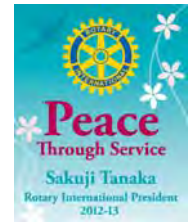




Visions



June 2013 Volume #10

“The gift of sight . . . Protect it, Save it, Restore it”

New Leaders take the Helm in Lisbon



Greetings:

The 2012-2013 Rotary year has been a busy one for Rotary as we completed the third year of the Future Vision Pilot program and prepared to launch

the New Grants Model for all Rotary districts on July 1, 2013. There are big changes ahead for all of us and your Blindness Prevention RAG is taking steps now to expand our work to assist clubs and districts around the world with their projects.

The Board of Directors held its annual meeting in Lisbon with thirteen of our fifteen members in attendance. It was a highly productive meeting during which we laid the groundwork to play a greater role in assisting clubs in preparing their Global Grants in the area of Blindness Prevention.

During the Future Vision Pilot period, several Global Grant projects for Cataract surgeries were submitted to TRF, however, none were approved and none were funded. In working with TRF our Board members learned that we need to assist TRF in understanding how cataract surgeries are “sustainable” and thus can qualify for funding under the new Grants model. A committee comprised of Past Chairman, Dr. Ken D. Tuck, Dr. Dieter Brodehl,

Dr. Ravishankar Venkattasubbiah, and Dr. Zeeshan Cheema was formed to develop a “statement of sustainability for cataract surgeries”. Once the statement has been developed and approved by the Board, it will be presented to TRF by the RAG (*with the signatures of all RAG Board members as well as the signatures of internationally recognized experts in the field of Ophthalmology*) along with a statement on cataracts to help increase the understanding of the TRF staff regarding cataracts, their origin, (*many children are born with cataracts*) cause, and how cataract surgeries are highly sustainable. I will keep you apprised during the coming year as to the results of this endeavor.

Our annual meeting this year was standing room only. The draw was the two outstanding presentations made during the meeting. First, Gabriel Minder and several co-presenters reviewed a very large project in Tanzania that he is working on with multiple partners, to address Albinism and the effects it has on vision. Second, our own Board member, Dr. Ravishankar Venkattasubbiah gave a presentation on his participation as a member of a Vocational Training Team with Mercy Ships. The team visited various ports and not only trained local medical personnel in addition

(Continued on page 7)

Officers (2012-2013)

Chairman
PDG Walt Schloer

Immediate Past Chair
Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD

Vice Chairman
PDG Shehzad Ahmed

Executive Secretary
Harriett Schloer

Treasurer
PDG Phyllis J. Nusz

Permanent Honorary Chair
PRIP Frank J. Devlyn

Board Members

- Dr. Dieter Brodhel
- Dr. Zeeshan Cheema
- Mark Harbison
- PDG Todd Lindley
- DGN Gowri Rajan
- PDG Manjit Sawhney
- Kulasegaran Sabaratnam
- Selvarajah Sunderavel
- Jean Villeval



Visit our Web Site: <http://www.rag4bp.org>

Draft Board Meeting Minutes 2013

RAG for Blindness Prevention Board of Directors Meeting Friday, June 21, 2013 - 6:00 PM Solar dos Bicos Restaurante Lisbon, Portugal

6:00 PM – Everyone gathered on the patio of the Solar dos Bicos Restaurante in Lisbon to enjoy cocktails and fellowship prior to the dinner and the Board meeting. At 7:00 we adjourned to the private dining room of the Restaurant to have dinner. Those in attendance at this year's Board dinner and meeting were:

Walt and Harriett Schloer
Matthew Beaudry (*the Schloer's Grandson*)
Ken and Sarah Tuck
Phyllis Nusz
Shehzad Ahmed
Mark Harbison and his wife
Selva Sunderaval and his wife
Dr. Zeesham Cheema
Jean Villeval
Gowri Rajan
Dieter Brodel and his wife
Dr. Ravishankar Venkatasubbiah

Note: six other members did not get the email message about the late change of venue and ended up having their own separate Board meeting on the patio of the apartment the Schloer's rented apartment which was located under the Pantheon. They included PRIP Frank and Gloriarita Devlyn, PDG Manjit and Rita Sawheny, and Gabriel and Marie Claire Minder. They had brought dessert and wine with them for the dinner. The apartment manager furnished them with a bottle opener, glasses and plates and brought out some crackers and cheese to go along with the wine and dessert. We missed them but they had fun and sent photos of their adventure.

