



Missouri Lion

March– May, 2023

Multiple District 26



Missouri Lions State Office

2415B Hyde Park Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-635-1773

Office Administrator: Lion Brenda Weider

Assistant Office Administrator: Lion Jackie Twehus

Missouri Lions Calendar

~Important Upcoming Events~

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
July 7-11, 2023	International Convention	Boston, Massachusetts
June 21-25, 2024	International Convention	Melbourne, Australia
July 4-8, 2025	International Convention	Mexico City, Mexico
July 3-7, 2026	International Convention	Atlanta, Georgia
July 2-6, 2027	International Convention	Washington, DC
June 23-27, 2028	International Convention	Singapore

**World Services for the Blind is pleased to
announce that we are a recipient of a
2023 Inspiration Foundation
Assistive Technology Grant!**



The Inspiration Foundation (a philanthropic division of Cleanlogic, a social mission-based company offering quality bath and body accessories all of which have Braille product descriptors across all packaging) created these grants to help nonprofit organizations purchase assistive technology equipment for classrooms. The founder of Cleanlogic was inspired by his mom, who lost her sight when she was 7, but never let it stop her. Through her hard work, she became a passionate advocate, helping other blind and visually impaired individuals gain employment, which is so crucial to the Blind and Visually Impaired community of which 70% are unemployed.

The Inspiration Foundation's Board believes that successful job placement and retention depends on strong technology skills and that independent living skills are augmented by technology. The Inspiration Foundation Assistive Technology Grants are awarded to smaller nonprofits to help them keep their technology class rooms up to date. World Services for the Blind will use its grant to purchase assistive technology for the AT lab on campus.

What an exciting year. The St Charles rain event on July 28 th with over 12 inches of rain in 24 hours. We received an emergency grant from LCIF on Aug. 2nd. The needs of the city were changing daily, and Regina Dowling worked with city leaders to find the needs and items that would meet the grant criteria. We helped an area that was in a bowl-shaped neighborhood in O'Fallon and local clubs were helping their fellow neighbors. Aug 6th we had our first brainstorming get together with a Mission Possible theme. Lions wore their best spy outfits, and some came incognito. Lions were given their assignments, and everyone accepted. We discussed membership, new ideas on how to get new members, new ways to recruit, ways to retain members. Prizes were given out for answering questions. Nov 5th we had our 2 nd brainstorming get together with a Super Hero/ Super Power theme. Yes our Lions dressed as super hero's and what their super power was. Our discussion topic was service and how we can use our superpowers to increase our service. We discussed why service reporting was important. Prizes were given out for answering questions. Nov 18th we had our charter celebration for the Troy Lions club. It was a fun time at the charter celebration. Thank you, Moscow Mills Lions club, for hosting the party and what a great dinner. We had great support from area Lions and Lions from around our state. Jan Council of Governors meeting our district won the State Membership Trophy. Woohoo Lions your new ideas for recruiting new members and ways of retaining members are working.



M3 NEWSLETTER
DG SANDY MCCANN

Feb. 11 we had our 3rd Brain storming get together. The theme was We love our sports teams. John Clark was our costume contest winner- his hair was great. We discussed marketing and social media. The topic went over so well our Lions wanted it added to our Celebration of Service- AKA our reinvented District Convention. Our meeting was held at the Mexico Senior Center where everyone could see the walk-in cooler the Mexico Noon Club obtained with a grant from LCIF. March 24-25 We had our Celebration of Service our reinvented District Convention. Totally new format, club reports, picnic lunch with Veterans- wow the food was so good, Family Feud, awards- M&M awards, 32 first timers, recruiting awards, Melvin Jones, Leadership metal, Presidential Award Certificates, Missouri State Parks. We have raffle tickets and a silent auction items to keep our prices low for this event. April 16th we had our district eye wrap. Wow we had great attendance with 12 clubs attending with some having 9-10 members each. We had to stall and have the clubs talk about what they are doing while the cooks went to the store to buy more meat to cook. The meal was great pork steak, and everyone brought sides and desserts. We sorted and filled up over 26,000 eye glasses. April 24th Council of Governors meeting we kept the state membership trophy with our increase in membership. April 30th Eye Mission in Mexico at the YMCA. We had a great turn out from Lions around the state and even Iowa Lions watching and learning how to do a mission trip. We were able to serve 28 people and four people were referred to Mid-South Lions.



