



Vol. XXVI, No. 8

# Fenwick Island Lions Club Lions Roar Newsletter



Mar. 2013

Serving Fenwick Island, Roxana, So. Bethany & Selbyville

## President's Message

### “Beware the Ides of March”

In my youth these words of Shakespeare used to be printed and quoted constantly during the month of March forewarning all of the 15<sup>th</sup>, which was the Income Tax deadline day. Someone changed the date to the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, so now you can take more time to gather your deductions and file your returns.

We, in the Fenwick Island Lions Club, need to work on the old time frame and file our intentions to fill a job for the coming year during the month of March.

You gather your papers to complete your taxes – now gather your thoughts and reasons for joining this club. You joined because you felt the need to help your fellow man. You wanted to find a way to “give back” and you joined with those who felt the same way you did about helping others. Well, you joined the right group! The Lions, and particularly this club, are a very giving and hard working group of caring people! Welcome aboard!!!

I am sure you realize by now that we are a purely volunteer organization, which is dependent on all of its members for its success. Over the

years we have always had members willing to step forward into the various positions of leadership. Before you say that you are too busy or not skilled enough to be a leader of a committee or serve on the Board, think about how you could use your skills and knowledge to serve our organization and our community—recognizing that to do so also brings its own rewards. *(Cont'd next page.)*



~Fenwick Island Lions Club Board of Directors~  
Can you guess the year and name the names?

## Mark Your Calendar!

**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting** 12 Noon Harpoon Hanna's

**Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting** 12 Noon Harpoon Hanna's

**Saturday March 23<sup>th</sup> Delaware DNREC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Dune Planting** 9 AM... Details to follow...

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting** 4 PM Fenwick Island Town Hall

**Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> LeaderDog Dinner** 6 PM Cheer Community Center Georgetown  
\$22 per person (Reservations by March 16<sup>th</sup>)

How many times have you said to yourself “what if we did it this way instead of that way.” Being a member of the Board or a committee chair gives you a better chance to develop your ideas and in so doing fulfill your reasons for becoming a Lion. Please look over the list of Board jobs and Committee Chairs (page 5 of the directory) and find how best you can serve.

I had no plans to be King Lion. I have always had a fear of public speaking. I was talked into this job by some of your fellow Lions and it has helped me grow as a Lion and as a person.

I have enjoyed doing this and know that after you start a job with this club the support that your fellow members give very freely will keep you on the right track and allow you to try some new things. I had very little knowledge of what this job entailed and you, as a club, helped me learn what to do and kept me from making too many mistakes. Thanks !!!!

When you take the job on the Board or as a Committee Chair this club will support you all the way. We need to have you step forward and take on a new job so that our club can continue to grow.

This message is not just directed to our newer members it applies to our more mature members. I know that you have served in the past but you are still a member, you still are capable of doing another job or a job you did before and this time you will do it better because you have prior knowledge. Hopefully you will decide to step forward and volunteer to fill a vacant job, or if you are approached you will agree to try the offered job. Try it—you might like it!!

I know that, as a member of this club, you will do what needs to be done to keep this club moving forward to better serve our community. Remember, We Serve!

My Best to all,  
KL Jean

PS. I will ask Bruce to send/bring a list of open positions for his Board to the first meeting in March.

### Grotto Community Pizza Night

Recently we received a check from Grotto Pizza for our supper fundraiser held in December. This money will be used to help defray the costs of the Club. Thanks to all those who came out to support this effort and to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Lions.



### Fenwick Island Lions Club

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## A Report from the Indian River High School LEO Club

By Laura Quillen

The IRHS LEOS were extremely active during the beginning of the school year with annual activities like creating Christmas ornaments, assisting with the Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, and participating in the Selbyville Halloween parade. We also added a few new and exciting activities such as our extremely successful children's book drive and an item drive benefitting the Ronald McDonald House. We are very proud of our accomplishments and thrilled at the activities that we have planned for the spring!