7:30 PM - The Board Meeting.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Schloer who welcomed everyone present and thanked them for arriving in Lisbon early enough to participate in the Board Meeting and Dinner. The various Board members then introduced their spouses / guests for the meeting.

Chairman Schloer then announced that the RAG would cover the expense of the drinks for the evening, each individual would cover the cost of their own dinner.

Immediate Past Chairman, Ken D. Tuck then announced that today he and Sarah are celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary. There was a lot of joking and congratulations for the two of them. It was then moved and seconded that the RAG celebrate with them

by providing the champagne for the evening. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2012 Board meeting in Bangkok were presented for consideration. (*Minutes were provided to all board members two weeks before the Board meeting.*) The matter under specific discussion was former Chairman, Tom Kwako's requested revisions to the minutes. After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ken Tuck and seconded by Mark Harbison that the minutes submitted by the Executive Secretary be approved as written and that none of Mr. Kwako's revisions be included as they do not accurately reflect what occurred during the Bangkok Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phyllis Nusz presented the Financial report. The balance in the checking account as of June 21, 2013 is \$2196.54. To date, all outstanding convention expenses have been paid including, printing, and shipping of booth supplies for a total of \$395.10. Additional booth furnishings still need to be paid for but no invoice has been received yet. This year, there is no charge for use of the Internet (*wireless*) and electricity services provided to the booth. This is a savings of about \$300.00.

Executive Secretary's Report: The ExecSec then presented her annual report as follows:

Membership:

Membership June 30, 2012:	266
Members who resigned or were Deceased:	0
New members as of July 1, 2013:	4
Members as of June 21, 2013	270

- During the 2012-2013 Rotary year, the executive secretary performed the following:
- prepared and submitted the Annual Report to RI for the 2011-2012 Rotary year
- edited and published the annual newsletter to be submitted, as required, with the annual report.
- handled all RI applications for exhibiting and meetings at the 2013 RI Convention
- arranged for transport of all booth materials to and from the Lisbon Convention
- arranged for additional furnishings to be provided for the booth
- scheduled the action group annual meeting to be held during the 2013 convention which will include two presentations: One from Gabriel Minder and another from Ravishankar Venkattasubbiah
- scheduled the annual Board meeting and dinner for the 2013 Convention
- renewed annual Non-Profit status with State of Oregon and filed annual report with the Oregon Depart-

Draft Board Meeting Minutes 2013 (cont'd)

ment of Justice arranged for printing of all materials to be used in the booth during the convention (*new post-cards, new flyers and registration forms, business cards and supplies to make free luggage tags*)

- managed the RAG web site and kept the site updated and current
- prepared all materials and emailed them to current Board members and Board members-elect, prior to the 2013 board meeting
- Setup “checking online” so we can pay bills directly from the account.
- Arrived in Lisbon early to spend Friday setting up the double RAG and Convention Goers Booth. We are once again sharing services and personnel during the convention. Was assisted by Board Members Shehzad Ahmed and Dieter Brodehl, Walt Schloer and Grandson Matthew Beaudry
- Spent the months of September through April working with RI to resolve matter with IAPB & RAG Chairman Tom Kwako
- packing and shipping all of the booth items back to the US for storage until next year.

Donor Advised Fund Report: Chairman Walt Schloer (*Administrator of the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund*) then presented the annual report of the BP-DAF. The summary is as follows and the full report is attached to these minutes.

BP-DAF Project Summary 2012-2013

Total number of Projects:	29 Projects
Total amount of funding:	\$58,000.00
Annual TRF Administration Fee:	\$ 921.66

There is now approximately \$30,000 left in the DAF. As soon as we receive Tax Exempt status from the IRS, we will be able to write grants to replenish the DAF so it can continue to support club and district Blindness Prevention projects.