M3 NEWSLETTER-CONTINUED

DG SANDY McCANN

May 13 th our last brainstorming meeting. Our topic was how to have fun and interesting meetings. Our meeting was a picnic at Teal Lake Shelter in Mexico. Members brought “flood buckets” (Buckets with cleaning supplies) to the meeting in anticipation of the flooding of the Mississippi River later this spring. We have had fun zone meetings, new ideas from our new zone chairs and new ways of having meetings. It was fun and it brought new interest, excitement, fun and this encouraged more Lions to attend. Club visits were also fun and very rewarding where we split the district into thirds where DGE Sherl and FVDGE Carol helped with our club visits. A great way to meet the Lions of our district and see who our future leaders might be. Goals we achieved our 100% participation LCIF, our service reporting is 2% over our goal, membership is currently a positive growth of 10 members and above our goal. With our increase in membership and service we are staged for exciting year for DGE Sherl Horton’s year. We will have more hands to help people in need. I understand change is hard and I appreciate our Lions for embracing the changes and working with the new format of meetings and convention. I do believe we need to change to be more attractive to younger members. Thank you, all Lions of 26-M3 for your support with these new ideas. The new ideas worked. We did it!

Lion Sandy McCann, District Governor 26-M3



M3 NEWSLETTER-CONTINUED

DG SANDY MCCANN

World Services for the Blind Celebrates its 75th Anniversary in a Big Way, Thanks to NMTCs

MARK O'MEARA, SENIOR COPY EDITOR, NOVOGRADAC

For the past 75 years, World Services for the Blind has had one mission.

"Our mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired in the United States and around the world to achieve sustainable independence," said Eric Yarberry, president and CEO of World Services for the Blind. "For most people, when they lose their vision, they become a burden to their families. These individuals often need to quit their jobs and their family members do, too, in order to take care of them. ... We get those individuals and families back in the community."

That mission will soon be better served as the organization is in the middle of major renovations at its campus in Little Rock, Arkansas. Campus renovations and upgrades wouldn't have happened without new markets tax credits (NMTCs).

"NMTCs will allow us to serve the community in a new way," said Yarberry. "These tax credits bring momentum to our facility."

Major Upgrades

The six-building, 68,100-square-foot campus pre-renovations include two dormitories, classrooms, training space, an auditorium and an administration building. The organization provides life skills training to the blind and visually impaired. Life skills taught at the campus include learning to cook, clean, use assistive technology and read brail, to name a few. The campus also provides social work and case management services as well as transitional-aged youth programs that allow students to gain real world work and college experiences through a six-week on-campus program during the summer. The

organization also offers job training both at the Little Rock campus and online.

"Post-World War II, veterans came in and learned to cane chairs and do small engine repair," said Yarberry. "But now there is a demand for tech jobs, medical billing training, IT, web accessibility specialists and much more."

However, renovations are needed to continue to serve the blind and visually impaired. Through these renovations, World Services for the Blind will offer a new service: a 24-bed care facility for blind and visually impaired individuals with developmental disabilities. The care facility and respite room for caretakers will take the place of the former dormitories.

"For the rest of their life or until they get back on their feet, [individuals living in the 24-bed care facility] can take classes, receive therapy and employment training, and have meaningful lives," said Yarberry. "That's the goal."

Additional renovations include a new cafeteria, new electrical (including back-up generators), new HVAC systems, new roofing and flooring, classroom renovations and other much needed amenities.

