



Delaware Lions Foundation

The Foundation's Flame

The blue flame represents the intensity, efficiency, stability, adaptability, and cooperation with which we dedicate ourselves to the Mission of The Delaware Lions Foundation.

Volume III, Issue 1
Summer 2009



A Message From Our New President

It is truly an honor for me to serve as President of the Delaware Lions (DLF) for the Lion year 2009 -2010. It will be a tough job following Past District Governor John Shwed, who served the Foundation with distinction for years, most of those years as President. Lion John really loved DLF, which was evident by his enthusiasm and dedication. We all owe PDG John a depth of gratitude for his many years of service and wish him the very best with his future endeavors.

As we approach this new Lion year, the challenges the Lions, Lioness, and Leo Clubs face to help those in need promises to be more challenging than ever. The economic climate continues to strain budgets, especially those with limited resources. We will be called upon to help more citizens than we have ever helped before, and I know the Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs will meet the challenge, as you have always done in the past.

The Delaware Lions Foundation, YOUR FOUNDATION, is ready to assist the Lions, Lioness, and Leo Clubs by means of the matching grant program and has budgeted \$40,000 for the upcoming year. Last year a total of 30 grants were awarded totaling \$32,408.25. This represented a total value for service projects of \$90,880.58 for the citizens of Delaware. I encourage all clubs to use this valuable resource to help with their service projects.

Your foundation also will award eight James A. McCarty scholarships to worthy public high school students next spring. More information and scholarship applications will be available in November. The DLF also has an emergency disaster grant program, which can grant \$500 immediately upon request to any club who is helping with a disaster in their community.

The funds used to make this all possible come from the generous donations of clubs in the form of Ralph Helm Fellows, which support the matching grant program, and James A. McCarty Fellowships, which are used to fund the scholarship program. Other donations from businesses and individuals also contribute funds to support the DLF Foundation.

Two special DLF fundraisers also contribute considerable funds to help support the DLF Foundation: Walk for Sight, which will be held on October 11, 2009, and the Auction for Sight, which will be held on October 18, 2009. Please help support these two great events. You can get more information on these events by going to the DLF web site at delawarelionsfoundation.org.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Delaware Lions Foundation and look forward to a great year in Lionism.

I would also like to thank all the Lions who serve on the Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work and look forward to working with them.

Yours in Service to others,
PDG Donald F. LeCates, Jr.

Inside this issue:

A Message from our new President 1

The Lions Foundation 2009-2010 Officers 2

Interview with Immediate Past President John Shwed 3

Walk for Sight 4

Auction 4

Grants and Loans Report 5

Scholarship Winners 5

Meetings Calendar



Delaware Lions Foundation

OFFICERS / DIRECTORS / APPOINTEES

President: PCC Don LeCates – Claymont Lions Club
Vice President: DG Lee Bird – Claymont Lions Club
Secretary: PCS BJ Ryder – Frederica Spring Creek Lions
Treasurer: 2nd VDG Mike Hlavac – New Castle Hundred Lions

DLF Directors

DG Lee Bird – Claymont Lions Club
1st VDG Karl Gude – Lord Baltimore Lions Club
IPDG Bob Daniels - Clayton Lions Club

New Castle County

3 year 2nd VDG Mike Hlavac – New Castle Hundred Lions Club
2 year PCC Don LeCates – Claymont Lions Club
1 year PDG Ted Reiver – Talleyville-Naamans Lions Club

Kent County

3 year PCS BJ Ryder – Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club
2 year Lion Bryant T. Bell – Dover Lions Club
1 year PDG Ralph Schieferstein – Dover Lions Club

Sussex County

3 year Lion Jim Littleton - Laurel Lions Club
2 year PDG Charles Covington – Georgetown Lions Club
1 year Lion Bailey Maul – Lewes Lions Club

Appointees:

PDG Jack Brinckmeyer – Rehoboth Beach Lions Club
PDG Dr. Hubert “Mike” Mock – Milton Lions Club
Lion Jan McCarty – Millsboro Lions Club
PCT Janet Brown – Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club
Lion Tom Ramsay – Claymont Lions Club
Lion Ned Brown – Wilmington Gateway Lions
Lion Jillian Queen - DLF Newsletter Editor – Laurel Lions Club
Lion Sheila Schieferstein – Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club
PDG Keith Thompson – Glasgow Lions Club

I had the opportunity to interview the immediate Past President of the Delaware Lions Foundation in April 2009 prior to his lovely, wife, Bobbie's illness. We discussed his presidency which spanned nine years and the development of the DLF within those years. It is with great appreciation that I present:

An Interview with John Shwed, Past President, DLF

Editor Jill: How long have you been associated with the Delaware Lions Foundation?