Unfinished Business

Annual Election of Officers

Chairman: Because Walt Schloer assumed the position of Chair upon the resignation of former Chairman Tom Kwako, there is still one year left on his term. His assumption of the Chair’s position was per our RAG Bylaws. He announced that he is willing to complete the term which ends of June 30, 2014, and then assume the position of Immediate Past Chair, but he does not want to commit to another full 3-year term as Chairman.

Vice Chairman: As the Vice Chairman’s position was vacated upon Walt Schloer becoming Chairman, it was necessary to have a current Board member assume the remainder of the Vice Chairman’s position and then agree to serve a 3-year term as Chairman (*wherein he*

would be eligible for a second 3-year term). After a discussion concerning which Board members are eligible for the position, Harriett Schloer nominated PDG Shehzad Ahmed for Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Ken Tuck. By a raise of hands, PDG Ahmed was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chairman and will take over as Chairman on July 1, 2014 for a 3-year term.

New Board Members: The following Board members were then elected for a 3-year term of office (*2013-2016*).

- Jean Villeval (Mexico)
- Selva Sunderaval (USA)
- Kula Sabaratnam (Asia))

The following individual was elected to fill the remaining 1 year of the term of the former board member and new Vice Chairman, Shehzad Ahmed.

- Dr. Zeeshan Cheema (Pakistan): (*2013-2014*)

Progress of Application for Tax Exempt Status:

The Executive Secretary then explained that the application for tax exempt status is temporarily on hold while she works with the IRS to clear up all of our back taxes. This was a surprise to her as our low annual income does not require that we submit an annual tax report. However, since this is what the IRS wants in order for us to get our tax exempt status, this is what she will do first and then submit the tax exempt application.

Annual RAG Member Assessment: There was discussion again about the annual \$25.00 membership assessment. It was unanimously agreed that the assessment should continue. The ExecSec will take care of this during the new Rotary year.

New Business

Role of the RAG-BP (under new Grant Model)

Eye care projects – Sustainability: There was then a lengthy discussion regarding TRF’s requirement, under the new Grant Model that Global Grant projects must meet the Sustainability requirement. TRF does not consider the cataract surgeries that are performed as part of Blindness Prevention projects as meeting the standard of the sustainability requirement. As a result, during the 3-year Future Vision pilot period, no Global Grants for cataract surgeries were approved or funded. Following a lengthy discussion with a great deal of input, it was decided to form a committee to come up with a sustainability statement.

Formal Document to be sent to TRF: Dr. Ken D. Tuck, Dr. Ravishankar Venkattasubbia, Dr. Dieter Brodel, and Dr. Zeeshan Cheema agreed to serve on the committee to develop a formal document to be present-

Draft Board Meeting Minutes 2013 (cont'd)

ed to TRF that would contain recommended wording regarding “cataract surgery sustainability” which would be approved in advance by TRF and then be made a part of each global grant application for Cataract surgery.

Identify “partners” and/or International organizations to work with on eyecare projects. Several Board members felt that with the implementation of the new grant model, we should endeavor to develop partnerships with various organizations that could work with us to financially support BP projects while we provide the “boots on the ground”. The Chairman will send out an email to all Board members asking for recommendations and this will be discussed at an interim Board meeting.

Relationship with IAPB? Developing a relationship with the IAPB was discussed extensively. At the present time, we do not have a relationship with them as a result of former chairman Tom Kwako and the IAPB Chairman Christian Garms attempting to have TRF approve a “Strategic Partnership” with the IAPB. *(This eventually led to Chairman Kwako’s resignation at the unanimous request of the Board of Directors).* There is now a new IAPB Chairman and several Board members feel it would be advantageous to pursue some type of relationship with them. It was recommended that Chairman Schloer approach the IAPB Chairman later this year to ascertain how we might be able to work together within the guidelines of Rotary International. This was approved. The Chairman agreed to contact the IAPB Chairman and keep the Board members apprised of the results of his outreach.

