ALSCA e-notes

A Newsletter for the Directors of Alabama Lions Sight

October 2008

Mark Your Calendars

- November 22, 2008 — ALSCA Board Meeting 9 a.m. Committee Meetings 11 a.m. Board Meeting Location: Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital

Please notify Julie in writing if you will not be able to attend.

Bring a Lion!

Look out for By-Laws and Policy change proposals in the mail this month!

Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, Inc.

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PDG Jesse Johnson, Jr.

Secretary-Treasurer
Lion Dec McClelland

Executive Director
Lion Julie Beckham

Campaign 30-30 aims to better serve patients in Lions Eye Clinic

Just what is a PASCAL Laser and why does the Lions Eye Clinic need one?

Technically speaking, The PASCAL Laser uses the latest technology, which enables ophthalmologists to administer multiple, low energy level laser treatments to patients with diabetic retinopathy with one press of the foot pedal. But what does that mean for Lions Eye Clinic patients?

It means three things:

- Increased level of care
- Decreased post-surgical complications
- Reduced number of follow-up visits required

The UAB Department of Ophthalmology is looking to the Lions of Alabama to help make this major purchase (the Laser sells for about $80,000).

Fortunately, the Lions of Alabama have LCIF, which will likely leverage support by funding half of the equipment. UAB has agreed to raise $10,000, which leaves $30,000 to be raised by the Lions of Alabama.

The key to success is participation. At a modest $200 average donation per club needed, every club can help make Campaign 30-30 a success. Please show your support for this project during your club visits.

PASCAL Laser

Campaign 30-30

The Goal:
To raise $30,000 from the Alabama Lions in 30 days (November 1st-31st) to match LCIF funding for a PASCAL Laser.

How To Succeed:
The campaign must receive pledges or donations for an average of $200 per club to raise $30,000.

How to Donate:
Donations can be made out to Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association with "Campaign 30-30" in the memo line. Donations will be held in a special account, and will not be used for ALSCA operating or program costs.

Recognition:
A Lions Club or individual donating at least $200 will receive a Campaign 30-30 patch. Donations of at least $1,000 will be recognized on a plaque to go in the Lions Eye Clinic.

Fundraising Notes

East-West Baseball

East-West Baseball Chairmen have been invited to a Fall meeting to discuss East-West 2009. Participants will meet in the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital Board Room at 9 a.m. on November 22nd.

Grants

Executive Director Lion Julie Beckham met with Kim Rogers of the **Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham** to discuss the $16,750 grant request to partially fund the salary of a fundraising professional. A decision will be made in December.

The **Boeing Employees Community Fund** awarded $10,500 to Alabama Lions Sight for surgeries for North Alabamians.

Direct Mail

Submit businesses or individuals to add to ALSCA's December direct mail campaign to julie@alsca.org. Encourage other Lions to do the same.

Club Visits

Don't forget that we're shooting for 100% of clubs visited this year. We have gotten off to a great start, but to achieve our goal, everyone needs to visit their assigned clubs! Be prepared to fill in the clubs that you visited on the wall chart at our next board meeting on November 22nd.

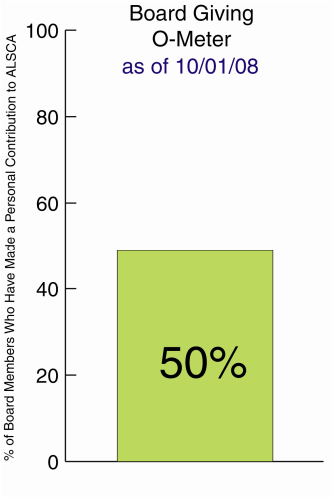
Thank a Club

Club Contributions received in September:

Opp—$1,000

Florence Downtown—$2,000

Gordo — $500



NRCA Training Opportunity

2008 Fund Development Seminar - Montgomery
Thursday, November 13th

This will be a full day of training, covering a number of fund development topics. The general session will be followed by 8 breakout sessions including Fund Development for Small Nonprofits, Developing an Annual Fund Plan, and Getting Your Board Involved in Fund Development.

Cost is $75 per person. Please talk to Julie if you're interested in attending.

Autaugaville native searches for second sight

Written by Cortez Strickland, *Prattville Progress*

Darren Davis had just completed college and was looking to finally start pursing his career in business, when actually look-ing for a job became a task within itself.

On May 11, Davis couldn't have been any happier after receiving his business administration degree from Tuskegee University, but his happiness turned into a horrific reality just days later.

Only 11 days after finishing his long four-year journey at TU, Davis started to experience blurred vision in his eyes, which forced the Autaugaville native to seek out medical attention.

Davis was diagnosed with a detached retina in his left eye and bleeding in his right by a physician in Montgomery. He also didn't have any insurance coverage.

"It was like being on top of the world, then hearing a real big disappointment," the 23-year-old said. "I know that God has something for me, but he just thought it would be better to deal with this first."

"Our whole family had a hard time sleeping, worrying about what we were going to do," said his father Eddie Davis, who struggled to put Darren through college.

An individual who was having his vehicle serviced at Eddie's garage provided the family with information about a vision assistance program through the Lions Club. Eddie contacted the local Autaugaville chapter and was introduced to its treasurer Bill Hester, who helped to guide the Davis' toward Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association in Birmingham.

"We didn't know what to do or what to say until we came to the Lions Club," Eddie Davis said. "They pointed us in the right direction that we should go. I am so thankful for their help and assistance."

"(Eddie) made a request for financial assistance to see why his son was losing vision in both eyes," said Hester, who has been a member of the Lions Club for 45 years.

Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association Inc. is a non-profit state project of the Lions Club of Alabama that funds eye exams, glasses, surgeries and other medical eye care to kids and adults of low income families that do not have insurance or any other state-funded assistance.

"The main thrust of (ALSCA) is to help people with sight problems. We are always happy and delighted when we can find someone that can be helped," said Charles DeRamus, who serves as the sight chairman at the Autaugaville Lions Club.

Last year, Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association had a hand in 245 sight-saving surgeries, with 60 percent of its revenue coming from donations and fundraisers by its members. ALSCA -- founded in 1944 -- provides assistance to roughly 5,000 people per year.

"I can't express enough thanks to (ALSCA) for helping me," Darren Davis said. "They are always kind whenever I go in for a visit and they make me feel very important. They really do care about me being able to see."

Things didn't start off smoothly for the Davis family, as they were unable to find anyone in the Montgomery area that would accept the assistance by ALSCA. But the Callahan Eye Foundation in Birmingham stepped in and helped.

Darren has undergone four surgeries so far, two laser and two eye operations. In late June, the 23-year-old had a successful operation to attach the retina in the left eye, but he isn't out of the woods yet -- blood continues to gather in the back of his right eye.

The next three weeks are going to be critical for Darren, who was told by doctors that the bleeding in the eye could decrease if things continue to work out.

"I will find out in three weeks if my vision will continue to improve," Davis said. "The doctors said it's nothing too serious, but we just have to wait and see what happens."

Like Darren, there are many others that need assistance with vision care so that they are able to live normal lives, and organizations like ALSCA can help. For information about Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, visit www.alsca.org.