

# Lions Eye Research Foundation of New Jersey, Inc.

## Annual Convention Report

May 21, 2021

2nd IVP Brian Sheehan, PCC Michael Pacala, DG's Nalit Patel, Kevin Kosobucki, Alfred Mottola, FVG's Marie Nieto, Varsha Naik, Douglas Both, SVG's Kamlesh Patel, Kashmiri Delory, Ely Mateo, PCC Jack Romano, Lion Kartika Gupta, PID Stanley Grossman, Robert Moore and Lions all.

The Lions Eye Research Foundation of NJ, Inc., had a very successful year in 2019 finalizing the purchase of the Portable Ocular Coherent Tomography Scanner which was donated to the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School in Newark. The medical equipment was delivered on July 1, 2020 to the University. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, nothing happened after that delivery for the rest of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. The manufacturer and distributor, as was the case with many other businesses, were shut down. The University was not allowing external personnel to enter their facilities and the manufacturer and distributor were not sending out their employees to train the doctors and residents how to use the new equipment. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, as I was informed a couple of weeks ago that the training is being scheduled soon, but it will be via Zoom (not in person). Hopefully the unit will begin being used for patients sometime in June. The good news is that the warranty clock only starts ticking after the setup and training is completed.

Overall, the University is still not permitting large gatherings and events on campus. Our Annual Doctors Speak Forum could not be held this year again because of COVID 19 restrictions. Like many of your clubs, we have had to make adjustments to our fundraising plans for the past year. Our Trustees did conduct the Annual Hot Dog Crawl which was the only fundraisers for us. Our Trustees canvassed their regular supporters as they each went separately to locations near their homes or joined with one other Trustee to consume Hot Dogs. Trustee & Treasurer Louie Lambe managed to add one more to secure the title of "King" for the next year. While the donations were expectedly down, you donated nearly \$1,500.00 toward this event for which we are very grateful. The Dr. Alphonse Cinotti/Lions Eye Research Chair has grown to \$2.1 million. The Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science has withdrawn an average of \$80,000 each year toward their research projects.

As we look forward to COVID 19 diminishing its influence on everything, we are confident that the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at Rutgers, NJ Medical School will be in need of additional equipment that will benefit the citizens of New Jersey and around the United States as this is where eye physicians send their most critical and unusual cases for treatment. We will welcome any support that your club can provide this year and ask that you place us into your budget for the next Lions fiscal year. To request a speaker for your club meetings, when that is appropriate, contact PID Mel Bray at [lerfnj@gmail.com](mailto:lerfnj@gmail.com) or [melvyn.bray@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.bray@icloud.com) or telephone 732-239-8968 to arrange that visit.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvyn K. Bray, PID, Executive Director