



LONE STAR LIONS EYE BANK

Sight Journal

October 2011

www.LSLEB.org

Volume 5, Issue 1

Help LSLEB Promote Donor Awareness during 16th Annual National Donor Sabbath

In November each year, faith communities throughout the United States observe National Donor Sabbath. This year marks the 16th annual event.

National Donor Sabbath is part of a national donation initiative launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1997. Observed Friday through Sunday two week-ends before Thanksgiving, the three-day designation seeks to include the days of worship of the major religions.

Houses of worship hold services and programs focused on the life-affirming gifts of hope passed to others by eye, organ, tissue, marrow, and blood donors. As a result, faith leaders increase awareness of donation and transplantation. Those who donate heal and strengthen not just their recipients, but families, friends, and the larger community.

Many people turn to their faith leaders for help when dealing with life and death issues. Nearly every religion in the United States officially supports organ, tissue, and eye donation or supports the individual choices of its members. Donation is viewed by most religions as an act of compassion and generosity, and National Donor Sabbath is celebrated in many houses of worship, often with a transplant recipient sharing a personal story of receiving "a second chance at life."

Awareness of donation increases each year, but so does the need for donors. More than 110,000 people were on the organ transplant waiting list as of April 2011 despite the fact that nearly 8,000 deceased donors and over 6,500 living donors gave the 'gift of life' - an organ transplant - to more than 28,500 people in 2010.

The most common and successful of all transplant surgeries performed today are corneal transplants. Each year, approximately 50,000 Americans receive a corneal transplant. The need in Texas is especially great as only 8% of Texans are registered donors. Texas has the second lowest percentage of registered donors in the United States.

Lone Star Lions Eye Bank asks all religious leaders to educate their congregants on the critical shortage of organ, tissue and eye donation. Please join us in this mission to save a life...and another...and another.

You're invited to enlist your house of worship to participate in National Donor Sabbath and thereby help to increase the numbers of Texans on the statewide Donate Life Registry (www.DonateLifeTexas.org).

For more information on how your house of worship can participate in Donor Sabbath 2011, please contact Heather at hbeliveaux@lsleb.org or call 512-457-0638.

3 ways you can participate in National Donor Sabbath

- 1. Enlist your house of worship to participate:** LSLEB can provide bulletins and bookmarks. LSLEB can provide information for your house of worship, including free bulletins and bookmarks. E-mail Heather at HBeliveaux@LSLEB.org for more information.
- 2. Register to be an Eye Donor:** Sign up on the Texas Donor Registry at www.DonateLifeTexas.org. Share your decision with your family members.
- 3. Celebrate the season of giving:** In lieu of gifts, ask friends and family to make contributions to Lone Star Lions Eye Bank in honor or in memory of a loved one. You can donate online at www.LSLEB.org.

Kevin Corcoran Named as Incoming EBAA President/CEO

Kevin P. Corcoran, C.A.E., has been appointed as incoming president/CEO of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA).

With 12 years of CEO experience, Mr. Corcoran comes to the EBAA having most recently served as president of K Patrick Consulting in Chantilly, Va. Prior to his tenure at K Patrick Consulting, he headed two national associations as the executive vice president of the American Chiropractic Association and of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU).

To ensure a smooth transition, Mr. Corcoran will begin his work at the EBAA on October 31, 2011, assuming his duties as president/CEO on January 1, 2012, following Patricia Aiken O'Neill's retirement, effective December 31, 2011.

10th Annual Seminar

Serving the Un-served

Lone Star Lions Eye Bank hosted its 10th Annual Seminar on July 31, 2011, at the Manor Lions Hall. The Seminar culminated in the installation of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors of the Eye Bank.

This year's Seminar was dedicated to the topic of Serving the Un-served in our Central Texas community. The Eye Bank announced the establishment of a new referral program that will allow the Eye Bank to serve those who wish to be eye/cornea donors, but ultimately pass away outside of the current limited channels of donation referral. To learn more about this program, see "Referral Partnership" on the back page of this newsletter.

During the Seminar, LSLEB Executive Director, Bess Beliveaux, recounted the story of an Eye Bank volunteer whose son passed away in a car accident. This devastated father rushed to the funeral home and waited for an hour and a half to hold his dear child one last time. Days later, in shock and grief, the family realized they had never been approached about donation. This family's story is not uncommon and highlights the importance of building a referral program in Central Texas that reaches every person and family who wishes to choose the gift of sight.

