District 16-N Charitable Foundation Charity Ball and Governor’s Testimonial

THE 2018-2019 MD-16 COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
Multiple Distric 16
New Jersey
98th State Convention

Thurs. May 16 to Sat. May 18, 2019
Bally’s
Atlantic City
For 49 years, the District 16-N Charitable Foundation has held its annual Charity Ball and Governor’s Testimonial to raise funds for the Foundation’s charitable and humanitarian work, and to celebrate the work and dedication to Lionism of our sitting district governor. This year was no exception.

The Ball/Testimonial was held on Saturday April 6, 2019 at the Graycliff in Moonachie N.J. The District 16-N Charitable Foundation accepts grant applications for those projects which are beyond the scope of Lions Clubs and other worthwhile service minded organizations not only from the seven northernmost counties that comprise District 16-N (Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex, Morris, Sussex, Warren), but also from the entire Multiple District 16, New Jersey. The goal of the District 16-N Charitable Foundation is “to provide support to projects in need throughout New Jersey, providing grants for those projects not financially possible to individual clubs.” Since the Foundation’s inception in 1971, The District 16-N Charitable Foundation has awarded over $750,000 in grants! The goal is to award $1 million in grants before their 50th anniversary in 2021.

The Foundation also sponsors two SPOT cameras for vision screenings under the auspices of the Lions KidSight Program. This program screens students and individuals for ocular issues which if found early, can be easily corrected. The “Vision Screening Team” consists of Lions from Bergenfield, Rutherford, Passaic-Clifton, West Milford, Midland Park, and Wood-Ridge Lions Clubs. The team will go into schools to provide this free service to ascertain if any students or individuals have a potential eye issue that needs follow up with an eye care professional.

The District 16-N Charitable Foundation’s most recent grants have been awarded to St. Joseph’s School for the Blind in Jersey City N.J. for $10,000, for the construction of a “sensory room” for blind and/or visually impaired students. Another $10,000 grant was awarded to the Lions Eye Research Foundation (LERF) for the purchase of a portable Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) instrument for the Ophthalmology Department at Rutgers Medical School. This portable device will be used in the Emergency Room and for those patients who are not ambulatory as a diagnostic tool.

As you can see the District 16-N Charitable Foundation is very active and proactive in the field of vision screening and by providing grant money for worthwhile projects. These are just a few of the many grants issued by the Foundation. The Ball component raises the funds to provide this grant money.

The Nifty 50/50 raffle is another way the District 16-N Charitable Foundation raises funds for grants. This year, we had 3 lucky winners, with half the proceeds going to the Foundation.

The Testimonial part of the program honors our District Governor Ruth Molenaar. Governor Ruth has had quite a successful year, starting with her “Bell” being kidnapped, hijacked, purloined, or otherwise outright stolen at her first district meeting. She was awarded the “No Bell” prize by PID Dr. Bob Moore. The Bell has had a series of adventures only to arrive back home as a Christmas Gift from some unsuspecting group of Lions! (aka The Chester Lions Club).

She is also known as “The Hugging Governor.” Governor Ruth spreads her love of life and Lionism through her patented hugs for everyone attending her district meetings. The Charity Ball/Testimonial continued this new tradition for Lions, Lionesses, Leos and guests alike!

In her Governor’s message and speech to all guests, Governor Ruth emphasized that she is fortunate to be included in a year of “firsts.” Our International President Gudrun Yngvadottir is the first International President not only from Iceland but also the first woman to lead Lions International in its 100+ year history. Ruth is the first Latina District Governor in MD-16 and Constituency Area 1.

Governor Ruth was also the first “Cultural Preservation Honoree” bestowed by the Newark Public Library for her donation of archival material from “La Tribuna Newspapers,” the business she owns and operates, which is the largest Spanish Language newspaper in the state of New Jersey!

Governor Ruth also addressed IP Gudrun’s theme of moving “Beyond the Horizon” where each Lion embarks on their own personal Leadership Journey leading to service.

As part of her own personal journey, District Governor Ruth pledged to raise $10,000 for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) under the banner of Team Miracle for Matthew. This was witnessed by all Ball/Testimonial guests as she passed her Miracle for Matthew “can” from table to table.

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Honoring Ruth were family and friends from as close as Union City, N.J. and from as far away as Long Island, Upstate New York and the Dominican Republic!

She thanked all who attended and especially her sister Soraya Molenaar, and daughters Lion Natasha Fernandez, and Manselle Fernandez for their continued support of her Lionistic activity for this year and beyond.

Her fellow Council of Governors members, Council Chair Mahesh Chitnis, District Governor 16-J Armando Guerra, District Governor 16-L, Kara Schnure and State Advisor/PCC Jack Romano honored Ruth by awarding her with her first Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Governor Ruth, her relatives, Lions/Lionesses, friends and guests enjoyed the hospitality of The Graycliff cocktail hour, dinner and Venetian Table for dessert. Music for listening and dancing pleasure was provided by Vinnie G. Magician David Caruso performed magic tricks at each table during the cocktail hour and dazzled the Lions with his magic show as part of the evening’s festivities.

President of the District 16-N Charitable Foundation, PCC Jack Romano stated, “It is an honor and privilege to have introduced District Governor Ruth at the Charity Ball and Governor’s Testimonial. Ruth has been a cohesive force in not only District 16-N but also MD-16, through her leadership, engaging all Lions wherever she goes in the true spirit of Lionism.”

