Inside this issue:

Donor Numbers
Visit to Okmulgee Lions Club
Visit to Cushing Lions Club
Board Training
Other Club Visits
DAT Meetings
Upcoming Visits

Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank

Donors Through August 2015

This has been a very busy year, so far! As of August 31, 2015, we have recovered 336 donors. August of 2013, we had recovered 160 donors, and by August 31 of 2014, we had recovered 276 donors. This represents a 110% increase over 2013 and a 21% increase over last year. Due to the increase in donors, we have had to change the call schedule around to accommodate our needs in the office. Angie and I are the only ones available to sign off charts (release tissue for transplant), therefore, it is important for us to be able to remain in the office as much as possible. Amy and Kassie (along with our part-time recovery technician) are doing a great job covering the state and recovering each donor that is potentially suitable for transplant. Beth is very busy auditing each chart to ensure that we comply with FDA and EBAA regulations. And Roxy is staying quite busy with all of the financial paperwork that comes with each donor. We are also consolidating our charts by scanning each medical record and placing it on a disc in order to save room in our filing cabinets. The EBAA requires that 3 years of charts remain in the lab. We recently acquired another large filing cabinet to be able to hold all of the charts that are required to be accessible.

Special points of interest:

- Donor Numbers
- Visit to Okmulgee Lions Club
- Visit to Cushing Lions Club
- Board Member Training

Volume 1, Issue 1
August 31, 2015
Sight Conservation is one of Lions Club’s major international projects. The Okmulgee County Lions Club met today at the Episcopalian Church for their weekly luncheon meeting. This meeting marked the first for Beth Flud as President of the Okmulgee Lions and she took the opportunity to thank those who volunteered their time at the fireworks stand, reporting that the stand brought in over $20,000 in sales.

Tuesday's speaker was Lori Miller of the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank in Oklahoma City. The Eye Bank harvests donor corneas and completes cornea transplants. Miller informed the club that in October of 2014 the Eye Bank relocated to a new building that is six times larger than the lab and office space they had before. Miller, an army veteran and former funeral director and embalmer, has been the Executive Director of the Eye Bank since March but has been with the facility since 2008.

This year to date, the Eye Bank has recovered 246 donors, in comparison to 122 donors in 2013 and 214 at this time in 2014. Miller states that she expects to have 500 donors by the end of the year. The corneas harvested are used both locally, nationally, and internationally. Over 200 corneas have been placed internationally through the OLEB this year.
Russ Thurman, President of the local Cushing Chapter of Lions Club International, called the meeting to order today at 12:13 p.m. The agenda started with song and pledge by Jerry Snyder. This was followed by requests for prayers that included the Bill Candler Family, and then a prayer with Kevin Clause.

Lions Club then welcomed all the guests that came today including: Lori Miller who was the guest speaker. Miller is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank.

Miller informed the club about various events including the increasing number of people that were cornea donors (246) in 2015. In 2014 there were 214, and in 2013 there were 122.

The placement of corneas so far this year in Oklahoma is at 79. Last year (2014), through the month of June, 130 corneas were placed.

Internationally this year the eye bank has placed 248 corneas, compared to last year’s 151 in the same time frame.

Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank currently works two researchers. One of the researchers is at OU Medical Center (Dr. Weichmann) and the other at Dean McGee Eye Institute (Dr. Karamichos). Both doctors are in their second year of research and so far this year the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank has provided these doctors with 108 corneas.

Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank has its goal set on placing corneas domestically and when that’s not possible they work with International Sight Restoration in Tampa (Florida) to find a suitable recipient for each cornea. The Eye Bank’s Co-medical director (Dr. Stone) is currently working in Saudi Arabia, therefore decreasing the numbers of surgeries locally.

Two different types of cornea placement are DSEK and PKP. DSEK replaces only 20 to 30 percent of the diseased cornea and PKP is full thickness transplant. DSEK has a faster healing time; however both types of cornea placement have about a 96% success rate after three years.

Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank has future plans that include getting a grant for the purchasing of the equipment used in processing the DSEK tissue in house. The cost of the equipment and modifications will run $75,000 to $100,000.

You are invited to stop by the Lions Eye Bank facility, which is located at 3840 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City, or for more information go to http://www.oklahomalionseyebank.org/

Cushing Lions Club meets each Tuesday at noon in the Lion’s Den in downtown Cushing.

For more information about Lions Club International go to http://www.lcif.org
Board Training

Thank you to everyone who came to the Board Training on the 29th. I hope you found it informative and quite interesting. Dr. Siatkowski was very impressed with all of your questions and commented that she was very happy to be able to attend. There was a question asked about the number of Lions Eye Banks in the U.S. Angie did a little research and found out that there are currently 60 Lions Eye Banks in operation.

Other Club/Educational Visits

So far this year, I have visited The West Side Lions Club, McAlester Lions Club, Oklahoma Northwest Lions Club, Vinita Lions Club, Yukon Rotary, and the Downtown OKC Lions Club. I have also visited with nursing students from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, with high school bio-med students at Choc-taw High School and with elementary school students at Eugene Field Elementary in OKC.

DAT Meetings

Monthly, OU holds its DAT (donor Awareness Team) meetings at Presbyterian Tower and Children's Hospital. All four of the technical staff (including me), attend these meetings in order to be an integral part of the donor process at OU Medical Center. Once a quarter, I travel to Grove, OK, to attend Integris Grove Hospital's DAT meeting. The relationships we form at these meetings are crucial to ensuring a good working relationship with their physicians, nursing staff and chaplain staff.

Upcoming Visits

- September 24, 2015  Perry Lions Club
  Dr. Siatkowski facilitated a networking opportunity for me to meet with the CEO and technical staff of this very large and well-respected eye bank to exchange ideas for implementation of DSEK tissue preparation, along with other pertinent information.
- October 8-10, 2015 Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota—Kassie will be attending an EBAA slit lamp seminar.
- Please let me know if you would like to schedule a visit for your Lions Club, I would be happy to speak with you.