

Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind

~ Quarterly Bulletin ~

November 2012 - January 2013



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



December is a very busy month as well as a fun time of the year. Parties to attend, Christmas greetings to send, children home from school, family traditions to celebrate and gifts wrapped in pretty paper for our families and loved ones. As I think of the giving of gifts the most precious gifts do not always come in boxes wrapped in pretty paper.

Looking back at history we have benefits from many gifts that were not and could not be placed under the tree. During the formative years of our country we were beneficiaries of a group of colonial soldiers crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Eve led by General George Washington to change the course of the Revolutionary War against an oppressive English King. During Christmas of December 1944 a small group of American soldiers at the Belgian City of Bastogne were surrounded and outnumbered by Nazi Army groups. The American soldiers although short of food and ammunition and out of medical supplies refused to surrender the City which was key to blocking the German advance. The selfless courage and actions of these men were a gift to all freedom loving people. The courage and resolve of these soldiers stopped the German offensive in what became known as "The Battle of the Bulge", led to the failure of Germany's last major effort to defeat Democracy in World War II. These selfless gifts have become part of our heritage.

Each member of the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind provides selfless gifts all year long that do not come wrapped in a box. We give the "Gift of Sight". At our January meeting we will be approving 50+ new eye surgery cases. This is in addition to the 175 cases approved year to date. That is 225 cases which is well on the way to setting a new annual record of eye cases. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate this gift giving season than to know that we are providing people that many of us never know with the ability to see. The recipients of these surgeries do not have the financial resources necessary to obtain the costly surgeries that they receive as a direct result of the work of the Foundation. I congratulate and thank each and every member of our foundation who provide the hard work and generosity that makes this "Gift of Sight" possible.

Ted Erion
President, Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER'S MESSAGE

HAPPY YEAR YEAR TO ALL



At this time I am preparing the financial report for our meeting on January 5th. This year our President at his installation talked about the importance of the district's goals to be able to continue our motto "WE SERVE".

In years past we had several district competitions to meet the goals and also to obtain 100% club participation. This hasn't happened in several years and as our President stressed the Foundation needs to get back to this. We certainly don't want to get into a position that we will have to reduce what we are able to provide.

The past two years since we redistricted, each district's goals has been set at \$55,000.00. We have come close but haven't yet reached 100% of the goals. We have 274 clubs, with 35-L at 84, 35-I at 54, 35-O at 63 and 35-N at 73. This month completes 8 months of our 2012-2013 year. To reach goal in each district we need \$ 4,584 per month. At the 8-month mark we should have received \$ 36,672.00. When you get the completed reports you will see that we are now at 43.93% of the goal or short by \$ 50,036.90.

This year we have indicated that we need everyone on the board to be an active Drive Director and as you look over these reports you can see what the clubs are donating and where your help is most needed.

We all know that many clubs haven't scheduled all their fundraising until the end of the year. Just as a reminder, the Foundation's year is May through April. This year with our annual meeting being scheduled for May 3rd the cutoff date for donations will be April 20th to count for this current year. Funds donated as of that date will become our budget for next year. Thank you for all the support that has been given thus far and all that will come during the next 4 months. Your efforts truly are appreciated by the board of directors and by our hundreds of clients in Florida and The Bahamas.

Lois Q. Malecky, E/S/T

THANK YOU NOTES

During this period we have received numerous memorial during donations from families who lost a loved one and also as a remembrance of several others. Thank you cards were sent to the one that made the donation and an acknowledgement to the family.

We are received requests for Grand Lion plaques for members of the Tampa Downtown Lions, St Petersburg Lions, Fort Pierce Lions and the Port St Lucie West Lions. The presentations for these will be made during January and February 2013.

We help so many individuals that are so appreciative for the gifts of sight that we were able to extend to them.

PERSONAL THANK YOU FROM A PATIENT

10/22/12

To all the Officers of the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind:

Recently, this past August, I was able to have corrective surgery on my right eye for a premature cataract. This was caused by trauma due to a detached retina which occurred in 2010.

Thanks to the generosity of the Florida Lions Foundation, I was able to receive the care I needed to restore by eyesight. I am deeply indebted to all of you, who were part of the approval process, on my behalf.

I would also like to mention the individual efforts, which were critical to this outcome made by four other individuals. Mr. Robert Brauss, Dr. James Brauss, Mr Geoffrey Wade and Dr. William Rand. I owe each of these fine men my deepest thanks and gratitude.

Thank you all, for all you have done for me.

Russell H. Keys

SUNSHINE

In regard to SUNSHINE I haven't been informed of any of our Board or Directors that have been under the weather.

If anyone has been ill and still needs sunshine let me know and cards will be sent out to brighten your spirits.

On the bright side some of our Directors have either been on a cruise or visited with family and friends over the holidays; The Ringelstein's were on a three week cruise. The Lloyd's were visiting family in the Carolina's and also in Maryland. What a wonderful time of year to share with family and loved ones.

The Spencer's have a Granddaughter [Hannah Frances Kerr] born on Christmas Evening. Congratulations to Donna and Neil, also to the happy Mom and Dad.

HUG COUPON

A HUG HAS;

No moving parts, no batteries,
No monthly payments and no fees.
It is inflation proof and non taxable.
In fact, it is quite relaxable.
It can't be stolen, won't pollute,
One size fits all, will not dilute, it uses little energy,
But yields enormously.
Relieves your tension and your stress,
Invigorates your happiness;
Combats depression, makes you beam,
And elevates your self esteem!
Your circulation it corrects,
Without unpleasant side effects.
It is the perfect drug, there is nothing like a simple hug!
And, of course, it is fully returnable.

Florida Lions Foundation

2012-2013 Calendar

Foundation Board of Directors Meetings, 2012-2013

January 5, 2013, Lions Eye Institute, Ybor City
March 10, 2013, Boca Raton
Friday, May 3, 2013, 8:00 AM, Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 5, 2013, 8:00 AM, Installation of Officers & Directors

MD-35 Conferences & Council of Governors Meetings

January 11-14, 2013, Council-at-Sea (Cruise out of Miami)
March 7-10, 2013, Spring Conference, Boca Raton
May 2-5, 2013, 89th Annual Convention, Daytona Beach

District Cabinet Meetings

L	August 15, 2012, Arlington
	December 1, 2012, Pensacola
	February 2, 2013, Marianna
	March 23, 2013, Ocala
I	August 18, 2012, Plant City
	November 10, 2012, Venice
	January 19, 2013, Zephyrhills
	April 19, 2013, Bonita Springs (Mini-Convention)
O	August 18, 2012, Clermont
	November 3, 2012, Homosassa
	January 19, 2013, Volusia County - Deland
	March 16, 2013, Viera
N	August 18, 2012, Lions Eye Bank, Miami
	October 27, 2012, Dania Beach
	January 26, 2013, Port St Lucie
	March 10, 2013, Deerfield Inn, Boca Raton