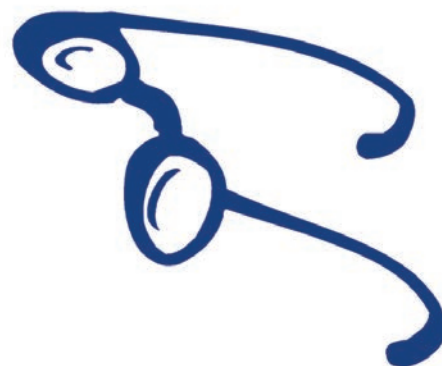


The Spectacle



A publication of the

***Minnesota Lions
Vision Foundation***

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

Lions Children's Eye Clinic

The MAC

Used Eyeglass Recycling

**Fund to Prevent Blindness
in Infants & Children**



Spring 2013

LCI First Vice President Barry Palmer Visits Minnesota

Barry J. Palmer, of Berowra, New South Wales, Australia, was the guest of honor at Multiple District 5M's annual convention in Rochester, Minn., the first week of May 2013. Lion Barry is First Vice President of Lions Clubs International and will assume LCI's highest office July 1, that of president. His presence was a great honor for the Lions of Minnesota, Manitoba, and northwest Ontario.

Lion Barry and his wife, Lion Anne, arrived for the convention on Thursday, and they were able to spend a few hours at the University of Minnesota, learning about the many ways that Minnesota Lions support the sight and hearing work that is occurring at the University.

Vice President Barry was given a warm welcome by International Director Brian Sheehan and his wife Lion Lori, as well as representatives from the University of Minnesota Foundation, the MD5M Council, the 5M Hearing Foundation, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, the Department of Otolaryngology, the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences, and the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

After lunch at the University's Campus Club, Vice President Barry and Lion Anne were taken to the Lions Eye and Ear Institute, where they were treated to a tour of the Lions Children's Hearing and ENT Clinic and the Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic. These two beautiful clinics opened in their current location at the Park Plaza

Palmer Visit continued on page 7

Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament Won't See 39th Year

After 38 years of featuring the state's best amateur baseball, after raising \$370,000 for the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the University of Minnesota, and after launching Terry Steinbach, Kent Hrbek, Tim Laudner, Joe Mauer, and others on their big league careers, the Minnesota Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament is retiring from active play. Tournament co-founder, PDG Lion Bob Wharton shared this letter with his fellow Lions.

THE FINAL OUT

The Minnesota Lions All Star Baseball Tournament has gone up to bat for the final time. For 38 years, the partnership of the Minnesota Lions and the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches has showcased the best Minnesota high school baseball players and raised funds for eye research at the University of Minnesota. The coaches group has decided to go a different route with corporate sponsorship in place of the Lions organization providing volunteers, financial support, and off-field management of the tournament. The tournament has raised in excess of \$370,000 for the Lions Eye Bank (Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation) over the years. The last 10 years the funds have been directed to pediatric eye research at the University of Minnesota.

The tournament committee would like to thank all the clubs, volunteers, and members that have worked to make a success of this project. The number of players, families, coaches, and school staff that have been introduced to the Lions of Minnesota is counted in the thousands. The project has always been run as a class project showing the Lions and volunteerism in the best light. And we hope this has been reflected in your communities.

Since the Vision Foundation has regularly counted on the funds from the tournament to schedule funding of different projects at the Department of Ophthalmology, it is hoped that if your club has budgeted for a yearly contribution to the tournament that you will forward that money to your District's Vision Foundation Director as a donation.

Again, thank you to all that have supported and worked on this statewide Lions project.

Minnesota Lions All Star Baseball Committee

Lion Jerry McCauley

Lion Bill Bard

Lion Bob Wharton

Lion Tom Waldren

Lion Darwin's Service to Humanity Lives On



Lion Darwin Mathwig was born, raised, and lived most of his life in a fifty-square-mile area of southern Minnesota. (When you find something good, don't let it go!) The seventh of nine children in a loving and close-knit farm family, Darwin and his wife of 37 years, Nancy, passed on the importance of family

to their three children. They also passed on the importance of service to others.

Throughout his adult life, Darwin was committed to helping wherever there was a need, whether in the local community or beyond, and his volunteerism is impressive. Darwin served:

- on the Arlington Baseball Board;
- on the Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce;
- on the Sibley Medical Center Foundation Board;
- on the Sibley East Music Boosters; and
- on various committees for town celebrations.