Yarberry said construction is well underway and expects to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

"This was the biggest renovation and financial undertaking in our history," said Yarberry. "To do

a renovation of this size, it's gone as smooth as it could have."

These renovations will allow World Services for the Blind to continue to serve the community.

"We want blind and visually impaired people to have meaningful lives, have employment, get them doing day-to-day activities, and have peer interaction with people going through the same thing," said Yarberry.

impairments, such as the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco, and we know the opportunities and lifestyle improvements that they help to create."

Furthermore, Carson was pleased to continue USBCDC's relationship with Southern Bancorp Bank. "USBCDC has had a strong relationship with Southern Bancorp Bank for several years," said Carson. "We have had the opportunity to support their success in the NMTC program and have closed 10 high-impact

"The quote I hear the most when people come to our campus is, 'I was the only blind person I knew until I came to World Services for the Blind.'"

Financing

NMTCs played a vital role in the financing of these renovations.

Southern Bancorp Bank provided an \$8 million NMTC allocation and a \$300,000 source loan.

"If you are blind or visually impaired and you don't have help gaining the skills required to have a job and earn income, then achieving financial stability will be a challenge," said William Wright, Western Region CEO of Southern Bancorp Bank. "We have always had a mission focus to lift up the disadvantaged. Our responsibility is to provide them with financial services so they can begin the process of wealth building. We want to help these individuals create wealth."

U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation (USB CDC) was the NMTC equity investor and provided a donation to World Services for the Blind for the organization's 75th anniversary celebration.

"Investing in organizations like World Services for the Blind, that provide skill and vocational training to workers who have been left behind, is pretty phenomenal," said William Carson, vice president of NMTC and historic tax credit business development at USB CDC. "We have had other prior opportunities to invest in organizations that support clients with visual

deals with Southern Bancorp Bank since 2020."

The capital stack also includes a \$1.5 million grant from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, a \$500,000 loan from the World Services for the Blind Foundation and \$3.4 million in equity and private and foundation grant donations made to the World Services for the Blind.

"The project itself provides a whole host of resources and opportunities to the vision-impaired community in Arkansas that would not be possible without the World Services for the Blind organization," said Josh Morris, a partner in the Dover, Ohio, office of Novogradac, which provided forecast compilation services for the project. "From youth programs to career training, the World Services for the Blind team has created an environment to truly set up its community for success." ❖

