

The Lions Eye

A Publication of the
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.



Summer 2012

Getting an Eye Prosthesis: The Story of Mark Wright



Mark Wright

The story of Mark Wright, his subsequent surgery at CPMC, and the involvement of the Lions Eye Foundation began in 2008. It was then that Mark was diagnosed with an inoperable traction retinal detachment of his left eye. Without medical insurance, Mark had not been able to afford regular doctor visits and his condition was being monitored sporadically at best.

It was in May 2010 that Mark's fate began to change with a chance meeting of two old friends. Lillette Quesnoy, Trustee in District 4-A2 and a member of the Visalia Charter Oak Lions Club, ran into an old friend who happened to be in Visalia for business. By coincidence, Lillette's friend just happened to be friends with Mark's sister Laurel. It was through this mutual friendship that Lillette was contacted about the Lions Eye Foundation and the services that LEF provides.

Mark was living with his sister at the time; he had not been able to work in two years. He had no medical insurance, and with no income, he was relying on his family to provide for him and his needs. It was after this chance meeting of two old friends that Mark was referred to LEF by the Visalia Charter Oak Lions Club and he made his first trip to the LEF Clinic. At the LEF Clinic, Mark was evaluated by the residents and prescribed an eye drop regimen to relieve the increased pressure in his eye. The eye drop regimen worked well at the beginning of his treatment but after a time his eye pressures began to spike and his eye was not responding to the medications. By 2011 Mark began experiencing

debilitating migraine headaches due to his deteriorating eye. According to Mark, "these were an everyday occurrence and my only relief from the pain came with sleep, and I was not getting much sleep." If you have ever had eye pain (or any intense pain) you know how pain can distort time and rob you of energy. Even daily living skills take extra time and effort. Mark, with his pain, was at a crossroad. The emotional trauma and the excruciating pain that he was experiencing were taking a tremendous toll on his emotional wellbeing. Mark's outlook about his life was extremely bleak and declining daily. It was the holidays; Mark was sick and very depressed. He needed an answer as to why, and a solution to resolving, the excruciating pain he was experiencing, and he needed it soon.

And soon it was! During his next appointment at the Lions Eye Foundation Clinic in January 2012, Mark learned the reason for his headaches. Stated Mark, "The doctors' told me that my brain was not recognizing my left eye as a functioning organ and it was slowly dying. The doctors consulted with me, explained a surgical procedure called an enucleation*, and gave me the choice of having my eye removed. The final decision was mine alone and I did not hesitate to agree to the planned surgery."

In February 2012 the surgery was performed and Mark could not have been happier. According to Mark, "When I awoke, the migraines were gone. The surgery was a success."

Mark's next step was to see Mr. Steven Young, an ophthalmologist, for his new eye prosthesis. Mr. Young began the process by making an impression of Mark's eye socket. "He then made my new artificial eye, painted the artificial eye to match my good eye and did the fitting," stated Mark. "What an outstanding job Mr. Young did. You cannot tell the difference, you cannot tell that one is artificial. Everyone was impressed with my new eye's movement and life-like appearance."

Although Lillette states "I was always kept abreast of Mark's appointments by his sister Laurel, I was not aware in the beginning that Mark's eye sight and condition had worsened. Nor was I aware of the severity of his emotional wellbeing." It was by chance, in March of this year (2012), that Lillette ran into Mark's sister and her husband Bill. "When they saw me, both of them came up to me and hugged me, and with tears in their eyes said "Thank You". It was then I heard the whole story." Said Lillette, "As a Lion, the most rewarding and satisfying feelings one can receive is a grateful and sincere thank you."

Mark states that "throughout this process, Lillette was involved with my travel arrangements and was continuously supportive of my care and treatment." Added Mark, "words cannot express the deep gratitude and thanks that come from the bottom of my heart. I don't know where I would be or in what kind of shape I would be in without the help of the Lions Eye Foundation." Thank You!

*Enucleation is the removal of the eye, leaving the eye muscles and remaining orbital contents intact. This type of ocular surgery is indicated in eyes that are blind and painful owing to other disease.