A special thank you goes to PDG Paula Tarantino-Maione the Testimonial/Ball Chairperson without whom this event would not be the success it is each and every year.

Congratulations to the District 16-N Charitable Foundation on another successful year by providing grant funds for worthwhile service projects.

Congratulations to District Governor Ruth Molenaar on your successful governor year and leadership to District 16-N and MD-16. Best wishes and continued success in all your Lionistic endeavors.

Oh, What A Night!
CHARITY BALL AND GOVERNOR’S TESTIMONIAL
"WE SERVE"

CHARITY BALL AND GOVERNOR’S TESTIMONIAL
CHARITY BALL AND GOVERNOR’S TESTIMONIAL
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Pursuing New Horizons with International President, Gudrun Yngvadottir

Dear District Governor,

Environmental projects are making an incredible impact on the lives of thousands of people in communities across your district. Lions are providing access to clean water, planting trees to counter deforestation and promoting sustainability to combat the effects of worldwide climate change. And it’s amazing what they have accomplished.

Through your leadership, Lions have reported more than 30,000 environmental service activities this Lion year and planted more than 7.5 million trees—that’s five trees per Lion.

Our global Foundation, LCIF, is working with Lions to fund clean water and sanitation programs in communities around the world.

All of humanity shares the responsibility for keeping our planet healthy. But Lions are leading the way toward creating a better, more sustainable world for future generations.

In friendship,
Gudrun Yngvadottir

We Speak for the Trees

Deforestation is one of the greatest threats to our environment, but Lions are doing so much to restore our world. Just like Lions in Kenya who are fighting to revive their once verdant landscape that inspired Dr. Seuss’ beloved ecological tale, The Lorax. Visit the blog to learn how your clubs can make a difference in your district.

Earn Recognition for Achieving Membership Goals

When our membership grows, so does our impact. Starting this month, you can earn the opportunity to recognize a Lion within your district who is helping you achieve your membership goals.

- Member Retention
  Encourage your clubs toward positive net membership growth for the year and high member retention rates through June. Keeping members engaged is the key to inviting and retaining the great men and women serving in our clubs.

- Balance in Membership
  Balancing the membership and leadership of Lions helps us better represent the world we serve and lead by example. Focus on inviting women in March and April to earn recognition. Let’s achieve our goals and show the world how serving together makes us stronger. For more information, visit your Awards Website.

• Read my message to club leaders in which I encourage clubs to raise awareness or plan a service project that benefits the environment.
• New special membership awards were just announced in February. Visit the website to see how you can qualify for a special recognition and your opportunity to earn a $1000 travel reimbursement to Milan.
• Make chartering new Leo clubs and inviting younger members a priority this year to earn special recognition. Visit your Awards Website for complete details.
• Encourage your clubs to enhance their service with a gift to Campaign 100, so LCIF can continue to empower Lions’ service for years to come—because achieving great things together is what we do best.
• Visit the District Governor webpage for information and tools designed to support your leadership. You’ll find resources like the District e-Book and more to help guide you through a successful year.
• The District Team Excellence Award honors districts that excel in community service, membership growth, communications and organizational operations. Find out if your district qualifies and apply for this award today!
• Have you met our global New Voices finalists yet? Visit the blog to read about how your support has empowered Lions everywhere to accomplish so much good around the world.
• Registration for the upcoming New Voices webinar is now open. This month’s topic is “Stand Up and Stand Out: Market Yourself as a Leader.” Be sure to register today for the discussion on April 18 at 9:00 a.m. CST.
• Collaborating with Leos and young Lions makes our service stronger. Four young leaders who co-hosted the Our Future: Leos and Young Lions session last June share their experiences on the blog.
There were a lot of “happenings” at the District 16-N meeting held at Ravello’s Restaurant in East Hanover N.J. on Thursday January 10, 2019. Our district meeting under the leadership of District Governor Ruth Molenaar and her cabinet have been fun events for all Lions to enjoy. This meeting was well-attended with 69 Lions and guests participating and enjoying each other’s company.

DG Ruth received a large gift-wrapped box with a very nice “I miss you” card from none other than her Bell! Yes, the Bell reappeared, but only briefly, as it disappeared once again! The Bell has had a very interesting year in her travels.

The Lions also heard some interesting reports. For the USA Canada Form, IPDG Nick Landy wanted to give an extensive report but his papers flew all over Eagle Rock Avenue! The District GAT, PDGs Paula Taratino-Maione, Dennis Brubaker and Mike Pacala discussed our membership, leadership and service initiatives, including an upcoming training session for our incoming district officers which open to all Lions. State Advisor /PCC Jack Romano reported on the District 16-N Charitable Foundation’s upcoming Charity Ball and Governor’s Testimonial on Saturday April 6, 2019 at the Greycliffe in Moonachie N.J. This event is the major fund-raiser for the District 16-N Charitable Foundation. Ball tickets, Nifty 50/50 tickets and ad journal information will be forthcoming to the entire Multiple District. This event also honors our current District Governor for her work in promoting Lionism. It will be a fun event, with some surprises. You will need to come to the Ball/Testimonial to find this out! State Leo Chair Dave Verducci informed all Lions of the virtual Leo conference which is an effort to communicate with Leos throughout the MD.