We have had a few requests to help John M. Clayton Elementary school with a few of their extracurricular activities and have been able to provide assistance on two occasions. In March, we plan to help with their annual "March Madness" event as face painters, ticket takers, and snack sellers while the students enjoy a fun filled day with a carnival feel.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of 9 students as well as Mrs. Quillen will be traveling to A.I. DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware to spend a few hours with the patients. We have planned a springtime craft and are prepared to participate in our fair share of table tennis all the while lifting the spirits of any children who are interested in joining. To continue our push for reading, in addition to celebrating his birthday, we will also be donating newly purchased Dr. Seuss books to each of the patients who attend and to the hospital as a whole. Closer to home we plan to spread some springtime cheer at the Brandywine Assisted Living facility in Selbyville on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We plan to spend a couple of hours with the residents helping them create spring lilies with their handprints.

These activities, in addition to our traditional participation in events such as planting dune grass and serving at the pancake breakfast are sure to keep our spring jam packed with excitement. That said, there's always room for one more ; ) We hope to send our seniors off with one last get together on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and for this, we could use your help!

As a club we plan to adopt a garden at Ingram's Pond Outdoor Education Facility in Millsboro, Delaware. On that Saturday before Labor Day we have planned an outdoor picnic/workday. We will spend a portion of the time replenishing and creating a garden that we can call our own project for the future. After the work has been completed we will put the shovels and rakes aside to celebrate an awesome year!

## Region 3, Zone 2 Preschool Vision Screening

By Jim & Carol Miles

The Lord Baltimore and Millsboro Lions Clubs have completed their vision screening for the year and our club and the Laurel Lions Club are working toward completion, with another five venues remaining.

We weren't able to begin our screenings until November as we were waiting for the delivery of our new Pediavision "Spot" vision screening machine. The "Spot" is of a new generation of machines, which provides:

- Refractive measurements that identify vision problems for nearsightedness (**myopia**), farsightedness (**hyperopia**), and astigmatism (**blurred vision**);
- Binocular gaze measurements to assess amblyopic precursors (**strabismus, eye turns**); and
- Automated comparative analysis for unequal refractive power (**anisometropia**) and unequal pupil size (**anisocoria**).

As of Mid-February, the region has completed screenings involving 611 preschool and kindergarten children. Of this number, 132 have been referred for further testing.



The nurse at North Georgetown has informed us that the “SPOT” is working perfectly. She has heard from nine parents of referred children. All nine have needed glasses. The parents and the nurse are overjoyed with our efforts. She would like us to consider doing other grades as well.

We have made up a form for parents to give to their eye doctors and then return to the school nurse.

We have sold the Zone’s Welch-Allen screening device to the Wilmington-Gateway Lions Club for \$1000.00. The check was made out to the Fenwick Island Lions Club and is now resting in our “Zone Screening Account” until disposition is decided.

## Meet our New Members, Laura Quillen and Amy Hughes

Lions District 22-D Region Chair Fran Pretty inducted Laura Quillen and Amy Hughes into our membership at the January 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting. We are delighted to welcome these two talented ladies into our Lions family. They bring with them a desire to serve their community with their youth, energy, enthusiasm and great ideas...

The past year, they have been the very active advisors to the Indian River LEO Club, which now boasts a membership of 168 high school age youth. *(See separate story on page 3 highlighting what has been accomplished this year and what is planned for the future.)*

### Laura Quillen

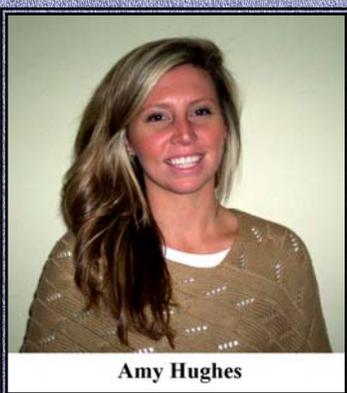
Laura was born in Silver Spring, Maryland and raised in Fenwick Island, Delaware. She graduated from Indian River High School and the University of Delaware. She currently teaches math at the Indian River High School. She is married to Andrew and has a young son, Brady James. Laura loves music, reading, the beach and spending time with Brady and “seeing how quickly he changes.”

She also has a special interest in the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, DE and the Ronald McDonald House and has shared her enthusiasm with members of the LEO Club. This past summer Laura was asked to be involved with the prestigious **Delaware Governor's School for Excellence**, a one-week summer residential program that brings together academically and artistically talented Delaware high school students. This past fall she, along with Amy, brought their great talent, enthusiasm and excitement to the **First Annual LEO Leadership Bash At**



Laura Quillen

**The Beach**, which was held at Dewey Beach.



Amy Hughes

### Amy Hughes

Amy is a native of Delaware, having been born in Milford and raised in Ocean View. Her great-grandfather, Amos McCabe was a member of the Lord Baltimore Lions Club and her father and mother, Bill and Donna Lord are the longtime owners of Lord’s Landscaping on Rte. 26. Amy met Laura when they attended kindergarten together and they have been best friends ever since. Last summer she married Patrick and together they have just acquired their first home.

