

# FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK NEWSIGHT

BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE • UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



FALL 2013

## COLLABORATION

### Medical Examiners Help Eye Bank Fulfill Mission

On a daily basis, the Florida Lions Eye Bank collaborates with Medical Examiners Offices throughout South Florida to *Give the Gift of Sight*. Eye Bank coordinators travel to the Medical Examiners offices in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Collier, St. Lucie & Monroe counties to screen potential donors and contact families. For some families, it is an opportunity to make something positive come from a tragic loss.

Because the Medical Examiners are critical to the Eye Bank's success, the FLEB honored these dedicated partners at two recent events. The Eye Bank participated in the Florida Association of Medical Examiners meeting in July in Sarasota, Florida and, in September, hosted an educational luncheon for the new fellows and faculty of the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiners. We appreciate their continued support and collaboration!



*At an educational luncheon, Medical Director Dr. Sander Dubovy presents to new fellows and faculty from the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office.*



*(L-R) Eye bank Executive Director Elizabeth Fout-Caraza, Laboratory Manager Concetta Triglia and Marta Coburn, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner for Collier County.*



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## VITAS Innovative Hospice Collects Eye Glasses

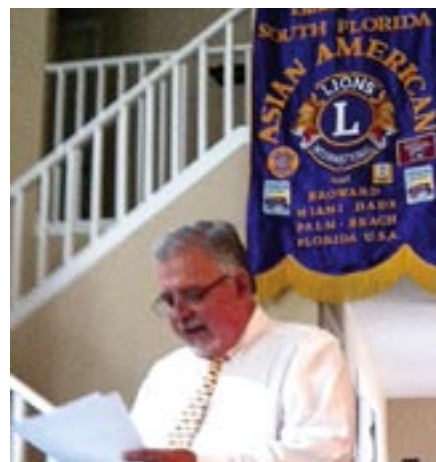
VITAS Innovative Hospice continues its long tradition of coordinating eye glasses donations. The Miami Springs Lions Club, under the leadership of a retired optometrist Lion Richard Barnes received this donation. His club is in the process of sorting, cleaning and testing the glasses for distribution in South Florida. Lion Richard is hopeful that the Miami Springs Lions Club can eventually become a Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.



*Don Dolan, RN Director of VITAS Innovative Hospice unit at Florida Medical Center, packs nearly a thousand pairs of donated eyeglasses.*

## S. Fla. Asian American Lions Select Officers

The South Florida Asian American Lions Club recently held their installation meeting at Lion Myriam Alonso's home in Margate. Now in its 16th year of service, the club celebrated the event with style. The group enjoyed homemade Asian and American delicacies and then got moving with belly dancing lessons after lunch, adding fun and exercise to the installation meeting.



The installing officer was First VDG George Letakis, who blended humor with responsibility as he installed President Jorla Soller Antoine and her Board. *Congratulations to all!*

*George Letakis installs officers of the South Florida Asian Lions Club.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*The Florida Lions Eye Bank mourns the loss of four distinguished past presidents whose leadership and dedication left a legacy of achievement that will continue to live on in the mission of our organization. Our sincere condolences to their families.*



*Archie Harrington  
1980-81*



*Ed Prellwitz  
2001-02*



*Mike San Miguel  
2005-06*



*Bud Mansolilli  
2012-13*

# Lions Gather for District 35N Meeting



*Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza welcomes Lions.*

Lions from the southeast region of Florida and the Bahamas attended the District 35N meeting hosted on Labor Day weekend by the Florida Lions Eye Bank. The day-long event featured an American-Bahamian theme and included training and executive sessions and a general assembly in the auditorium led by District Governor Dudley Bent from the Bahamas. After the assembly, there was a barbecue lunch on the patio and tours.