One of District Governor Ruth’s goals is to raise $10,000 for JDRF/Miracle for Matthew. She presented a check for $1746 to Barbara and Lou Corsaro as part of this effort. The Corsaro’s thanked DG Ruth and the Lions of 16-N and MD-16 for supporting this effort. Research funds have contributed to the continuous glucose arm monitor which eliminate finger pricks.

Candidates Night is always a fun-filled event. Our nominee for Second Vice District Governor is Lion Marie Nieto of the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson. Her nomination was presented by PDG Paula Taratino-Maione. The First Vice District nominee is our current 2VDG, Lion Nalit Patel of the Livingston Lions Club. His name was put in nomination by his lovely daughter Hema. Our District Governor nominee, our current 1VDG is Alvin Cox of the Kearny Lions Club, nominated by PDG Charles Landesman.

As is tradition in District 16-N, once all the nominations have been read, the “Parade of Candidates” commences, marching to the music of John Phillip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever,” with club members bearing signs and placards supporting their candidate.

Our “hugging governor” welcomed and thanked everyone with a hug for their dedication and commitment to Lionism.
Vision Screening: A Key Element of Eyesight Conservation

Lions Clubs around the world are dedicated to helping those in need, and this dedication is clearly indicated in our motto: “We Serve”. One of the primary goals within that mission is eyesight conservation.

In New Jersey there are many examples of how Lions have been actively assisting in sight conservation, including eye research, restoration and preservation.

RESEARCH
The “Lions Eye Research Foundation of New Jersey, Inc.” (LERF) raises money for the Lions Ophthalmology Research Chair at UMDNJ to develop new treatments for the major causes of blindness.

A second organization, “The Eye Institute of New Jersey,” assists by raising funds for the Lions Research Chair in the Department of Ophthalmology, by matching donations from LERF up to the limit of donations made to the Eye Institute by Lions.

RESTORATION
Lions Clubs members from the states of New Jersey, Delaware and southeast Pennsylvania founded the “Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, Inc.” in 1957. The LEBDV is committed to restoring or improving vision through corneal transplantation, medical research and education.

A second eye bank aided by Lions is “Eversight New Jersey” (formerly “Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey”). One of their primary missions is the restoration of sight through recovery, evaluation and distribution of corneal tissue for transplantation.

PREVENTION
Eyesight preservation starts with regular vision check-ups – yet many people in our communities are either unable to do this or are unaware of its importance. Recognizing this need, Lions have been serving their communities by sponsoring free vision screening events that are critical to sight preservation. Just one example is the dedication of Lion Bill Ferdinand of the New Providence Lions Club.

In the 1970s Lion Bill led an effort to conduct screenings by obtaining a trailer that was outfitted with equipment to enable vision and hearing screenings in communities in northern New Jersey. Funding was provided primarily by Lions Clubs in what was then District 16E. A second trailer was soon added and the “District 16E Lions Eye/Earmobile Foundation of New Jersey” (EEF) was formally established as a non-profit corporation in September 1982.

EYE/EARMOBILE
By 2014 thousands of people had been screened and, after nearly 35 years of service, one of the trailers had to be taken out of service and the second trailer was in need of extensive, and expensive, repair. The Eye/Earmobile Foundation Board of Directors considered various options including a collaboration with the State of New Jersey to ensure that vision screenings could be continued without interruption.

VISION SCREENINGS TODAY
The Lions Eye/Earmobile Foundation met with the “NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired” (CBVI) in 2014 who agreed to provide trained technicians to conduct vision screenings at no cost to the Lions or to the people being screened. From May 2014 through 2018 CBVI technicians have screened 1,661 people at events sponsored by Lions.

Since the trailers were taken out of service, the EEF decided to discontinue the foundation and it was dissolved as a non-profit corporation in May 2017. Responsibility for coordinating vision and hearing screenings going forward was transferred to the Chester Lions Club by the EEF as part of the dissolution plan.

HOW TO CONDUCT SCREENINGS
Among the most important missions of Lions everywhere are the preservation of sight and hearing. Your club can help achieve these basic goals with minimal effort and no cost by doing the following:

1. Establish a “Screening Committee.”
2. Contact the Chester Lions Club by coordinating with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to arrange for free vision screening. The CBVI normally has a six week minimum lead-time and basic requirements that must be provided at the proposed screening site. The CLC will explain these requirements to your club’s committee as we work together to establish your plan. The CBVI does not charge for screenings.

A member of the Chester Lions Club can also provide your club with information and guidance on the costs involved for an eye doctor and/or audiologist if you want to include eyeglass prescriptions and/or hearing tests for your club’s screening event.

Contact Chester Lions member Stan Pukash at 908-879-6591 for more information.

Screenings are important elements of the mission of Lions and help increase the awareness of your club by your local community.
The Spain Inn was the place to be on Monday January 28, 2019 where District Governor Armando Guerra and his cabinet held the third District/Cabinet meeting for District 16-J.

This was a well-attended meeting according to DG Armando. “We told the restaurant to set up for 50 people, but 75 showed up. The staff has been very accommodating in dealing with the unexpected crowd.”

In fact, attendance at cabinet meetings in both Districts 16-N and 16-J have increased this year which is attributable to the efforts of District Governors Ruth Molenaar in 16-N, as well as Armando Guerra in 16-J.

DG Armando called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. After the usual meeting procedures and protocols, this meeting was very unique in the number of awards and certificates presented to our fellow Lions.

