

## **MD 19 Lions Knights Of The Blind Report**

June 16-17, 2023 COG meeting

Greetings Governors,

We are so pleased to bring you another report on the progress of our Committee.

A very important step forward is the acquisition of a sponsor. The Olympia Host Foundation agreed to not only become our sponsor but also allocated \$1500 to help pay for a variety of initial expenses. The Fairhaven Lions had initially funded \$300 for the cost of a post office box and a number of the first books we received, and the authors had generously sent us a large supply of the "Grandpas White Cane" children's books to distribute, on a "Pay-as-you-can basis." The Foundation's allocation allowed payment for the balance due for the books we had received plus they helped to pay for professional printing of our brochures, along with various other expenses. Most clubs would be able to fund the books they might use with a program (especially with the author's generously providing MD19 with the books at nearly half-price). As our sponsor, the foundation is also able to accept donations from Clubs earmarked for KOTB that we can then obtain funding from the foundation for these ongoing expenses or books for a club needing support for materials.

Also, since our last report our committee has begun many school presentations using the children's book to educate 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on how and why someone uses the long white cane. These presentations include, 6 classrooms, a complete school of 200 students (done in one day) and a presentation done to a Senior Center in Sunnyside WA. All done in collaboration with local Lions Clubs and in some cases with members of the Washington Council of the Blind.

Another great aspect of all these presentations they are giving "LIONS" a greater exposure to their communities.

Plans are being made to do more presentations to local Senior Centers, scout troops and libraries through the summer as the schools are out; then return to the schools in October. All of the classroom teachers have expressed a desire to have us return in the new school year.

As many of you know KOTB members attended 7 of the 9 district conventions these last two months. Through attending these conventions, we have increased attention to who and what we are to many interested clubs and individual Lions.

As you can tell our KOTB committee is on the move forward and looking forward to being a presence in each of the Districts this coming Lions year.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in Lionism,

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