Amy graduated from Indian River High School, got her degree from the University of Delaware and went on to attain her Masters of Education degree from Wilmington University. She now teaches math at Indian River High School, is involved with the youth group at Mariner’s Bethel United Methodist Church and enjoys running with the Mariner’s Milers and Soul Sister’s running clubs. In her spare time she is the coach of the IRHS Varsity Volleyball team.

**Welcome!**

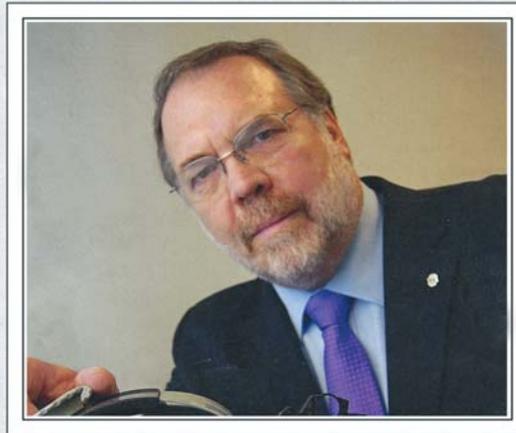
## MD 22 Tackles Low Vision

Ever wonder how our Lions Multiple District came to support low vision research and the **Lions Vision Research Foundation** at Johns Hopkins University? Read Dr. Massoff's article excerpted from the Feb. edition of Lions Clubs International "Lion" Magazine. You should also know that FILC funded an Arnall Patz Fellowship in the name of Noble Simpson.

### A Family That Roars

Dr. Robert Massoff

Baltimore Brooklyn Lions Club, Maryland



In 1985 I was a junior faculty member trying to make my mark at the Wilmer Eye Institute of the Johns Hopkins Medical School in Maryland. My research focused on visual impairments caused by inherited eye diseases. The institute director was Dr. Arnall Patz, a world-famous ophthalmologist yet generous, modest and humble. In the 1950s he had proved that high levels of oxygen given to premature newborns in hospitals caused blindness. Helen Keller personally presented the Lasker Award, the highest honor in American medicine, to Dr. Patz for his landmark discovery that saved countless newborns from blindness.

Dr. Patz always had strong empathy with his patients, most of whom had irreversible visual impairments by the time they were referred to him. He was saddened and frustrated that he could do little to help them return to active, independent lives. Consequently, Dr. Patz made it his mission to create a vision rehabilitation center at the Wilmer Institute dedicated to conducting much needed research and developing effective clinical services for patients with chronic disabling visual impairments, a condition more commonly called low vision.

My research on visual impairments was oriented toward understanding the eye diseases that caused them rather than their effects on daily living. Nevertheless, my research came closer than other types of research at the Wilmer Institute to addressing the problems of low vision. So Dr. Patz tried to persuade me to redirect my interest in visual impairment research and devote my career to finding ways to help people with low vision.

That advice gave me pause. Although I had the greatest admiration and respect for Dr. Patz, the stakes were high for a young faculty member to accept such a challenge. Securing peer-recognition and research grants are crucial to career development in academic medicine, if not outright survival. Very few people in the world were doing health care-related research on low vision and there were no obvious sources of low vision research funding. I felt I was being asked to look academic death in the face.

Then Dr. Patz told me an inspiring story. When he was trying to obtain funding for a clinical study to test his idea

that the oxygen led to the blindness, the funding agency returned his grant application. Written across the cover page in large red letters was REJECTED – DO NOT FUND. PROPOSED RESEARCH IS UNETHICAL. Shocked and disappointed but undeterred, he persuaded his family to fund the initial study. This crucial pilot study was successful, and the rest is history.

The message for me was that to build a low vision rehabilitation center, I would need the support of family.

