



A Century of Service

100th Anniversary of Multiple District 22

March 2022 Issue

PR Committee Chair PDG Sonia Wiggins

Welcome Lions, Leo's & Friends of Multiple District 22.

On August 12-13, 2022, the Lions from Multiple District 22 (Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia) will gather at the Delta Hotels by Marriott, Hunt Valley, Maryland to celebrate 100 years as a Multiple District.

Come join us on this special occasion for fun, fellowship, and service.

Each month the 100th Anniversary Committee will highlight a person or activity event for this special anniversary.

Highlighting this Month Special Tours

Tour Committee: Chair PDG Barbara Brimigion,
PCC Bob Eisenberg and Lion Vicki Voltier

The first tour will be to the **Wilmer Eye Institute, home of the Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF), Baltimore, MD** on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The **Gunther Bus Service** will be available to transport those interested in attending.

The LVRF is a joint effort by The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, Lions Clubs International and Multiple District 22 Lions to provide research and treatment of Low Vision disorders. The efforts predominately address conditions which cannot be corrected by eyeglasses, surgery or medication. Those conditions include macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and similar types of vision disorders.

A little history - In 1925, legendary figure Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become Knights of the Blind in the crusade to eliminate preventable blindness. The Lions accepted the challenge. In the 1950's a young researcher at Wilmer Eye Institute named **Arnall Patz** began a long career of effecting groundbreaking advances in the causes and prevention of blindness. In 1952 Helen Keller personally presented Dr. Patz with the prestigious Lasker Award; she also suggested to Dr. Patz that he consider collaborating with the Lions in their efforts to help the blind. Accordingly, Dr. Patz concluded that a joint service project between the world's largest service organization and the world's leading eye institute would result in great discoveries, which would help visually impaired people worldwide.

During the period 1978 to 1985 Dr. Patz made several overtures to Lions Clubs International, including a trip to Lions Headquarters in 1979, to encourage the Lions to collaborate with the Wilmer Eye Institute. With time, support for the **partnership grew among the Lions of Multiple District 22 (MD22)** representing Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Maryland. Later, as Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute and as the world's leading eye surgeon, Dr. Patz urged the Lions of MD22 to establish the Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF). Consequently, in May of 1988 at the 66th Lions Convention, MD22 voted to formally establish LVRF.

In March of 1991, **Dr. Robert Massof**, Director of the Lions Vision Center, recommended that the Center's research be focused on the problem of low vision for which there is no cure. "Low Vision" is vision loss that cannot be corrected by eyeglasses, medicines, or surgery. Major causes of low vision are macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and inherited eye diseases. Five million people in the US suffer from low vision and twenty-five million people are impacted worldwide. Dr. Massof proposed further that the Lions create a \$4 million endowment fund to guarantee the Lions Low Vision Center would operate in perpetuity. In November 1991, with then Lions International President Don Banker in attendance, the Lions of MD22 and the Wilmer Eye Institute entered into a formal memo of understanding officially creating the Lions Low Vision Center and committing the Lions to the raising of the endowment fund.

Beginning in 1994 the Lions Vision Research Foundation contributed \$200,000 annually to sustain the research and operations at the Lions Low Vision Center, while growing the \$4 million Endowment Fund. On May 12, 2007 the MD22 Lions and their Wilmer partners celebrated the achievement of the \$4 million goal. In 2009, LVRF established a fellowship program in the Lions Low Vision Center to fund a post-doctoral position specializing in low vision. In 2017, LVRF committed to raising between 2.5 and 2.8 million dollars to establish the endowment of the post-doctoral fellowship, while continuing to annually fund it. The fellowship brings doctors to Hopkins for one year of study in the field of low vision. According to Dr. Robert Massof, Director of the Lions Vision Center, "This is an invaluable program, one of only two in the USA that provides this level of low vision training for interns. Graduate interns then stay at Wilmer or take their knowledge throughout the world."

In 2010, the LVRF Board of Trustees and the MD22 Council of Governors resolved to support the memory of Dr. Patz by assisting Wilmer Eye Institute's fundraising campaign for an endowed professorship for the Low Vision Center. In 2014, the Arnell Patz endowment professorship was established by the combined efforts of MD22, Wilmer Residents Association Members, and the Patz family and friends. Through this professorship, the Lions Low Vision Center is enhanced by increased educational opportunities for specialists and patients alike, better equipment, additional staff, and increased research in the field of low vision.

