



MA Lions Low Vision Network – State Convention Report

Our Low Vision Network came about in the fall of 2017 when we received a Sight First Grant from this LCI. We teamed up with New England College of Optometry and launched the program trying to follow a model that was in place for MD22 in Maryland. We struggled with the Maryland model and could not make it work. We recognized that last spring and acted. We separated from MD22 and developed our own model...one that capitalized on skill sets that most Lions have – offering volunteer opportunities to make Community Outreach presentations in our towns helping to spread the word, helping to schedule Low Vision appointments, providing transportation to and from the appointments and, working through local Lions clubs to pay for recommended Low Vision tools if the patient cannot afford them.

Our model renamed the Massachusetts Low Vision Network is working. We have 15 Lion volunteers statewide, a Steering Committee that meets monthly and includes a District rep from all 5 Districts, a state-of-the-art website, a smartly conceived advertising program that continues to drive potential patients to our website through which Low Vision



Assessments are scheduled. And, most importantly, we have a very logical tactical method of operation that turns inquiries, into appointments and then solutions that improve quality of life. Over the past few months over 20 Low Vision Assessments have been scheduled and, in every case, the patient ended up with Low Vision tools that Lions clubs helped them secure.

This is one of the most significant service projects that has been introduced in our state in the last few years. We are helping people in our communities and improving quality of life.

An interesting sidenote, the Lions of MD22 in Maryland asked to meet with us recently to learn more about how our program operates and shared a real interest in adjusting their model to offer the key elements that have made MLLVN a success.