

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome Dr. Richard!

BCABVI is pleased to announce that Dr. Melissa Richard, OD, MS has joined Dr. Denise T. Wilcox, OD, PhD as part of the Low Vision team at BCABVI's Clinics. With the addition of Dr. Richard, BCABVI expands our capacity to serve a growing population of individuals living with the challenges of vision loss. Our two locations in Newtown, PA (since 2006) and Telford, PA (since 2010) insure Low Vision Services are easily accessible for all residents of Bucks County.

At BCABVI's Clinics, our specially trained optometrists work with each patient to:

- determine visual function
- identify daily living activities that are more challenging due to low vision
- recommend low vision aids or environmental adaptations that can assist with maximizing remaining vision
- provide referrals for in home training and instruction as needed
- Coordinate case management for additional support services with BCABVI staff as appropriate

We encourage anyone with vision problems to take the first step towards a rich, vibrant and independent life by calling the Low Vision Clinic at 215-968-1035 and scheduling an appointment with our experienced low vision doctors.

MEET OUR DOCTORS



Dr. Denise T. Wilcox, O.D., Ph.D. has been practicing Low Vision for over 31 years. Dr. Wilcox earned her Doctor of Optometry (OD) from New England College of Optometry and her PhD from West Virginia University.

Dr. Wilcox helped establish BCABVI's first Low Vision Clinic in 2006, and was instrumental in bringing quality low vision services to Bucks County. In addition to her work at BCABVI, Dr. Wilcox operates a private practice in Doylestown, PA and works with the Veteran's Administration Low Vision Clinics in Horsham and Philadelphia. She is a passionate patient advocate and has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to best practices in the field of low vision.



Dr. Melissa Richard attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry where she earned her Doctor of Optometry (OD), and Master of Science (MS) in Low Vision Rehabilitation. She has been practicing optometry for over 10 years and is the founder of Spectrum Vision Care located in Chalfont PA. With her experience and dedication to quality patient care, Dr. Richard is a welcome addition to the BCABVI team!

Notes from the Social Work Corner



BCABVI offers numerous support groups, each with its own focus including different eye diseases, life situations and experiences. Just because a group of people have something in common does not mean that they all think the same. In support groups, everyone's opinion brings value to the discussion and we believe that diversity among group members enhances the group as a whole.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation during a support groups where you have a different opinion but don't know how to express it in a group setting? Here on some tips to maintain a positive group dynamic, establish boundaries and encourage effective communication that benefits the group and all its members.

- Agree to disagree. Acknowledge that discussions can provide new information that may have an influence on a person's thinking, but no one person can convince another to change his or her mind. Once you share your ideas, allow the discussion to move on.
- Make it clear that what you are sharing is your opinion. Opinions do not have to be based on logic - they can be based on emotions, preferences and experiences. People will have differences of opinions and that is fine. Different does not mean right or wrong.
- Be respectful of all group members. Show others respect by allowing them to hold a different opinion than yours. Do not put down other people's ideas. Focus on your own views and why you hold them rather than attacking someone else's view.

By following these basic tips, every group member can feel safe to express their opinions while encouraging a positive group dynamic.

Please contact us if you any questions or concerns
Sheryl and Ellen



From the Lion's Den

"We Serve"

The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve". All Lions members are drawn to various clubs on a local, national and even international level because of their genuine desire to make a difference in their communities and the lives of people who live there.

At BCABVI, we have been fortunate to have members of our club who embody Lionism through their selfless actions and ongoing dedication to our mission. As we move forward in our efforts to serve, we believe it is important to respect and appreciate those who are no longer with us, but have helped us greatly along the way.

The club is planning a Memorial Garden on the front grounds of BCABVI, where we can honor Officers and Charter members who gave so much of themselves in service to others.

In Memory of Bruce Platon

Sadly, in June Past President Bruce Platon passed away. We will always remember him as a kind and fair minded leader. Conversations with Bruce were full of interesting ideas, humor, and encouragement. A stepping stone bearing Bruce's name will be the first to be placed in our Memorial Garden in September 2016.

In Memory of Frank Kolanko

Frank Kolanko left us for a better place in December 2010. It has become our tradition each August, to remember club founder Frank Kolanko on his birthday. The Dogwood tree planted in his memory, is thriving and we were pleased to see it in full bloom this Spring.



Building on the strong foundation established by members like Bruce and Frank, the BCABVI Lions are excited to welcome three new members to our club in 2016: Joanne Hutchins, Nora Wertz and Elaine R. Welch.