District 16-J LCIF coordinator Kevin Kosobucki, in speaking about Campaign 100, stated that District 16-J was leading the 3 sub-districts in contributions to LCIF’s effort to raise $300 Million in 3 years. He requested that clubs extend to him an invitation to hear more about Campaign 100.

It is always great to induct a new member at a Cabinet Meeting. This meeting was no exception. DG Armando inducted Felirmin Lambino into the Somerville Metro Lions Club, sponsored by Lion Theresa Domider. Both New Lion Felirmin and sponsor Lion Thereaa received certificates and pins from DG Armando.

Lion Felirmin Lambino is from Bridgewater, NJ. She is known as Mimi. Married to Manuel Lambino for almost 28 years, with two wonderful children MaryJo and Michael, she is a Registered Nurse at RWJ University Hospital Somerset. “I joined this profession because I want to help people especially the sick and elderly. I have been blessed so much that I wanted to give back to my community and joining the Somerville Metro Lions Club is a perfect opportunity to achieve this. I believe in the mission that kindness matters and that my service would make a difference in the lives of people I touch.”

Immediate Past District Governor Dawn Kosobucki awarded pins and certificates from her year as Governor to those individual Lions who assisted her to make her district governor year a success. The awardees and categories are:

- Presidential Excellence for Zone chairpersons: Dianne Andrade, Rogel Bautista, Kash Delory, Toni O’Neill, Tony Razzano, and Subama Sahni (Kash & Toni not in attendance.)
- District Team Excellence: Phyllis Johnson, Vivian Roz (not in attendance), Rohit/ Etka Gupta (who wished to share it with his wife), Kevin Kosobucki and Bob Virgadamo.

As membership is increasing in District 16-J and both Districts 16-N and L have made positive moves in membership, it will take the hand of a Guiding Lion to ensure clubs are on the right path to retain their new and current members. To that end, the following Lions received certificates of completion of the Guiding Lion Course for District 16-J:

- Lion Paramjit Goods and Lion Jyothi Sahni of the Old Bridge Visionary Lions Club, Lion Varsha Naik, Lion Pratibha, Nichakawade, Lion Poonam Singh of the Menlo Park Lions Club, and Lion Anupama Chitnis of the Edison Visionary Lions Club.

Council Chair Mahesh Chitnis, District Governor Armando Guerra, 16-J, and State Advisor Jack Romano all assisted in this awards ceremony.

Not to be outdone, State Advisor Jack Romano presented IPDG Dawn Kosobucki with a letter from Immediate Past President Naresh Aggarwal, and a medal congratulating her for her service to the Lions community as District Governor for the Lionistic Year 2017-2018. As SA Jack did not draw blood when pinning the meal on IPID Dawn he did this correctly and this was a success!

Since succession planning is vital for the sustainability of our association, PCC Bob (THE BOB) Virgadamo read the resolutions for the following District 16-J offices:

- Second Vice District Governor: Lion Kash Delory, West Windsor Lions Club
- Second Vice District Governor: Lion Varsha Naik, Menlo Park Lions Club

(Please note: as there are two nominations for the office of 2VDG for 2019-2020, there will be an election held at the 16-J Sub-District meeting at the State Convention on Saturday May 18, 2019).

First Vice District Governor: Lion Kevin Kosobucki, Sayreville Lions Club
- District Governor: Lion Linda Banks, Elizabeth Borinquen Lions Club

Congratulations to all new prospective District 16-J Officers.

Since this was a jammed packed meeting with an aggressive agenda, the meeting ran into overtime, being adjourned at 9:15 PM.
One of the desires of DG Ruth Molenaar during her governor year was to induct her daughter, Natasha Fernandez, into Lionism. Natasha and younger sister Manselle are no strangers to Lions activities as they have participated in all sorts of Lions events with their mother, be it fundraising at a white cane, or collecting used eyeglasses throughout their youth and for many years served food on Thanksgiving Day to the needy families. Natasha also dressed as Santa on Christmas since she was in High School to sing at “The Arc” for special children.

Natasha graduated from William Paterson University of NJ with a bachelor’s degree in Communication and Broadcasting. She residing in Jersey City N. J., decided to join the Jersey City/Hudson City Lions club after fulfilling all requirements for membership. She wanted the induction to be a surprise for her mother. Enter King Lion John Carroll and PCC/State Advisor Jack Romano, and the intrigue that followed.

Natasha, John, and Jack hatched a plan whereby DG Ruth was to arrive at 7:15 PM, 15 minutes after the Jersey City “board of directors” were to meet to iron out a problem. PCC Jack asked DG Ruth to attend this meeting since, as District Governor, she should be in on the solution to this problem/issue. However, there never was a problem or issue to resolve as this was the ruse to get DG Ruth to attend and conduct her daughter’s induction.

Invited guests included Aunt Soraya Molenaar, Godfather Rafael Toro, boyfriend Jesus Benitez and his mother Maria Benitez. DG Ruth arrived at 7:15 PM and was met at the door by PCC Jack who informed her that the “problem” had already been resolved. Upon seeing the invited guests, and all the Jersey City Club members present, PCC Jack informed DG Ruth that she was there to induct not only Natasha, but also new member SoYeon Lee into the pride of Lions. Our Couture conscious Governor insisted that she was not properly dressed for the occasion, and that she did not have the induction ceremonies or pins. PCC Jack and Secretary Andrea Carroll had the ceremony and pins covered.

