leos, Boylston, Grafton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Millbury, Monson, Paxton, Phillipston, Rutland, Sutton, Uxbridge and Winchendon.

District 33N:

Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence Latin, Pepperell, Reading, Townsend, Wakefield, Woburn Leo and Wyoma.

District 33K:

Bellingham, Belmont, Blackstone, BU Eye Assoc., Cambridge, Foxboro, Malden, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Quincy, Randolph, Sherborn, Wellesley Centennial and Wrentham.

District 33S:

Abington, Acushnet, Bridgewater, Brockton, Dighton, Duxbury, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Lakeville OCA, Mattapoisett, Norton, Norton Community, Paws of Comfort-Attleboro, Plymouth, Seekonk, Somerset, South Attleboro, South Attleboro Village, Wareham and West Bridgewater Leos.

Our awards banquet on August 5th was well attended by 122 Lions and 14 Researchers who came out to talk with us, and to accept their grant checks. Thanks to all that attended. Congratulations to all award winners. (see pictures on Facebook, thanks to Roger Perham for taking them).

We completed our Constitution and By-Laws and Policy Manual updates and developed the new orientation guide for directors. These documents are available on our website at MLERF.com If you have interest in serving on the MLERF Board please contact your District Governor, Vice District Governors, a Past President or a current officer and they can answer any questions you have. This is your corporation, we need you.

Thank you again for all you do for MLERF, and for your support during my term as president in 2022-2023.

It was an honor serving you.

HUGS (Helping Us Grant Sight)
IPP Jean M. Wilder

News From the Districts

District 33A



1VDG, Denise Andrews

119 Milk Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-227-8450
dacst33a@yahoo.com

Lions of the Awesome District,

Happy Fall! It's that time of the year when the leaves are changing colors, the air is cooler, and the days are shorter. It is the same for Lions, because it's a time when we start a new year with new leaders and new ideas.

This year, one of our very own members is President of the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund. I want to take this opportunity on behalf of all Lions in District 33A to congratulate Immediate Past Cabinet Secretary John Riemer and to wish him a very successful year as President of MLERF. He will represent us well and will lead MLERF to a very successful year.

On Saturday, August 5, 2023, The Massachusetts Eye Research Fund, Inc. (MLERF) held its 72nd Annual Lions Appreciation and Awards Banquet at The Sheraton Hotel in Springfield. MLERF was founded in 1951 by Massachusetts Lions when they became aware that almost 3,000 premature babies were losing sight every year in what was called "baby blindness". A Lions grant allowed researchers to find and solve the problem.

Since being voted the Massachusetts Lions official statewide project in 1952, MLERF has given out over \$41 million in research grants to the Eye Research Laboratories of Mass. Every penny donated to MLERF since 1952 has been given back in grants. These grants are only given for pure research and not brick and mortar projects. After a delightful lunch, 2022-2023 MLERF President Jean M. Wilder, along with 2023-2024 MLERF President John Riemer welcomed the 160 Lions, Researchers, and guests in attendance. All Mass. Lions Clubs that donated \$5,000 or more were recognized for their contributions to

MLERF. In District 33A they were the Mendon (\$6,675), Milford (10,138) and Millbury (\$25,000) Lions Clubs. The Millbury Lions Clubs received Special Recognition with incredible lifetime donations that have exceeded \$100,000. In fact, District 33A is proud to announce that the Millbury Lions Club has donated \$602,670. WOW!

The new officers of MLERF were introduced along with the Directors who are responsible for the allocation of all funds and grants. Three individual Lions were also recognized for their commitment to MLERF over the years.

Special President Excellence Awards were given to Lions Lionel Carbonneau, Bill Johnson and John Riemer. Congratulations to all.

Most importantly, representatives and researchers from Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary, Tufts Medical School, Boston University, Schepens Eye Research, Joslin Diabetes Center, and Boston Children's Hospital were recognized at the Awards Banquet. The highlight of the afternoon was the official awarding of \$934,701 in grants to these research institutions for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund is dedicated to fighting the battle against preventable blindness and will not rest until that goal has been reached.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your support of MLERF and congratulations on another outstanding year of donations! For the year 2022-2023 District 33A donated a total of \$87,549, which is fantastic or should I say AWESOME! Well done one and all.

The total donations received from all five Districts for 2022-2023 was \$866,604.30 and when you add the \$200,000 Presidential Grant, thanks to LCIF, the total for the year comes to \$1,066,604.30. This is an amazing accomplishment and you should all be very proud of this.

Another item of interest was brought to my attention by Lion Robert Grover of the Mendon Lions Club who was recently appointed as the Executive Director for MLERF this year. He pointed out that the MLERF board recently updated the MLERF website and included several success stories that reflect how our Lions donations to MLERF have helped these institutions to do research that has led to an improvement in the quality of life of

News From the Districts

District 33N



PDG/Marcel Plouffe, PDG
97 Elm Street, Dracut, MA 01826
978-957-6053 (H)
978-761-9611 (C)
lionmarcel33n@gmail.com

Message from Your District Governor Liz,

I am so excited and honored to be serving as your District Governor this year. I want to thank all our clubs that continue to support the wonderful efforts of our MLERF organization each and every year. I am certain that the efforts of MLERF will someday be the major catalyst to cure preventable blindness throughout the world.

I am looking forward to working with MLERF President John Riemer and his team.

DG Liz Pettis
District 33N

This past July, the Reading Lions Club and The Friends of Reading Recreation teamed up for this year's 5K Road Race and One Mile Walk to benefit the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund. This year we were able to donate \$13,000 to Mass Lions Eye Research Fund.

Save the Date for our next Road Race: Reading Lions Journey for Sight 5K Road Race: July 20, 2024. This is a family-friendly flat course conveniently located in Reading. T-shirts for the first 150 registrants and age-category awards. A professional DJ provides entertainment, and we have refreshments, including pizza for all!

Another successful year with the Newburyport Lions Club Road Race. On August 1st I had the pleasure of working with the Newburyport Lions Club on the Yankee Homecoming Race. I have been working on this race for many years. My job duties were to pass out freeze pops for all the runners as they came in at the end of the race. This year we had 2500 runners for the 5K, with beautiful weather for the 10-mile race. Over the years the Newburyport Lions Club has raised thousands of dollars for Mass Lions Eye Research Fund.

DISTRICT 33N 2022-2023 CONTRIBUTIONS
\$194,393.00

TOTAL CUMULATIVE DONATIONS
\$10,828,113.00

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF IPDG TONY PECCI

Summer/Fall 2023 11

News From the Districts

District 33K



PDG Deb Hayes

37 Island Road
Millis, MA 02054
Phone: 508-816-6732
Email:
debbieh1212@protonmail.com

Happy Fall!

Is there anything better than the sights and sounds, colors and smells of autumn in New England? Football games, kids trick or treating through crunching leaves, crisp mornings, warm afternoons, and evenings snuggled up in a blanket with your favorite warm beverage.

Autumn is also the time when families and friends gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks for their blessings. And I, as a director of MLERF, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the **SPECIAL K** Lions, for your dedication and solidarity in supporting your communities, and for your unwavering support of MLERF. Thank you for helping IPP, PCC Jean Wilder reach her goal of \$1million this year.

As we come together with family and friends and our fellow Lions, please take a moment to share a few of things you are thankful for and be sure to tell your loved ones how much they mean to you and that you are thankful they are in your life, and in your heart.

I personally, am very grateful to the scientists and researchers at our medical and academic research facilities, for dedicating their lives to finding cures for eye diseases, developing equipment that is allowing physicians to detect vision issues, some as early as 6-weeks old, and for tirelessly trying to find a way to end blindness in our lifetime. Thank you!

As the Fall fades into winter, the next several months will have all of us busy with the Holidays and ringing in the new year. Our Clubs will be in overdrive hosting breakfast get togethers with Santa and Christmas Tree sales, meat raffles and Super Bowl squares, and all kinds of

events with the hope of raising funds for all of our wonderful charities. If you or your Club are struggling to come up with fundraising ideas, here are some great ideas courtesy of PDG Doreen Martel, to help you help MLERF.

Here are some simple fundraising options you can work on that involve very little work and can still make a huge difference for your Club. Here are a few of them:

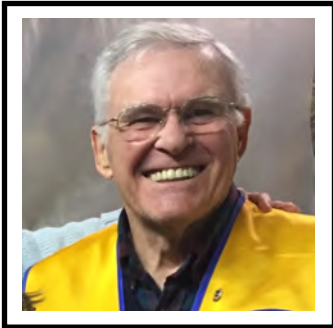
1. Partner with a Restaurant — there are several restaurants around the area where they will give you a “night” to raise money. For example, Papa Gino’s offers organizations 20 percent of sales. The way this works is you pick a date, pass out flyers or coupons for patrons to hand in at the time of the order and 20 percent of what they spend is given back to you in the form of a check at the end of the event. Most of these events require a 501(c)(3) number, so make sure you reach out to MLERF to get this. This is also a great way for neighboring clubs to team up and encourage participation from numerous communities — three or four clubs promoting the same event on the same day can make a real difference.

2. Penny Cannisters Distribution — between now and Thanksgiving consider reaching out to your local stores and shops and ask them if you can put a penny cannister on the counter to collect **Pennies for Sight**. Ask if you can leave the canister at the store until after the new year, but remember to check on them regularly. Write up a press release to let your community know why and where they can find the canisters, and maybe make it a challenge for your individual community to hit a specific dollar amount. Brag about the purpose of the canisters on Facebook, hit your “Wicked Local” pages to announce the challenge and get the word out. Remember, pennies turn into dollars and every dollar makes a difference.

4. Get a Double Hit — everyone wants to involve their individual community so team up with your local food pantry and see if you can combine a food drive with another fundraising event. Perhaps you can host a craft sale or bake sale to raise money for MLERF and encourage attendees to bring a non-perishable item for

News From the Districts

District 33S



PDG Wayne Smith
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781-878-3045
subwps@aol.com

Something new !!! Last years President Jean Wilder had some new ideas and followed through on them. Review our Bylaws and Policy Manual. Set goals for each Lions Club in Multiple District 33 using club history of donations with a formula. Reaching a goal of one million dollars for MLERF that has not been reached for a few years. Have our Annual Awards Banquet on at Saturday at noontime getting more Lions to attend and reducing the cost. Eliminate the Special Grant Award Meeting at a Boston Research Facility and have our researchers at our Awards Banquet where they can meet with our Lion Members and receive their grants. There was more.

Success? I would say so. Your Board, your Clubs and your members responded. New Bylaws and Policy Manual well done. Donations and Club enthusiasm resulting in a substantial increase of donations. A great Awards Program and Grants Presentation. Researchers breaking bread with our members and hearing the gratitude of the researchers for those grants and the impact we have on eye research. It is so evident that without the Lion funding many of the new ideas in improving sight would just not happen.

District Governor Bob Coluci lead us to a donation of \$318,237. Thank you Governor Bob for your enthusiasm and dedication. It was Jean and Bob's honor to present the awards of \$5,000 or more to Norton \$5,417, Lakeville \$6,000, Fairhaven \$6,725, West Bridgewater \$6,771, Raynham \$6,825, Rehoboth Anawan \$8,050, Dennis - Harwich \$8,320, South Attleboro Village \$9,274, South Attleboro \$10,343,

Provincetown \$12,640, Dighton \$12,946, Seekonk \$15,000, Abington \$18,170, Plymouth \$20,000, Bridgewater \$20,100, Mattapoisett \$21,075, Somerset \$26,147, Acushnet \$ 27,208, and Easton \$32,058.

Clubs reaching historical donations in our District 33S were Fairhaven \$203,032, Rehoboth \$300,091, Dennis - Harwich \$300,146 and South Attleboro \$305,712. It is always neat seeing Clubs reach these Hundred Thousand marks.

