

# The Eyes Have It!

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South Dakota Lions Eye Bank

April 2005



Spirit of the North  
Tissue Services

DIVISION OF SOUTH DAKOTA LIONS EYE BANK

1-800-245-7846  
www.sdleb.org

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by **Christine Belitz**  
Executive Director

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Since the temperature outside continues to rise and the grass is getting greener, I think spring has found its way past old man winter. Spring means board training activities and the need to begin planning our annual staff and board retreat, so in this issue I would like to recap the structure of your 501c3 non-profit organization called the South Dakota

Lions Eye Bank, Inc., with its division, the Spirit of the North Tissue Services, and the many programs we offer the Lions and communities within our state, our nation and the world.

First is the Eye Bank, which currently supplies cornea transplant surgeons within our state and across our nation, approximately 260 corneas a year, for individuals in need of a cornea transplant.

Second is the Spirit of the North Tissue Services, which is set up as a division of the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank for ease in regards to regulations and a guarantee of separation within the mission of giving the gift of sight. Each year we help 170 families within our region ensure that through donation their loved one can continue to give even after death and to provide area communities the tissue products they need to improve the health of individuals within their area.

Third is our endowment program called the ForeSight

Club which was established to ensure the Eye Bank has a tool for receiving donations from individuals or corporations to help further our vision: to give the gift of sight without a financial burden to the recipient.

Fourth is our grant program. This program began as a way to ensure that all communities within South Dakota are offered the opportunity to donate eyes, organs or tissues to improve the general health of their local population. This program has been set up within a grant structure because it deals with a cultural community that does not understand eye, organ or tissue donation as a whole. We look to expand this grant program into the study of additional cultural beliefs and evolve into research and building grants if necessary.

Fifth is our overseas cornea program. Currently we are working with a transplant surgeon in Cairo, Egypt, and a transplant center in Seoul, Korea, called ScienTissue. We move about 50 corneas a year overseas for a reduced processing fee.

And sixth, we have our fundraising program. It is a requirement of all non-profit 501c3 corporations that they demonstrate that a portion of their annual income is raised through charitable contributions. The strategic goal of our fundraising program is to grow it to a point where fundraising generates enough income to offset the administrative expenses of all other programs.

As you can see from the programs listed here, the Lions and Eye Bank staff continue to serve the communities of South Dakota in the true spirit of Lionism.

## Lions Eye Bank helps families help others

During the Easter Season and with spring here it reminds me of new life, and how donation can also renew life.

The majority of the hospitals across our state and the surrounding areas are using the Assisted Approach/Family Connection method of approaching the families for eye and tissue donation. This means that after talking with one of our coordinators, the nurse provides the family with a brochure on donation and informs them that someone from the Eye and Tissue Bank would like to talk with them about donation.

We have found that this is somewhat difficult for the nursing staff to do. In one recent incident the nurse actually apologized to the family for having to bring up donation. Donation is not something to be frowned upon; it is an option the family needs to be able to give new life to people who are in desperate need. Every hospital we work with has a designated brochure that is used to broach the topic of donation with families. Our staff is trained to talk to families about donation in a caring and compassionate manner. The family's wishes are always respected; however, it is our responsibility to be sure family members can make an informed decision. Remember, each donor has the possibility of helping over 80 people live a renewed life. Working together, we can ensure that every family has the option of helping their loved one live on.

by **Karen Hudson, CEBT**  
Hospital Development

## Golf, Golf, Golf!

Planning for this year's golf tournaments is underway! The Sioux Falls tournament will be held at Prairie Green Golf Course on **July 29**. The West River tournament will again be held in Hot Springs on **July 15**. Last year, over 60 businesses and organizations sponsored teams or holes to help make the tournament a success. We hope to see even more of you on our sponsorship list this year!

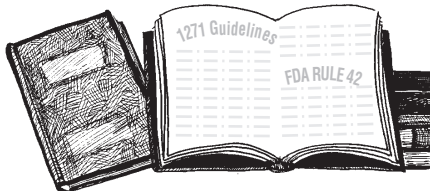
# TECH NOTES

Happy Spring

The first quarter of the year is gone and we're on our way into the second. We have had 66 consented eye donors and 36 consented tissue donors up to this time.

by Sharon Morgan  
Technical Director

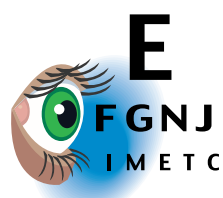
I have been traveling quite a bit lately. I recently came back from Allosource where we studied and discussed the new 1271 guidelines and its interpretations. I also recently returned from Atlanta where we went through some training on a new nerve project that we will begin in the next month. I will be traveling to Chicago in the next few days and will be there doing some training with RTI.