PCC Jack was the sponsoring Lion for both Natasha and Janet. Janet Lee serves as the President of Project Fairness, a nonprofit that helps foster youth become better educated, and as the managing member of Law Offices of Lee & Associates, PLLC, where she practices business and transactional law. She graduated, cum laude, with her J.D. from the Boston University School of Law in 2012, where she served on the executive editorial board of the Review of Banking & Financial Law and published articles concerning financial reform, and with a bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Nevada - Las Vegas in 2009 where she was a member of the Dean’s Student President’s Council and a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. Ms. Lee became a member of the Lions Club in honor of her deceased paternal grandfather, Lee Ik Kwon, who was a cherished member of the Seoul chapter of the Lion’s Club in South Korea.

Both Lions Natasha and Janet are paving the way for future potential inductions of new, younger millennial Lions. According to King Lion John Carroll, “there are plans to induct Jesus Benitez at a future meeting.” As Jesus is a Jersey City Firefighter, the opportunity exists to bring in some members of his firehouse on Central Avenue!

District Governor Ruth was surprised and shocked as she had no idea whatsoever that desire to induct her daughter while governor was to be fulfilled. Daughter Manselle and boyfriend Brock Riddle residing in Tennessee also plan to join a Lions club in their community. DG Ruth plans to be on hand for that induction as well.
Valentines Day is that time of year for flowers, chocolate, cookies, cake, wine, love letters and poems, and other “enticing” gifts for our loved ones. It is also the time of year for the District 16-J Charitable Foundation Sweetheart Dance.

This year was no exception as the Fifth Annual Sweetheart Dance and FUNraiser was held at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus Hall on Saturday February 16, 2019.

The evening started with a cocktail hour staffed by the Leo’s from the Sayreville Community Leo Club. Leo Club President D.J. Crocker, Vice President J.D. Magaw, Secretary Natalie Paredes, and Treasurer Jenelle Luis, took the lead in serving the assembled guests classic finger food, cocktail hour fare. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, including the Leos!

Foundation President, 2VDG 16-J Kevin Kosobucki welcomed all guests, thanking them for coming out on a cold February night to support the District 16-J Charitable Foundation, and help raise some much-needed funds to continue the Foundation’s work, especially in the realm of vision screening and the eye mobile.

The first song of the evening was a rousing karaoke rendition of Etta James’ “At Last” sung by Sayreville Lions Club Membership Chair Sara Rodis. This set the stage for the fun and revelry that followed throughout the evening.

DJ Mike Martino provided the musical selections for listening and dancing pleasure. Libations Engineer Keith Rybak, kept all liquid refreshments flowing throughout the affair.

In addition to their services, all buffet items were donated by various merchants and restaurateurs within District 16-J. There was a vast selection of ethnic foods, including Polish, Italian, Cuban, Indian, Spanish, Portuguese and Vegetarian. The food was prepared and supervised by Chefs Ed and Eddie Reagan, who also donated their services for the evening.

Board Members Sonia Mar-tins and Jessica Seabra of Precious Jules, a District 16-J Project, spoke about their efforts to support children afflicted with childhood cancer and their support of grants to physicians conducting medical research in the field of pediatric cancer.

New for this year was a “photo booth” (in reality a decorated background), which many of our Lions and guests took full advantage of in memorializing this event.

The highlight of the evening was the wine raffle with over 25 bottles donated from various 16-J clubs, and over 45 donated tricky tray items available for raffle. Again, all tricky items, including the grand prize of a 46-inch flat screen television, were donated to the District 16-J Charitable Foundation.

The 50-50 drawing netted $268 for the winner, who donated the winnings to Precious Jules, and the Foundation!

A great time was had by everyone who attended the Sweetheart Dance, in support of the District 16-J Charitable Foundation.

Each year at the International Convention, MD-16 Lions get together with a few of the districts in neighboring states for what has become known as the Mid-Atlantic Breakfast. If you are planning to attend convention make sure you add this to your schedule.

It will be held on Sunday, July 7, 2019 at the Double Tree Hilton, Milan. The breakfast will start at 7:00 am and is buffet style. The cost will be $50.00 per person.

Please send all checks payable to MD-16 NJ Lions for $50.00 to Kartika Gupta at the state office, 30 Knighbridge Rd #825, Piscataway Township, NJ 08854. Mark the memo section as “Mid-Atlantic Breakfast.”
We’re always making improvements to MyLion® to ensure it’s as useful a tool for your service as possible. As a Lion leader, we’re excited to share our newest feature with you:

Now District and Multiple District Administrators can use the MyLion website to create service activities and report service activities on behalf of the clubs within their district or multiple district.

For MyLCI users, service activity reporting will move from MyLCI to MyLion starting July 1, 2019. We encourage you to go into MyLion and give it a try, or—if you’re not registered yet—register now and start using it today.
Last year, the Rutherford Lions Club decided to try something new, their First Annual Beefsteak Dinner. It was so successful that the club is continuing this new tradition with their Second Annual Beefsteak Dinner, held at the cozy confines of the Woman’s Club of Rutherford on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Club President Laura O’Connor thanked all who attended stating that the motto of Lions is “We Serve.” The Rutherford Lions have proudly served their community for 97 years! The proceeds of this event help to support vision screenings in local schools, their scholarship awards, senior citizen lunches at the 55 Kip Center and the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

This event attended by 100 hungry Lions supporters, continues to assist the Rutherford Lions Club in achieving service to their community.