We honor our Clubs at our Awards Programs but we know it is you, our members, and our communities that makes all this happen. It reminded me of a friend, Franklyn "Frank" Carlson of Harvard Massachusetts, owner and CEO of Carlson Orchards who passed away in March this year. A big reason for the success of food events for the Harvard Lions Club was the support offered to them by Frank. For over Twenty - five years Frank encouraged the Harvard Lions to depend on their refrigerated trucks, storage of food inventory, and regular and necessary assistance from staff at Carlson Orchards. Having thousands of grapefruits and oranges shipped from Florida, Carlson Orchard employees unloaded the trucks and allowed the Club to use their facilities to repackage the fruit for sale.

James "Jim" McDonough passed away in November of 2022. The Abington Lions Club benefited greatly by his support for many years. He was with the Abington Savings Bank for 27 years where he became the President and CEO. He later served as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston for 6 years. He retired from Envision Bank as President and CEO in 2020. Like Frank Carlson he was involved with the community. Both were not Lions but always there for us.

Lion Ellen Claire Kostro passed away this year in June and will be sorely missed but remembered for her love of Lions and her devotion to Past International Director Chuck Kostro. Claire and Chuck spent a great deal of time in our District and represented us well Internationally. They were instrumental in getting funds from LCIF

District 33Y Continued

for all you do with donating your time and your work with projects and fundraising events.

I filled in for President Jean at the 33Y District Advisory meeting on September 11th and did an MLERF presentation and distributed several more awards. I will be visiting clubs soon to talk about MLERF and distribute more recognition awards and to encourage interest in being an MLERF Director. We currently have 1 Director position open. Please consider this opportunity for involvement with this amazing organization. The meeting with research groups provides a wonderful learning experience. The opportunity to meet with Lions from other clubs and districts to network and share information about club fundraisers, projects and events is gratifying. Please contact me if you might be interested or would like more information.

Keeping visibility of Lions in Massachusetts and MLERF is so important. We need all the help we can get with fundraising projects and events. Agawam Lions and West Springfield Lions were again very evident with their food booths at the Big E event in September. Northampton Lions will be holding their Annual Ski/Skate sale on Saturday, December 2nd at Smith Vocational School in Northampton. If you have MLERF fundraising activities coming up let me know and I can include information in the next Eye Catcher newsletter.

Thank You Again for All You Do!

Lion Maryann

District 33A Continued

many individuals. Our efforts in supporting these institutions is making a difference. Your support truly matters.

I would encourage all of our members in District 33A to visit the MLERFI website and to review the stories about how our efforts and donations have helped to make a difference in peoples' lives. (<https://www.mlerfi.com/success-stories/>).

Thank you, Lion Bob, for making us aware of this information, the website is truly a valuable resource and should make all of us proud to be Lions.

In closing, I want to say thank you again for all that you do in support of MLERF. I know that many of you hold annual fundraising events whose proceeds support MLERF. Every penny that you give is very much appreciated. Keep up the great work that you are doing, not only in support of MLERF, but in service to others in need. I am so proud to be representing you, once again, as your Eye Catcher Reporter. It is truly something that I love and enjoy doing.

Respectfully submitted,

CST/1st VDG Denise Andrews
District 33-A

District 33K Continued

local food pantry and see if you can combine a food drive with another fundraising event. Perhaps you can host a craft sale or bake sale to raise money for MLERF and encourage attendees to bring a non-perishable item for your local food pantry, drop off coats for our annual coat drives, or encourage them to bring a new toy for Toys for Tots program. Get creative and there is no limit to the impact your efforts could have in your community.

Each of these events offers you the opportunity to expend very little effort and make a big difference in your community and with MLERF. Additionally, they help raise awareness of all the effort your Club brings to helping those in need. These events also have the potential of helping grow your membership which means you have more hands to continue doing the great work you are already doing.

Get creative and think outside the box — check and see what talents the members in your club have and find an event that is unique to your community and let's see what we can do this quarter to raise awareness of your Club as well as support Mass Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

Don't forget, if you need a speaker for your Club's meeting, or you're looking for a speaker for a fundraising event, reach out to me, or one of the other MLERF directors and we will connect you to someone who will come to your club and speak to all the ways MLERF offers assistance to those who face visual challenges and the great work the researchers are able to do with the grants we provide each year thanks to the hard work of our Lions Clubs across District 33K.

We truly are "Special K" and when we work together there is nothing we cannot do. Let's get out there and make a big splash and have some fun raising extra money, promote our clubs, and make a difference in our communities.

Wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday Season, and a very Happy & Healthy New Year. Thank you for all you do.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Deb

District 33S Continued

for MLERF.

Lion Nativa "Nat" Hoyle passed away in May this year and was a devoted wife of Past International Director John Hoyle. Nat and John were so close that so often when I called Hoyle Advertising on Lions business it did not matter which person I talked with as they both were as one. Claire, Nat and their families asked that remembrances be made to Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund.

We thank our Lions and our communities for their help in making our world a better place to live and helping the world to keep and improve their sight.

Let us pass well over a million dollars this year with the leadership of our President John Riemer and District Governor Deborah "Debby" Horner.

Thank You,
Lion Wayne



“I wish you'd have made your appointment a little sooner.”

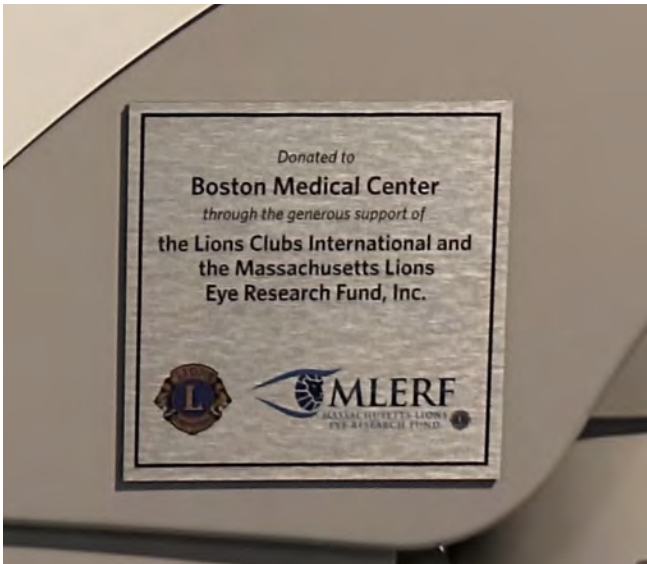
Boston University Gala 2023



Alastair Bell MD CEO BMC Health Systems, Marianna Riemer, IPDG, John Riemer, President Jing Chen, MD at BMC, Dr. Jim Roth, Stephen Christiansen, MD, Chairman BMC Ophthalmology

Boston University Eye Associates and **Boston Medical Center** held their annual Gala on October 19th to show their appreciation to MLERF for making their wish a reality.

This year BUEA/BMC celebrated a new operating room microscope for the Department of Ophthalmology that was purchased with a grant from the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund and Lions Clubs International Foundation.



District Y Donations

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

FINAL REPORT

DISTRICT "Y"

7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Journey for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Adams	2,225.44		100.00		2,500.00		2,600.00	2,600.00
Agawam	6,240.31			150.00	5,000.00		5,000.00	5,150.00
Agawam Lioness	0.00						0.00	0.00
Amherst	0.00						0.00	0.00
Amherst Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Ashfield	0.00						0.00	0.00
Belchertown	3,500.00				3,550.00		3,550.00	3,550.00
Charlemont	272.31	454.60	6.00		1,076.00		1,536.60	1,536.60
Cheshire	1,000.00				2,625.00		2,625.00	2,625.00
Cummington	186.00						0.00	0.00
Dalton	0.00			300.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,300.00
Deerfield	30.00				250.00		250.00	250.00
East Longmeadow	8,200.00				9,000.00		9,000.00	9,000.00
Easthampton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Granby	0.00						0.00	0.00
Granville-Tolland	0.00						0.00	0.00
Great Barrington	0.00				144.50		144.50	144.50
Greenfield	0.00						0.00	0.00
Hadley	0.00						0.00	0.00
Hampden	0.00			2,225.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	4,225.00
Hatfield	0.00				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Hinsdale	1,050.00				1,300.00		1,300.00	1,300.00
Holyoke	0.00				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00
Hoosac Valley Leo	0.00				250.00		250.00	250.00
Huntington	0.00						0.00	0.00
Lee	1,000.00	132.99	750.00	330.00	1,700.00		2,582.99	2,912.99
Ludlow	12.00		55.00	70.00	1,002.00		1,057.00	1,127.00
North Adams	0.00		200.00		100.00		300.00	300.00
Northampton	8,052.00		128.00	120.00	7,125.00		7,253.00	7,373.00
Pelham	106.00		60.00		800.00		860.00	860.00
Pittsfield	3,286.00	185.00	30.00	100.00	5,100.00		5,315.00	5,415.00
South Hadley	3,000.00						0.00	0.00
South Hadley Leos	0.00						0.00	0.00
Southampton	1,000.00				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Southwick	12,116.50	107.18			12,050.00		12,157.18	12,157.18
Springfield 16 Acres	1,299.00	700.00					700.00	700.00

District Y Donations

DISTRICT "Y"								
7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023								
Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Westfield Centennial	1,000.00						0.00	0.00
West Springfield	5,000.00				7,000.00		7,000.00	7,000.00
Wilbraham	0.00						0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	1,133.00		200.00		826.00		1,026.00	1,026.00
District 33Y	439.00		5,191.54	275.00	4,750.04		9,941.58	10,216.58
DISTRICT PROJECTS:								
Total Donations	60,147.56	1,579.77	6,720.54	3,570.00	77,648.54	0.00	85,948.85	89,518.85

District A Donations

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

FINAL REPORT

DISTRICT "A"								
7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023								
Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Ashburnham	1,000.00				1,273.00		1,273.00	1,273.00
Athol	890.23	113.89	12.00		80.00		205.89	205.89
Auburn	0.00						0.00	0.00
Barre	589.39	50.00	294.00		700.00		1,044.00	1,044.00
Berlin	0.00						0.00	0.00
Blackstone Valley Leo	0.00				1,700.00		1,700.00	1,700.00
Bolton	0.00				400.00		400.00	400.00
Boylston	3,000.00				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00
Brookfields	3,550.00				3,400.00		3,400.00	3,400.00

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District A Donations

Charlton	150.00	585.18					585.18	585.18
Clinton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dudley	0.00						0.00	0.00
Fitchburg Community	1,605.00		6.00		500.00		506.00	506.00
Fitchburg Monty Tech L	0.00				300.00		300.00	300.00
Gardner	1,000.00	52.18	6.00		1,000.00		1,058.18	1,058.18
Gardner Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Grafton	5,681.00		158.00	100.00	4,117.00		4,275.00	4,375.00
Harvard	3,635.00	606.70	3,006.00	500.00			3,612.70	4,112.70
Holden	100.00						0.00	0.00
Hopedale	0.00						0.00	0.00
Hubbardston	0.00		6.00		3,000.00		3,006.00	3,006.00
Leicester	580.00				250.00		250.00	250.00
Leominster	660.00	38.00		50.00	100.00		138.00	188.00
Lunenburg Turkey Hill	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Mendon	4,600.00			600.00	6,075.29		6,075.29	6,675.29
Milford	15,918.00		18.00	120.00	10,000.00		10,018.00	10,138.00
Millbury	21,500.00				25,000.00		25,000.00	25,000.00
Monson	100.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Montachusett Reg Leos	0.00						0.00	0.00
Northboro	0.00						0.00	0.00
Orange	50.00	115.00					115.00	115.00
Oxford	750.00				700.00		700.00	700.00
Palmer	0.00			25.00			0.00	25.00
Paxton	100.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Petersham	500.00				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Phillipston	521.00		6.00		25.00	443.39	31.00	474.39
Rutland	2,300.00		12.00	1,880.00	1,538.00		1,550.00	3,430.00
Shrewsbury	0.00				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Southbridge	531.00			50.00	100.00		100.00	150.00
Spencer	0.00						0.00	0.00
Sturbridge	1,000.00			50.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,050.00
Sutton	2,000.00				3,500.00		3,500.00	3,500.00
Templeton	500.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Uxbridge	250.00				300.00		300.00	300.00
Ware	0.00				300.00		300.00	300.00
Webster	0.00						0.00	0.00
West Brookfield	500.00						0.00	0.00
Westborough	400.00				273.00		273.00	273.00
Westminster	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Winchendon	1,167.67				1,010.00		1,010.00	1,010.00
Worcester Cty NEADS	0.00						0.00	0.00
Worcester Host	0.00						0.00	0.00
District 33A	919.00	100.00		125.00	700.00	80.00	800.00	1,005.00
DISTRICT PROJECTS:								
Total Donations	60,975.24	1,660.95	3,524.00	3,500.00	78,341.29	523.39	83,526.24	87,549.63