*Guest Karin Williamson spoke from the heart about being a cornea recipient.*



*International Director Stacey Jones (L) and District Governor Dudley Bent.*



*Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza, Stacey Jones, FLEB volunteer Ada Benson, Judy Cornille.*



*A large group of students from Nova Southeastern University attended.*



*After lunch, tours were offered of the eye bank and pathology lab.*



*FLEB President Colleen Pinkerton chats with Lions.*



*At left, guests line up for the barbecue and, below, are children of Eye Bank staff who helped serve at the lunch.*



# 2013 LIONS INSTA

The 2013 FLEB Installation Dinner ushered in the beginning of the 2013-2014 year with the organization's new leaders taking the oath of office at a festive PINK-erton and orchid-themed dinner. Held at the Courtyard Marriott in Coral Gables, the evening included a cocktail reception, silent auction and raffles.

President Colleen Pinkerton provided remarks on the year ahead and Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D. gave an overview of the operations of the eye bank. The Jimmy Nelson award, presented by Past President Bob Dawson, was presented to the Dania Lions Club. The Ross Carr Memorial Award, presented by Past President Bill Arthur, was posthumously given to Past President Bud Mansolilli.

A special thanks to the evening's generous sponsors, The Lubitz Financial Group and Wells Fargo.



*Past Presidents Lino De la Hera and Ken Shivel.*



*(L-R) Past President and PDG Juan Tejera, Dr. and Mrs. Jorge Pena, Elizabeth Tejera.*



*Past President James Brauss, O.D. and Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D.*



*Vice President Blair Anderson and Judith Cornille.*



*Fred Harkins, PDG, accepts the Ross Carr Award for the late Bud Mansolilli, from Past President Bill Arthur (L).*



*Past President Bob Dawson presents the Jimmy Nelson award to Jim Silvernale of the Dania Lions Club.*

# INSTALLATION DINNER



*Lions and guests enjoy dinner before the Installation of Officers.*



*(L-R) Elina Hackworth and Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza, with Club Representatives Page Farrell, Dorothy Letakis and Paul Mayhew.*



*(L-R) President-elect Colleen Pinkerton, Dottie Seipp and Nancy Martin.*



*Representatives from The Lubitz Financial Group, a sponsor of the Installation Dinner.*



*Attendees peruse and bid on silent auction items.*



*(L-R) Past President Richard Vidal PDG, District Secretary Mary Lackey, Past President and ID Stacey Jones.*



*(L-R) Treasurer Larry Schiff, Secretary Alfred Santamaria, Director Carlos Vargas, Director Bill Arthur, Director Geoff Wade PDG, President Colleen Pinkerton PDG, Director Antonio Burgos PDG, Vice President George Letakis and 1st VDG and Vice President Blair Anderson.*

# Donations

RECEIVED FROM APRIL 1, 2013 - AUGUST 31, 2013

Aesthetic Eye, PC  
Mrs. Dolores B. Allen  
Mrs. Dorothy Bernstein  
Mr. David L. Blalock  
Mrs. Andrea Brooks  
Mr. Arnold T. Butkus  
Mr. Manuel Castro  
Mrs. Noeli Castro  
Ms. Paula T. Companioni  
Mr. Elio Cruz  
Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi  
Sander Dubovy, M.D.  
Mrs. Vanessa Earle  
Ms. Vivian Fandino  
Mrs. Angela Fields  
Richard Forster, M.D.  
Mr. Roberto Garcia  
Mr. Martin Gelb  
Dr. Kenneth F. Golden  
Ms. Cecilia C. Gonzalez  
Mrs. Elisa O. Gonzalez  
Ms. Irmina F. Gonzalez  
Ms. Florry Goodman  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harmelin  
Ms. Shirlee Hecker  
Ms. Rose Heifetz  
Estate of Florence Herwitz

Jet Printing House  
Mr. Luke Leitz  
Mrs. Janice R. Lowe  
Mr. William F. Lyons  
Mr. G. A. Mattingley  
Mrs. Pauline Melanson  
Mrs. Awilda Melendez  
Mr. Chester Miller  
Ms. Kim C. Miller  
Mrs. Roslyn Morris  
Mrs. Ofelia M. Nibot  
Mr. Dave Niemuth  
Mrs. Betsy O'Hara  
Ms. Irene O. Reyes  
Optipena Corp.  
Mrs. Leonor Rodriguez  
Mrs. Maria Sanchez  
Mrs. Shelley Seibert  
Mrs. Ruth M. Sheldon  
Mrs. Selma Simon  
Ms. Bertha J. Smith  
Estate of Joseph John Snieg  
Mr. Timothy Strachan  
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum  
Tampa Bay Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
Mrs. Ileana M. Wood