Dr. Patz already had a family in mind: a family that roars. Personally inspired by Helen Keller at the Lasker Award ceremony more than 30 years earlier, he invited the Lions of Multiple District 22 to partner with the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute to tackle the largely ignored problem of low vision. The 8,000 Lions of MD 22 responded enthusiastically by adopting us into their family. They created and funded the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, which serves low vision patients throughout Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. This close and successful partnership has continued for more than 20 years with many accomplishments. The Lions' love for Dr. Patz is enshrined in the Arnall Patz Fellowship, an honor that can be bestowed by Lions on others with a \$2,500 contribution to the MD 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation.

Time has passed quickly. I am no longer a young researcher. But much has changed for the better. Low vision rehabilitation has become an important part of health care. When asked what matters to me professionally, I say it is the strong working partnership we at the Wilmer Eye Institute have with the MD 22 Lions and being a member of the Lions family myself.

*Massoff is a professor of ophthalmology and neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. He recently was one of 11 Lions honored by the White House as a Champion of Change.*

*(The following article appeared in the Washington Post February 14<sup>th</sup>. Aren't we lucky to be living in such an age where all of this is possible!)*

## First U.S. artificial retina approved; Device could restore some sight to blind

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved the nation's first "artificial retina," a highly anticipated advance that could give limited vision to adults rendered blind by a rare genetic disorder.

The new device could make it possible for certain patients to regain the ability to do simple but significant tasks, such as recognizing words on a page, detecting street signs and matching pairs of socks.

"For someone who can't see, it's a life changer to suddenly be able to walk into a room and see where the door is," said Brian Mansfield, deputy chief research officer at the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which describes itself as the largest private organization funding such research.

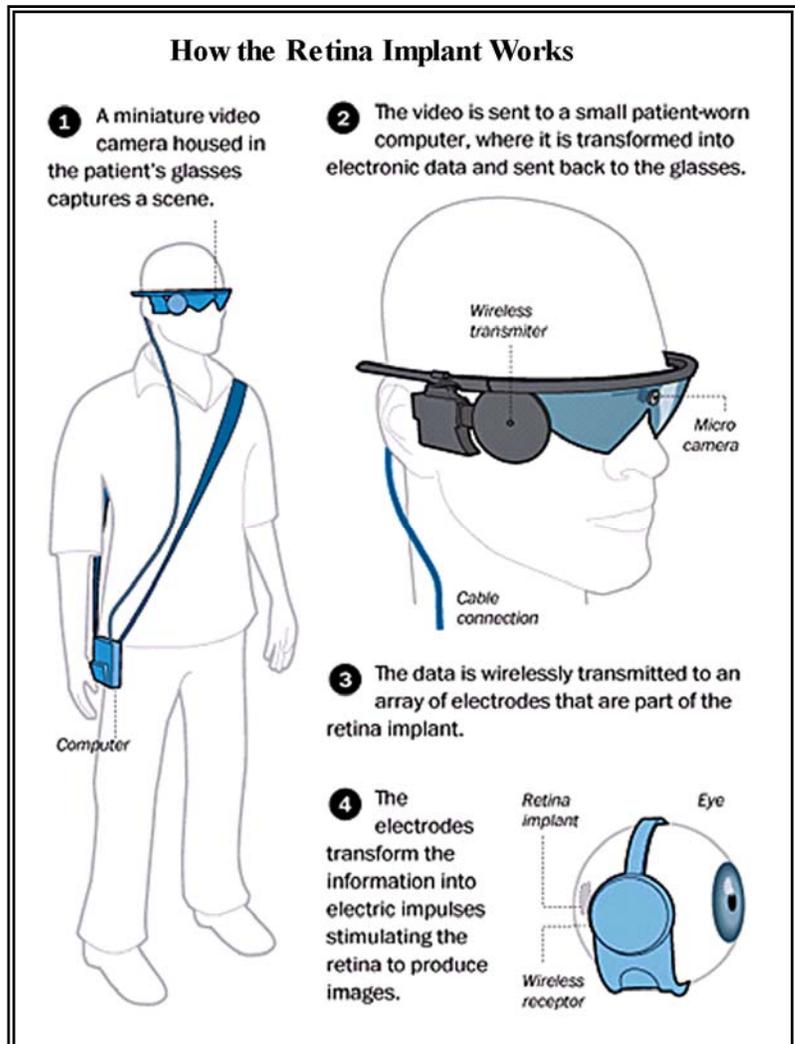
The approval marks a milestone in the research of retinal diseases, which affect millions of Americans. A growing number of potential treatments for the ailments include stem cells, gene therapy, pharmaceuticals and surgical procedures.