District N Donations

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

FINAL REPORT

DISTRICT "N"

7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Acton	11,750.00			11,250.00			0.00	11,250.00
Amesbury	5,611.55		120.00	350.00	5,000.00		5,120.00	5,470.00
Ayer/Shirley	0.00						0.00	0.00
Billerica	3,620.00	1,000.00	250.00		2,500.00		3,750.00	3,750.00
Billerica Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Chelmsford	200.00		100.00		200.00		300.00	300.00
Concord	4,100.00				10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
Danvers	550.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Dracut	1,361.55		100.00	150.00			100.00	250.00
Dracut Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dunstable/Tyngsboro	200.00		250.00				250.00	250.00
Essex	0.00						0.00	0.00
Essex County Reg.	0.00						0.00	0.00
Haverhill	3,787.00		652.00	1,765.00	5,359.93		6,011.93	7,776.93
Ipswich	0.00			550.00			0.00	550.00
Lawrence	0.00						0.00	0.00
Lawrence Latin	1,700.00		500.00		1,200.00		1,700.00	1,700.00
Lexington	25,175.00		17,000.00	25.00	5,000.00		22,000.00	22,025.00
Lowell	2,706.00	55.18	600.00	300.00	2,000.00		2,655.18	2,955.18
Lynn	5,550.00		24.00	200.00	5,000.00		5,024.00	5,224.00
Magnolia	0.00						0.00	0.00
Melrose	0.00						0.00	0.00
Merrimac	100.00			700.00	500.00		500.00	1,200.00
Methuen	256.00		200.00	50.00			200.00	250.00
Nahant	0.00		6.00		1,000.00		1,006.00	1,006.00
Newburyport	20,400.00		50.00	125.00	25,000.00		25,050.00	25,175.00
North Andover	6.00			125.00	600.00	2.00	600.00	727.00
Peabody	0.00			100.00			0.00	100.00
Pepperell	5,448.00	481.00			13,000.00		13,481.00	13,481.00
Reading	12,212.00		100.00		13,000.00		13,100.00	13,100.00
Salem	100.00						0.00	0.00
Salisbury	0.00						0.00	0.00
Saugus	9,300.00		100.00	300.00	6,500.00		6,600.00	6,900.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	2,262.00	188.00	714.00	1,485.00	1,138.00		2,040.00	3,525.00
Tewksbury	2,650.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Townsend	1,720.00		1,875.00	50.00	1,000.00		2,875.00	2,925.00
Wakefield	3,525.00		800.00	3,985.00			800.00	4,785.00
Woburn Breakfast	19,260.00		300.00	310.00	10,709.33		11,009.33	11,319.33
Woburn Host	30,456.00		12.00	145.00	16,000.00		16,012.00	16,157.00
Woburn Middlesex	7,554.04	669.35	460.00	450.00	9,825.00		10,954.35	11,404.35
Woburn Leo	0.00				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Woburn Leo Cubs	0.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Wyoma	8,380.00	686.15	120.00	2,530.00	5,000.00		5,806.15	8,336.15
District 33N	3,360.52		70.00	25.00	306.46		376.46	401.46
Total Donations	136,979.79	3,079.68	24,403.00	24,970.00	141,938.72	2.00	169,421.40	194,393.40

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District K Donations

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

FINAL REPORT

DISTRICT "K"

7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Arlington	100.00						0.00	0.00
Ashland	15,250.00		388.00	75.00	17,000.00		17,388.00	17,463.00
Ashland Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Bellingham	397.00				1,750.00		1,750.00	1,750.00
Belmont	50,639.51	69.16	30.00	2,525.00	30,000.00	10,000.00	30,099.16	42,624.16
Blackstone	518.00		488.00	150.00	610.00		1,098.00	1,248.00
Boston Chinatown	1,200.00		6.00		1,000.00		1,006.00	1,006.00
Boston Host	380.00			150.00			0.00	150.00
BU Eye Assoc	1,640.00				1,430.00		1,430.00	1,430.00
Cambridge	425.00		45.00		241.00		286.00	286.00
Canton	1,500.00						0.00	0.00
Charlestown	150.00						0.00	0.00
Foxboro	2,100.00		2,510.00	200.00	2,000.00		4,510.00	4,710.00
Framingham	5,738.36		6.00	149.00	5,000.00		5,006.00	5,155.00
Franklin	250.00				250.00		250.00	250.00
Greater Ashland	6.00			220.00			0.00	220.00
Himalayan NE	0.00						0.00	0.00
Hingham	0.00						0.00	0.00
Holliston	11,037.00	177.50	1,115.00		10,760.00		12,052.50	12,052.50
Holliston Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Hopkinton	500.00				750.00		750.00	750.00
Hull	500.00						0.00	0.00
Hyde Park	0.00						0.00	0.00
King Philip Leos	0.00						0.00	0.00
Malden	4,018.00			304.00	3,550.00		3,550.00	3,854.00
Marlboro	693.50	100.00	365.00		450.00		915.00	915.00
Medfield	5,048.00		2,045.00		5,000.00		7,045.00	7,045.00
Medford	100.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Medway	10,066.00		12.00	50.00	11,030.00		11,042.00	11,092.00
Millis	7,000.00		6.00		10,000.00		10,006.00	10,006.00
Natick	342.71		112.00		633.00		745.00	745.00
NE College of Optometr	0.00						0.00	0.00
Newton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Norfolk	11,104.40		7,470.30		1,000.00		8,470.30	8,470.30
Norwood	0.00						0.00	0.00
Plainville	11,265.40		7,600.30				7,600.30	7,600.30
Quincy	5,112.00			400.00	6,100.00		6,100.00	6,500.00
Randolph	5,085.00	212.00	1,111.00		4,500.00		5,823.00	5,823.00
Sharon	1,130.00		18.00		1,050.00		1,068.00	1,068.00
Sherborn	2,698.33		184.00		2,200.00		2,384.00	2,384.00
Somerville	500.00						0.00	0.00
Stoughton	445.00		136.00		1,000.00		1,136.00	1,136.00
Stow	872.00				500.00		500.00	500.00
Sudbury	0.00						0.00	0.00
Walpole	0.00				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00

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District K Donations

Waltham	5,050.00				5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00
Wellesley Centennial	283.00		220.00				220.00	220.00
Westwood	0.00						0.00	0.00
Weymouth	345.00				1,200.00		1,200.00	1,200.00
Wrentham	10,589.41		9,541.31	100.00	500.00		10,041.31	10,141.31
District 33K	9,403.99		485.00	25.00	1,500.00		1,985.00	2,010.00
DISTRICT PROJECTS:								
Total Donations	135,962.17	558.66	33,893.91	4,348.00	128,104.00	10,000.00	162,556.57	176,904.57

District S Donations

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.

FINAL REPORT

DISTRICT "S"

7/1/2022 ---> 6/30/2023

Club Name	Previous Year	Pennies	Jouney for Sight	Memorial	Grant	T&E	Total Grant	Total Donation
Abington	12,902.00	1,298.16	6,390.43	2,250.00	8,231.16		15,919.75	18,169.75
Acushnet	17,975.00	300.00	1,138.00	670.00	25,100.00		26,538.00	27,208.00
Attleboro Tri Boro Com	0.00						0.00	0.00
Barnstable Yarmouth	1,535.00		100.00	100.00	1,500.00		1,600.00	1,700.00
Barnstable High Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Bridgewater	12,266.52		2,277.50	50.00	17,772.50		20,050.00	20,100.00
Bridgewater Academy	5,458.33	450.00	1,419.92	1,390.75	300.00		2,169.92	3,560.67
Bridgewater Community	1,226.76		209.00	50.00	100.00		309.00	359.00
Bridge/Raynham Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Brockton	352.42				550.00		550.00	550.00
Dartmouth	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dennis/Harwich	5,495.07	112.53	5,557.71	2,650.00			5,670.24	8,320.24
Dennis Yarmouth Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Dighton	5,985.00	515.02	731.00	200.00	11,500.00		12,746.02	12,946.02
Dighton Rehoboth Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Duxbury	291.00	200.00	200.00		550.00		950.00	950.00
East Bridgewater	12,481.00						0.00	0.00
Easton	52,274.29		241.00		31,817.45		32,058.45	32,058.45
Easton Oliver Ames Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Fairhaven	3,900.00		225.00		6,500.00		6,725.00	6,725.00
Fall River	4,000.00			100.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,100.00
Fall River Carousel	588.16	738.06		1,660.00			738.06	2,398.06
Falmouth	400.00				200.00		200.00	200.00

Summer/Fall 2023 22

District S Donations

Freetown	500.00	100.00			500.00		600.00	600.00
Greater Attleboro Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Greater Taunton Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Halifax-Pembroke	675.00			500.00			0.00	500.00
Hanover	1,200.00			100.00	1,800.00		1,800.00	1,900.00
Kingston	0.00				50.00		50.00	50.00
Lakeville	6,000.00	500.00			5,500.00		6,000.00	6,000.00
Lakeville OCA	0.00				2,718.93		2,718.93	2,718.93
Lower Cape Cod Light	0.00						0.00	0.00
Mattapoisett	2,800.00	250.00	1,000.00	725.00	19,100.00		20,350.00	21,075.00
Middleboro	5,278.39				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Nauset	0.00			250.00	293.49		293.49	543.49
New Bedford Host	206.00			1,120.00	50.00		50.00	1,170.00
North Attleboro Leo	0.00						0.00	0.00
Norton	797.00		647.00	200.00	4,570.00		5,217.00	5,417.00
Norton Community	1,130.00		355.00	200.00	2,070.00		2,425.00	2,625.00
Paws of Comfort-CC	0.00				100.00		100.00	100.00
Paws of Comfort-SE	1,249.00		262.00		1,000.00		1,262.00	1,262.00
Plymouth	21,000.00				20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
Provincetown	12,189.00		213.00	2,000.00	10,427.00		10,640.00	12,640.00
Raynham	4,063.82	100.00	250.00	475.00	6,000.00		6,350.00	6,825.00
Rehoboth	10,961.00		7,800.00		2,000.00		9,800.00	9,800.00
Rehoboth Anawan	9,100.00			450.00	7,600.00		7,600.00	8,050.00
Rochester	520.00	110.00	6.00	250.00	250.00		366.00	616.00
Rockland	3,300.00	250.00	1,000.00		1,500.00		2,750.00	2,750.00
Sandwich Bourne	1,980.97		623.00		1,635.00		2,258.00	2,258.00
Seekonk	15,000.00				15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00
Somerset	23,006.45		1,247.00	200.00	24,700.00		25,947.00	26,147.00
South Attleboro	10,045.00	2,439.05	304.00	100.00	7,500.00		10,243.05	10,343.05
South Attleboro Village	7,120.00	325.00	1,968.00	905.00	6,096.00		8,389.00	9,294.00
South Carver	50.00						0.00	0.00
Taunton	0.00						0.00	0.00
Wareham	0.00		200.00	100.00			200.00	300.00
West Bridgewater	5,767.37	31.05	250.00		6,490.00		6,771.05	6,771.05
West Bridgewater Leo	0.00				1,188.66		1,188.66	1,188.66
Westport	3,185.00		150.00	125.00			150.00	275.00
Whitman-Hanson Cent.	0.00						0.00	0.00
District 33S	1,434.34	55.00	3,078.48	540.00			3,133.48	3,673.48
DISTRICT PROJECTS:								
Total Donations	228,903.68	7,773.87	37,843.04	17,360.75	255,260.19	0.00	300,877.10	318,237.85

TOTAL 2022 – 2023 DONATIONS \$866,604.30

Summer/Fall 2023 23

IPP Jean Wilder's "President's Challenge" Winners

During the Lionistic year of 2021-2022, then President, Jean Wilder, challenged the Lions Clubs of Massachusetts to increase their donations to MLERF by 10%.