Darwin was also a 17-year member of the Arlington Ambulance service, was a retired 20-year member of the Arlington Fire Department, and spent nine years on the Arlington City Council. But foremost in Darwin's life of service was his 31-year dedication to the Arlington Lions Club.

Darwin was a consummate Lion. He held many club offices and was honored to serve as Governor for Lions District 5M2, which encompasses 63 Lions clubs in south central Minnesota. During this time, Darwin's message to the clubs of 5M2 focused on the importance of each member's unique contribution, whether small or large, to the success of the club. "Darwin was always thinking of new ways to promote the community and the Lions organization," said Nancy Mathwig.

Darwin was the Multiple District's Youth Exchange Chair for six years, helping to bring students from other countries to Arlington and other host homes in Minnesota and Manitoba. Never one to expect more from others than himself, Dar-

win and his family personally hosted 20 students through the Lions Youth Exchange program, and Darwin's love for the program was evidenced by the week he spent, every year, with youth from around the world at Minnesota's Camp Spicer.

Darwin was only 58 when he lost his life to pancreatic cancer. Those who knew Darwin remember him as someone who easily made friends through his community, business, and volunteer activities. He touched so many lives, often without realizing it. Certainly that was the case with Darwin's final act of service—giving the gift of sight.

On the day of this death, Darwin donated his eyes to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank. The donation was gratefully received by a University of Minnesota researcher studying glaucoma, as well as cornea dystrophy (deterioration) and fibrosis (thickening and scarring). Untold numbers can see today because of past contributions to research.

A truly good man, Darwin's work with the Lions was in keeping with his life's philosophy, and he was proud to be known as a Lion. The Lions were equally proud of Darwin, and on May 4, 2013, he was inducted into Multiple District 5M Lions Hall of Fame. This honor is bestowed on a Lions or Lioness member of character and substance who has demonstrated the highest level of commitment and dedication to the efforts of his or her club, district, or multiple district and to the Lions motto, "We Serve."

Darwin's life was one of service, and through the many lives he bettered, as well as the selfless donation of his eyes, Darwin still serves.



Lion Darwin proudly bears the American flag at the 2009 Lions International Convention parade in Minneapolis.

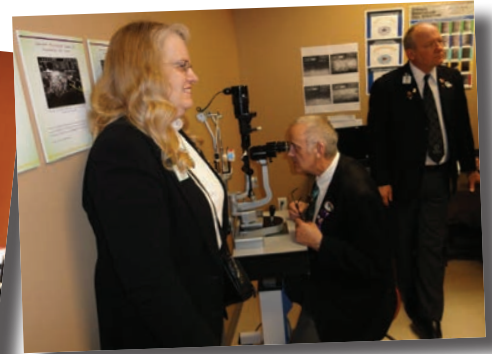
District Governors-Elect Receive Eye Banking 101

On March 13, the future leaders of MD5M and their partners in service visited the Lions Children's Eye Clinic, the Lions Children's Hearing and ENT Clinic, and the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank to learn more about the Lions partnership with the University of Minnesota. Minnesota Lions Eye Bank staff spent the afternoon with this next group of Lions leaders and enjoyed showing them the exciting work being accomplished at the eye bank.

Congratulations to: Earl Orvik (5M1), Joan Blank (5M2), John Myers (5M3), Skipp Timmins (5M4), Sonjia Wagner (5M5), Paul Kowitz (5M6), Norm Kelzenberg (5M7), Donna Mae Landwehr



Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Research Coordinator Sung Lee explains what District Governor-Elect Joan Blank sees through the teaching microscope.



Lion Connie Myers (left), District Governor-Elect John Myers (looking through the slit lamp microscope), and Lion Kevin Blank (right) in the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank tissue evaluation area.

(5M8), Donald Hendrickx (5M9), Larry Winner (5M10), Doug Wiens (5M11), and Lloyd McCabe (5M13).

Eye bank staff and Vision Foundation directors look forward to working with you.