In another “second event,” on Saturday March 3, 2019 The Rutherford Lions marched in the 2nd Annual St. Patrick’s Day parade. It was organized by the Rutherford Irish American Association (RIAA), an organization that represents family and friends from Rutherford who are interested and have a connection to the culture of Ireland. The RIAA raises money for local charities and brings cultural awareness of Ireland through events and festivities. Lions wearing the green for St. Patrick’s Day were Mark and Laura O’Connor; as everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day, honorary Irish Lions marchers included Glenn O’Elliot, Joe O’Catania, Michael O’Prokop, Susan O’Forsythe.

KISS ME I AM AN IRISH RUTHERFORD LION!

The New Jersey Lions (MD-16) 98th State Convention will be held from Thursday May 16th, 2019 to Saturday May 18th, 2019, at the Bally’s in Atlantic City, NJ. Official businesses will begin at 10:00am on Friday May 17, 2019 and conclude on Saturday May 18, 2019. The purpose of the convention will be to elect District officers, including Governors and Vice Governors for Sub Districts, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meetings.

This year’s convention includes Seminars, Exhibits, a Memorial Service, LCIF Dinner, Hospitality rooms, State Awards Breakfast, sub-districts meetings, Saturday Evening Gala, Diabetes Walk, and Eye Screening.

Our International Guest is International Director Lion Patricia “Pat” Vannett, from Mandan, North Dakota. Director Vannett is a realtor and a member of the Mandan Lions Club since 2003. She has held many offices within the association, including Club President, Zone Chairperson, District Governor, and Multiple District GLT Coordinator.

The Council of Governors encourages every club in the Multiple District to participate in the 98th New Jersey Lions State Convention.

Knowlton Township Lions Club

ANNUAL TRUCK RAFFLE
Saturday July 13, 2019
Ticket $130.00
Which admits two adults to event
$69,000 in total prizes
Grand Prize 2019 Ford F150 4x4 Automatic Truck
For more info or to order a ticket
Call Diane at 908-798-7386 or email jabmom6@gmail.com

Chester Lions Club

OKTOBERFEST & CAR SHOW
Sat & Sun, Sept 28 & 29
Noon to 8 pm
Chubb Park, Rt 24
West, Chester, N.J.
Rain or Shine
The Chester Lions Club will be serving up authentic German cuisines along with a Car show, live music, traditional dancers, and activities for children, and much more.

Admission is $7 for adults
Children under 12 are free
Parking for the event is also free.
All profits from this event go to charities and other worthy causes.

2019 NEW JERSEY LIONS CONVENTION CALL
Bally’s Atlantic City

The hotel room reservation is handled separately from the Convention registration. Early bird Hotel registration is now open. You can reserve your room via phone at 888-516-2215, using Group: Lions District 16 or code SB05NJ9 or you can reserve online using the following link: https://book.passkey.com/go/sb05nj9

KNOWLTON LIONS CLUB

MD-16

CHESTER LIONS CLUB

HOTEL REGISTRATION
DG Mike Pacala, assisted by club secretary Erin Hughes, both manning the door, welcomed Lions, guests and friends to the Carlstadt-East Rutherford Pancake Breakfast at the East Rutherford Civic Center on Sunday March 3, 2019. A 50/50 raffle as well as a lottery ticket raffles were available for all guests to try their luck with big potential winnings. Soraya Molenaar, sister of our District Governor Ruth Molenaar, was the winner of one of the lottery ticket raffles.

On display were some informational literature outlining some of the causes and organizations the Carlstadt-East Rutherford supports, including Eversight and Camp Marcella. This club serves their communities by providing holiday food baskets for those in need, eye exams and glasses for those who cannot afford the cost of an exam or filling a prescription, and contributes to many local organizations, and scholarships.

The kitchen crew cooked pancakes and sausages. Headed by King Lion and Chief Chef Jeff Lahullier, assisting as sous chefs were Treasurer Mike Kronyak, and Lion Dennis Ritchie.

Serving all guests, by bringing juice, coffee and the pancakes /sausages to the tables were Girl Scouts from local troops, who kept all guest well fed.

On a cold winter morning of Sunday January 13, 2019, with a light covering of snow in central New Jersey, the Lions Polar Bear Movers relocated the State Office once again!

This move was necessitated by the fact that Office NJ at 200 Centennial Ave, Piscataway N.J., lost the lease on their office suite, and decided to relocate their business within Piscataway N.J. Although negotiations of the office suite lease between Office NJ and MD-16 New Jersey Lions was successful, there were issues with the current HVAC system at 200 Centennial Ave., in June 2018, resulting in a 10-day outage, before the system was finally repaired. This factor and the resulting loosing of the lease prompted MD-16 to seek other accommodations.

MD-16 revisited the Regus Office complex located at 30 Knightsbridge Road, about one mile from the Centennial Ave/Office NJ location. As Regus has a 10-year lease with the current landlord, a decision was made by the Council of Governors to relocate the office to the Regus complex.

Please make this correction in your respective sub-district directories and on all correspondence to MD-16.

A special thanks goes to all those who assisted in this move: CC Mahesh, Anu and Leo Ojas Chitnis, Kartika Gupta, Varsha Naik, DG 16-J Armando Guerra, Radha, Gitesh and Leo Ishan Malick, Kormal amnd Leo Manvey Dangi, and SA Jack Romano.
The members of the Hackensack Lions Club gathered at the Ivy Inn to celebrate. The club’s secretary, Amy Guggino, was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship in recognition of her dedicated service to the club and its programs. Your support of the Hackensack Lions Club is always appreciated.