Everything is going well with all the new staff statewide and we are gradually training them all. The new office in Aberdeen is up and running and the staff are doing great there, too. ☺

## Public education a big part of your Eye Bank's services

Health fair season came in with a bang this year! Since January, the Eye Bank has been in ten different communities promoting donation at health fairs and farm and home shows, and we are scheduled to be at seven more events in the next month. Presentations from the Eye



Bank have also been in demand – we've visited 8 Lions clubs since January as well. Look around you for areas in your community that could use more information about donation. Remember that we offer presentations to any organization, no matter the size, free of charge. Call Shiloh at 1-800-245-7846 or email her at

shiloh\_oorlog@sdleb.org to schedule your program today! ☺

## New high set for organ transplants

26,984 Americans received organ transplants in the year 2004, an increase of close to 11 percent over the 2003 total. The number of transplant candidates who died waiting for an organ fell below 6,000 for the first time in six years.



This is great news! This is really what we all work for; the betterment of lives through donation.

The Quality Assurance Department has been working hard at meeting new FDA regulations by the end of May. Several meetings have been held on this topic across the country, with the participation of the FDA Inspectors, which have given everyone a better understanding of what the new FDA requirements hold and how to best implement them into the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank and The Spirit of the North Tissue Services. The Quality Assurance department has been networking with organizations around the country discovering how to help one another.

We have had our own FDA Inspector in to visit and again we welcomed him for his insight into helping us provide better and safer products and service. He showed us how to organize our records more efficiently and made suggestions on documentation.

In addition to that, we have been auditing some of our own service providers this past month; one audit of a processor and two of our testing labs. All organizations were well represented in staff and service, with an emphasis on service. We really do work with some fine organizations in an effort to provide the best quality grafts possible to our recipients!

The next couple of months will involve implementing all the new changes required by the FDA and training all of our staff in new procedures. It should be a great spring!

We've welcomed Raph Smith into our organization as our new Director of Quality Assurance, and we are looking forward to working with him. ☺

## Five steps to having fun while managing change

"The only constant is change" someone once said. Why is change so difficult?

Change involves the unknown. Most of us really dislike the unknown. Then comes the fear we'll fail at changing successfully. Our culture places such pressure on doing everything perfectly the first time. Along with the perfection stigma comes the fear of what others will think.

To win at the game of change, realize the steps to manage change are fairly simple and are best when applied with a good sense of humor.

At the onset of change comes, uh, er, well, usually crisis! We're backed into a corner and it's change or die.

Wa la! You have mastered



STEP ONE

of change; the emotional wake-up call.

STEP TWO is even more fun and less annoying to the stomach. Hard work! Most people like this phase of change, because we are too busy working to realize...we're

changing.

STEP THREE

Critical thinking time again. Usually the crisis has now come to a point of decision. Tough choices must be committed to. This is where we decide to make the "move forward, and never look back" decision. During this phase, there is often a sense of relief that the decision has been made to commit to change. You might even experience a little glimpse of freeing optimism; the future is now looking brighter.

Whamo, STEP FOUR is the phase-o-pain. All of a sudden that sinking uncomfortable

feeling is back, déjà vu...we're tempted to quit! This critical phase is accompanied by feeling like you have been doing everything "right" but you're still getting the "wrong" result. Most people bail out right here. Here's where humor is essential to handle the inevitable setbacks.

Congratulations, you have made it to STEP FIVE, you have won the game. Even if your plan did not work out perfectly, fear not, you stuck with the change. Now, ideally the changes are a part of your life. Remember, too, change can be managed

effectively by not taking every setback so seriously. Don't have a coronary over the small stuff, heck, don't have it over the big stuff either.



Excerpted from Midwest Meetings, spring/summer 2005. Written by Jim Pelley, a former stand-up comedian and contributing writer for the original Saturday Night Live show.

# Grant Review

**Arliss Keckler** presented at three classes for the nursing students in Eagle Butte. Students are very interested since this will be a part of their lives when they graduate.

On April 21 and 22, Arliss and I are going to a seminar in Minneapolis on the ethics of organ and tissue donation among Native Americans. There will be presentations by Native American healers, transplant surgical teams and tribal elders. Individuals in the health community heard about our brochures and video and as a result, Arliss has been asked to be a presenter and show the video and give a talk about how our program is doing.