Many of you know Elaine as former Executive Director/CEO of BCABVI. During her time here, Elaine initiated our Lions Club and worked with Frank Kolanko to establish our charter. In January 2017 we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our club and couldn't be happier she will be a part of it as a returning member!

Sign Ups

Wednesday September 14, 2016 *Walk For Sight*

Sponsored by the BCABVI Lions Club, the Third Annual Walk for Sight will take place at BCABVI's Newtown facility. Participants will raise \$25 to benefit the programs of BCABVI and will be treated to a free lunch.

Cost: Funds raised are due to BCABVI by September 1, 2016. All tax deductible donation checks should be made out to BCABVI.

Wednesday September 21, 2016 *Client Advisory Meeting*

We want to hear from you! Meet with the Executive Director to give input about services, hear what is happening at BCABVI and share your thoughts.

Cost: There is no cost for this program

Wednesday October 12, 2016 *Importance of Braille Literacy*

Braille instructor May Davies will be going over new UEB Braille, the importance and ease of braille with new technology and answer any questions about Braille.

Cost: There is no cost for this program

Wednesday October 19, 2016 *Halloween Bingo*

Costumes are optional, but fun is guaranteed at our Halloween Bingo. Win cash prizes, have some hoagies for lunch and get into the Halloween spirit!

Center Closings

The center will be closed on Monday September 5, 2016 for Labor Day.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

We love our volunteers! On Wednesday September 7, 2016 BCABVI will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to recognize the many contributions of our volunteers and the positive impact they have on the agency. Our Lions Club is helping sponsor the event - a special thanks to Paula McNally for taking the lead in planning.

If you are a volunteer and plan to attend, please make sure to RSVP to Paula because we want to make sure everyone is included in the celebration!

Client of the Month

Congratulations to *Linda Jock*, our **July 2016** Client of the Month! Linda reaches out to new clients, using her personal experiences and positive outlook to be a valuable mentor for others. She is involved in the book club as an avenue to pursue her love of reading.



Recently, Linda became involved in the Adjustment to Blindness support group, offering moral support and encouragement to other clients. Linda is also completed the Client Volunteer Training for BCABVI's Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop and is now an active volunteer in the store.

With her range of activities and involvement with the agency, Linda is an inspiration to us all!

August 2016

Bruce Platon was post-humously selected as Client of the Month for August 2016.

While Bruce may have passed on, his impact on BCABVI remains.



Bruce was a long term client of BCABVI, having been involved with the agency for over 17 years in several capacities. He was a founding member of the BCABVI Lions Club, encouraging others to give back to our community. He served on the Client Advisory Committee where he offered suggestions for improving programs and agency operations. As a Veteran, he was a valued member of the Veteran's Support group. He shared his personal knowledge of Diabetes with other members of the Diabetic support group. During monthly Trivia programs, everyone wanted Bruce on their team as he always seemed to have the right answers. He actively participated in social activities including picnics, holiday parties and shore trips. Bruce enjoyed life to the fullest and lived a rich, vibrant and independent life. He will be greatly missed.

If you know of a client who embodies BCABVI's mission and uses their skills to support others and enhance our community, please submit your nomination to Sheryl Fitzgerald at sfitzgerald@bucksblind.org. They could be our next client of the month!

Reminder about Lunchtime at BCABVI

We recognize that more clients have special dietary needs, we are making every effort to accommodate all our clients. As a reminder, the agency offers a lunch program sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging. The menu is available ahead of time, but cannot be altered for individuals. Everyone who does not want to eat the offered lunch has the option to bring their own food from home.

When possible, please pack your lunch in an insulated lunch bag to keep it cold until lunchtime. We have added a microwave in the main room which is available for you if your lunch requires heating. It is marked with bumps to make it accessible for all clients.

At 12:00, the staff serves drinks and the provided meal, so please make sure you are in the main room at that time.

Thank you for your help in making lunchtime run smoothly for everyone!

Children's Services

As BCABVI's Children's Services get under way, we are busy preparing for the upcoming months. BCABVI is planning to offer quarterly events for children to gain knowledge and new experiences to benefit them in the future.

As of now, our first social and recreational idea is guided skiing! We have spoken with PA Center for Adapted Sports and will partnered with them to guide and instruct our skiers on the slopes. We are in the beginning stages of planning and anticipate the group trip will be coordinated within the next few weeks. Additional information will be sent out as the dates and times are confirmed.

If you would like to receive regular updates about Children's Services and upcoming events, please contact Meghan Sharman at msharman@bucksblind.org.