John Shwed: I have enjoyed a long association with the organization beginning with a stint as Treasurer in 1989 and 1990. Next I was asked to serve as Chairman of the Grants and Loans Committee in 1998 and 1999. In July of 1999, at the urging of two visionary leaders, PID Ralph Helm and PID Jim McCarty, my name was placed in nomination for President. It has been my privilege and honor to have served in that capacity through June 30, 2009.

Editor Jill: What impact do you believe you had on the organization?

John Shwed: I believe I have some organizational development talent. I believe in a participative management style which brings out the best ideas and results in an organization. During my tenure as President I placed several ideas before the Board of Directors and after hearty and rigorous debate; I am pleased that they accepted most of them and ran with them. During my tenure, I was pleased to serve with many Directors who served enthusiastically and with distinction.

One of the key strategic recommendations was changing the name and expanding the mission of the organization. I had always felt that our former name limited our service opportunities. Changing the organization's name to simply the Delaware Lions Foundation from the former Delaware Lions Sight and Hearing Conservation Foundation resulted in a significant change to the organization. If one looks at the range of service projects the DLF has supported over the past several years one can see how the range of services to our member Clubs and the people of Delaware has been greatly enhanced.

I believe I helped the organization to grow and mature. I felt we needed to "brand the organization" so it would have its own, unique identity, especially in the eyes of the general public.

The DLF Directors through their committees have developed a logo which is now being used very effectively on written materials and merchandise.

As our clubs mature and face increased demands on their financial resources I believe they will turn to the DLF more frequently for financial help. To prepare for that day, I recommended to the Board that we begin a low key capital campaign to raise \$2 million in 10 years – target completion date 2014. Current assets are just over \$400,000 so the organization is approaching 25% of goal. To accomplish this objective I recommended that our Development Committee create a set of professional looking marketing materials for presentations to external, non-Lion organizations. I am pleased to report that the Reverend Charles Covington and Director Karl Gude used these new materials a few weeks ago in their presentation about the DLF to the Sussex County Council. I see this as the first of many presentations to come. Based on my previous fund-raising experience with other Lions projects if the DLF is to meet its multi-million goal, generous donations in the form of personal gifts, estate bequests, business grants; etc. will be required. Believe me; those gifts will come when the DLF story of service is told to the right people.

In my quest to help the DLF increase its assets I suggested to the Board that we create a special fund-raising project. We agreed on setting up a walk on the track at Dover Downs International Speedway. The inaugural walk was dubbed the "Walk for Delaware". To promote this event, PDG Doug Carey led a contingent of walkers north from Delmar to the Track and PDG Don Lecates led a contingent south from Claymont to the Track. At the same time, former Lions Frank and Angela Lucas suggested we established a charitable auction. These two events have now evolved into the annual "Walk for Sight" and the annual "Auction for Sight". For the past few years these new projects have generated over \$20,000 annually for the DLF.

An Interview with John Shwed, Past President, DLF

(continued from page 3)

I was pleased to help PDG Doug Carey implement his idea of establishing a Jim McCarty Fellowship within District 22-D. I recommended that we incorporate his concept into the DLF. Funds donated in memory of PID Jim McCarty are now supporting several \$1000 scholarships awarded annually to worthy students in Delaware's public high schools.

Editor Jill: What future challenges do you see?

John Shwed: A few years ago I recommended to the Directors that the organization establish an office to further enhance its image before the public. My vision was to open a DLF office in the Dover area which could also be used for District meetings and for storage of District historical records. Before they passed away, PID Ralph Helm and PID Jim McCarty were also supportive of this idea. The Development Committee made some preliminary site studies but then we put this idea on the back burner. I still believe this is a good idea and that the organization should start small, buy some land, and then construct a building in phases as the budget grows. I believe Lions would contribute to this proposed building project.

I proposed also that our long term McCarty scholarship challenge should be to award annually a Jim McCarty scholarship in each Delaware public high school. In time, I believe that is doable and it would be a tremendous tribute to a great Delaware Lion leader just like growth in our Ralph Helm Fellowship program has enabled us to provide several thousand dollars annually in grant assistance to local clubs.

Editor Jill: Your final thoughts?

