

SD VOSH / VOSH International

Newsletter - fall 2017

Greetings to all of you, whether you are a current VOSH member, past member, friend or family of a member, or one of the dozens of people throughout the world who have helped the mission efforts of SD VOSH over the years!! The SD chapter of VOSH has undergone some re-organizing during 2017, and this newsletter is being sent to everyone we found on the current “mailing list” in our files (and a copy is also being included with a letter of introduction to all the OD’s in the state). For those of you who would like to support SD VOSH (\$40 per year in dues includes membership in both SD VOSH and VOSH International) please return the enclosed dues statement with your payment, and we will send you a receipt for tax purposes along with a certificate of membership to display in your clinic. FYI: our new email address is [“sdvosh@gmail.com”](mailto:sdvosh@gmail.com).

Most of you are well aware of the Mission of VOSH International, but it’s good to remind ourselves from time to time:

We believe in the freedom to see.

We provide the gift of vision and quality eye health to people worldwide.

We facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

Our goal is to increase our global impact whenever possible by supporting sustainable eye clinics, optometry schools and optometric educators in areas lacking sufficient eye care.

SD VOSH has had the honor of supporting two recurring mission clinics for several decades: Gomez Palacio, Mexico and Port Antonio, Jamaica, and plans are already in the works for the next scheduled trips. **(Please note that the Mexico group is looking for several more OD’s to jump on board in February – PLEASE READ BELOW.)** In addition to serving these two warm and welcoming areas, many of our members have also attended mission clinics throughout the world, and you can see all the available opportunities through VOSH International at www.VOSH.org.

And without any further fanfare, here’s an outline of what we’ve been up to in 2017 **(please note the “action items” in bold type)**:

- 1) New officers as of spring 2017:
 - a. President (Gregory Hill, OD)
 - b. VP (Dallas Wilkinson, OD)
 - c. Treasurer (Jennifer Sigette)

d. Secretary (Jennifer Ness)

- 2) In February, a mission group returned to Port Antonio Jamaica led by Larry Morrison, OD from MN VOSH, and Gregory Hill, OD (along with wife and 14 year old step son) represented SD VOSH. Their mission trips are on a two year cycle, so the next one will be February of 2019. If you are interested in more information contact:

Gregory Hill, OD

Gregory.hill@avera.org

- 3) Jennifer Ness is officially the new director for the annual mission to Gomez Palacio, Mexico, and a HUGE THANK YOU to Dr. Garrity for his tireless decades of leadership and hospitality!! Their team went this past February and their next mission is quickly coming up, and is scheduled for Saturday Feb 3 to Sunday Feb 11th. **We still need doctors for the mission!! We only have 2 confirmed to go so far, and we'd like to have at least 4 or 5 more. The only expense is air fare and souvenirs. The mission director in Mexico is "Yoseff" (from the Gomez Palacio Lions Club) and will be in Sioux Falls Friday Nov 3 to Wednesday Nov 8 to talk to doctors about the mission, and to help out at the annual frame "sorting party" at the Lions Foundation. We need to have a rough estimate in the next week or so and a more final roster by the end of November, so if you want more information please contact:**

Jennifer Ness

jenness6@gmail.com

- 4) Every year on the first Saturday in November (this year it's Nov 4 at 9AM), the Lions Foundation office in Sioux Falls hosts a "sorting party" of the processed frames headed for Mexico. Thousands of frames are grouped by similar power ranges into boxes and prepared for shipping to Gomez Palacio, and the whole project gets wrapped up in a few hours due to the efficient and experienced group of volunteers. If you happen to be in Sioux Falls that weekend few extra hands are always welcome!! If you are interested contact:

Kay Thomas

or

Jennifer Sigette

Kay.Thomas@avera.org

jennifer@sdliions.org

- 5) Kay Thomas successfully created a new program of neutralizing and processing used eyewear at the Pierre women's penitentiary, with helpful support from Jennifer Ness and Aimee Schulte, OD. They acquired two lensometers, trained the residents, and have made several road trips back and forth with car loads of "raw" and "processed" eyewear. A HUGE THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU, and if you are interested in helping collect frames, shuttle boxes to and from Pierre, and/or would like to set up your own processing effort, please contact:

Kay Thomas

or

Jennifer Sigette

Kay.Thomas@avera.org

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- 6) **NOTICE TO ALL: PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED FRAME LAB BAGS AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE LIONS DONATION BOX OR EYEWEAR PROCESSING EFFORT NEAREST YOU (purchasing bags is one of the biggest expenses we have when processing frames).**

- 7) After several meetings and discussions, we are looking forward to the new and improved coordination of our efforts with the SD Lions Foundation in Sioux Falls. Jennifer Sigette is the CEO and has brought focus, energy, and talent to the many programs run by the Lions, including the collection and distribution of their donated frames. As many frames as possible are being sent from the Lions Foundation to the penitentiary in Pierre, while still continuing the same support of our existing processing efforts in Brookings, Brandon, Sioux Falls, and elsewhere (please let me know who I've missed). In the event of an excessive surplus at the Foundation (which happens regularly due to the generosity of our SD residents), the Lions have a regional collection facility in Wisconsin that processes, sorts, and indexes used eyewear, and then warehouses them. **Any mission organization in need of eyewear can order whatever quantity and range of powers they want from this warehouse with a cost of only \$0.10 per pair! For more information, please contact:**
- Jennifer Sigette
jennifer@sdlions.org
- 8) Our new Treasurer is helping to update our accounting software and administrative activities, so we now have a new format for annual dues statements and communication with members. After submitting your annual dues, we will issue receipts for tax purposes along with a certificate of membership to display in your clinic.
- 9) Newsletters will be sent out, preferably by email, a couple times each year. **Please confirm your email address with us, along with any name, address, and phone changes.**
- 10) We are writing a letter to all licensed OD's in SD to re-introduce both SD VOSH and VOSH International.
- 11) Our annual membership meeting continues to be every spring at the SDOS conference, and periodic updates will be announced at the fall SDOS conference. A conference call will be held every October for officers in final preparation for upcoming missions.
- 12) Keep your "eyes open" for a new website in the works! The current web address is "southdakotavosh.com", and **the new email address is "sdvosh@gmail.com."**

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, and please contact any one of us for any questions or thoughts:

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