In the Eye Bank's efforts to build this referral program, a special invitation was extended to Justices of the Peace, Funeral Home Directors and Lions Club Members. Over 80 community members from Central Texas attended the Seminar.

The Seminar featured two special guest speakers. Dr. Suzanna Dana spoke to seminar participants about the compatibility of donation and a forensic investigation. And, for the second time, we were honored to have eight-year old Chase Perry, a corneal transplant patient, speak to the audience about the transplants he has received since birth and the impact they have had on his life. Lone Star Lions Eye Bank has provided all of

the tissues used in Chase's surgeries and we have loved watching him grow up over the years.

A unique component of this year's Seminar was a series of Roundtable Discussions with Seminar participants about our new referral program. These sessions produced ideas and contacts that will help the Eye Bank continue to build a successful referral program and offer a starting point for interested individuals and organizations to support the referral program in their local community. For ideas on how you, your business or civic organization can become involved, consider participating in the Ambassador Training Program that will be held on January 21, 2012. Lone Star Lions Eye Bank is grateful to those who traveled far and wide to attend the Seminar and for their continued dedication to the Eye Bank's mission to provide sight restoring vision to all who need it.



Above: Chase Perry, an 8-year-old corneal recipient, tells his story to the Seminar attendees.

Below: 2011-2012 LSLEB Board of Directors



Lion Michael Wilson (left) passes the gavel to Lion Robert Dockendorf, who will serve as President of the Board.



Welcome 2011-2012 LSLEB Board Members

Executive Committee

Robert Dockendorf, President
K. Wade Burton, 1st Vice President
James Haverland, 2nd Vice President
Alan Russell, 3rd Vice President
Adrien Drouilhet III, Secretary
Darrin Vail, Treasurer
Michael Wilson, Immediate Past President
Doris Treadwell, Awards/Recognition
Michael Jackson
Al Hedtke

District 2-S5

Andy Rodriguez, District Governor
Ernie Koy, 1st Vice District Governor
Danny Stribling, 2nd Vice District Governor
Michael Wilson, Region I
Darrin Vail, Region II
John Crews, Region III
Al Hedtke, Region IV
James Haverland, Region V
Don Ballard, Region VI

District 2-S3

Gary K. Cocanougher, District Governor
J.P. Kirksey, 1st Vice District Governor
Frank Kinald, 2nd Vice District Governor
Kurt E. Tessnow, Region I
K. Wade Burton, Region II
Lois Schrou, Region III
Michael Jackson, Region IV
Betty Schilling, Region V
Adrien Drouilhet III, At-Large
Doris Treadwell, Honorary

District 2-X3

Richard Surface, District Governor
Bob Crabtree, 1st Vice District Governor
Lawrence Sanchez, 2nd Vice District Governor
Robert Dockendorf, Region A
Jerry Barker, Region B
Alan Russell, Region C
Janice Tooke, At-Large
Michael E. Ludlow, At-Large
Doug Morgan, At-Large

Donor Referral Partnership Encourages Cornea Donation

Lone Star Lions Eye Bank recently launched an outreach program to provide eye donor services to the citizens of the 36 Central Texas counties LSLEB serves (Districts 2-S3, 2-S5, and 2-X3) who currently go un-served. The outreach program, called the Donor Referral Partnership, works with those professionals outside of hospitals who take care of the deceased and their families including justices of the peace, nursing homes, hospice programs, first responders and funeral directors.

We estimate that a minimum of 72 corneas each month go uncollected due to the lack of a donation program outside of hospitals. These people and their

families are typically not given the chance for organ and tissue donation even when they are registered donors, and as such Texas and the nation face a shortage of transplantable corneas for restoring sight.

The Referral Partnership began July 30, 2011 with invitations issued to the Justices of the Peace and the Funeral Directors working in the 36 Texas Counties served by LSLEB. Since then, LSLEB has had numerous requests to further educate these professionals to provide this unique service to their constituents.

If you are interested in helping LSLEB promote this new program in your community, please call the Eye Bank at 512-457-0638.



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on-line**

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register your e-mail address**

**LSLEB respects your privacy, and does not
share your contact information.**



*Imagine the
difference the
gift of
SIGHT
can make!*