Mission Statement: "The Lions Eye Foundation preserves and restores the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community."

LEF Barkan Day Picnic in Presidio of San Francisco



Foster City Lions Getting Ready to Barbeque, left to right
Back row: Mark Paskvan and Don Stanaway helping; Sam Lerner, Fred Sommer, Mark Olivier
Front row: Wendal Quan, Lucy Tan



All Residents, left to right
Top Row: Geoff Wilkes, MD; Alan Lowinger, MD; Adam Gess, MD; Sally Lin, MD
Middle Row: Edie DeNiro, MD; Maya Ling, MD; Patrick Coady, MD
Bottom Row: Mike Clamp, MD; Ako Takakura, MD

In 1873, Dr. Adolph Barkan was appointed the first Professor of Ophthalmology on the West Coast at the University of the Pacific (now California Pacific Medical Center). Dr. Barkan served as the Department Chairman from 1873 to 1912. The Barkan Society, established in 1984, is affiliated with CPMC's Department of Ophthalmology. It welcomes all interested ophthalmologists to participate, especially alumni of the department's Residency and Fellowship program.

Every June a Barkan Research Symposium and Scientific day, hosted by a department alumnus, is held in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is the most inclusive continuing medical education program and is the culmination of the CPMC residents' year-long training in proper research conduct. Each resident develops his or her own research question at the beginning of the year and uses the lecture series to guide the development of their project. Faculty mentors guide the individual projects and facilitate discussion at the symposiums.

Every other year, there is a picnic following the mornings' research presentations. For the last 14 years the LEF has been the host of this picnic for Society members, eye clinic staff and guests. At first, DR. Bill Iannacone, (President of the LEF from 1997 – 1999) hosted the picnic with help from individual LEF officers and members.

Eight years ago, the LEF asked the Foster City Lions Club to participate. On June 16th, for the fourth time, the Foster City Lions loaded up their vehicles, transported a barbeque, ice chests, utensils, food and beverages to Crissy Field in San Francisco. Setup, preparation, service, and cleanup went very smoothly and everyone had a great time.



Denice Barsness, Supervisor Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center and Don Stanaway, Executive Director



Dr. Eric Horn, Attending Physician; Dr. Susan Day, Ophthalmology Department Head; Dr. Gus Colenbrander, Retired Low Vision Specialist

Meet John Schroeder, LEF' Advisor Chairperson



John Schroeder

John Schroeder, current Chair of the Lions Eye Foundation Advisors committee, was born in Madison, Wisconsin. At the age of six months, John and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona where John attended school at Brophy College Prep, a private school in Phoenix affiliated with the Jesuit order. After graduating high school from Brophy Prep, John went on to earn his undergraduate degree in Economics, graduating cum laude from Santa Clara University in San Jose, California. After graduation from Santa Clara U, John returned to Arizona where he attended Arizona State, earning his law degree in 1974. John, as those of you who regularly attend LEF meetings often hear him say, has been married for "thirty-eight wonderful years to his lovely bride Sylvia." John and Sylvia are the proud parents of two wonderful sons, Michael (25) and Steven (23).

John is employed by the Santa Clara County Superior Court as a Superior Court Commissioner. John's career in the Courts has always been varied, challenging and exciting, and it continues to be since his current assignment is traffic court. So those who assume that John is always an affable fellow would be advised to not speed through Santa Clara County, John is known to take exception to those who do not obey traffic laws. And while John's knowledge of the law is admirable, John also

possesses a talent that not many outside of the legal system know about. For the past 16 years John has led a group of singers who write and perform parodies on legal subjects for the Santa Clara County Bar Associations Family Law Section's annual luncheon, a project that John enjoys immensely.