*Our Gratitude*  
TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS  
WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN MAKE THE MIRACLE  
OF RESTORED SIGHT POSSIBLE

# With Heart and Eloquence, Poem Expresses FLEB Mission

## *The Gift of Sight*

The gift of sight  
Is the selfless act  
Of a grieving heart  
On the last goodbye

Friends and families in pain  
Can find some comfort in the end  
Although their loved ones have gone away  
They still somehow remain

In someone else's life  
In someone else's eyes  
Turning darkness into light  
What a beautiful sight!

-Magdaly Rivas

## About the Poet

Magdaly Rivas has been a histology technologist for almost 30 years, and for the last 12 years, the supervisor of the Pathology Laboratory at the Florida Lions Eye Bank. Her inspiration came from the “praying hands” monument by the entrance of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. It simply states *The gift of life* – what organ donation is all about. Magdaly said:

*“I thought of the loved ones, and their pain. Then I thought of the recipients, and their hopes and dreams. Then I thought of the donors, and how in their death, they could make a difference in the lives of others. And how as registered donors, we could take away this painful decision from our loved ones! Organ donation is filled with raw emotions for everyone involved, but its impact on lives is far reaching. This poem reflects on the joy and heartache that organ donation evokes.”*

## Leaving a Legacy through a Bequest

The Florida Lions Eye Bank is pleased to announce that it was recently the beneficiary of a very generous bequest. Joseph J. Snieg of Coral Gables, Florida, had the foresight to name the Florida Lions Eye Bank as one of the organizations to receive a portion of his estate upon his death. The significant donation was deposited into the Florida Lions Eye Bank’s investment account. A portion of the gift will help purchase new equipment and update existing equipment. More importantly, the remainder will continue to grow through proper investment to fund the operations of the Eye Bank for future generations.

### What is a Bequest?

A bequest is a distribution from an estate through a last will and testament. Very similar to the process of eye donation itself, leaving a bequest to a charitable organization is a way to *Leave a Legacy*. After your death, you will continue to make an impact on the lives of those in need of the **Gift of Sight**.

### Do you have an estate?

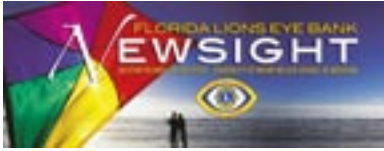
Your estate is the sum of your assets, including personal property, real estate, insurance policies, retirement accounts and cash. Wealthy people may have very large estates, but even people who aren’t wealthy often have the resources to make a charitable bequest. If

every adult in America made a will and included a bequest of just \$100, billions of dollars would flow to worthy charitable causes every year.

### How do you leave a bequest?

To leave a bequest, specific language must be added to your will. If you are considering leaving a gift in your will to the Florida Lions Eye Bank contact us today at (305) 326-6359 and/or speak to your attorney or financial planner.

***Make a difference and Leave Your Legacy with the Florida Lions Eye Bank. All donations, regardless of the amount, are appreciated. Your generosity helps make the Gift of Sight possible!***



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## COMMUNITY AWARENESS

### FLEB Attends Lions Summer Conference

Members of the Florida Lions Eye Bank staff recently participated in the three-day Lions District 35 Summer Conference, held in Ocala, Florida.



Attendees visiting the eye bank table asked general questions about eye donation and how donated eye tissue is used for both surgical and research purposes. Nearly 70 Lions participated in the FLEB raffle. A highlight of the meeting was a country and western-themed party that included country western music, line dancing and a tasty barbecue.

## AWARDS

### EYE BANK'S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT WINS ACCOLADES

The Florida Lions Eye Bank 2012 Annual Report recently received the Judges Award in the Annual Report category in a state-wide competition sponsored by the Printing Association of Florida.

The annual contest recognizes print excellence throughout Florida and considers writing, graphic design, photography, print quality and overall impression.

Congratulations to all who contributed to the project!

