

**The Lions Eye Bank for Long Island,
Serving Nassau, Suffolk,
Brooklyn and Queens**



The
Lions'
Eye 

Newsletter of the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island
Franklin Hospital - North Shore - LIJ Health System

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The Chairman's Corner



In 1986, some concerned Lions and dedicated doctors decided to form an eye bank to help those in need and to further the cause of Lionism. In the ensuing 27 years, the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island has been slowly growing into a major player for corneal transplants. However, we are not quite there.....yet.

During 2012, the Eye Bank under (now) ID Steve Tremaroli, streamlined the Board from 32 to 16 members, instituted a detailed Policy and Procedure Manual, and revised the By Laws.

Now during 2013, more changes are coming. Our new lab and office facility in the Franklin Hospital is in operation and the reviews have been just outstanding. What a marked difference between what we had and what we have. This was achieved through tireless efforts of so many people but Ken Manger must be mentioned as our true champion. Thanks to the LCI Foundation and Eye Bank fundraisers, over \$150,000 has been spent on new lab equipment and more has been committed; we are still in the procurement stage.

Our most important commitment during this Lionistic year will be our dedicated effort to increase public

awareness of the Eye Bank and, most importantly, to strive for an increase in donors. This region, with the largest population, has one of the smallest number of people who have committed to be donors. Without donors, the Eye Bank cannot function and will cease to exist as a viable entity. We will not let that happen because we have worked too hard to get to this point and we are so close to achieving our goal of a self-sustaining Eye Bank.

We plan on reaching out with personal visits to a large portion of all the Clubs in the three Districts (K1, K2, and S), expand our website, Twitter and Facebook pages, increase public awareness via public service announcements, radio and TV spots and plan at least two major fund raisers to help augment the Eye Bank's equipment. We are also working on a project we proposed and has been accepted by Franklin..... more on that in the next edition.

The Lions Eye Bank for Long Island is on the move! In the coming months you will see and hear much more about the Eye Bank but we cannot do it alone.

We are all Lions and thus pledged to the preservation and health of sight for all.

Frank A. Miller,
Chairman, Lions Eye Bank for Long Island

LIONS Eye Bank Hockey Night
Saturday December 28, 2013
7:00 PM
Islanders VS Devils



For Tickets:
See Back Cover
or
WWW.NewYorkIslanders.com/LEBLI

Lions Eye Bank for Long Island

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Medical Director
Henry Perry, MD

Surgical Director
Eric Donnenfeld, MD

Chairman of the Board
Frank Miller

Program Director
Kenneth Manger, CEBT

**We're on the
Web!**

www.lebli.org

Knights Of The Blind



In 1999, the Board of Directors of the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island held a fund-raising think tank to come up with ways to raise funds to purchase much needed equipment for the Eye Bank. Many suggestions were made including having a dinner/dance, journals and a golf outing. There was also an idea that by making a donation, a Lions club could honor an outstanding

Lion, non-Lion organization or business that performed exemplary service to a club, district or community.

The name of this high honor would be called, "The Knights of the Blind Recognition Award." For a donation of \$250, the recipient would receive a personalized, engraved plaque, and a handsome lapel pin and a congratulatory letter from the Lions Eye Bank.

For the past fourteen years, over 100 clubs from the three participating districts, 20-K1 Brooklyn and Queens, 20-K2 Nassau County & Bermuda and 20-S Suffolk County have named over 540 honorees. Some of the more outstanding clubs have honored many of their members. In 20-K2, the Long Island Portuguese Lions Club have bestowed this honor 10 times, the Melville Lions of 20-S have honored 20 and in 20-K1 the Central Brooklyn Lions Club have honored 25.

To date, the Knights of the Blind Recognition Award Program has raised over \$130,000 for the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island.

For more information regarding the Knights of the Blind award, you can contact PDG Neal Golub at 631 351-1757.

PDG Neal Golub

Knights of the Blind Committee Chair

The Lions Eye Bank For Long Island Board Of Directors, 2013-2014

The Lions Eye Bank Board has 4 members from each district. District 20-K1, 20-K2, 20-S and 4 members representing North Shore/LIJ Health System.

