

2022 Winter Council of Governors' Committee Report

MD19 Lions Knights of the Blind Committee

(name)

Report by: **Andy Arvidson Chairperson**

(name)

As a committee, we have found that while we have had many opportunities, we have found that there are often questions about who Knights of the Blind (KOTB) are and how are we different from Lions in general who answered Helen Keller's Challenge in 1925 to be "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

To help clarify our identity, our committee adopted the following tag line of explanation:

Continuing Helen Keller's Challenge – Lions Empowering Blind Abilities through Access, Inclusiveness and Technology!

Over these recent months, the MD19 Lions Knights of the Blind Committee continues to reach out to individuals, Lions, Clubs, Zones, Districts, and the community. We have been able to share experience, advice and support to individual Lions and members of the public as they attempt to navigate a new life with the challenge of vision loss for themselves or a family member. We have shared with them knowledge of technology that allows a person with visual impairment to live independently, to pursue further education, to be gainfully employed, to raise and support their families. Additionally, we share often overlooked aspects of simple respect and etiquette when interacting with people who are blind, to ensure that they have the opportunity for access and inclusiveness in day-to-day life.

One common concern is the number of individuals who are diagnosed with vision loss for themselves or their children who are not provided by their physicians with any of the community resources and are left to search for themselves. Recently we worked with Federal Way Lions Club who are distributing brochures from the South King Council of the Blind to Ophthalmologists in their area. These brochures include basic resources. We applaud these efforts and look forward to the activities that other clubs may create for this type of outreach.

We have reached out to all Districts, hoping to be part of their Spring District Conferences. If you have any questions or would like to have someone visit your conference, zone or club meeting, here are the names and contact information for your District Representatives. For those Districts who do not have an assigned representative, you may contact any of our officers.

Position	Fname	Lname	phone	email	Club
Chair	Andy	Arvidson	425-218-0190	arvidsonandy@gmail.com	Anacorte Lions Club
Vice Chair	Danette	Dixon	425-238-4560	danettedixon63@gmail.com	South Everett Lions Club
Secretary	Colette	Arvidson	360-391-5880	colette.arvidson@gmail.com	Anacortes Lions Club
Dist A Rep	Bill	Conway	604-740-5896	5122wac@telus.net	Sunshine Coast Lions
Dist B Rep	Janet	George	206-853-7195	janetgeorge12@icloud.com	Edmonds Lions Club
Dist C Rep	JR	Kinnison	206-915-3411	jkinnison@outlook.com	Bremerton Central Lions Club
Dist F Rep	Ray	Fujiura	509-941-9927	Raytater_99@yahoo.com	Sunnyside Lions Club
Dist G Rep	Chad	Lewis	509-475-1799	chadlewis18@hotmail.com	Longview Kelso Early Birds Lions Club

Representatives for Districts D, E, H, and I, have not been filled, considering the proposed redistricting.

In addition to District Representatives, members at large are invited to join in this mission. Eligibility is limited to current members of MD19 Lions Clubs. Members do not need to be visually impaired as long as the majority of our members, the Chair and Vice Chair are visually impaired.

**Committee Meetings are open and held the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting ID: 862 5021 3577 Passcode: 223596**

Join Us! WE SERVE!