Congratulations and Thank You very much for your support.

33Y CLUBS

	Goal	Total raised
Belchertown	\$3,062	\$3,550
Charlemont	\$ 375	\$1,536
Cheshire	\$1,538	\$2,625
E. Longmeadow	\$6,950	\$9,000
Hatfield	\$1,509	\$2,000
Holyoke	\$1,244	\$4,000
Hoosac Val Leo	\$ 161	\$ 250
Lee	\$ 739	\$2,912
Ludlow	\$ 749	\$1,127
North Adams	\$ 3	\$ 300
Northampton	\$6,885	\$7,373
Pelham	\$ 631	\$ 860
Pittsfield	\$2,993	\$5,415
Southwick	\$4,175	\$12,157
Williamsburg	\$ 580	\$1,026

District 33Y \$81,778 \$89,518
45% of Y clubs met the challenge goal!!!

33A CLUBS

	Goal	Total raised
Ashburnham	\$1,273	\$1,273
Barre	\$ 320	\$1,044
Blkstone Val Leo	\$ 745	\$1,700
Boylston	\$3,083	\$4,000
Grafton	\$1,572	\$4,375
Harvard	\$2,490	\$4,112
Hubbardston	\$ 697	\$3,006
Millbury	\$20,158	\$25,000
Monson	\$ 71	\$ 500
Paxton	\$ 333	\$ 500
Phillipston	\$ 186	\$ 474
Rutland	\$3,010	\$3,430
Sutton	\$2,200	\$3,500
Uxbridge	\$ 193	\$ 300
Winchendon	\$ 717	\$1,010

District 33A \$107,71 \$87,549
33% of A clubs met the challenge goal!

33N CLUBS

	Goal	Total raised
Amesbury	\$5,279	\$5,470
Haverhill	\$2,941	\$7,776
Lawrence Latin	\$ 894	\$1,700
Pepperell	\$9,219	\$13,481
Reading	\$11,489	\$13,100
Townsend	\$2,126	\$2,925
Wakefield	\$3,328	\$4,785
Woburn Leo	\$1,328	\$1,500
Wyoma	\$6,634	\$8,336
District 33N	\$275,191	\$194,393

20% of N clubs met the challenge goal!

33 K CLUBS

	Goal	Total raised
Bellingham	\$1,742	\$1,750
Belmont	\$27,678	\$42,624
Blackstone	\$ 975	\$1,248
BU Eye Assoc	\$ 517	\$1,430
Cambridge	\$ 240	\$ 286
Foxboro	\$1,627	\$4,710
Malden	\$3,431	\$3,854
Millis	\$8,375	\$10,006
Norfolk	\$5,080	\$8,470
Plainville	\$4,082	\$7,600
Quincy	\$6,096	\$6,500
Randolph	\$4,812	\$5,823
Sherborn	\$2,327	\$2,384
Wellesley Cent	\$ 13	\$ 220
Wrentham	\$6,672	\$10,141

District 33K \$214,237 \$176,904
30% of K clubs met the challenge goal!

33S CLUBS

	Goal	Total raised
Abington	\$13,406	\$18,169
Acushnet	\$28,008	\$27,208
Bridgewater	\$11,054	\$20,100
Brockton	\$ 512	\$ 550
Dighton	\$9,979	\$12,946
Duxbury	\$ 381	\$ 950
Fairhaven	\$5,320	\$6,725
Lakeville	\$5,850	\$6,000
Lakeville OCA	\$1,130	\$2,718
Mattapoisett	\$18,867	\$21,075
Norton	\$2,925	\$5,417
Norton Community	\$1,211	\$2,625
Paws of Comfort-Attleboro	\$67	\$1,262
Plymouth	\$12,036	\$20,000
Seekonk	\$11,840	\$15,000
Somerset	\$10,821	\$26,147
South Attleboro	\$9,058	\$10,343
S Attleboro Village	\$8,270	\$9,294
Wareham	\$ 16	\$ 300
W Bridgewater Leo	\$ 54	\$1,188

District 33S \$343,644 \$318,237
 33% of S clubs met the challenge goal

Thank you for all your hard work last year, I appreciate all your hard work which was an integral part of us beating our \$1,000,000 goal.

Let's help Pres. John beat the million too!!!

Hugs
 IPP Jean

Millis Lion, Amy Lewis running to end blindness at the TCS London Marathon April 2024

I have a colleague that has been a mentor, a friend and an inspiration to me for over 20 years. This individual has Retinitis Pigmentosa and has been legally blind since the day that I met him. He has not let that slow him down! He is a Professor and Chair of an Opticianry College program, a national speaker, a husband, dad, there is nothing he won't tackle. I have been witness to how his vision has progressively changed over the years to now almost total blindness. He has inspired myself and others by continually adapting to challenges, but also showing vulnerability and not being afraid of asking for help. I want to run to honor his perseverance and to encourage others that they to, can do anything they set their mind to.

RNIB has a #Seethe person campaign which encourages sighted people to think about the part we can play in improving the world for people with vision loss. The more we normalize and accept our many differences, the less alone all of us may feel.



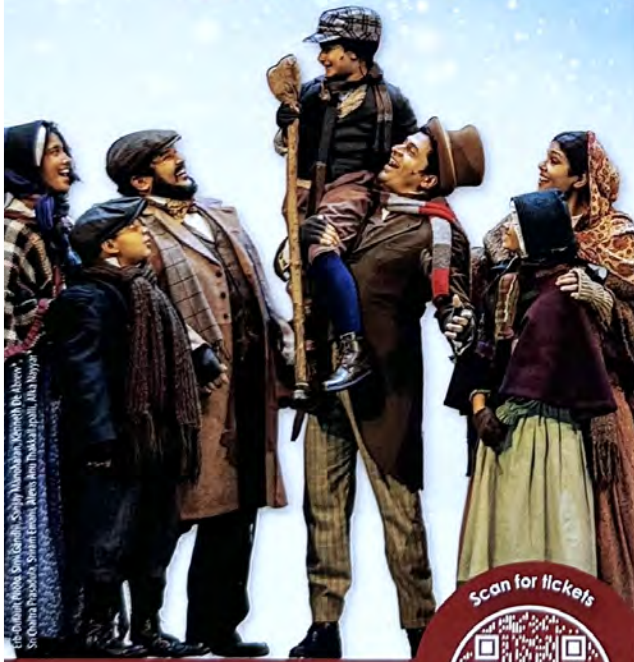
To donate, please click on the link below
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/amy-swayze-rnib-2024>

Celebrate with music, magic and munificence at the Hanover Theater's production of A Christmas Carol. The production includes award winning actors, beautiful dancers and lavish costumes.

It's a festive experience you'll want to share with your family and friends and don't forget the little ones!

SHARE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Scan for tickets



Dec 16-23



HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

2 Southbridge St • Worcester, MA



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

The Barre Lions Club invites you to buy tickets to any performance and USE CODE **MLERF2023**.

20% of ticket sales will benefit MA Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. Offer expires December 11, 2023.



"God bless us everyone!"

Celebrate the holiday season with New England's largest production of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**. You know the story and love the message, but you'll never see another Christmas Carol like this!



Enjoy timeless music, colorful costumes and spectacular lighting and scenery in this tale of redemption. Get seated early for a pre-show concert featuring the **Mighty Wurlitzer Organ**, the largest theatre pipe organ in New England!

Erb Dufault Photos. Sriram Emani and Sri Chaitra Prasadula. David Stitler* and Mark Linehan*. *AEA Actor.

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TheHanoverTheatre.org

Sponsored by



Assumption University

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts.

Enjoy a pre-show concert featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, the largest and most versatile Theater pipe organ in New England, led by A Christmas Carol Music Director Tim Evans.

2022-2023 FINANCIALS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. FINAL REPORT

Treasurers Report : 2022-2023
7/1/2022 → 6/30/2023

Balance Forward:					\$996,468.86
Current Income					
Contributions	Memorial	T&E	Grant	Total	
District Y	\$3,570.00	\$0.00	\$85,948.85	\$89,518.85	
District A	\$3,500.00	\$523.39	\$83,526.24	\$87,549.63	
District N	\$24,970.00	\$2.00	\$169,421.40	\$194,393.40	
District K	\$4,348.00	\$10,000.00	\$162,556.57	\$176,904.57	
District S	\$17,360.75	\$0.00	\$300,877.10	\$318,237.85	
Total Contributions	\$53,748.75	\$10,525.39	\$802,330.16		\$866,604.30
Interest					
Bank				\$5,252.13	
Annuities				\$28,509.77	
Total Interest Income					\$33,761.90
Other Income					
Miscellaneous				\$0.00	
T&E Withdrawal 2022-2023				\$70,786.00	
Total Income 01July - date					\$971,152.20
Committed Donations					
Grant Donations this year 2022-2023			\$802,330.16		
Grant Donations last year 2021-2022			\$0.00		
Presidential Grant 2022-2023 (MEE)			\$0.00		
Presidential Grant 2023-2024			\$0.00		
T&E Donations this year			\$64,274.14		
T&E Interest Committed to Pres. Grant			\$0.00		
Total Committed					\$866,604.30
Current Expenses					
Approved Grants					
BU School of Medicine			\$128,000.00		
Joslin Diabetes Center			\$128,000.00		
Mass Eye & Ear			\$128,000.00		
Schepens Eye Research Center			\$101,262.00		
New England Eye Center (Tufts)			\$121,439.00		
Childrens Hospital			\$128,000.00		
Presidential Grant 2021-2022 BU			\$100,000.00		
T&E Donations			\$64,274.14		
Total Grants and T&E					\$898,975.14

2022-2023 FINANCIALS

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. FINAL REPORT

Treasurers Report : 2022-2023

7/1/2022 → 6/30/2023

Administration expenses:		
Auditor	\$33,000.00	
BOD Meetings	-\$180.00	
Bond	\$915.00	
Conferences	\$1,712.54	
Directories	\$299.15	
General Admin	\$6,153.10	
Plaques and Adwards	\$4,004.51	
Fees & Charges	\$227.15	
Committee expenses		
C&BL	\$0.00	
Canisters & Pennies	\$0.00	
Eye Catcher	\$0.00	
Grants	\$0.00	
Installation & Awards Night (Net)	\$4,248.95	
Jouney For Sight	\$210.00	
LRP	\$0.00	
Memorials	\$0.00	
Public Relations	\$4,518.99	
Sight Awards	\$1,527.54	
T&E	\$430.60	
Special Project	\$0.00	
Administrative & Committee Expenses		\$57,067.53
Total Expenses & Committed Donations		\$1,822,646.97
Uncommitted Funds		\$144,974.09
Ending Balance		\$1,011,578.39
Ending balance with grants listed above added back to match register		\$1,746,279.39