20-K1

Chairman Lion Frank Miller
Vice Chair Lion Marilyn McAndrews-Bedard
Lion Wilfred Lawrence
Lion Fern Rashkover

20-K2

Secretary VDG Fred Rieger
Treasurer PDG Peg Di Iorio
Vice Chair PDG Steve Lesetz
Lion Elliot Krakauer

20-S

Vice Chair Lion Balan Nagraj
Lioness Grace Bassett
PDG Neal Golub
PDG Dr. Harry Moloff

Health System Members

Vice Chair Kenneth Manger
Dr. Stephen LoRe
Dr. Susan Zarola-Cohen
Dr. Henry Perry

The Role Of Hospital Staff In The Donation Process

The Gift of Sight and the Gift of Life are gifts of love made to nameless unknown faces from a place of generosity that cannot be quantified. These gifts would not happen without the generosity of donor families, consenting to share their loved one with those in need. However, the donation process begins with the diligent, caring hospital staff.

Without the referral from the staff, the family will never have the opportunity to donate. Hospital staff are required to call in every death in their hospital to their local Organ Procurement Organization, but this referral is much more than just making a phone call to report a passing. The nursing staff, who cared for their patient before their death are now looking out for potential recipients as they begin the process of potential donor screening. With the safety and health of recipients in mind, every potential donor must be screened prior to offering the option of donation to a family specifically to ensure there are no medical issues or safety concerns present. The hospital staff must review the medical chart, including medications, medical history, cause of death, time of death and age of the patient. Also important are fluid volumes the patient may have received. All of this information is vital to ruling a potential donor acceptable or medically unsuitable for donation. This requires meticulous review of this information by nursing staff who take the time out of their already full schedules to do so, and it must occur within one hour from the time of death. This is necessary as transplantable corneas must be placed in preservation solution 12-15 hours after death to maintain their viability. Once the referral is made the hospital staff must also provide eye care to the deceased. This includes elevation of the head, to prevent pooling of fluids around the eyes; closing of the eye lids and securing saline soaked gauze wraps over the eyes to keep them moist. All of these actions may seem inconsequential; however, they are small but very important to maintaining the integrity of the corneas before the recovery ever takes place. Once this is done the hospital staff is often instrumental in helping the Eye Bank staff to contact the family to obtain consent for the donation. They are also an important resource to the recovery staff when they arrive on sight to complete the recovery process.

It is for these reasons we owe a debt of gratitude

to all of the hospital staff who facilitate the Gift of Sight and Gift of Life with a simple phone call. At the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island we recognize hospital staff and the valuable service they provide by distributing thank you certificates after the donation process is complete. These certificates are a small recognition to the hospital staff for a job well done and a thanks for the integral role they play in the donation process. We also include recipient information when available so they know those corneas restored vision to recipients suffering from corneal blindness. They have essentially saved a life by taking the time to make a simple phone call.

Hospital Thank You Certificates are often delivered to hospital staff by Lions volunteers. For more information on becoming a volunteer at the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island, please visit their website at www.lebli.org or call 516 256-6990.

Dr. Susan Zarola-Cohen,
Eye Bank Program Liaison

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

**FOR A REWARDING EXPERIENCE,
ONE THAT CAN IMPACT
THE LIVES OF OTHERS,
BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER,
TRANSPORTING PRECIOUS TISSUE
THAT WILL ENABLE ANOTHER
PERSON TO SEE AGAIN.**

**SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE
LIONS TRANSPORTER PROGRAM IN 1989,
WE HAVE HAD 410 DRIVERS
MAKING OVER 11,925 TRIPS.**

**BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM BY
CONTACTING THE EYE BANK.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 516 256-6990**

2013-14 NEW YORK ISLANDERS



SUPPORT THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF SIGHT AT THE LIONS EYE BANK HOCKEY NIGHT SATURDAY, DEC. 28TH @7PM VS DEVILS



DISCOUNTED TICKETS:

\$45 UPPER LEVEL

\$70 LOWER LEVEL

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island located at Franklin Hospital and part of the North Shore - LIJ Health System

Are you a donor? Visit www.lebli.org to enroll in the New York State Donor Registry and learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation.



WAYS TO PAY:

1: VISIT WWW.NEWYORKISLANDERS.COM/LEBLI

2: CASH

3: CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO NY ISLANDERS

4: CREDIT CARD: AMEX MC VISA DISC

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name On Card: _____

Signature: _____

Lions Eye Bank for Long Island

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Price Level: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



TO PURCHASE:
516.501.6763 | WWW.NEWYORKISLANDERS.COM/LEBLI



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
LEBLI | 516.256.6990
OR LION BALAN NAGRAJ | 631.427.0952