John Shwed: I believe the organization is limited only by its imagination and its financial resources. In my view the possibilities for new service opportunities are endless.

I am thankful that I had the opportunity to serve, I believe I fulfilled my pledge to my mentors, PID Ralph and PID Jim, and I wish President Don Lecates and the Board of Directors continued success as they begin the 2009-2010 year.



Walk for Sight

The Delaware Lions Foundation's 7th Annual Walk for Sight will be held on October 11, 2009 at Dover International Speedway. Registration starts at Noon and the Walk will begin at 1PM. More details will be available shortly on the web site. Everyone with a minimum pledge of \$25 will receive a specially designed t-shirt. Come out and join us.



AUCTION

A Public Auction sponsored by the Delaware Lions Foundation will be held on October 18, 2009 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. Silent Auction will be from Noon to 2:00 PM. Review of auction items will begin at Noon and the live auction will start at 1:00 PM. A list of auction items will be posted shortly on the DLF Website. Please bring a friend and join us for a fun afternoon.



GRANTS AND LOANS REPORT

- Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club - Camper Sponsorship for Local Blind Child
- Claymont Lions Club - Video Eye Machine for Local Library
- Laurel Lions Club - Hearing Aid for Laurel Resident
- Milford Lions Club - Hearing Aids for Area Residents
- Claymont Lions Club - Laptop Computer for Blind Student
- Wilmington Manor Lions Club - Onyx Pulse Oximeters for Colonial School District
- Lord Baltimore Lions Club - Optilec Clear View Magnifier for Local Library
- Laurel Lions Club - Titmus Vision Screener for Laurel Elementary School
- Midway Lions Club - Optilec Clear View Magnifier
- Delaware City Lions Club - Wheelchair Lift for Minivan for Disabled Area Child
- Fenwick Island Lions Club - Pre-school vision screening supplies
- Murderkill Lions Club - Hearing aids
- Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club - Monocular Biotopic Lens
- Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club - Eye exams and glasses
- Clayton Lions Club - Wheelchair ramp
- Laurel Lioness Club - Blue Sky Puppet Show
- Seaford Lions Club - Eye exams and glasses
- Capitol City Lions Club - Eye exams and glasses
- Capitol City Lions Club - Christmas Food Baskets
- Talleyville - Naamans Lions Club - Eye exams and glasses
- Talleyville - Naamans Lions Club - Camp Sunnybrook Campership
- Middletown Lions Club - Storage shed
- Harrington Lions Club - Wheelchair ramp
- Milford Lions Club - HOBY Project
- Region II, Zone 1 - Sure Sight Vision Screener
- Region II, Zone 2 - Sure Sight Vision Screener
- Camden Wyoming Lions Club - Therapeutic Horse Riding program at Charlton
- Region III, Zone 2 - Sure Sight Vision Screener
- Laurel Lions Club—Smartboard for elementary school

2009 DLF Scholarship Winners

The Delaware Lions Foundation are pleased and proud to name their James A. McCarty Scholarships winners for 2009. They are:

Rebecca Godwin and Lauren Boyle from Milford High School

Hannah Ostroff from Dover High School

Zachary Cain from Seaford High School

Amanda Brittian and Kerri Bailey from Cape Henlopen High School

Rachel Horsey from Sussex Central High School

Colleen Claire Ruoff from Brandywine High School

Send noteworthy articles to:

The Foundation's Flame

laurellionjill@comcast.net

DATE AND TIME
OF DLF MEETINGS

September 30, 2009
November 18, 2009
January 27, 2010
March 31, 2010
May 26, 2010

**History of the
Lions Foundation**

Lion Delegates to the 2001 Convention approved the current mission statement and name change to the Delaware Lions Foundation, Inc. These organizational changes were made to provide more opportunities for local clubs to serve their communities in addition to their support of the traditional sight and hearing projects.

The Delaware Lions Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1973 as the Delaware Lions Sight and Hearing Conservation Foundation, Inc. The original purpose was to provide sight and hearing testing services and equipment to be used by the Lions of Delaware. Towards that end, a Sightmobile was built and traveled up and down the State for several years. When the trailer was abandoned, the equipment was loaned to Lions Clubs to be used to conduct sight and hearing screening programs for students and other Delawareans.

Our Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Delaware Lions Foundation is to support the Lions Clubs of Delaware in their humanitarian service to Delawareans through matching grants and to provide educational scholarships for Public High School seniors residing in Delaware.