Eye Bank 2012 Recap

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank (MLEB) had a very good 2012, and the staff are grateful to the Lions for the support that contributed to that success. Here are some eye bank highlights:

- MLEB installed new lab equipment for processing research tissue in partnership with University scientists. This equipment improved the research tissue preparation process by virtually eliminating samples lost to contamination. It also allowed researchers to create a cell culture processing area at the eye bank.
- MLEB is installing equipment and training staff to prepare corneal tissue for a type of corneal transplant called Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty or DMEK. DMEK tissue is very thin, involving just the two inner layers of the cornea, and patients who have DMEK transplants generally have better sight after surgery (at least 20/25) than those who have other corneal transplant surgeries. Because of this advantage to patients, many surgeons are starting to perform DMEK transplants.

- MLEB was the first organization recognized by the Phillips Eye Institute Foundation for sharing the foundation's mission and purpose to further eye care excellence, education, research, and community involvement.

For more than 50 years, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has helped to improve the quality of lives through eye donation. A recognized leader nationally and internationally, the eye bank has now provided more than 27,000 corneas for transplant and 23,000 eyes for research and medical education.

Thank you to the Lions for their ongoing support of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank through financial donations and through encouraging people to become eye donors after death.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank 2012 Statistics

Eye or Cornea Donors	1,628
Corneas Provided for Transplant	1,107
Sclera Provided for Transplant	69
Cornea / Eyes Provided for Research	871
Cornea / Eyes Provided for Training	742

Brian Salisbury Receives Eye Bank Volunteer Award



The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has awarded Brian Salisbury the 2012 Betty Walen Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. One of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank's longest-serving volunteers, Lion Brian has been rolling up his sleeves and lending a hand to the eye bank since 1990, and he is well deserving of recognition.

Brian comes to the eye bank with a unique perspective and more ties to the eye bank than the average volunteer or average Lions club member. Why? Because Brian suffers from a degenerative corneal disease called keratoconus, and he has had his sight saved by corneal transplants.

Volunteering at the eye bank is one way Brian expresses his gratitude for his restored vision.

Recruited by eye bank volunteer Betty Walen (herself a corneal recipient), Brian has now assisted the eye bank for nearly a quarter century. He has served as a tour guide for

the biannual Lions tours of the Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota. He has recounted his transplant experience to many community groups and at Lions conventions. Brian has been captured on film for eye bank public service announcements, educational videos, and a national television piece. He has served as a greeter at Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

open houses and has represented the eye bank at many events, highlighting the eye bank, eye donation, and the benefits of corneal transplants. In addition, Brian offers to speak to potential corneal transplant recipients, answering questions, sharing his perspective.

In 2001, Brian decided he wanted to become a Lions club member. "When you can't see and then suddenly you can, you want to help others,"

he explained. "I saw what the Lions had done for me, and I decided to pay them back."

The Lions honored Brian by appointing him to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank board of directors, an appointment he held for six years, the maximum time allowed.

Brian continues to volunteer whenever he can and, in 2009, was brought even closer to the eye bank when he became a



Brian flanked by fellow Rogers Lions club members Brian Busch (left) and Clark Kreider (right).



Brian in Japan, visiting a tribute to eye donors erected by the Kyoto East Lions Club.

donor family member. His son, AJ, aged 24, lost his life to a rare form of cancer and donated his eyes to the eye bank. While nothing makes up for the loss of AJ, Brian and his wife, Marcy, take comfort in knowing that AJ helped those in need just as others helped restore Brian's own sight.

Brian's volunteer hours cannot accurately be counted, but many hundreds would not be an exaggeration, and the eye bank is deeply grateful to be in the forefront of Brian's service career.

Vision Foundation Board Members Retire, Pass the Torch

Ten directors will retire from the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation board at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2013). Coming off the board are: PDG Al Fravert (5M-1), PDG Bob Thoma (5M-3), Vice Chair PDG Kent Beissel and PDG Jerry Miller (5M-4), Chair PDG Lynn Farley (5M-6), PDG Larry Kounkel (5M-7), PDG Bob Hoofnagle (5M-8), Lion Sandy Palmer (5M-10), and Lion Mike Griffin and PDG Jim Strandlie (5M-11).



Lion Sandy Palmer, PDG Bob Hoofnagle, PDG Jerry Miller, PDG Larry Kounkel, PDG Lynn Farley, PDG Al Fravert, PDG Jim Strandlie, and PDG Kent Beissel with appreciation plaques given at the April 6 board of directors meeting. Also retiring from the board but not pictured are Lion Mike Griffin and PDG Bob Thoma.