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Club	IHO/IMO	Amount
Shoe City (Lynn)	David Shalvoy	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	DG Martin Middleton	\$50.00
Wrentham	DG Steve Langley	\$100.00
Mendon	Doug & Vale Sime	\$200.00
Northampton	Jean Wilder	\$120.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Jeanne Farrow	\$100.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Jeanne Farrow	\$100.00
Abington	L. Doug & Vale Sime	\$50.00
Sturbridge	L. Doug & Vale Sime	\$50.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	L. Doug Sime	\$50.00
Woburn Middlesex	Linda Marlowe	\$50.00
Wyoma	Michael Phelps	\$25.00
Wyoma	Pat Lantych	\$25.00
Amesbury	Paul Eastman	\$50.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Peter Cipriano	\$100.00
South Attleboro Village	Steve Garran	\$25.00
Abington	Wayne Smith	\$50.00
Wyoma	Ying Hart	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Adeline B. Levine	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Agnes Singelais	\$50.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Agnes Singelais	\$50.00
Dracut	Alice A. Brunelle	\$10.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$250.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$200.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$500.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$25.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Belmont	Allan Tait	\$500.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$25.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$25.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$200.00
Belmont	Allan Tait	\$50.00
Belmont	Allen Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allen Tait	\$100.00
Belmont	Allen Tait	\$100.00
Agawam	Alton Jones	\$25.00
Belmont	Annabel Tait	\$25.00
Wyoma	Anne Merrett	\$500.00
Woburn Host	Anthony Morandi	\$20.00
Woburn Host	Anthony Morandi	\$100.00
Woburn Host	Anthony Morandi	\$25.00
Dighton	Armand Theroux	\$25.00
Dennis/Harwich	Arnie Lett	\$100.00
Mendon	August William Riess II	\$25.00
Mendon	Barbara Cardoza	\$25.00
Dracut	Barbara Desrochers	\$100.00
Dracut	Barbara Desrochers	\$10.00
South Attleboro Village	Barbara Klang	\$40.00
South Attleboro Village	Barbara Klang	\$20.00
South Attleboro Village	Barbara Klang	\$10.00
Pittsfield	Bea Turner	\$100.00
Rochester	Betsy Grassi	\$100.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Rehoboth Anawan	Beverly Ferreira	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.75
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$20.00
Abington	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Bridgewater	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Provincetown	Beverly Saccocia	\$250.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$20.00
Bridgewater Academy	Beverly Saccocia	\$50.00
Barnstable Yarmouth	Bob Fife	\$100.00
Nauset	Bob Fife	\$250.00
Amesbury	Bob Page	\$50.00
Saugus	Carmine Moschella	\$100.00
Townsend	Charles Ellis	\$50.00
Harvard	Charles Gorss	\$500.00
Dighton	Charles Mastrangelo	\$50.00
Dighton	Charles Mastrangelo	\$100.00
Abington	Chris Greenough	\$100.00
Mattapoisett	Chris Jaskolka	\$50.00
Abington	Christine Greenaugh	\$25.00
Acton	Claire Kostro	\$100.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Acton	Claire Kostro	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Claire Kostro	\$25.00
Abington	Claire Kostro	\$100.00
Southbridge	Claire Kostro	\$50.00
Acton	Claire Kostro	\$25.00
Haverhill	Claire Kostro	\$50.00
Dennis/Harwich	Clarence "Lou" Gillette	\$150.00
Norton Community	Damon Smith	\$50.00
Dighton	Daniell Sirkin	\$25.00
Acushnet	Daphne DeSilva	\$200.00
Norton	David DeCosta	\$100.00
Rutland	David Lapinle	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	David Levine	\$25.00
Norton	Debbie Burgess	\$100.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Debra Hogan	\$25.00
Wyoma	Debra Hogan	\$300.00
Wyoma	Debra Hogan	\$275.00
Wyoma	Debra Hogan	\$450.00
Wyoma	Debra Hogan	\$330.00
Wyoma	Debra Hogan	\$100.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Diane M. Wyman	\$25.00
Raynham	Dick Almeda	\$200.00
Mendon	Dick Schmidt	\$75.00
Mattapoissett	Dolores Phillips	\$100.00
Rehoboth Anawan	Domenic A. Rucco	\$100.00
Dalton	Don Caverly	\$300.00
Hanover	Donna Hayes	\$100.00
Provincetown	Doug Nichols	\$500.00
Somerset	Edith Blake	\$50.00
Mendon	Elizabeth Maryellen Demers	\$25.00
Mendon	Elizabeth McCaffrey	\$25.00
Greater Ashland	Ellie Torelli	\$10.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Foxboro	Enola Willette	\$100.00
Somerset	Ernest Mizher	\$100.00
Palmer	Eugene Beunelle	\$25.00
Merrimac	Fallen Lions	\$500.00
Peabody	Francis Bresnaham	\$100.00
Mendon	Francis Cardoza	\$25.00
Haverhill	Francis Daniel Hickey	\$50.00
Haverhill	Francis Daniel Hickey	\$250.00
Newburyport	Francis Daniel Hickey	\$25.00
Mendon	Frederick Kelley	\$50.00
Norton Community	Heather Belmore-Furtado	\$50.00
Abington	Herbert Bates	\$1,000.00
Woburn Middlesex	Hunter Fagan	\$25.00
Acton	Irving "Bud" Hadley	\$250.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$50.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$125.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$15.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$25.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$90.00
Lee	Isabelle Girard	\$25.00
Ashland	Izzy Assencoa	\$25.00
Quincy	Jack Lydon	\$200.00
Bridgewater Academy	James D. Sears	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	James Wagner	\$25.00
District 33N	James Wagner	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	James Wagner	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	James Wagner	\$50.00
Rochester	James Wagner	\$50.00
Wyoma	James Wagner	\$175.00
Methuen	James Wagner	\$50.00
Haverhill	James Wagner	\$50.00
North Andover	James Wagner	\$25.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Newburyport	Jan Pearson	\$25.00
South Attleboro Village	Janet Kennedy	\$25.00
South Attleboro Village	Janet Kennedy	\$20.00
South Attleboro Village	Janet Kennedy	\$20.00
Rehoboth Anawan	Jerilyn A. Rucco	\$100.00
Lowell	Jerry Lussier	\$50.00
Lowell	Jerry Lussier	\$100.00
Lowell	Jerry Lussier	\$100.00
Lowell	Jerry Lussier	\$50.00
Amesbury	Jim Wagner	\$50.00
Dracut	JoAnn Rondeau	\$10.00
Acushnet	Joe Rego	\$100.00
Mattapoisett	Joe Rego	\$175.00
Mendon	John Ambrosino	\$25.00
Amesbury	John Barbaro	\$50.00
Rutland	John Bartek	\$100.00
Mattapoisett	John Gamache	\$100.00
Mattapoisett	John Hayes	\$100.00
Newburyport	Jonathan Pearson	\$25.00
Amesbury	Jonathan Pearson	\$50.00
Newburyport	Jonathan Pearson	\$50.00
Ludlow	Joyce Blandard	\$25.00
Mendon	Joyce L. Redden	\$25.00
Mendon	Kathleen Patricia Riess	\$25.00
Ludlow	Kenjamin Thompson	\$25.00
Haverhill	Kenneth Parker	\$1,000.00
Merrimac	Kenny Gibbs	\$100.00
Foxboro	Kevin Deedy	\$100.00
Dracut	Kevin LaCourt	\$10.00
Haverhill	Kevin McPhee	\$50.00
Haverhill	Landi Bova	\$115.00
Acushnet	Larry Stone	\$250.00
Halifax-Pembroke	Len Butler	\$100.00
Halifax-Pembroke	Len Butler	\$100.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Halifax-Pembroke	Len Butler	\$50.00
Halifax-Pembroke	Len Butler	\$75.00
Halifax-Pembroke	Len Butler	\$175.00
Acushnet	Lillian Mingola	\$20.00
Fall River	Lois Reitzas	\$100.00
Dennis/Harwich	Louis Carrier	\$500.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$25.00
Haverhill	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$25.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$10,000.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$100.00
Abington	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$50.00
Amesbury	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$50.00
Haverhill	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$50.00
Saugus	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$100.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$50.00
Abington	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$75.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$100.00
Acton	Louise Wojtkieicz	\$25.00
Leominster	Mae Virginia Robo	\$50.00
Abington	Marrie Biggs	\$50.00
Abington	Marrie Viggs	\$75.00
Rehoboth Anawan	Mary Bogrque	\$50.00
Medway	Mary Dean	\$50.00
Mendon	Mary Dean	\$25.00
Agawam	Mary Fedora	\$25.00
Framingham	Mary Friel	\$149.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Mary Jane Solimine	\$25.00
South Attleboro Village	Mary Miconi	\$200.00
Woburn Middlesex	Mary Reale	\$25.00
Milford	Mary T. Dean	\$20.00
Milford	Michael Desmaris	\$100.00
Mattapoisett	Michael Lamoureux	\$100.00
Quincy	Michelle Glennon	\$200.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Malden	Millie Wayne	\$50.00
Malden	Millie Wayne	\$100.00
Malden	Millie Wayne	\$154.00
Agawam	Morrill Jones	\$50.00
Somerset	Muriel M. Patenaude	\$50.00
Abington	Muriel Patenaude	\$50.00
Fall River Carousel	Muriel Patenaude	\$1,660.00
Provincetown	Muriel Patenaude	\$500.00
Blackstone	Nancy Delgizzi	\$50.00
Woburn Middlesex	Nancy Marlowe	\$100.00
Pat Kalicki	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$50.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
Ed & Elaine Lecius	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
District 33A	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
Abington	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$50.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
Sandy & Serry Frias	Nativa Hoyle	\$20.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
Provincetown	Nativa Hoyle	\$500.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$20.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
Abington	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Abington	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$50.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
Sandy & Serry Frias	Nativa Hoyle	\$20.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
Provincetown	Nativa Hoyle	\$500.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$20.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
Abington	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
Acton	Nativa Hoyle	\$50.00
Roger & Loretta Jones	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meur	Nativa Hoyle	\$25.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$100.00
New Bedford Host	Nativa Hoyle	\$50.00
Wyoma	Natie Simpson	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Neil Fanjoy	\$195.00
Woburn Breakfast	Neil Fanjoy	\$160.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Grafton	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$250.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Neil Fanjoy	\$170.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Abington	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$2,500.00
Woburn Breakfast	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$200.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wyoma	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wyoma	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Lexington	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Bridgewater	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Neil Fanjoy	\$15.00
Woburn Breakfast	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$15.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Lynn	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Bridgewater Community	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Abington	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Agawam	Neil Fanjoy	\$25.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$20.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$100.00
Wakefield	Neil Fanjoy	\$50.00
Ludlow	Norman Cardinal	\$20.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Shoe City (Lynn)	Norman Marshall	\$25.00
Wyoma	Norman Marshall	\$25.00
Saugus	Norman Marshall	\$100.00
Greater Ashland	Olga Tomasz	\$60.00
Greater Ashland	Olga Tomasz	\$150.00
Ashland	Olga Tomasz	\$50.00
Wyoma	Patricia Phelps	\$75.00
Mattapoisett	Paul Levine	\$100.00
Thao Marzullo	Paul Wagner	\$25.00
Haverhill	Paul Wagner	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula C. Doherty	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula Doherty	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula Doherty	\$25.00
Abington	Paula Doherty	\$25.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula Doherty	\$100.00
Provincetown	Paula Doherty	\$250.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula Doherty	\$25.00
Abington	Paula Doherty	\$50.00
Bridgewater Academy	Paula Doherty	\$25.00
Blackstone	Pauline Morse	\$50.00
North Andover	PDG James Wagner	\$100.00
Abington	PDG James Wagner	\$50.00
Haverhill	PDG Jonathan Pearson	\$25.00
Abington	PDG Vinnie Muir	\$100.00
Bridgewater Academy	Penny S. Lehtola	\$100.00
Amesbury	Phil Michaud	\$50.00
Acton	Phyllis Rubner	\$250.00
Westport	Plymouth Lions - 75th Anniv	\$75.00

