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18. Band Committee

The Ohio Lions All State Band was founded in 1984 and first traveled to San Francisco, the site of the Lions Club International Convention that year. Since that time our students have performed throughout Ohio and at International Conventions in the United States and abroad. Their reputation as a top-performing group has become a source of pride for the Lions, Lioness and Leos of Ohio, who sponsor this activity. In addition to performing in San Francisco, band members have paraded and performed at Lions Clubs International Conventions in Dallas, New Orleans, Denver, Miami, St. Louis, Brisbane, Australia, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Montreal, Canada, and in July 1997, in Philadelphia, PA.

Students in grades 9-12 of the current school year are eligible for membership. Former band members do not need to re-audition. All Students applying for the first time are selected on the basis of information shown on their application and the audio or video audition tape. Each band member is responsible for a portion of his or her expenses. The remaining money is made up fully by the Lions of Ohio (Lions, Lioness and Leos) either through direct clubs sponsorship of individual band members or club donations.

19. Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Committee responsible to study, analyze and interpret the Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy Manual of the Ohio Lions; to maintain up-to-date revisions; and to initiate and draft proposed amendments to these documents.

20. Extension Committee

Committee responsible for promotion, encouragement, and assistance in the formation of new Lions clubs within the Multiple District.

21. Finance & Planning Advisory Committee

Committee responsible to act as custodian of the Ohio Lions' funds; to study the future of Ohio Lionism, the financial structure and investments; and to present plans and make recommendations to ensure the continued growth and development of the Ohio Lions.

22. International Convention Committee

Committee responsible for preparation of plans and making provisions for necessary activities for the Ohio Delegation to the annual International Lions Convention.

23. International Relations Committee

The prime goal of this committee is to promote worldwide cooperation and understanding for the purpose of making the world a better place to live.

The Ohio **AMIGOS** program is centered at Kent State University. The major organizer and promoter of this vital program is Heather Williams, a dynamic Spanish teacher at the University. Each summer, the Ohio Chapter sends about 28 young volunteers—high school seniors and college students—to some of the most impoverished areas of Central and South America to provide community health education, assist in construction of community latrines, give immunization shots, and provide other humanitarian services. Each volunteer trains in the various services that they are to provide for 6 months before departing to their assigned country. Some students return a second year, and others have chosen to serve mankind in this way as their life's work.

Club Twinning joins two clubs from different countries through communications and possibly visits, and is a great way for clubs and club members to foster understanding worldwide. Likewise, the International contest for Ham radio operators has improved relations and been vital in many disaster areas.

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity—VOSH/Ohio and Student VOSH members donate their time and expertise to travel to some of the most impoverished areas of the world to give free eye exams and dispense the thousands of used eye glasses collected by the Lions Clubs. They work from dusk to dawn on these missions trying to examine as many of the long lines of people as possible. These are people who will never be able to afford to purchase glasses, and often the pair of used eyeglasses given to them is the difference between being functionally blind, or being a productive member of their community.

24. Leadership Development Committee

Committee responsible for planning and implementing a program of leadership development and training for the club and district officers of the Lions of Ohio—including district level schools and seminars, the annual Fall Conference, and District Governorship preparation.

25. Liaison Committee

Committee responsible to foster and maintain a favorable atmosphere for Ohio Lionism throughout Lions International; to study and analyze the needs of Ohio Lionism for International Office; and to serve on the Campaign Committee for an Ohio Candidate for International Office.

26. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

LCIF is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International that serves the world community—it's a center for the blind in India, a drought relief project in Brazil, and a camp for handicapped children in the United States. LCIF has been helping Lions serve since 1968. Acting as a public, non-profit, Tax-exempt Corporation, it provides—through the contributions of Lions, Lioness and Leos, as well as non-Lions—millions of dollars for programs that help the needy of the world. It was created to give Lions the ability to work together as world citizens in achieving their common goals.

