

## **The William T. Murphy Eye Research Sight Award**

The William T. Murphy Eye Research Sight Award is a recognition award which can be given to an individual, group, or an organization who has contributed or displayed outstanding and dedicated service to their club or community, with the ideals of eye research in mind. The criteria may include fund raising activities, dedicated work on projects for the blind or visually impaired, or overall service for the goals of eye research. This award must be given by the candidate's peers. It cannot be purchased by an individual themselves. Lion and Leo clubs are limited to one award per year earned by donating \$1000 or more over the previous year's donations. The "William T. Murphy Eye Research Sight Award" pin and distinctive plaque will be given to this outstanding candidate. The Award should be presented at a special occasion such as a District Mid-Winter Convention, a District Advisory Meeting, MD33 State Convention, the MLERF Awards Banquet, or other special function. Should a club want an MLERF officer to present the award, a short description of the individual/group receiving the award that highlights the key attributes that led to the choosing of this individual/group should be provided.

## **Trust and Endowment Fund (T & E)**

Two awards are available through donations to the Trust and Endowment Fund. Individuals, clubs, or corporate sponsors may designate donations to this fund. The funds generated from The Celebration of Life honorariums are also earmarked for this fund. A donor may honor a deserving living recipient or memorialize an individual they want remembered. Through your will, a bequest can be made to the Trust and Endowment Fund. Individuals wishing to consider this avenue are encouraged to contact the MLERF, Inc. treasurer for a brochure that helps to explain how to make this bequest as well as to consult appropriate legal counsel.

Engraved awards are available and are presented to the donor or their designee in the following levels:

Founder Award: \$10,000 contribution  
Researcher Award: \$5,000 contribution

## **Visionary Award**

Individuals who contribute \$250 or more may receive a Visionary Award. This award may be earned on an annual basis. The monies donated are earmarked for the Grant Program. As contrasted with the Sight Award, this award is for individuals and not a club award. Monies contributed do count towards the total club donations for the year. If a non-Lion or non-LEO contributes to the grant for a Visionary Award, they are asked to provide the name of

the club to be credited. If no club is designated, the funds will be allocated to the district of the current president of MLERF. A submission form is required to receive this award.

### **Presidential Excellence Award**

Each year, the president of MLERF may honor individuals who they believe have gone above and beyond in furthering the causes of MLERF. Recognition is provided through the awarding of a Presidential Excellence Medal. The medal is presented by the president at a special occasion such as the MD 33 State Convention or MLERF Awards Banquet. Other special occasions may also be the venue for the awarding of this medal as the president desires. Board members may make recommendations to the president for individuals who they think are deserving of such a medal and who the president may not be aware. The decision is, however, the president's.

### **Club Banner Patches**

In 2021, the Board of Directors voted to award banner patches and rockers to clubs to recognize their year's contributions to MLERF. The first year a club gains recognition, a MLERF Patch is given and a rocker designating the Lion's year. In subsequent years, only a rocker is given with the year of the recognition. Starting in the 2023-2024 Lion's year, the border color of the rocker designates the level of donation.

Blue Border: Donations of \$500 - \$4,999

Red Border: Donation of \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bronze Border: Donation of \$10,000 - \$19,999

Silver Border: Donation of \$20,000 - \$29,999

Gold Border: Donation of \$30,000 and above

### **Leading Club in Each Sub-District**

At the MLERF Annual Awards Banquet, the club with the highest donation in their district is recognized with a plaque.

### **Historical Milestone Awards**

Clubs reaching historical donation levels starting at \$100,000 are given a plaque denoting their lifetime donation levels. As a club reaches the next \$100,000 level, they are recognized for achieving this next incredible milestone.

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

All clubs who donate to MLERF receive a certificate of appreciation noting the amount that was donated for that Lions' year.