2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Ipswich	Ray Morley	\$50.00
Lynn	Raymond K. Morley	\$100.00
Ipswich	Raymond Marky	\$500.00
Woburn Middlesex	Rhona Szottfried	\$25.00
South Attleboro	Rich Scoullar	\$100.00
Woburn Middlesex	Richard Greenwood	\$25.00
Norton Community	Richard J. White	\$50.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Richard MacPherson	\$40.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Richard MacPherson	\$40.00
Shoe City (Lynn)	Richard MacPherson	\$300.00
Mendon	Richard McCaffrey	\$25.00
Nadene Martin	Richard Noons	\$25.00
Rehoboth Anawan	Richard Thomas Noons	\$100.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Richard Wood	\$20.00
Acushnet	Rita Raymond	\$100.00
Rochester	Robert Fife	\$100.00
Nadene Martin	Robert Fife	\$50.00
Abington	Robert Fife	\$50.00
District 33S	Robert Fife	\$25.00
Dennis/Harwich	Robert Fife	\$1,900.00
Merrimac	Roland P. Morin	\$100.00
Rutland	Ron Marsh	\$100.00
Rutland	Ron Marsh	\$1,200.00
Rutland	Ron Marsh	\$430.00
Al Girard	Rose Bevis	\$50.00
Richard & Marilyn Giann	Rose Bevis	\$50.00
Karen Healy	Rose Bevis	\$100.00
District 33S	Rose Bevis	\$25.00
District 33S	Rose Bevis	\$25.00
Boston Host	Roy Nobel	\$150.00
Blackstone	Roy Noble	\$50.00
Woburn Middlesex	Ruth McCarron	\$100.00

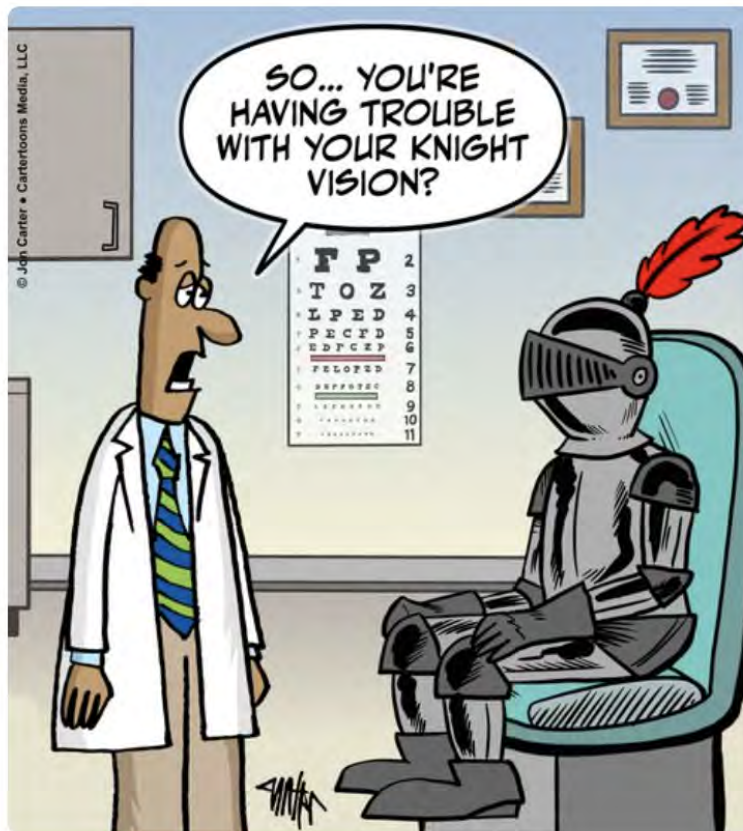
2022 - 2023

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Wyoma	Sally Cuffe	\$50.00
Woburn Middlesex	Sharon Dickinson	\$100.00
Mendon	Shirley A. Kempton	\$25.00
South Attleboro Village	Shirley Lucke	\$545.00
Acton	Stevan Kappel	\$250.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Suzzane J. Wyman	\$25.00
Dracut	Theresa S. Dias	\$10.00
Agawam	Thomas Cascio, Jr	\$25.00
Westport	Thomas Forand	\$50.00
Norton Community	Tommy Fogerty	\$50.00
Haverhill	Valentine O'Callaghan	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$250.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$15.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$150.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$20.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$20.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$200.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$75.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$20.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00

2022 - 2023 IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF DONATIONS

Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$50.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$100.00
Hampden	Vincent Villamaino	\$25.00
Raynham	Vincent W. Muir	\$250.00
Hampden	Vini Villamizno	\$25.00
L. Doug & Vale Sime	Vinny Muir	\$25.00
Raynham	Walter Kullas, Jr	\$25.00



APPROVED GRANTS FOR 2022-2023



Boston University
School of Medicine



JOSLIN DIABETES CENTER

Grant: \$128,000

BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Grant: \$128,000

SCHEPENS EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Grant: \$101,262

MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY

Grant: \$128,000

BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Grant: \$128,000

TUFTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NEW ENGLAND EYE CENTER

Grant: \$121,439

TOTAL GRANTS TO DATE
(including all other institutions and grants)

\$41,032,718

PRESIDENTIAL GRANT

Grant: \$200,000

TOTAL PRESIDENTIAL GRANTS TO DATE

\$3,826,094



OUR STORY

70+ years ago...

A \$5,000 Lions donation...

Facilitated a renaissance for eye research in Massachusetts.

In the ensuing years, \$38 million has been raised for eye research by the Lions of Massachusetts.

But back in 1950, the Great Depression was still a faint memory. Kids were watching “Howdy Doody” on 12-inch black-and-white TVs. The median family income was \$3,300 per year, and milk was still delivered to the doorstep. The average home price was \$1,940.

And babies were going blind.

During the summer of 1950, E. Daniel Johnson, then-Massachusetts District Governor of 33N, was visited by a friend who brought with him his four-year-old son, blind since birth with retrolental fibroplasia or so-called “baby blindness.”

Turns out that Johnson’s fellow Lion, Massachusetts 33K District Governor Harry Hartford, also had a friend with a blind baby—Al Hirshberg, a sports writer for the Boston Post and a Trustee of the Foundation for Eye Research.

In October 1950, these men—Johnson, Hartford and Hirshberg—along with a small group of Lions, met with Dr. Edwin B. Dunphy, Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Staff at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary. Dr. Dunphy explained that there was a disease, discovered just 10 years previously by Dr. Theodore L. Terry at Boston’s Lying-In Hospital (known today as Brigham & Women’s Hospital), called retrolental fibroplasia (commonly known as “baby blindness”) that was affecting 4 out of 5 premature babies weighing less

than 4 pounds. With no known pathology and no financial resources to investigate the cause, 2,500 babies (just the US) were losing their sight every year.

What could be done?

An informal meeting in DG Harry Hartford's hotel room at the 1951 Lions Clubs International Convention in Atlanta led into the first committee appointed by the Council of Governors in October 1951, which then led to Eye Research being voted at the State convention in 1952 as the statewide official project of the Lions of Massachusetts; The Lions of Massachusetts raised a whopping \$5,000, equivalent to \$50,000+ in today's dollars. Soon thereafter, the first Eye Research Grant was given to Dr. Theodore H. Ingalls of Harvard Medical School, who was instrumental in confirming that baby blindness was being caused by using too much oxygen in the incubators of premature babies. Today over 150,000 adults can see because of the foresight and concern of these Lions.

Soon thereafter, the Lions supported the Ophthalmic Plastics Laboratory, operated by Dr. William Stone, Jr., which developed pure plastic corneas to be used for persons afflicted with scarred corneas.

In 1953 support was given to the Joslin Clinic under the direction of Dr. Elliot P. Joslin, an energetic man in his early nineties, concerned with the cure for diabetes, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. The "Lions Laser Lens" project, which can detect diabetes in the eye before any other physical signs appear, was headed by Dr. Sven Bursell. In addition, Tufts New England Medical Center's Dr. Bertram Silverstone also received grants for his work using radioactive isotopes to cure eye and brain tumors. Further, Dr. Bernard Schwartz at Tufts New England Medical Center received Lions support for his work on modern photographic techniques for damage to the optic nerve and disc in glaucoma.

By 1955, a \$45,000 fellowship was awarded established in honor of Dr. Edwin B. Dunphy for his contributions to eye research. The Retina Foundation (now known as The Schepens Eye Research Institute), under the direction of Dr. Charles Schepens, constructed the first upside down operating table to repair detached retinas using the Lions grant. Schepens has the longest continuous relationship with MLERF and have dedicated some of their laboratories to the Lions for their continued support of their research efforts.

In fact, there are three major laboratories dedicated to the Massachusetts Lions. The first was at the Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary called the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology run by Dr. David Cogan. The Fund set aside \$40,000 for a lab for young doctors being trained in eye research. The lab was actually a janitorial supply room located on the top of the building and was affectionately known as "The Lions Penthouse."

The second laboratory was established in 1969 at Boston University Medical Center, where a major commitment was made for space located on the 9th floor of the new instructional building. It was dedicated exclusively to eye research and is known as "Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Laboratory." Dr. Ephraim Friedman, the first director, and his successor, Dr. Howard Liebowitz, were instrumental in conceiving, designing and constructing one of the first photo-coagulator ophthalmic laser beams, which was later used in surgery. The prototype was housed in an entire room, while today's model is the size of a small microwave oven. The world's first clinical specular microscope was also conceived and built here. In 1975 the "Elton MacNeil Memorial Unit" was dedicated in his name for his many years as chairman and president (1954–1961) of the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. PDG MacNeil was known as "Mister Massachusetts Lions Eye Research."

The third laboratory was established in 2011 at



Schepens Eye Research Institute. The Lions Laboratory for Genetic Research was established by Dr. Neena Haider to treat and prevent retinal diseases. The lab identified a genetic modifier that is able to ameliorate retinal degeneration. The lab's current research also revealed a novel role for Vitamin D metabolism in the development of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and antioxidants in neuroprotection from light-induced retinal damage. The lab has also developed unique genetic models to study the retinal and vascular observable characteristics associated with macular degeneration.

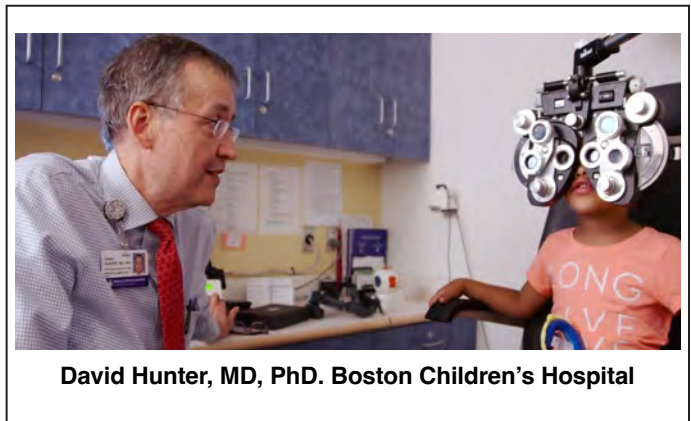
These are just a few of the major Boston research centers we have supported over the years and just a few examples of some of the basic research conducted in those early years. Today, research has moved light years ahead with the use of DNA, growing of culture cells and the separation of genes to find the genetic cause of eye diseases, but there is still so much more to be done.

The Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund Inc. was incorporated on January 20, 1958, and was given tax exempt status 501(c)(3) in February 1959. In 1971, a memorial fund was established to honor the memory of a loved one allowing individuals to contribute. A separate Trust and Endowment Fund was established in 1980 to perpetuate our research efforts. Today the T&E corpus is over \$1,300,000. The 1998/1999 year was the first time the Fund raised over \$1 million in a single year in donations from the clubs and memorials.