The Foundation receives grant applications worldwide from Lions who have taken the initiative to solve problems beyond their local financial means. LCIF makes certain all donated moneys are channeled into well-planned⁷⁸ and well-controlled projects, and every project must meet one of three basic objectives.

Humanitarian services are the largest grant category. Many of these grants help build hospitals, schools and orphanages to meet local needs. Others, like medical research and drug awareness programs, address needs that concern all people.

Vocational training is another area in which LCIF grants assist needy students in their own countries. Finally, major disaster relief assistance is provided by the Foundation to victims of floods, earthquakes, droughts and hurricanes in more than 50 nations. Although the members of Lions Clubs International are separated by distance, language and culture, they share a concern for the world community through LCIF.

27. Membership Committee

Committee responsible to design, promote and supervise membership recruitment, development and retention programs; to assist the District Leadership Development Chairperson with efforts to strengthen weak clubs; and to develop and promote membership growth programs, indoctrination programs and induction ceremonies.

28. Public Relations an Marketing (PRaM)

This committee is responsibly for the enhancement of the image of Lionism throughout Ohio by effectively communicating the activities and successes of the Ohio Lions Clubs to all Ohio Lions, and to increase the awareness about the mission and purpose of Lionism to Ohio citizens.

29. Sight & Hearing Committee

The Sight & Hearing Committee is responsible for promotion and participation assistance in sight and hearing projects throughout each district.

- a. **Camp Echoing Hills** is an organization that provides a safe and secure camping experience for blind, deaf and handicapped children during the summer months. Many of the children that attend this camp are repeat campers. The parents feel secure in knowing that their children are well cared for in safe surroundings.
- b. **Columbus Speech and Hearing** works to help individuals improve their communication abilities. They work with the deaf, hearing impaired and those with speech-language problems. This organization is a Helen Keller affiliate, and has an annual budget of \$2,800,000.
- c. **Happy Canine Helpers** is one of the newer organizations that is funded from your contributions to Sight & Hearing. These qualifying dogs are trained to help the handicapped, and are instructed on how to pick up items, turn on light switches, and various other tasks to help make the life of the handicapped more independent. This organization is devoted to saving canine lives and making them useful for people—they pick up many of their dogs from Humane Societies, dog pounds, and other rescue organizations

- d. **Lions Hearing Dogs** provide animal training to help the hearing impaired or deaf become more independent. The dogs can alert a person to doorbells, a phone ringing, and many other noises that they are trained to observe and recognize.
- e. **Lions Pilot Dogs** trains guide dogs and their blind masters in the satisfactory use of such guide dogs. Pilot Dogs gives its trained animals to the blind at absolutely no charge. This organization is supported entirely by public contributions, and is the largest recipient of Sight & Hearing funds.
- f. **Newsreel** provides a three-hour magazine on cassette tape, produced by and for the visually handicapped. Newsreel contains articles, information and entertainment valuable to blind persons.
- g. **Ohio Radio Reading Services** is a statewide service for the blind. They have nine radio transmitters throughout the state that read newspapers, magazines and any other news item of interest to blind people.
- h. **Society to Prevent Blindness** provides vision screening to help in the early detection of sight problems that can be treated. This service is available throughout the State for all ages.

30. Youth Committee

This committee's purpose is to serve in the promotion, administration and coordination of all Ohio Lions sponsored youth activities.