**by Joan Hammond**  
Administrative Assistant

Our grant video has become very popular. People from outside our area are calling and requesting it. As a result we are copyrighting the video and considering copyrighting the brochures. There is discussion about becoming involved with a national video to distribute to Indian Health Services.

As you can see, the grant is progressing well. We are finding that education will be the key. ☺ 🐦



# Regional Development

The spring of 2005 has brought a lot of new challenges for me as I had great plans to bring on board as many new hospitals as I could. But my family and I received the bad news that my mother was diagnosed with lung cancer and she is very ill. I didn't want to leave her and be on the road at that time. But through my mother's unselfishness she convinced me that what I was doing was very important to all involved — the donor families having the option to donate and the recipients so that their lives could be enhanced and in some situations saved. So that is what she wanted me to do — go out and educate these hospitals about what a great organization we have and what we can offer them.

**by Lori Knutson**  
Regional Development

Needless to say, we all should do what our mothers tell us to do, so I have done just that. I am back out on the road in Minnesota and Nebraska and it is going extremely well. Next week I will be finalizing four new contracts in Nebraska and I have a few in Minnesota that I am working with as well. These hospitals are very pleased that we are making this a less stressful and tasking process for them and, more importantly, for the donor families and funeral homes. We do everything in our power to make this process as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

Well, that is all for now. May all your wishes and dreams come true during this new spring season, and please keep my mother in your prayers. God bless. ☺ 🐦



## Contributions, Memorials, Club Donations

### Club Contributors

Lennox Lions Club  
Siouxland Lions  
Eyeopener Lions Club of Huron  
Rushmore Lions Club  
Huron Noon Lions Club  
Volga Lions  
Lions Club  
Huron Lioness Club  
Milbank Lions Club  
Watertown Lions  
Aberdeen Lioness Club  
Palace City Lions Club  
Lions Club of Yankton  
Sturgis Lions Club  
Rapid City Lions Club  
Sioux Falls Downtown Lions Club  
Rushmore Lions Club  
Sioux Falls Sioux  
Empire Lions Club  
Siouxrise Lions Club  
Eureka Lions Club  
Marion Lions Club  
Mitchell Lions Club  
Newell Lions Club

Newell Lions Club  
Willow Lake Lions Club  
Selby Lions Club  
Madison Lions Club  
Redfield Lions Club  
Tulare Lions Club  
Beresford Lions Club

Brookings Lions Club  
Piedmont Valley Lions Club  
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Badlands Lions Club  
Tea Lions  
Dell Rapids Lions Club  
Freeman Lions Club

Aberdeen Lions Club  
Willow Lake Lions Club  
Magic Mile Lions Club

Hot Springs Lions Club  
Hill City Lions Club

### Memorials/Honorariums

Joan Iverson *by Roger & Karen Braaten*  
Donna Brandenburger *by Allen Brandenburger*  
Genna Han *by Myron & Sharon Rostad*  
Gasper Karunaratne *by Roger Braaten*  
Roland Hofer *by Roland & Mildred Hofer*  
Harvey Gill *by June Van Asch*  
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Goldie Leu *by Janet Petersen*  
Georgia Ramsey *by Mary Lou Loeb*  
Georgia Ramsey *by Carmen David*  
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# DONOR STATISTICS

(January 1 – March 31, 2005)

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
Avera McKennan Hospital	13	2
Avera St. Lukes Hospital	4	4
Brookings Hospital	3	
Canton-Inwood Memorial Hospital	1	
Douglas County	1	1
Eureka Community Health Services	1	
Flandreau Community Hospital	2	1
Ft. Meade VA Medical Center	1	
Heart Hospital of South Dakota	3	4
Huron Regional Medical Center	3	3
Linton, ND	1	1
Lookout Memorial	2	
Luverne Community Hospital		1

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
Madison Hospital	1	
Marshall County Hospital	1	2
Mid-Dakota Hospital	2	1
Mobridge Regional Hospital	1	
Ortonville, MN	1	1
Pipestone Hospital		1
Platte Hospital	1	
Prairie Lakes Hospital		1
Queen of Peace Hospital	1	1
Rapid City Regional Hospital	7	4
Sioux Valley Hospital	13	7
Sioux Valley Vermillion Campus	1	
St. Benedicts	1	1

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