The first statewide project offered to the Clubs was the sale of Westinghouse "Light Bulbs." The Fund bought the bulbs wholesale, and they were then distributed to the clubs for door-to-door sale. This was a major fundraiser for many years through the late 60s and 70s. In the mid 1970s we participated in "White Cane Day" during which white cane stickers were given out for do-



nations and later evolved to a Lions Candy Day. In April 1983 all the special fundraising projects were combined into the "Journey for Sight" project, which asked each club to have one extra project and contribute the proceeds in addition to their regular donations. It was the first time the Fund used advertising on radio, newspapers and TV along with T-Shirts, hats and aprons. The "Pennies" project was born at the same time using a 1/2 gallon milk container to collect coins in local establishments across Massachusetts. The container displayed the new "Lions Logo" and the "Journey for Sight" lettering. In June 1982 the Fund was designated as the Charity of the Senior PGA Golf Classic at Marlboro Country Club. The sponsor was Digital Equipment Corp., who donated a \$25,000 computer for eye research. It was given to Joslin Clinic, and was the first computer to be used for research at that center.



David Hunter, MD, PhD. Boston Children's Hospital

In 1999 the Fund established a "Presidential Grant" in conjunction with LCIF. It is a one-time grant, separate from the normal grants, directed towards projects which do not meet the normal grant criteria but are considered worthy for the advancement of eye research. LCIF matches the MLERFI monies up to \$100,000 annually. The monies from the Fund come from the interest in the T&E trust fund and uncommitted monies from the treasury. To date there have been more than 10 matching grants totaling \$2,336,000.

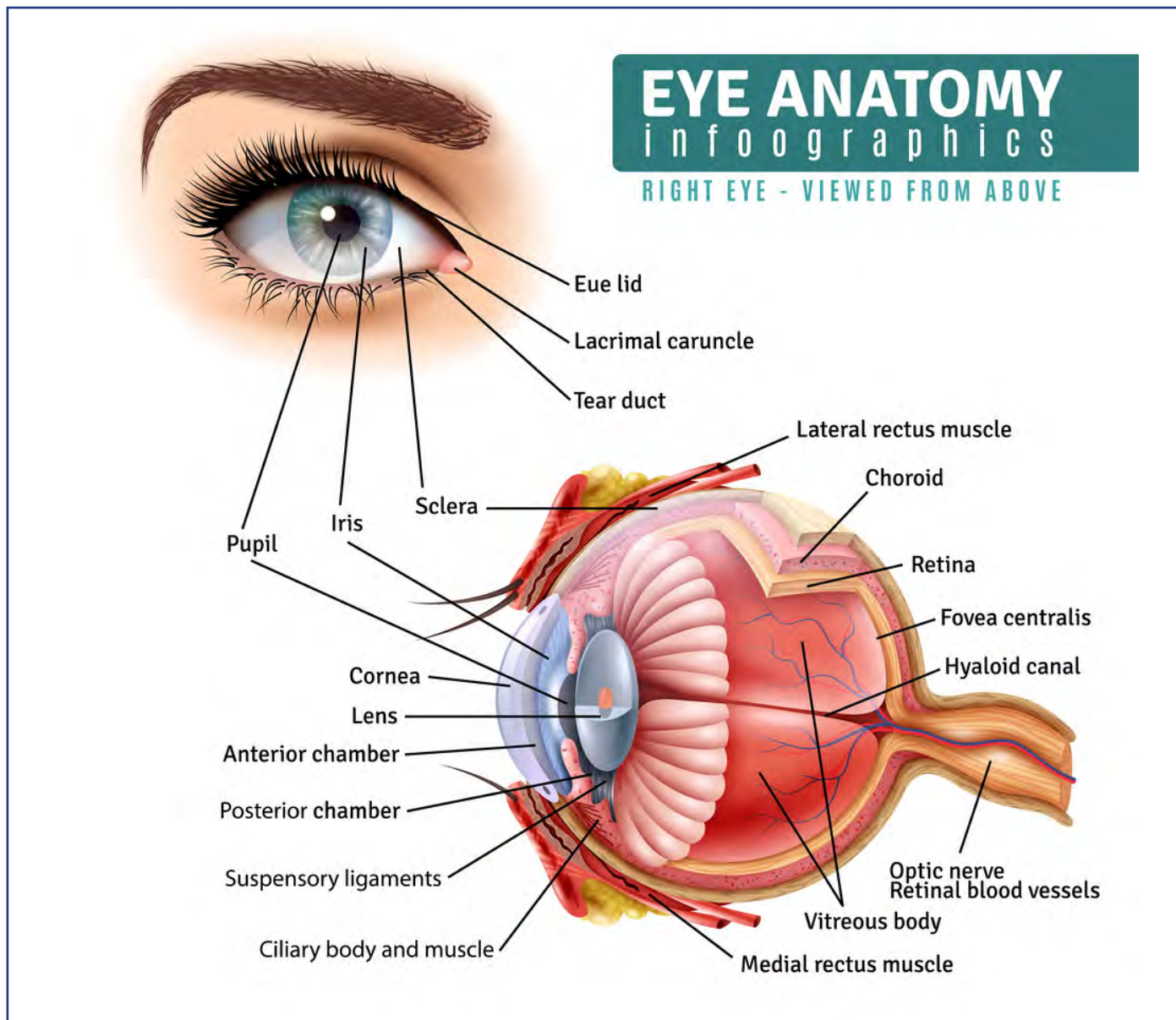
Over the years, the Fund has given out over \$32 million in research grants. We are proud of the fact that every penny donated since 1951 has been given back in grants to the Eye Re-

search Laboratories of Massachusetts. The grants are directed for pure research and not brick-and-mortar projects. The most important aspect of the Lions support is flexibility.

These initial grants are the "seed money" that allow researchers to do initial trials and preliminary studies to see if further research is warranted. Once the data is confirmed then the laboratory can apply for government grants which is usually matched on a 10-to-1 basis (or more). Because of Lions support, Boston has become one of the leading eye research centers in the world.

Much has been accomplished...

but there is still much more to be achieved. ■

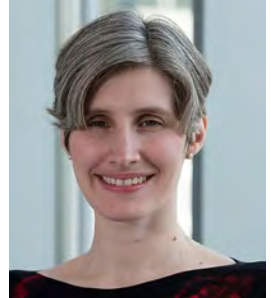


MLERF GRANT SUCCESS STORIES

These reports from the medical institutions supported by Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. are testimony of the accomplishments of the researchers only made possible by the grants which are funded by the generosity of the Lions of Multiple District 33 (MD33) Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School

PI Name: Milica Margeta, MD PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School



Project: How does inflammation harm neurons in glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, whose defining characteristic is the loss of neurons that connect the eye to the brain. Elevated eye pressure is the only modifiable risk factor for glaucoma; however, many patients continue to lose sight despite taking medicines and having surgeries to lower the eye pressure.

Microglia, the resident immune cells of the nervous system, have emerged as important contributors to neuronal death in glaucoma. We have found that microglia produce a molecule called CD300F that leads to neuronal death in glaucoma by promoting inflammation in the retina. In this proposal we investigated how microglial CD300F cause inflammation and neuron loss in glaucoma, using powerful technologies to investigate microglia in live animals with glaucoma and also microglia cultured in a dish.

With preliminary data obtained with these experiments, we were able to secure major funding from NIH (an R01 grant) that will allow us to investigate the role of inflammation in glaucoma further. This work may open new avenues for development of neuroprotective therapies for glaucoma (in which the retina and the optic nerve are directly protected from glaucoma damage despite eye pressure level). This kind of therapy would be both novel and transformative for the field of glaucoma.



PI Name: Joan W. Miller, MD

Project: Photodynamic Therapy of Ocular Neovascularization

Project: Hypoxia-mediated Release of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) from the Retina

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of blindness in people aged 50 or older worldwide, and the third leading cause of blindness overall. There are two types of AMD—dry and wet. Dry AMD occurs when the macula (the central part of your eye that processes what you see directly in front of you) gets thinner with age and tiny clumps of protein, or drusen, form. In wet AMD, new abnormal blood vessels grow under the retina, the specialized cells at the back of the eye receive and organize visual information. These vessels may

leak blood or other fluids, causing vision loss faster than in dry AMD. It is estimated that by 2040, over 288 million people will have some form of AMD.

Historically, treatment for this blinding disease was virtually non-existent and outcomes were generally poor. While there are still no treatments for dry AMD, development of photodynamic therapy (PDT) and anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) agents have revolutionized the treatment of wet AMD and other retinal diseases. These therapies have transformed the field of ophthalmology, improving vision outcomes and quality of life for millions of people around the world.

For PDT, a dye sensitive to light (verteporfin) is administered intravenously followed by application of low power and long duration infrared laser to close the abnormal and leaky vessels under the retina. Funding from the Mass Lions for preliminary studies provided early support to determine optimal treatment parameters, safety, and efficacy, paving the way for FDA approval as the first treatment for wet AMD in 2000.

Funding from the Mass Lions for preliminary studies also helped uncover the mechanisms of ocular neovascularization, or new blood vessel formation in the eye—leading to the successful pharmacological therapies for AMD and other related conditions. These studies demonstrated that the VEGF protein was both sufficient and necessary for ocular neovascularization, creating the foundational basis for clinical trials for anti-VEGF agents to treat AMD. Approved by the FDA for use in December 2003, anti-VEGF therapy is now a mainstay of patient care for wet AMD, as well as other retinal diseases, preserving vision for millions of patients annually around the world.

MLERF final progress report for Elizabeth Rossin, M.D. Ph.D

Projects

The MLERF funded two main projects that I completed over the last 18 months:

- Development of a computational tool to find new mutations that cause inherited retinal disease (IRD)
- Identification of new genetic causes of central serous chorioretinopathy (CSR)



Project #1

With the advancement in availability of genetic testing and the lower cost of sequencing, IRD is a field with increasing promise and possibility for gene therapy interventions. However, among patients with an IRD, approximately 30% do not have a clear genetic cause, making them ineligible for this treatment. For these patients, additional tools are needed. We developed a computational tool to map patient-specific mutations onto 3D protein structure models and output a comprehensive score that summarizes the predicted effect of the mutation on structure. We showed that this tool predicts mutations causal of inherited retinal disease (IRD), including proteins such as rhodopsin, ABCA4 and bestrophin. Importantly, we applied this approach to 65 patients with an IRD but for whom no genetic cause had been identified, and we successfully identified the likely pathogenic genetic cause in 37 patients. This work resulted in the following

publication:

• Blake M. Hauser, Yuyang Luo, Anusha Nathan, Gaurav D. Gaiha, Demetrios Vavvas, Jason Comander, Eric A. Pierce, Emily M. Place, Kinga M. Bujakowska, and Elizabeth J. Rossin. "Structure-Based Network Analysis Predicts Mutations Associated with Inherited Retinal Disease." MedRxiv, January 1, 2023, 2023.07.05.23292247. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.07.05.23292247>.

Project #2

In working on the structural analysis of proteins, the need for advances in the discovery of genetic causes of other retinal diseases became apparent. Central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) is a disease I see commonly in clinic but that we understand very little about. It causes distorted and decreased vision in patients at a young age (typical age of onset is 40-50 years old), and there is no good treatment. Through a large international collaboration, we collected 1,100 patients with CSCR and over 500,000 healthy patients and compared their DNA. This highlighted 5 genes that are different in patients when compared to controls, and these findings pointed to the importance of the complement pathway in CSCR (an inflammatory pathway known to be modulated in other diseases like AMD) and pointed to defects in choroidal vasculature in these patients. This work resulted in the following publication:

1. Rämö JT, Abner E, Nikopensus T, Nõukas M, Marjonen H, Silander K, Jukarainen S, Kiiskinen T, Choi SH, Kajanne R, Mehtonen J, Palta P, Lubitz SA, Kaarniranta K, Sobrin L, Kurki M, Yzer S, Ellinor PT, Esko T, Daly MJ, den Hollander AI, Palotie A, Turunen JA, Boon CJF, and Rossin EJ. Overlap of Genetic Loci for Central Serous Chorioretinopathy With Age-Related Macular Degeneration. *JAMA Ophthalmology*. 2023. PMID: 37410484.
2. Rossin, EJ, & Sobrin, L. (2023). The Pleiotropy of Complement Factor H. *JAMA Ophthalmology*. 2023. PMID: 37410484.