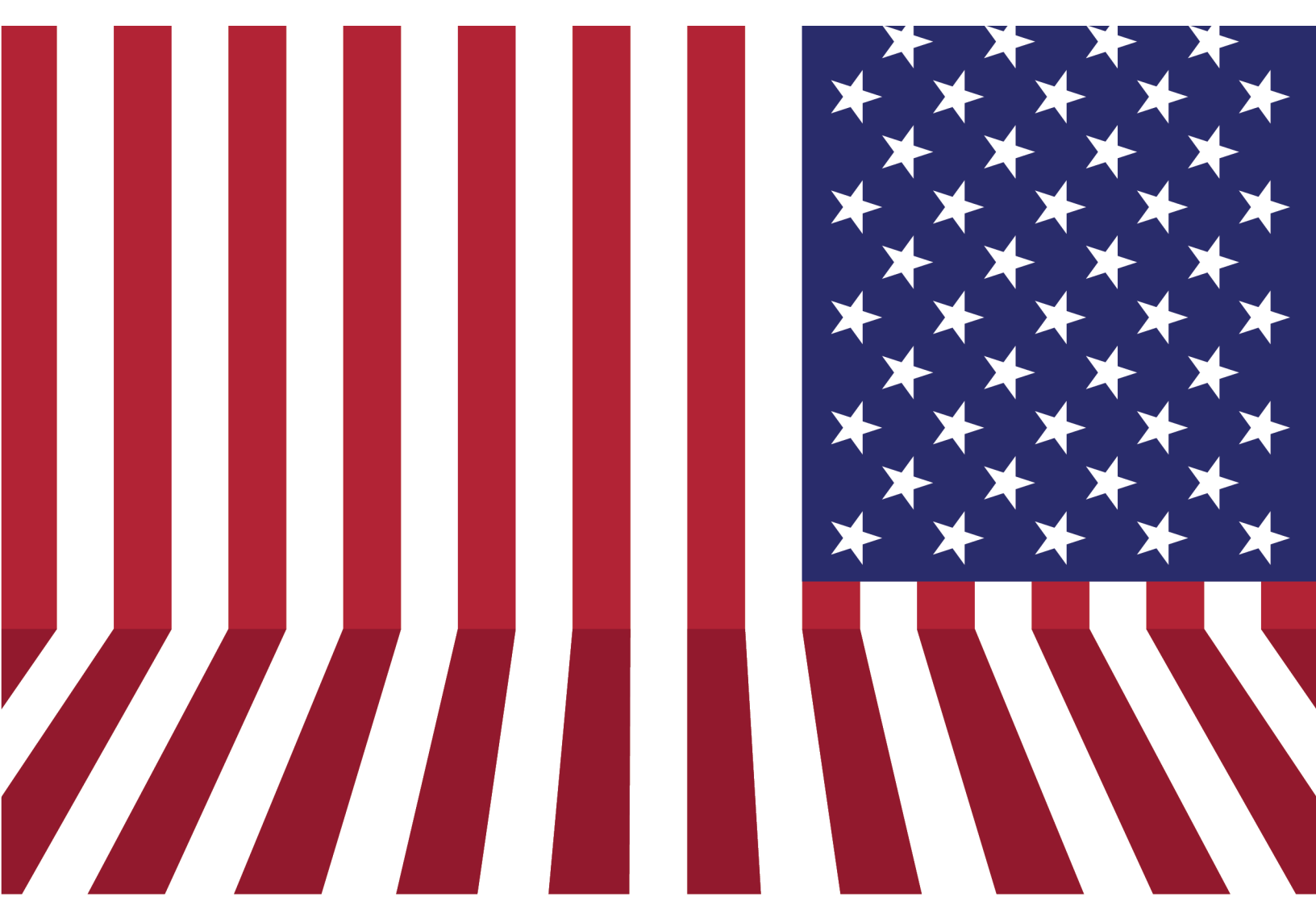
WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

FINANCING

- \$8 million new markets tax credit (NMTC) allocation from Southern Bancorp Bank
- NMTC equity from U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation
- \$3.4 million in equity and private and foundation grant donations made to World Services for the Blind
- \$1.5 million grant from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority
- \$500,000 loan from the World Services for the Blind Foundation
- \$300,000 source loan from Southern Bancorp Bank



World Services for the Blind



**MO. LIONS YCE MEET & GREET
DINNER**

Warrenton Lions Building

601 Fairgrounds Rd.

Warrenton, Mo. 63383

Sunday 30th July

3-6 pm

Bring a dish that represents your culture



M4 All-Star

Basketball Tournament

BOYS



**1ST PLACE—
WHITE TEAM**
**2ND PLACE—
GOLD TEAM**
**3RD PLACE—
PURPLE TEAM**

M4 All-Star

Basketball Tournament

GIRLS



**1ST PLACE—
WHITE TEAM**
**2ND PLACE—
GOLD TEAM**
**3RD PLACE—
PURPLE TEAM**



**3 point All-Star
contest
winners!**

**Girl Winner:
Jessica Reeter
Boy and Overall
Winner: Ethan
Hamilton**



The Missouri Lion is for all Lions in the state of Missouri. The main purpose of this newsletter is to get important Information out to the Lions. It is published on the website (missourilions.org) and sent out via email to all District Governors to be distributed to their districts.