RAG internal communications: Jean Villeval discussed ways in which the Board can communicate regularly during the year by using on line meeting services. In this way, business could be conducted on at least a quarterly basis or more often if necessary. The ExecSec said that she has access to GoToMeeting which would suit our needs perfectly. It was moved and seconded that we begin using this service. Motion carried unanimously. The Chairman will schedule the meetings and notify the Board well in advance so they can plan to participate. In addition, all of the meetings will be recorded and made available to Board members who could not attend so they can view them later online. In addition to the online meetings, Shehzad Ahmed is setting up a RAG for BP page on Facebook. This will be a Group page that all can participate in. Others can participate as well, but must be approved before they can. Shehzad will handle this and let everyone know when it is ready.

Direct Email to District Governors and Governors-Elect: The ExecSec has received from RI the list

of all Current Governors and Governor’s-Elect with their email addresses for contact. RI has approved the sending of email to all of them as a Group to gain permission to contact the Rotary clubs in their districts to invite interested Rotarians to work with the RAG for BP on their future Global Grant projects in the area of Blindness Prevention. We will also let them know about the BP-DAF and that we would welcome them as members.

RAG Annual Meeting Program: Gabriel Minder is involved in a very large project in Africa dealing with Albinism. He has invited several non-Rotarians to attend the RI convention as his guests. They have all accepted and will be presenting their program at our Annual meeting during this year’s convention.

Dr. Ravishankar Venkatasubbiah: Ravi, a former Board member, has just returned from a one month trip as a member of a Vocational Training Team working with Mercy Ships to teach and perform various ophthalmological surgeries. He will be giving a presentation on this very exciting trip at our annual meeting as well. In addition, RI has invited him to participate as a member of a panel in one of the scheduled breakout sessions during the convention to discuss developing partnerships under the new grant model.

Booth Staffing: The ExecSec asked that everyone please make time during the next four days of the convention to put in at least 2-3 hours helping with booth staffing. It will be greatly appreciated.

2013 Board Meeting – Fri., May 30, 2013 – 6:00 PM (Sydney, Australia)

Location: The Schloer’s have rented a ground floor apartment in downtown Sydney. It is in a large modern complex called the “Horizon” building. The apartment has an outdoor patio and garden as well as access to the complex swimming pool. The ExecSec has reserved the private outdoor dining area for the evening fellowship, dinner, The board meeting will be held indoors. The Schloer’s will be preparing dinner for everyone.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Harriett Schloer, Executive Secretary

June 21, 2013.

Draft Minutes—2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

2013 Annual Meeting
June 24, 1:00 PM
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention
Lisbon Convention Center (FIL)
Lisbon, Portugal

Welcome: The meeting was opened at 1:00 PM by PDG Walt Schloer, Chairman of the RAG. The meeting room was filled to capacity with additional members standing along the walls.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2021 Annual meeting were read by the Executive Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented by the Exec Sec in the absence of the RAG Treasurer. It was moved and seconded that the report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

New Officers and Board Members: Newly elected officers were announced

- * Vice Chairman: Shehzad Ahmed (Pakistan) (2013-14)
- * Jean Villeval (Mexico) (2013-2016)
- * Kula Sabaratnum (Asia) (2013-2016)
- * Selva Sunderavel (USA) (2013-2016)
- * Dr. Zeeshan Cheema (Pakistan) (2013-2014)

Review of Items discussed at the Board meeting:

Chairman Schloer and the Executive Secretary then updated the membership on items discussed at the Board meeting. As there were not items to be voted on by the general membership, no action was taken.

Marketing our RAG and attracting new members:

The ExecSec stated that RI is now providing all RAGs with a full contact list (in EXCEL format) of the DG's and DGE's. We are now allowed to do direct mailing to all districts to inform them of our work and encourage them to notify the clubs in their district about our RAG and how we can assist them with their Eyecare and Blindness Prevention projects. Members were encouraged to contact their DG and have them forward the emails to all of their clubs.

Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund: Chairman Walt Schloer presented his annual report on the grant activity by the BP-DAF for the past year. His full report can be found in the minutes of the Board meeting.

