

MD19 Lions Knights of The Blind Committee. (KOTB)

Greetings Council of Governors,

A brief review of last year's activities goes like this:

Committee members attended all but one final District Conventions or conferences with a display table promoting KOTB. Many great contacts and members resulted from this participation.

Plus, the signature project (Grandpa's White Cane) began spreading its wings and making its way into schools to nearly 450 students from March through June 2023, in schools in Shelton, Des Moines and Everett with pictures available on MDKOTB.org. During the 2023-2024 School year thus far, another 450 students in Shelton, Vancouver (WA), and Anacortes, and British Columbia. During these presentations students are encouraged to close their eyes and try navigating with mini-white canes, as well as learning how to interact with a person using a white cane. Presentations have also been made to 60 students in Canada, as well as several clubs and other organizations.

Now onto this coming years activities.

We continue to share our experience with others across the nation including North Dakota, North Carolina, as well as like-minded friends in Australia, Italy, England. If your District has any members with youth connections interested in joining this project, don't hesitate to contact us for materials, information and White Cane users in your area.

Lions have been VERY well known for their activities dealing with Vision throughout the World through actions that help prevent blindness from vision screenings, eyeglass recycling, surgeries and medications. Now, this children's book, collaborating with organizations of the blind to share information that educates our communities on how to interact with a Blind or Visually Impaired person. It reinforces our roots in supporting and celebrating the abilities of the Blind to be independent, even before Helen Keller's Challenge.

A special Holiday Alert!

Stay tuned for the "Invitation to the KOTB Christmas Party" if you haven't already received it.

MD 19 KOTB is joining forces with Hawaiian KOTB to host the very first annual KOTB Christmas Party via Zoom for up to 500 participants, celebrating the abilities of the Blind in entertaining performances and fellowship.

Funding & Fun!

The Committee is always looking for donations to help cover the cost of donating books to school classrooms, school libraries and Public Libraries, so if you know of a few dollar\$ laying around collecting dust you will know a worthy cause that would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be sent directly to the authors who continue to offer us books pending payment. Order forms are available.

Thank you for your time and service to our communities, and your acknowledgement of October 15 by MD 19 as White Cane Awareness Day! **Join us for blindfolded board breaking and other challenges at the Carnival Night, as well as the Panel on Grandpa's White Cane & KOTB on Friday afternoon, or our information on display.**

Yours in Lionism

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