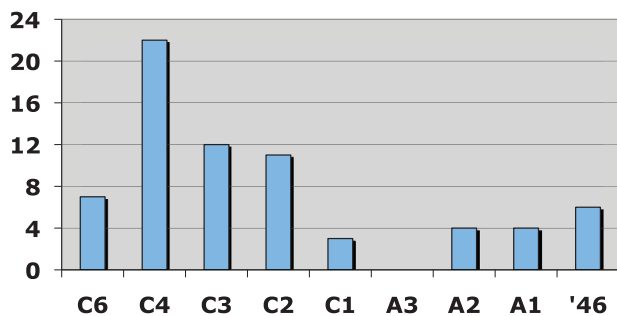
John joined Lions in 1977 and presently is with the West San Jose-Campbell Lions Club. Throughout his 35 years as a Lion, a remarkable achievement in itself, John has served in most offices of the club and district and according to the club's web site; John is currently serving on his Club's membership committee. John has received many awards for his dedicated service to Lions including the Lions International Leadership awards and two Lions Clubs International President's Certificates of Appreciation. One of John's proudest achievements, which he says happened "many moons ago," was being named "Young Lion of the Year."

John joined the Lions Eye Foundation in 1980 and has served and supported the Foundation in many capacities since. He is a Life member of the Foundation and also a Helen Keller Fellow. John is also a Past President of the Lions Eye Foundation but feels that today he can best serve the Foundation by supporting and leading the Advisors Committee of which he is Chairperson. Says John, "I am very proud to be the Past President of the Lions Eye Foundation and I am hopeful that the Foundation will be able to continue to serve the less fortunate and provide excellent eye care services for many, many years to come."

The Lions Eye Foundation is proud and honored to have as members all the dedicated men and women, those just like John Schroeder, who's only goal is to serve others.

Statistics and Leverage

**Number of Patients by District
from 4/1/12-6/30/12**



Total number of Patients ----- 69
 New Referrals ----- 105
 Actual Dollars Spent ---- \$129,580
 Estimated Value ----- \$1,231,500

LEVERAGE 9.5:1

Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 9 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 - \$35,000 each
- The youngest patient was 24 years old; and two of the oldest were 99 years old
- There were also 43 Laser Procedures with an estimated value of \$60,500 (incl. in \$'s above)

Acknowledgements and Thanks

April - June 2012

New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows:

- Russell Betrucelli (in Memoriam) • James Cavallaro
- Eugene Davidenas • Robert "Bob" Hart • Nancy Reeves
- Sandra Stevens • Cal Truesdale • Larry Waller
- Dr. Jon Wise • Robert Zwieg

New Life Members:

- Frank Garrity • Rudy Grassechi • Neil Van Kaathovern
- Janet McClintoch • Norma Miller • Monty Montelaro
- Samuel Mosunic • Kymberlie Oster • Emil Torrez

Memorial Donations (at least \$200)

- Sam French • Robert Marshal • Don Stanaway
- Sally Territo-Wong • Zeiter Eye Medical Group

General Donations (at least \$200)

- Doug Crom • Lisa Moniz • Madera Evening Lions Club

Donations (at least \$1,000)

- Danford Foundation • Intel Employees
- Nipomo Lions Club • SF Park Presidio Lions Club

Capital Campaign

- Geneva Excelsior Lions Club

Total Received:

General Fund	\$28,206
Restricted (Life) Fund	\$4,500
Capital Campaign	\$600



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Letter From The Editor - Retirement of Don Stanaway



Pat Neal

It was with mixed feeling that the Lions Eye Foundation has learned of the retirement of Don Stanaway, longtime Executive Director of the Lions Eye Foundation. Don announced his retirement to the Board, Trustee's and Advisor's at LEF's annual meeting in San Francisco in July.

Don had promised himself that he would retire after he turned eighty years of age. He is now looking forward to spending more time with his family and at his "chalet" in Lake Tahoe. Don has agreed to help LEF during the transition period and will continue as the liaison between the Pacific Vision Foundation and the Lions Eye Foundation. Says Don, "the

LEF, along with PVF, are working together to build the finest eye center in the world and I am looking forward to working towards its completion."

Although we know Don is not straying too far from LEF, he will be greatly missed as Executive Director.



Don Stanaway