

Lions Mobile Sight & Hearing Unit of District 24-D, Inc.

Annual Report 2013-2014

My first annual report has to begin with recognition of the district's true heroes—the Lions that drive the flagship of District 24-D! A gracious thank you is owed to Lions Clay Senecal, Jerry Phelps, Roy Stockdill, Sol Sherfey, Ken Darling and Nancy Cranford. These caring individuals volunteer countless hours for commitments made by clubs within our district, obligate weekends, etc. to honor service events that are for the greater good of our community. Without our drivers, we merely have a garage covering an oversized recreation vehicle. Our drivers are the vanguard of our district and represent the best services we're capable of rendering! Add to it, Lion Sol, acting mayor of our building, has accomplished significant improvements to the vehicle and facility—mentioned later in this report, and Lion Ken Darling has excelled at van aesthetics! My thanks to all!!

I also want to acknowledge our scheduler who is equally essential to everything we do—a Lion who organizes our ability to serve others. We owe as much gratitude to Lion Mary Lou Newman as we do our drivers! Next, we owe a hearty thank you to Lion William "Chase" Chasten for keeping our grounds and barn looking good. Because of his labor, we are looked upon as a good neighbor by our neighbors. And no less important are the contributions of two Lions who provide cohesiveness to our board--Lions Nancy and John Cranford. Members of the board come and go, but they are the steady hands on the helm serving as secretary and treasurer---they too are outstanding Lions!!! Finally, I want to acknowledge all Lions that serve on our current board! We've wrestled with big contentious issues, but we are all moving in the same direction—putting service ahead of self—to serve the district and community well. My thanks to all who make this effort go!

At the start of this Lions year, I established three goals. First, we must recruit more drivers. I'm pleased to report we have a driver in training (Jim Kidder) and we're looking for more. Second, that we raise sufficient funds to keep the van rolling and to finance a replacement vehicle. Contributions are coming in and we've finished this Lions year financially healthier than last. Finally, I've asked Lion Sol to spearhead an effort to determine the future of our services (10-year plan). It is my firm belief this board owes a vision and vector to the district regarding the services we'll render and how we'll accomplish that mission. Lion Sol created a survey that affords Lions of District-24D an opportunity to voice their vision for the district. We will accumulate the views/opinions and offer significant visions for the future of this district. None of us know what the "right" answer is today, but we have embarked upon a path that'll bring the future into focus—that'll keep us on the cutting edge of providing first-class services at a minimum investment. We'll gain much ground on this vision in the coming year!

The board authorized Lion John Cranford to manage our certificates of deposit. He is authorized to make decisions about maturing CDs (i.e., buy a follow-on CD or deposit the cashed value into our checking account).

During the past year our board was blessed by the efforts of Lion Pat Taylor who volunteered to organize fund raisers on our behalf. She coordinated the van's use at a Newport News Boys & Girls Club activity attended by local and congressional leaders. She provided the board with a check from Ferguson Enterprise, in the amount of \$2500 and raised funds from Auto Bell car wash.

During the past year, we've accomplished the following:

Van:

- Modified curtains, with liner, to support SPOT screenings

- Drivers side tonometer was repaired, calibrated and reinstalled. Passenger side tonometer was cleaned
- All audiometers have been calibrated and reinstalled
- Jack plates were narrowed by 4 inches and have new handles
- Replaced the refrigerator
- Replacement of light fixtures
- Obtained auxiliary keys
- Replacement of locking hood latches

Building:

- Negotiated facility lay out between Parades & Floats, EGRC and S&H to include a reapportionment of the cost-share
- Wired compressor and extra 120vAC outlets for the workbench
- Passed inspection by building insurance company
- Building locks changed

Van usage was down this year—second lowest since we began keeping records. By last count, 42 screening trips were logged—lowest since 2006-07. We generated approximately \$7000 in revenue—lowest since 2003-04. As a result, the board has taken several actions. First, at the start of the year, the board recognized that the van had not visited the Eastern Shore in years. Therefore, the board offered one free use of the van to the Eastern Shore. Unfortunately, that offer wasn't exercised. Following that, the board embarked on an effort to determine causal factors for reduced usage. In the meantime, the board agreed to reduce usage fees from September to November 2014! Usage fees will be reduced to \$100 per trip and \$.50 a mile. We will advertise the price breaks hoping clubs will book the van during this opportunity.

During the past year, John D. Parks Fellowships were awarded to Lion John Cranford and Lion Fred Quist (for his many years working with Lion Parks in keeping the van on the road and looking good)! We're asking clubs to consider awarding more John D. Parks Fellowships. Since the initiation of the John D. Parks, at least 15 have been bestowed. Funds raised from this concerted effort infuse more synergy into the van replacement effort. We are going to do much more advertising for the John D. Parks Fellowships! In addition, we've mounted a plaque, listing John D. Parks recipients prominently in the van!

Finally, Lion John Watters has given us pause to think about the services offered within the mobile van. For example, air puff screening is not necessarily a good tool for glaucoma. There's a perceived value of our tests that may or may not be valid. Lion John will spearhead an effort to review the screenings performed and recommend necessary changes to our approach.

All Lions are invited and encouraged to attend board meetings. The Sight & Hearing van is a tool for providing community service. The board will do all we can to keep this district attribute on the road and help us fulfill our motto, "We Serve!"