Summary

I am extremely grateful to the MLERF for funding this work, and only with this funding were we able to make the progress described.



Boston Children's Hospital

MLERF PROJECT

Our studies aim to identify new treatment that targeting the root causes of new blood vessel formation in wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Current treatments to block new blood vessels are only effective in ~50% of wet AMD patients. Our goal is to identify new, effective, and safe treatments to prevent and treat wet AMD utilizing a novel neuron-targeting reagent, botulinum neurotoxin A (BoNT/A) to target glial cell activation and stressed photoreceptor neurons, and choroidal neovascularization in AMD. Our proposed project will improve scientific knowledge in the field of ocular neuronal degeneration and vascular biology, especially the roles of neuronal/glial-vascular communication in the pathogenesis of ocular vascular disorders. The com-

munication among neurons, glia, and vessels as well as the release of angiogenic and neurotrophic factors play important roles in controlling CNV, however, the underlying mechanisms are not yet clear. The proposed work will help address this gap. The contribution of the proposed research is expected to conceptually advance the understanding of how modulating both photoreceptor neurons and neuronal/glial-vascular communications controls photoreceptor dysfunction and pathological blood vessel growth in AMD. This work may have broad translational importance in the treatment of AMD.

About the Researcher

Ye Sun, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Sun's research interests focus on the understanding the roles of neuroinflammation, immune-vascular crosstalk, and neurovascular interaction in the development of eye disorders (including AMD, retinopathy of prematurity, and diabetic retinopathy) using genetically modified mice combined with disease mouse models and developing effective ways to treat or prevent vision loss. Her recent research focuses on the identification of the root causes of neovascularization, aimed at developing therapeutic treatments for wet AMD.

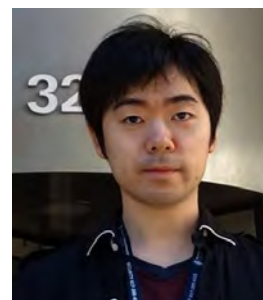
Personal Story

As time goes by, the relatives and friends around us are getting old, and more and more loved ones are suffering from vision loss due to AMD. They cannot read, watch TV, or drive; in the future AMD may affect my own vision as well. We have no way to stop getting old, but I hope that one day we can find a way to stop AMD. The immune system helps protect the body, but as we age, the immune system does not work as well. My lab is very appreciative of and excited to use the funds provided by Mass Lion Eye Research Fund, Inc.—to understand the neuron-vascular communications in AMD during aging and to help people with AMD. I am deeply grateful to all Mass Lion Eye Research Fund donors who so generously support the work of those trying to find cures for this disease.

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Laboratories at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology

Two research programs helped with funding from MLERF

Yuzuru Sasamoto, MD, PhD Assistant Professor



Dr. Sasamoto's study aims to develop novel approaches to treating limbal stem cell deficiency disease. Limbal stem cell deficiency is a disease caused by the loss of limbal stem cells and is characterized by severe vision loss due to the cornea being covered by non-transparent conjunctival cells (the white part of the eye). The limbal stem cells reside in an area called the limbus, which lies between the clear cornea and the white conjunctiva. Dr. Sasamoto's current project focuses on how limbal stem cells give rise to cells that cover the cornea and remain transparent. Also, these cells contribute to the maintenance of a healthy corneal. Dr. Sasamoto hopes to develop novel approaches to treating limbal stem cell deficiency and other corneal diseases (e.g., corneal wounds and dry eye disease). Dr. Sasamoto is a new researcher and faculty member in

our department, and the support received from the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund is helping Dr. Sasamoto develop the preliminary data needed for the NIH grants he has now submitted. This support makes it possible for new investigators to have a chance for success.



Haiyan Gong, MD, PhD
Professor

Reducing intraocular pressure (IOP) is the only effective treatment to prevent the progression of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), a leading cause of blindness worldwide. We can lower the IOP by improving fluid drainage out of the eye. Fluid flows out of the eye through two circular pathways: trabecular outflow and uveal outflow pathways. Dr. Gong's work has mainly studied the flow of fluid through the trabecular outflow pathway. Dr.

Gong has made and continues to produce highly impactful contributions to understanding the pattern and mechanism of fluid flowing through the trabecular outflow pathway. Thanks to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund's support, Dr. Gong has begun a new research program on the significance of the uveal outflow pathway in glaucoma. Despite its importance, patterns of uveal outflow and the factors that regulate it remain unexplored. Dr. Gong has found that fluid flows at different rates along the circular uveal outflow pathway and is independent of the rate of fluid flowing through the trabecular outflow pathway. This MLERF-supported preliminary data helped Dr. Gong secure a \$200,000 grant from the Bright Focus Foundation. This new grant allows Dr. Gong to further study the uveal outflow pathway in experimental glaucoma models, hoping to find therapies to enhance the outflow pathways to reduce IOP and protect eyes from developing glaucoma.

Tufts Medical School

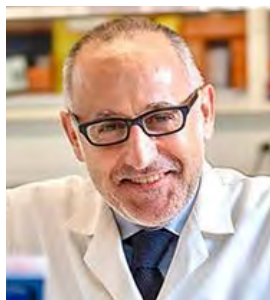
Project 1: Discovery of a novel drug to promote healing of corneal wounds

Pedram Hamrah, MD
Professor of Ophthalmology



Neuropathic pain is caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction of the nervous system and can occur in the cornea. However, neuropathic corneal pain (NCP) is currently an ill-defined, yet debilitating disease. Patients suffering from with NCP are extremely challenging to manage, as the symptoms can range from dry eye-like symptoms of dryness and irritation to severe ocular pain. Currently, the field of Ophthalmology relies on slit-lamp examination to assess signs of corneal and ocular surface diseases. Unfortunately, with neuropathic pain, none to minimal signs can be observed on slit-lamp examination in patients who have been either given the rather broad diagnosis of dry eye disease or have been repeatedly dismissed by their ophthalmologists. While systemic neuropathic pain can be diagnosed by skin biopsies, many patients with NCP may not have systemic findings. In our clinical studies that were carried out using Mass Lions Research Fund's presidential grant made to the New England Eye Center/Tufts University School of Medicine, we have been able to visualize corneal nerves in patients with dry eye dis-

ease and NCP. Our data demonstrates that while both groups can show decreased density of corneal nerves, specific morphological nerve changes are present in patients with NCP. These changes are due to abnormal nerve regeneration in these patients that demonstrate damaged nerves with endbulbs that correspond to microneuromas. The studies demonstrate high specificity and sensitivity of these findings and identify patients with NCP and seem to be diagnostic. The data resulting from this support enabled us to successfully compete for two large NIH grants in both clinical research and basic research. The first was an NIH award to develop our preliminary results into a full diagnostic biomarker through analytical, biological and clinical validation through a large multi-million-dollar NIH grant. The second was the recent award of a multicenter consortium grant to develop new therapies that can develop new targets that can prevent and reverse NCP. The results of this grant would identify the pathways that result in the development of NCP through mechanism that underlie inflammation and nerve damage. These studies will result in direct improvement of patient care through accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients with NCP. In summary, the support by Mass Lions Eye Research Fund has resulted not only in direct improvement of patients care but has significantly advanced the field in neuropathic corneal pain, making it less ill-defined.



MLERF PROJECT II: Benefits of sugar modification to treat ocular disease

Pablo Argüeso, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology

Sugars, or carbohydrates, play important functions in the human body. They are the primary source of energy for the body but also play negative effects on the body's health and overall well-being when consumed in excess. In addition to their role in energy production, sugars also coat the surface of the trillions of cells present in the human body. This coating, known as glycocalyx, is fundamental for various biological processes. It allows cells to identify and interact with each other, it can act as a shield against mechanical forces, or it can modulate the ability of cells to receive signals from their environment and initiate various cellular responses. The composition and structure of the glycocalyx can change in response to various pathological conditions and external factors, leading to disease.

MLERF funding has helped understand the composition of this important coating on the surface of the eye. In a series of cutting-edge experiments using microarray technology, we identified a series of cell surface carbohydrate signatures that are unique to the different cell types of the human cornea. These results, recently published in the scientific literature and which acknowledge MLERF support, could foster the identification of novel cornea-specific biomarkers. Importantly, preliminary data derived from these studies are uncovering the potential of modifying the ocular glycocalyx for therapeutic gain, particularly in immunological disorders affecting the cornea and a medical condition known as limbal stem cell deficiency. These pilot data will be used to compete for a large NIH grant to perform in vivo studies in animal models of ocular disease.

MLERF PROJECT 1 Case Write-up

A 32-year-old woman with type 1 diabetes for 20 years who recently found out she was pregnant presented to the Beetham Eye Institute. She did not know that she had diabetic retinopathy but on her initial exam it was discovered that she had retinopathy of moderate severity. She was followed closely but at 12 weeks of her pregnancy it was noted that her retinopathy was worsening. Unfortunately, diabetic retinopathy can worsen very quickly during pregnancy and potentially cause loss of vision. Her retinopathy was severe enough to warrant treatment with laser photocoagulation. She was followed every 8 weeks after that. Eventually it was noted that there were abnormal vascular changes beginning to form in the peripheral retina in both eyes which were suspicious for neovascularization.

Neovascularization is the development of abnormal blood vessels which have the propensity to bleed and cause sudden and severe vision loss. General current approaches in the setting of an inconclusive exam would involve a fluorescein angiography test which requires the patient to be injected with a dye and the retina of the eyes photographed. This dye unfortunately is contraindicated in pregnancy. Fortunately, we had developed a technique using a novel device, the Optos Silverstone which was acquired through the generous donation of the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund's presidential grant. This device, in addition to being able to acquire ultrawide field images capturing approximately 85% of the total retinal area, can also acquire optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans anywhere within the visualized retina. OCT scans can identify neovascularization.

Neovascularization has a distinct appearance on OCT which can help determine whether suspicious areas were in fact abnormal blood vessels. The patient consented to being imaged using the Silverstone and a special algorithm developed by us that increased the likelihood of capturing all neovascularization in the eye. In the eye, OCT imaging confirmed the presence of neovascularization. The patient therefore received additional laser treatment which was able to control these blood vessels before the disease worsened and before there was any bleeding. This novel device and technique helped her complete her pregnancy safely without severe vision loss while also controlling her diabetic retinopathy.

MLERF PROJECT 2 Case Write-up

A 56-year-old patient presented with a sudden onset of floaters and blurred vision in the right eye. Upon examination, a retinal tear was diagnosed. This condition can arise when the gel within the eye becomes more liquid and attempts to detach from the retina, potentially exerting force on the retina and leading to a tear. Such tears can be perilous as they may allow fluid to pass through, causing the retina to detach from the back of the eye, which is deemed a medical urgency. During a regular examination, it can be challenging to detect the presence and extent of fluid, as well as to ascertain whether any active pulling exists at the tear, thereby keeping the hole open and enabling more fluid to pass through. Fortunately, we employed the novel device, the Optos Silverstone, which was acquired through the generous donation of the Mass Lions

Eye Research Fund's presidential grant. The Silverstone device, enabling us to obtain comprehensive standard and cross sectional scans of the retina, including the far periphery. This not only facilitated the visualization of the tear and the presence of fluid but also revealed some persistent tugging on the tear. Additionally, the device assisted in quantifying the fluid and guiding the treatment process.

Following the scans, it was decided to conduct laser treatment to seal the tear and prevent further spreading of the fluid. The patient expressed interest in understanding the anticipated timeline for recovery and when they could resume daily activities, given their passion for Zumba and an upcoming CPR course. The patient was advised to return for a follow-up appointment in one week. Subsequent follow-ups, two and three weeks later, indicated that the fluid had completely resolved, and the tear was securely sealed without any persistent tugging. The patient was reassured that it was safe for them to resume their regular activities.

The next Eye Catcher will be published in April of 2024. If you have a story, event or fundraiser for MLERF, please send this information to your district reporter.