The device, which received approval from European regulators in 2011 and has been implanted in more than 50 patients overseas, is designed for adults with advanced retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic condition that in the United States affects about 100,000 people. The condition damages the light-sensitive cells that line the retina. In time, a person's limited ability to tell light from dark can erode, and often the outcome is total blindness.

"It's a horrendous disease," said Robert Greenberg, chief executive of Second Sight, the California-based company that has been developing the Argus II retinal prosthesis for two decades. "Their visual world closes in on them gradually until they are completely blind."

The Argus II system approved Thursday includes a surgically implanted artificial retina about the size of an aspirin and with about 55 electrodes. Patients then are outfitted with a pair of eyeglasses with a small video camera and video processor. Together, the components transform images from the video camera into data that is transmitted to the brain through the implanted retina.

"It's a game-changer in a lot of ways," Greenberg said. "To go from complete darkness to being able to identify letters and words, it's a pretty significant step."



Currently, the technology allows patients only to see shades of gray. Greenberg said his company is developing artificial retinas that will provide both higher-resolution and color images and ones to help a wider array of patients with little or no vision.

Thursday's news drew a jubilant reaction from patients who stand to benefit from the technology, either now or in the future.

"I think this could lead, in a very few years, to a fundamental revolution that will end many forms of blindness as a disability," said Karen Shaw Petrou, 59, a Washington banking consultant who has a type of retinal degenerative disease and relies on a guide dog to navigate the city.

Petrou still has some sight and isn't eligible yet to have the new implant in her eye, but like others, she hopes that she could benefit if the FDA approves wider use of the device.

She said an artificial retina has the potential to "reach not just the limited class of the totally blind, but across the spectrum of many people with different types of blinding disorders."

Elias Konstantopoulos, 74, a retired electrician who lives in Glen Burnie, said he was 99 percent blind before he had the artificial retina implanted in 2009 as part of a clinical trial. The biggest difference it has made for him, he said, is allowing him to detect motion.

If someone is standing in front of him, he can now tell if the person is moving to the right or to the left. "I can tell something is moving and see which direction," he said. He can also see the shape of a dark door against a white wall.

"When you have nothing, it's something. So it's a lot of hope," Konstantopoulos said, although he hopes the technology will improve enough to let him see things in more detail, such the face of his 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-year-old grandson.

An FDA blog post Thursday shared comments of other patients. One person was able to see the crosswalk lines on Manhattan streets. Another man could see a glimpse of his 17-year-old son. "I mean, how happy that made me, not only to see the silhouette of my son, but to hear that voice coming and saying: 'Yeah, it's me, Dad. I'm here, and I love you.' "

The device costs about \$100,000 in Europe and is covered by insurance plans there, said Greenberg, who began developing the artificial retina in the 1990s while studying at Johns Hopkins University. He said he expects that the device will be priced higher in the United States when it becomes available this year. The company also is asking Medicare to cover the device.

The surgery to implant the device takes about two hours and can be done by any qualified retinal surgeon. Greenberg said he expects that the procedure initially will be available at about 10 clinical centers across the country, with more coming online in the future.

The FDA approved the Argus II as a "humanitarian use" device, limited to products that treat fewer than 4,000 people in the United States each year. To receive such an approval, a company must demonstrate that the device is safe and that its probable benefits outweigh any risk of illness or injury. The company also must show that no comparable device exists to treat the condition.

The FDA reviewed data that included a clinical study of 30 patients outfitted with the artificial retina system. Results showed that nearly two-thirds of patients had no adverse effects from the surgery, and most were able to perform basic activities better with the artificial retina than without. Among them: Detecting the direction of motion, recognizing letters and words, walking down a sidewalk without stepping off the edges, and correctly matching black, gray and white socks.

"For many of the approximately 1,300 individuals who will develop the disease this year, this technology may change their lives," William H. Maisel, deputy director for science and chief scientist at the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, wrote in an agency blog post Thursday. "It's the difference between night and day."

Birthday Wishes!

**God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.**

~Voltaire~

**How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?**

~Satchel Paige~

**Theresa Pitman March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Fred Moreland March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Patti Schlauch March 16**

**Bob Bertram March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Joe Leonard March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Bill Watson March 30<sup>th</sup>**