Nancy and Victor Paparazzo, the proud parents of Amy Guggino, share in the honor of their daughter’s Melvin Jones Fellowship award.

Fellow Lions,
Incoming officers from other districts are welcome.

As we approach the end of the year, we must gear up to welcome our new officers. To continue with our tradition, District 16 J Officer’s training is scheduled for June 3rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Dayton High School, Springfield, New Jersey.

We request all our clubs to participate in this training, it will not only give you the opportunity to interact with your incoming leadership but will also provide you with tools and insights for better governance of your clubs.

Please send your RSVP to 1VD Linda Banks respond by May 25, 2019 or send a text message to 908-463-7041 alternatively you can email District Governor Lion Armando Guerra. aguerra.ag777@gmail.com
On a cold snow-covered Saturday March 2, 2019 morning, with roads in northern New Jersey suffering from the after-effects of 4 to 6 inches on snow, The Lions Eye Research Foundation (LERF) held its annual Doctor’s Speak/Lions Day at Rutgers Medical School. This annual event outlines some of the most important cutting-edge research into vision issues from the physician staff of the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science (IOVS), Rutgers University Medical School presented in clear non-scientific language so that all Lions and guests could understand and appreciate the work of the IOVS and the Lions continued support of the Dr. Alfonse A. Cinotti/Lions Eye Research Foundation - IOVS at Rutgers Medical School.

IPID Mel Bray, the Executive Director of LERF, welcomed all Lions and guests by stating that there were 80 reservations but due to the inclement weather and snow in northern New Jersey, only 30 individuals braved the elements to attend. As LERF conducts this annual program, individual safety is important for those who were not able to attend due to the weather. Hopefully those unable to attend will be able to do so next year.

In the many years that LERF has sponsored this program, there have been no repeat presentations from IOVS physicians. The staff at IOVS continues to provide the latest information in research into vision anomalies.

The sum of $1.3 Million was endowed to sponsor the Alfonse A. Cinotti/LERF Chair. The interest on these funds are used primarily for research. With advancements in technology, and with Rutgers Medical School being a public institution, the department is always looking for funding. This is evident in the desired acquisition of a portable Optical Coherence Tomography scanner or OCT. This is used to provide eye doctors with an image of the retina in the back of a patient’s eye. The machine works similar to ultrasound, simply using light waves instead of soundwaves, thus achieving clearer, sharper resolution to take three-dimensional photos that provide doctors with an image of the layers and specific measurements that helps to diagnose different diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. The test is non-invasive and usually takes a few minutes to scan. The total cost including the required maintenance agreement for such a complex piece of equipment is $125,000. LCIF will provide a matching grant of 50% or $62,500 which the Lions of New Jersey must raise. An information package has been sent to all club presidents and secretaries in MD-16. Grant requests in the amount of $10,000 are planned for the four Charitable Foundations in New Jersey. Contributions can be made checks/money orders mailed to LERF PO Box 8207, Princeton, N.J. 08540. Please state that this contribution is intended for the OCT in the memo section.

Our first speaker of the session was Dr. Larry Frohman MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurosciences. Dr. Frohman’s topic was “Does Snoring Make You Blind” or in technical terms, “Is Nonarteritic Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy Associated with Sleep Apnea or Stroke?” This is referred to as NAION.

Dr. Frohman thanked all the Lions for all they have done in the area of supporting IOVS and research into optic nerve diseases. For full disclosure, I am a patient of Dr. Frohman.

NAION is basically a stroke of the optic nerve. The common form of this disease is nonarteritic, also known as “hardening of the arteries.” The mean age onset of NAION is 60 usually with peripheral vision loss in the affected eye due to the vascular make-up of the optic nerve. This is manifested by sudden vision loss upon awakening from sleep. This progresses over time. In 10% of patients, there is a 15-25% chance of this occurring in the non-affected eye.

Risk factors include hypertension, with a drop in blood pressure between midnight to 6 AM, as the optic nerve is not getting a sufficient blood supply; diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and having a small optic cup around the retina in the good, unaffected eye. Research indicates a new risk factor which is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). This occurs in 2% of women and 4% of men with NAION, who snore and stop breathing while sleeping. Men over age 50 are at an 18% greater risk of OSA who also suffer with NAION. Those diagnosed with NAION and OSA run the risk of their second eye being affected if that individual does NOT use a CPAP machine. NAION patients have a greater risk of having a stroke.
There is no known effective treatment of NAION. Oral medication, eye drops, neuroprotective agents, injections into the eye and surgery have not proven effective in combating NAION. There are currently studies being done using a drug called Caspase 2 which blocks damage to the cells in the affected eye.

Those diagnosed with Sleep Apnea also run the risk of the following: Stroke, cognitive disease, depression, floppy eyelid, kerattonus/corneal issues, and glaucoma.

Dr. Frohman concluded by stating, “snoring can be dangerous to your health and vision. Get tested for OSA!”

Dr. Marco Zarbin, the Chair of IOVS explained how funds were used this year. He gave the assembly a department status update within the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science. Dr. Zarbin spoke about the portable OCT machine, stating that there is a high degree of utility for the department to have this portable device to aid in diagnosing those who otherwise cannot be transported to a stationary device. The Lions have contributed over $1.5 million in equipment in the past including lasers and an electron microscope, which helps in treating patients.

