

## MD 36 Lions - Hello

Our long awaited spring is finally here. Our third Lions Eye Bank Board meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and our agenda was very full. We approved our slate of officers and board members for next year and we have a very fine group.

We reported to the Eye Bank Board that the Board of Trustees of MD36 at their March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting voted unanimously to approve the Eye Bank becoming a Subsidiary Corporation, wholly owned by the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation. We have been working on this for two years and now it will be a reality. We are really two completely different operations. We wanted to protect our Foundation and Endowment Fund and, by forming a subsidiary corporation, we will be doing just that. The following are just some of the reasons for this change:

- The Foundation is a “charitable gift” entity whereas the Eye Bank is a “fee for service” entity
- This change limits the operational risk to the resources of the Foundation created by everyday Eye Bank activities
- It creates a legal firewall for the Foundation’s assets including the Endowment Funds
- It allows the Eye Bank Board more clear authority, given to them by the Lions of Oregon, to govern a healthcare organization whose needs are different than the Foundation needs
- Federal & State laws and regulations that govern the Eye Bank are not experienced by the Foundation.
- Under the current structure, the Foundation is liable to the IRS, to OSHA, to SAIF and all other such regulatory bodies, for any and all errors, omissions, accidents, etc. committed by the Eye Bank; the subsidiary corporation will alleviate this
- The Foundation and the Eye Bank have different missions
- The operational finances and budgetary needs are different
- The management needs are different

This type of subsidiary corporation is a “parent-child” relationship and the Board of Trustees of the Foundation will have the same oversight of the Eye Bank as they do now.

There will be some housekeeping changes to the Foundation Bylaws that will be presented to the Clubs for a vote at the MD36 Convention in Ashland.

.At the District G Convention Kevin Seely, Special Projects Coordinator for the Eye Bank had a slide show going continuously on the progress of our new building. We will be moving in before the end of June and our Staff is very excited about the prospect of having room to turn around in.

Speaking of our Staff, I would like to commend each and every one of them for their excellent work in very cramped conditions. Our extremely efficient Executive Director Barbara Crow leads them as they continue to provide many corneas for transplant and tissue for research as well.

Carol