We Lions are proud to partner with Wilmer, which is usually ranked by USNEWS & WORLD REPORT as the number one ophthalmological institute in America. Author Tom Clancy, the Honorary Lions Vision 2000 Chairman called Wilmer "One of America's crown jewels." The research team at the Lions Low Vision Center continues to develop cutting edge low vision enhancement technology, paving the way for retinal transplants and prosthetic vision through electronic chip implants, and new ways to assist drivers. The clinical specialists provide people with the low vision devices and practices to help them improve their quality of life while making the most of their remaining vision. We applaud the Wilmer Team for their skill, dedication, and hard work. We know that if medical and scientific breakthroughs are to happen, they will happen because of the collaboration between the Lions and the Wilmer Team at the Lions Low Vision Center We Lions will never accept the status quo so long as there are visually impaired people. The Lions of MD22 LVRF will continue to identify new service opportunities and pursue innovative means of obtaining the funding to support the need.

MD22 Trustees:

*District 22A - DG Bijoy Mahanti, CC Larry Burton,
Lions Sue Parks & Dr. Bob Massof*

*District 22B – DG Dave Studley, PDG Wayne Cole, Lion
Michelle Holland & PCC John Lawrence*

*District 22C – DG Bill Lavelly, PDG’s Paul Hawkins,
Andrea Cumberland, PCC Dee Hawkins*

*District 22D – DG Dave Mitchell, Lion Paul Settelmeyer,
PDG’s John Shwed & Mary Lee Phillips*

*District 22W – DG Charles Croft, Lion Jack Niemiec,
PDG’s Evan Gillett & Susan Bonura*

*Wilmer Representatives – Dr. Judy Goldstein,
Dr. Gislin Dagnelie, Lion, & Kyoko Fujiwara*

*Executive Committee – Chair PDG Wayne Cole, Vice Chair
PCC Dee Hawkins, Immediate Past Chair Larry Burton,
Secretary PDG Evan Gillett & Treasurer Lion Paul
Leatherman*

*Board Advisors – PIP Clem Kusiak, PID’s Richard Liebno,
Ted Reiver & Joseph Gaffigan*



The second tour is scheduled for the Hampton National Historic site.



Hampton National Historic Site, in the Hampton area north of Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland, is a preserved remnant of a vast 18th-century estate,

including a Georgian manor house, gardens and grounds. The estate was owned by the Ridgely family for seven generations, from 1745 to 1948. The Hampton Mansion was the largest private home in America when it was completed in 1790 and today is considered to be one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the U.S. Its furnishings, and other preserved structures, provide insight into the life of late 18th-century and early 19th-century landowning aristocracy. In 1948, Hampton was the first site selected as a National Historical Site for its architectural significance by the U.S. National Park Service. The grounds were widely admired in the 19th century for their elaborate parterres or formal gardens, which have been restored to resemble their appearance during the 1820s. Several trees are more than 200 years old.



Gunther Charters was founded in 1989 by Martin and Laurie Gunther. They started with five motor coaches and built their business on a foundation of customer service and

reliable transportation. Since then, the company has grown to 23 motor coaches and has become one of the premier motor coach companies in the Mid-Atlantic region. Gunther Charters is an industry leader in package tours. Our tour division develops over 200 group and retail tours per year to a variety of the most interesting and desirable destinations imaginable.

Thank you to Tour Chair **PDG Barbara Brimigion** who has secured and is sponsoring the Bus Service for these events.

Get Excited!! Plan your experience

Friday evening - August 12, 2022

**Welcome and Dinner with Lions Clubs
International President Brian Sheehan
Social/cocktails 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm**

Saturday – August 13, 2022

**Breakfast with guest speaker Don Newberry
8:00am**

**Special Olympics/Leo’s United Sports (Bocce)
event at Towson University
11:00am to 4:00pm**

**Special Tour to Wilmer Eye Institute, LVRF
11:00am to 4:00pm**

**Dinner, let your hair down
Social 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm**

**The Fabulous HubCaps Entertainment
7:00pm to 11:30pm**

**Additional tour is being scheduled at Hampton
National Historic Site, an 18th Century estate.**

**Service Projects will be available 24 hours a day at
the Delta Hotel as well as some at the Towson
University event.**

**Our Historical Rooms will be available to visit
during the entire event at the Delta Hotel.**

Your Multiple District 22 Coordinators

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