For Clinical treatment, for FY 2018 the department treated 50,391 patients, an increase of 11% over last FY 2017. This was due in part to the requirement to keep electronic medical records. Almost half (47.8%) of all patients come from Essex County with the remainder from the entire state of New Jersey, due in part to the quality of work at IOVS and the complex problems being treated.

There were a total of 189 intellectual papers and articles published by staff, averaging 12 per faculty member which is a high number considering the workload of IOVS/Rutgers Medical School. Approximately 25% of all eye care professionals in New Jersey had some type of relationship with the department in FY-18. Residents accounted for 34 papers and articles in FY-18.

The overall mission of the department is to continue to be seekers of knowledge to obtain information to think critically.

Dr. Zarbin’s presentation was “Synaptic Plasticity in the Retina: Implications for Gene and Cell Therapy.” This involves something called ROCK Inhibitors to prevent photoreceptor bi-polar synapse, or retinal detachment. There is a connection between photoreceptors and bi polar cells in the eye. If this connection is somehow broken, the individual will become blind. ROCK Inhibitors (Rho Kinase) are used to block enzymes that may cause the disconnection between photoreceptors and the bipolar cells. Research is ongoing as IOVS/Rutgers Medical School is conducting this in conjunction with a pharmaceutical company. This includes attached retinas, detached retinas caused by the photoreceptor/bi-polar cell relationship, as well as blunt force trauma causing detachment.

As you can see, our Lions/LERF-IOVS partnership continues to make great strides in the field of vision treatment and research.

Earth Day is April 22! Lions celebrate Environmental Awareness throughout the entire month of April with projects ranging from local recycling programs to ensuring that communities around the world have access to clean water. Lions are working hard to keep the earth clean and green. Show your support of this important global cause with these dynamic products from the Lions Store!
ELIZABETH PORTUGUESE LIONS CLUB

ELIZABETH PORTUGUESE LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Stephanie Catarino-Lopes & Jack Romano

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mid fanfare, ethnic pride, awards, music, and service to their community, the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions Club celebrated 40 years of serving the Portuguese Community of Elizabeth N.J. and MD-16 at their 40th Anniversary celebratory dinner on Saturday February 23, 2019.

Distinguished Lions guests included from District 16-J, District Governor Armando Guerra and wife, Horleida, First Vice District Governor Linda Banks, PDG Carlos Alma, and Lion Varsha Naik. Representing MD-16 were Council Chair Mahesh Chitnis and PCC, State Advisor Jack Romano. From the City of Elizabeth N.J was Councilman William Gallman. Councilman Gallman presented a proclamation from the City Council of Elizabeth N.J. to Club President Stephanie Catarino-Lopes, in honor of the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions Club’s 40th Anniversary of serving the City of Elizabeth and surrounding communities, especially through providing Thanksgiving dinners to those less fortunate as well as their Christmas Food Baskets.

In her President’s message, Lion Stephanie stated, “For the past 40 years, our club has been focused on humanitarian and disaster relief both internationally and locally, donating fundraising dollars to LCIF (Lions Club International Foundation), feeding the less fortunate during the holidays, distributing baskets of food to needy families in our community as well as donating to various non-profit groups.”

Masters of Ceremonies Lions Manny Grova Jr., (an Elizabeth N.J. Councilman at large), and Stephanie Vieira, who also gave the benediction, welcomed all attendees. The Star-Spangled Banner was performed by Lion Christine Grova; the Portuguese National Anthem was performed by Lion Katia Gomes, who also led the Lions Toast.

This was a special night for the club as they inducted four new members into the Lions Pride. District Governor Armando led the induction ceremony for new Lions Daniel Andrade, sponsored by Lion Ramiro Andrade; Dylan Carvalho, sponsored by Lion James Lopes; Carlos Antunes, sponsored by Lion Jack Panarra, and Manuel Grova III, sponsored by Manny Grova Sr. District 16-J as well as MD-16 congratulates our new Lions members.

There were many awards presented as well at this celebration. Immediate Past President and current club secretary Dianne Andrade received a Melvin Jones Fellowship, presented by club president Stephanie Catarino-Lopes. Upon receiving this prestigious award, our new MJF Dianne stated, “it is a great honor to receive this award. This represents such great things that are synonymous with service. I am proud to receive this award as it emphasizes service.”

The Elizabeth Portuguese Lions also gives a Lion of the Year Award for exemplary service to their club and community. This year’s award presented by President Stephanie was awarded to Lion Jack Panarra. Lion Jack also received a GAT certificate from Council Chair Mahesh Chitnis. When asked about being named Lion of the Year, Lion Jack stated, “I am honored and proud to win the Lion of the Year award.”

The Lions Appreciation Award, in appreciation for volunteer service was presented by Past President Jaime Lopes to Lion Antonio Correia.

As this club was chartered 40 years ago, District Governor Armando Guerra presented years of service Chevrons to the following Lions:

40 Years of Service: Jose Batista, Antonio Correia, Albion Goncalves, Manuel Grova, Alfredo De Oliveira, Armenio Monteiro, Fernando Monteiro, Nelson Monteiro.

30 Years of Service: Rosa Grova, Christine Grova.

Dinner and dancing followed the awards ceremony to the gastronomic delight of all attendees. This was a celebration of good times, good friends, good fellowship and Lions service.