Program / Presentations:

Chairman Schloer then introduced Gabriel Minder who gave a presentation on the large grant he is now working

on with multiple international partners to address Albinism in Tanzania. He was assisted in his presentation by Terry Morton, Sister Martha Mganga, and Lucy Katharima. The presentation generated many questions among the attendees. Following the presentation, Sister Martha and Terry Morton were each named Paul Harris Fellows and presented with the symbols of the recognition. They expressed their gratitude for the honor and for the work that Rotary is doing to move this project forward.

The next presentation was made by former RAG Board member Dr. Ravishankar Venkattasubbiah. Ravi had recently served as a member of a Vocational Training Team with Mercy Ships wherein the team not only performed ophthalmic surgeries but also trained numerous medical personnel during the 4-week project. It was an inspiring presentation and again, the attendees had many questions. Later in the week Ravi was part of a panel on Rotary Partnerships as part of a Convention Breakout Session.

2013 Annual Meeting: Chairman Schloer then announced that we will not know the date of the 2014 Annual meeting until Rotary International submits the paperwork to us. Once the date is known, it will be posted on the RAG web site..

As there was no further business to come before the annual meeting of the RAG membership, Chairman Schloer made his closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harriett Schloer
Executive Secretary.
June 24, 2013



Sr. Martha & Terry Morton become Paul Harris Fellows

2013 Convention & Meeting Photos



Walt & Harriett Schloer and grandsons Matt Beaudry



Vice Chair Shehzad & Dr. Ravishankar



Dieter and Mrs. Brodhel



Gowri Rajan & Mrs. Sunderaval



Shehzad Ahmed and Friends



Convention Attendees and the "Pin Man"



Harriett Schloer and Lucy

New Leaders take Helm (*cont'd*) 2013 Lisbon Board Meeting Photos

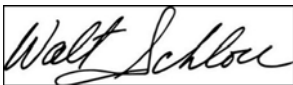
(Continued from page 1)

to performing numerous ophthalmic surgeries. On Wednesday of the convention Ravi participated in one of the Convention breakout sessions as a member of a very prestigious panel. The purpose of the breakout was to discuss how Rotary can develop “partnerships” with other international organizations to help us with our humanitarian work.

Finally, we had a change of leadership during the year. Upon the resignation of former Chair, Tom Kwako on May 1, 2013, under our RAG Bylaws, as Vice Chair I assumed the position of Chair. I am honored to do so and will complete the term of office through June 30, 2014. At our Board meeting, Director PDG Shehzad Ahmed was unanimously elected as the new Vice Chair. Shehzad and I will work together during the coming year to insure a smooth transition to his leadership on July 1, 2014. At the same time, the following RAG members were elected to 3-year terms of office as Directors: Jean Villeval, Kula Subaratnam, and Selva Sunderavel. In addition, Dr. Zee-shan Cheema was elected to a one year term as Director to complete the term of new Vice Chair, Shehzad Ahmed.

My fellow RAG members, you have a truly outstanding Board of Directors and Officers with many of them being recognized eyecare professionals. Each is a dedicated and committed Rotarian with enormous passion for Blindness Prevention. They are all actively involved in developing projects around the world to prevent blindness, restore site, and save sight. Each is determined to further the work of our RAG under the new Grant model and to insure that our work with The Rotary Foundation will significantly increase in the years to come.

Best wishes for a great Rotary year and I invite you to join us in Sydney in 2014.



PDG Walter C. Schloer
Chairman, RAG for BP
Administrator, BP-DAF



Dr. Ken D. Tuck and Sarah



Phyllis Nusz and Mark Harbison



Selva Senderaval, Dr. Cheema, and Jean Villeval

Draft Minutes of Annual Meeting—2012

DRAFT MINUTES
2012 Annual Meeting
May 15, 2012
8:00 AM

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention
Bangkok Convention Center
Bangkok, Thailand

Welcome: The meeting was opened at 8:00 am by PDG Tom Kwako, Chairman of the RAG. There were 12 members of the RAG present at the meeting who then introduced themselves. *(A few more members came in during the meeting once they arrived at the Convention Center which was about 15 miles from downtown Bangkok. The early hour was not conducive to major attendance this year as everyone had to rely on buses to get them to the center.)*