- a. **Drug Awareness** includes activities designed for both education and prevention. Literature is available from Lions International dealing with many aspects of substance abuse, and several Lions programs include sessions to deal with this threat.
- b. **GOOD Program Lions Club Award** started in Ohio in 1996 to promote high academic standards and good citizenship by students in elementary, middle, and high schools. Teachers select the students based on ten criteria that exemplify good student behaviors, including regular attendance, good work habits, respect for adult supervision, and positive interaction with other students. Winners receive an award certificate, a GOOD Program/International Lions Club T-shirt, plus any formal recognition that can be arranged.
- c. **Ohio Lions Handicapped Youth Camps / Camp Echoing Hills** provides weeklong camping experiences for blind, deaf, or orthopedically handicapped children, ages 7-13 and 13-19, in specially built facilities built to provide comfortable and safe accommodations.
- d. **Lions International Youth Exchange Program** is open to young people ages 15-21 that wish to briefly visit another country to learn about its customs. Under this program a youth in one area may visit another country from four to six weeks. Lions-approved host families provide room and board for the young visitors. The youth exchangee, the sponsoring Lions club and the district usually share the costs for the exchange. The real purpose of this program is to establish international understanding and friendship among the youth of the world.
- e. **LEO Clubs** are made up of young men and women ages 14-28 who are interested in community service. The basic objects of the Leo club are to provide youth with an opportunity for development and contribution, individually and collectively, as responsible members of the local, national, and international community.
- f. **Lions-Quest** is a comprehensive educational approach to drug prevention in elementary, middle and high schools. Two million young people each year in 30 countries receive materials and training in life-skills development, character education, drug and violence prevention, and community service-learning.
- g. **International Peace Poster Contest** unites Lions club members around the globe in an effort to provide the children of their communities with the opportunity to envision world peace. Using only picture images, students are challenged to think about world peace and creatively express what it means to them. Contest winners are then recognized within their school and community, and possibly beyond. This program provides the opportunity for Lions to develop a relationship with teachers and youth group leaders, which can lead to future student involvement for other Lions activities.

31. Ohio Lions Eye Bank

The mission of the Ohio Lions Eye Bank is to provide donor eyes for corneal transplantation, eye research, and medical education. In order to fulfill this mission Eye Bank activities include collection, evaluation, preparation, storage, and distribution of donor eyes. In addition the Eye Bank provides medical professionals with the educational and procedural support necessary to discuss eye donation so that the wishes of donors and their families can be properly carried out.

The Eye Bank provides corneas and sclera (the white part of the eye) to about 25 ophthalmic surgeons within the service area. When fortunate enough to have extra corneas the Eye Bank shares them with eye banks and surgeons all over the country. Until the last few years as many as one-third of the corneas needed by patients in this area had to be “imported” from outside eye banks; however thanks to increased eye donations no additional corneas have been “brought in” since December 1992. During the last 4 years ALL of the corneas needed for local transplants were also donated locally.

Even as technological advancements have brought the eye-banking world into a new era, eye banking has retained a close affiliation with the community through the Lions support. Lions funding has enabled the Eye Bank to purchase state of the art equipment for laboratory and distribute brochures, set up displays at health fairs, purchase videos, and upgrade computer capabilities for vital patient record keeping. In many cases the processing fees could not have covered these expenses.

The Lions’ spirit of service has been clearly visible in their participation as volunteers on the Eye Express Drivers’ Team. Throughout the service area of Central, Southern and Northwestern Ohio the efforts of these volunteers make it possible for the Eye Bank laboratory to receive donor eyes safely and quickly. Transporting donor eyes by other means can be extremely costly—the savings to the Eye Bank each year in monetary terms is in the thousands of dollars. The savings in time is immeasurable; and without this greatly valued service many otherwise healthy donor eyes would not reach the lab in time to be considered for transplantation.

Lions and the Lions Eye Bank have made a commitment to the betterment of life for the community’s vision impaired patients. Lions are involved in Eye Bank efforts by handing out donor cards, speaking to community groups, engaging in dialogue with legislators, and setting up the Eye Bank display at area fairs. In this way Lions help to regularly remind both the public and their selected representatives of the continuing need for donor eyes. Use your District Chairman for a program at a club or zone meeting.

The challenge is to provide transplant recipients with healthy donor corneas in as short a time as possible. With the help of many supporters who assist around the clock and throughout the year the Eye Bank can continue to offer new sight to corneally blind patients depending on donated eyes, and new hope through your support of research and the medical education to sufferers of all types of eye disease.

32. Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation (OLERF)

Due to the commitment and generosity of organizations like the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation great advances in medical research have been achieved during the past several decades—resulting in significant developments and improved conditions for eye patients throughout the world.

New and refined treatments for some of the leading causes of preventable blindness—such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and amblyopia—have already been attained through research funded by the OLERF. These treatments have already prevented blindness and restored vision to innumerable individuals in the state of Ohio.

Studies of eye specimens obtained from the Lions Eye Bank are helping to improve our knowledge of blinding retinal diseases. Through the assistance of Lions funds a device has been developed for patients who are unable to have corneal transplants—providing them sight once again.

Building upon the traditions of OLERF, the Ohio State University Medical Center is now poised to take eye research to a new level. Currently there are opportunities not only to support individual research programs, but also to fund a sophisticated new laboratory to conduct some of the most advanced eye research through a “Special Building Fund”.

Medical advances through many years of collaborative efforts between the Department of Ophthalmology at OSU and the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation have benefited thousands of people. As a continuation of that collaboration the Lions of Ohio have agreed to provide \$500,000 toward the construction of the new laboratory in the Department of Ophthalmology. Much new equipment will be purchased—including such items as an ultra cold freezer, autoclaves, scales, centrifuges and a variety of the most advanced microscopes available. To permanently recognize the mutual partnership of the two institutions toward eradicating eye disease, and the valuable support of the Foundation, the laboratory will be named “The Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation Laboratory”.

We stand on the brink of achieving additional, exciting breakthroughs in eye research. With the expansion of research capabilities at The Ohio State University, made possible through your contributions to the new laboratory Special Building Fund Project and your contributions to OLERF, these breakthroughs are becoming realities.

33. Ohio Lions Foundation (OLF)

The goal of the Ohio Lions Foundation is two-fold—first, to provide adequate funds for the continuations of the Foundation’s on-going programs and grants; and second, to establish and maintain sufficient reserves so that the Foundation will be financially able to respond promptly in the event of an emergency or natural disaster in Ohio.

- a. **Clovernook Center Opportunities for the Blind**—The Foundation is continuing its five-year commitment for the production of a video to be used by Clovernook in attracting customers for its sheltered workshops, which provide rewarding employment for visually impaired persons.
- b. **Diabetes Outreach Program**—The trustees have renewed a grant for continued funding of two programs through the American Diabetes Association. The **Dial Ohio Program** lets anyone in Ohio call 1-800-DIABETES and receive current information on diabetes, its care and treatment. The **Mobile Outreach Program** includes a traveling van that takes diabetes detection, management, and education services into small towns throughout Ohio.
- c. **Grants**—The Foundation is proud of its record of responding quickly to approve **Disaster Relief Grants** to provide food, clothing, blankets and bedding, medical care and supplies (including replacement of lost eye glasses and prescriptions), sanitation and cleaning supplies, and temporary shelter for victims of floods, tornados, and other natural disasters striking Ohio. **Capital Grants** are awarded to exempt educational and/or social agencies for the purpose of acquiring specific pieces of equipment for visual impairment assistance. **Matching Grants** have been awarded to various charitable and educational organizations to match locally raised funds for assistance to the visually impaired.
- d. **Helen Keller Scholarship Program**—Scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of financial need and academic ability to visually impaired Ohio students enrolled as full time students in either an undergraduate or graduate program at any of the participating state supported universities.
- e. **Pre-School Vision Screening Program** permits early detection of problems in various Ohio counties.
- f. **Tactic Magazine**—The Foundation supports the publication of *Tactic*, a magazine for visually impaired computer users that is printed in both Braille and large-print format.

34. State Office Building Board of Trustees

This committee facilitates the smooth and efficient operation of the State Office Building, through responsible management of all fiduciary duties associated with operating a commercial enterprise.