Joining the board in July are the following Lions:

District 5M-1

PDG Joe Schlichenmeyer

District 5M-4

Lion Joe Gilman

Lion Robert Grover

District 5M-7

PDG Paul Hansen

District 5M-10

Lion Brian Maki

PDG Jeannine Windels

District 5M-3

PDG LeRoy Levorson

District 5M-6

Lion Dennis Kelly

District 5M-8

PDG Dave Thompson

District 5M-11

Lion Russ McDougall

At the final board meeting of the fiscal year on Saturday, April 6, in St. Cloud, the Vision Foundation directors elected **PDG Dave Moen** from Burnsville as incoming chair and **PDG Roger Badenhop** from Minnetonka as vice chair. **PDG Frank Loreno** was reappointed as board treasurer and **PCC Mike Molenda** as legal consultant. **Secretary PDG Mary Ferleman** was reappointed as secretary, but has announced her plans to retire in June 2014. **Lion Brian Salisbury** from Maple Grove will become the new Vision Foundation secretary at that time. A complete list of Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation directors with contact information, will be found at www.MnLionsVisionFoundation.org.

Meet Dave Moen, Chair-Elect

PDG Lion Dave Moen is a member of the Burnsville Lions club, along with his partner-in-service, Lion Terrie. A Lion for 14 years, he served as District Governor for 5M-6 in 2007-2008.

Dave originally became a Lion because he felt that everyone should participate and volunteer in their community. When asked why he is serving on the Vision Foundation board, he responded, "My club toured the eye bank shortly after I became a Lion. The tour convinced me that this was an organization that I could and should support. Serving on the board is one of the highlights of my Lions career."

Lion Dave is a retired tax audit manager. In addition to his Lions work, he enjoys woodworking, golf, fishing, and collecting model cars and trucks. Congratulations, Lion Dave!



Palmer Visit continued from page 1

Building in 2011, thanks to generous donations from Lions club members. Vice President Barry expressed his admiration for what is being accomplished in Multiple District 5M.



First Vice President Lion Barry Palmer and Lion Anne Palmer, proudly displaying "Beat Michigan" and "Beat Wisconsin" pins, are made honorary Minnesota Gophers.



Dr. Alejandra Decanini Mancera visits with PDG Lion Lynn Farley, Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation chair, and Lions International Vice President Barry Palmer at the Lions Children's Eye Clinic.



Among the group that toured the University of Minnesota and shared information on the many ways that Minnesota Lions advance medical knowledge and patient care at the University are pictured (from back left) Lion Chuck Semrow (development director, University of Minnesota Foundation), PDG Lion Frank Loken (chair, MD5M Hearing Foundation), PDG Lion Judy Loken, Lion Dr. Deb Ferrington (professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences), Lion Sara McFee (communications director, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank), Lion Erin Beck, Council Chair Lion Bruce Beck, PDG Lion Carol Farley, PDG Lion Lynn Farley (chair, Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation), Lion Dr. Sam Levine (professor, Department of Otolaryngology), First Vice President Lion Barry Palmer, Lion Anne Palmer, Lion Lori Sheehan, and International Director Lion Brian Sheehan.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank
University of Minnesota
1000 Westgate Dr Ste 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90155

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation helps improve vision by providing fiscal oversight and operating funds for the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, by raising funds for University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology priorities, by educating the public about eye donation, and by supporting other vision-related projects.

The Spectacle newsletter is a publication of the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation sent to Minnesota Lions club presidents and other Lions leaders. Contact the editor with your questions and comments.

Articles are available in alternate formats and may be copied with attribution to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation.

www.MnLionsVisionFoundation.org
Toll free: 1-866-88-SIGHT

Editor: Lion Jennifer Marshall
Phone: 612-626-6081
E-mail: mader005@umn.edu

Calendar

2013

July 5-9

Lions Clubs International Convention - Hamburg, Germany

Saturday, July 20

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - Twin Cities

September 9-21

USA/Canada Leadership Forum - Overland Park, Kansas

August 22 - September 2

Minnesota State Fair

Saturday, October 5

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - St. Cloud

Saturday, October 12

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

Saturday, October 26

Thanksgiving for Vision - Brooklyn Center