



Fellow Lions,

How often have you heard the lament that “Lions are the best kept secret”? It’s a typical excuse offered when we face declining membership totals. Seems like we all know about Lions but many of us have trouble letting others know what we do to serve those in need in our community and around the world.

Want to hear about another pretty well kept secret? Most of you have heard of LOVRNET, the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network that was born in our Multiple District22 as an LVRF project. Many of you may also be aware of LOVRNET volunteers that conduct interviews of low vision patients. You might know that other LOVRNET volunteers are trained to provide transportation for visually impaired patients. But how many of you know that volunteers actually visit the homes of low vision patients enrolled in LOVRNET to assist them to put in place organizational processes and safety measures that allow them to function more freely and improve their quality of life? How many of you are aware of the LOVRNET Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization, created to administer and support the project and volunteers serving low vision patients and their families? How many of you know about the on-line stores on the LOVRNET website that offer materials for those with limited vision as well as optical devices that doctors can prescribe for low vision patients?

Lion volunteers make this project work. As LOVRNET has matured and grown new volunteer managerial positions have emerged that need to be filled to make our project more patient friendly and more effective in utilizing our volunteers. Financial support remains a challenge as well. Grants requests have been submitted to federal and private institutions. Additional requests are being explored. To meet immediate financial requirements pending grant approvals, the LOVRNET Foundation approved the initiation of a GoFundMe campaign directed to the general public that can be accessed on our website. The website also has a PayPal button. Lastly, we gratefully accept personal checks made out to LOVRNET and mailed to PCC Clare Newcomer at 19605 Granada Ct, Hagerstown, MD 21742. These checks mean that your entire donation goes to support your program – nothing for those who administer GoFundMe or PayPal.

You, Lions, are needed to make others aware of LOVRNET. Tell your friends and acquaintances. Share our secret. Email info@lovrnet.org for more information or call the Lion LOVRNET volunteer you know.

Yours in Lionism,

Paul Hawkins

PDG Paul Hawkins
Executive Director
LOVRNET