Minutes: Minutes of the 2011 Annual meeting were read by the Executive Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented by the Exec Sec in the absence of the RAG Treasurer. It was moved and seconded that the report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

New Officers and Board Members: The officers who have been elected to serve for the next two years are as follows:

- * Mark Harbison (Hawaii, USA)
- * Shehzad Ahmed (Pakistan)
- * Dieter Brodehl (Germany)
- * Jean Villeval (completing term of Gabriel Minder) (Mexico)
- * Members of the Nominating / Election Committee
- * Chairman, Tom Kwako
- * Vice Chair, Walt Schloer
- * Immediate Past Chair, Ken D. Tuck, MD
- * Exec. Secretary – Harriett Schloer
- * Treasurer – Phyllis Nusz
- * Board Member – Gowri Rajan
- * Board Member – Manjit Sawheny

Review of Items discussed at the Board meeting:

Chairman Kwako and the Executive Secretary then updated the membership on items discussed at the Board meeting. As there were not items to be voted on by the general membership, no action was taken.

Marketing our RAG and attracting new members:

A lengthy discussion was then held on ways in which we

can more effectively promote our RAG and gain new members. The ExecSec stated that RI is now providing all RAGs with a full contact list (in EXCEL format) of the DG's and DGE's. We are now allowed to do direct mailing to all districts to inform them of our work and encourage them to notify the clubs in their district about our RAG and how we can assist them with their Eyecare and Blindness Prevention projects.

Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund: Vice Chair and BP-DAF Administrator, PDG Walt Schloer presented his annual report on the grant activity by the BP-DAF for the past year. He answered numerous questions on the process of getting a DAF grant. To date this year, the BP-DAF has awarded 21 grants to Blindness Prevention projects.

2013 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting: All present at the meeting stated that they were planning to attend the Lisbon convention in 2013. ExecSec Schloer will make arrangements for the Board meeting and will also set up an annual meeting time for the RAG as soon as RI make the applications available. The membership will be notified well in advance of the meeting date, place and time. We will also be posting a booth schedule so members can sign up to work in the booth.

As there was no further business to come before the annual meeting of the RAG membership, Chairman Kwako made his closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned.

Following adjournment, everyone gathered for a photo prior to heading to the House of Friendship to staff the booth.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harriett Schloer
Executive Secretary.
May 15, 2012

RAG4BP Mission Statement

It shall be the mission of the Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention to:

- Bring together, in fellowship and service, those Rotarians and Spouses and Rotaractors who have an active interest in the prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide.
- Provide both a platform and a forum to discuss ideas and develop appropriate cooperative programs to further our shared goals.
- Promote international understanding and peace through our common purpose and efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Action Group members must be Rotarians in good standing, spouses of Rotarians in good standing or members of Rotaract in good standing. They may be eye care professionals (ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians) or other individuals interested in blindness prevention and eye care. Lifetime membership is \$100 for Rotarians and Spouses and \$50 for Rotaractors. The annual membership assessment fee is \$25.00.

You can join online at <http://www.rag4bp.org>

Seeking Help

The RAG for Blindness Prevention is interested in expanding the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide. We have contacted all of the District Governors about providing information to their Rotary clubs about the role of the RAGS in Rotary's organization and structure and how we can assist their district and clubs in completing Blindness Prevention projects.

If you are interested in becoming part of this worldwide network of eye care volunteers, please contact our Chairman, PDG Walt Schloer or our Secretary, Harriett Schloer and let them know of your interest. Their email addresses are as follows:

PDG Walt Schloer, Chairman
Email: wschloer@gmail.com

Harriett Schloer, Exec. Secretary
Email: in2dtp@gmail.com

The Blindness Prevention Action Group at work around the world



Conferences
Eye camps,
800,000+
Cataract
surgeries,
Scholarships
Eyeglasses,
World Sight
Day,
Matching
Grants,
Conventions,
the AAO.
All of this is
the RAG4BP.
Become part
of it. Join us
in helping to
preserve
sight.

