



LEBW Transporter Stats

- From Sept. 1 to Dec. 1, LEBW Transporters have logged 793 transports by 133 clubs.

Transporter Schedules

The 2025 LEBW Transporter schedules are now available on our website. You can find the schedule at <https://lebw.org/lions/transporters/transporter-schedule/>. A huge thank you to all LEBW Dispatchers and Transporters for your continued dedication in helping to provide the gift of sight.

Certified Transporter Training Update

As of Dec. 1, 1,150 Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin have completed the Certified Transporter Training. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the training through the end of 2024. We are starting to see positive results already from transporters having a better understanding of the program and why the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin requires certain guidelines while you're doing a transport.

As we enter the New Year, we are excitedly awaiting our regional coordinators to get signed off so they can start scheduling in-person trainings in their respective areas around the state. Our first class of regional coordinators include:

- PDG Don Drew, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Board Chair
- PDG Judy Hatz, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin 2nd Vice Board Chair
- Lion Erica Singley, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Immediate Past Board Chair
- PDG Dan Montaine, 27-A2 Board Representative
- Lion Bill Fletcher, 27-B1 Board Representative
- Lion Al Kanugh, At Large Representative (27-B1)
- PDG Jeff Winkler, At Large Representative (27-D1)
- PDG Brad Behrens



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- PCC Evett Hartvig
- Lion Deb Hesse
- Lion Kalven Hunt
- Jeni Jansen, former Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin employee
- Lion Ashley Kempfer
- Lion Randy Kissack
- PDG Gwen Nelson
- Lion John Paddock
- Lion Becky Pratt
- Lion Steve Pogue
- Lion Gary Roehrig
- PDG David Stedman

Transporter training will resume in January. In 2025, there will be a combination of online training and in-person training. If your club still needs transporters that need certification, the regional coordinators will be in touch with you to get a session scheduled.

Finally, Certified Transporter certificates shipped throughout the month of December. If you haven't received yours, please be patient as we had 1,150 to send out. Certificates are being mailed directly to your club dispatcher to handout to individual transporters.

In Other News

Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Receives Grant from Green Bay Packers Foundation to Advance Outreach and Education Efforts

[Madison, WI, 11/21/2024] – The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin proudly announces the receipt of a generous grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. This support directly bolsters the organization's statewide outreach and education efforts aimed at raising awareness about corneal-related visual impairment and blindness.

Through this grant, the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin will expand its mission to educate communities about the importance of cornea donation and inspire individuals to give the gift of sight. These initiatives focus on empowering Wisconsin residents to register as cornea donors, providing life-changing hope to individuals awaiting vision-restoring transplants.

"Collaboration with community-focused organizations like the Green Bay Packers Foundation allows us to make a meaningful impact across Wisconsin," said Lion Don Drew, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin. "This grant strengthens our ability to educate, advocate, and inspire individuals to take action that ensure that all who need it have access to the gift of sight."

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin remains dedicated to its mission of restoring sight and transforming lives. With the support of partners like the Green Bay Packers Foundation, the organization continues to lead efforts to create awareness about preventable and treatable blindness while fostering a culture of organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation.



LEBW Council of Governors Report

Connect To Purpose

A Gift of Sight Inspires a New Purpose

For 50 years, Daniel Garcia of Union Grove, Wisconsin, lived with diminishing eyesight. A veteran with a deep love for his community, Daniel faced many challenges due to his near-total blindness; challenges that lead to many dark times for Daniel and his family. But last year, his life took an extraordinary turn.

“I thought my only option was to remove my eye and get a prosthetic,” Daniel recalled. “I was ready to give up on the idea of seeing again.” Yet, his ophthalmologist at the VA hospital where he receives his care, had a different plan. Refusing to accept Daniel’s resignation to blindness, his doctor recommended a corneal transplant—a procedure that could restore his vision and transform his life.

Thanks to the compassion of his doctor, and the generosity of a corneal donor, Daniel underwent the transplant. Day by day, he is regaining his sight, a process he describes as nothing short of miraculous. “I’m seeing the world with fresh eyes. It’s a gift I can never repay but one I’m determined to honor,” he said.

Inspired by this second chance, Daniel has embraced a new calling. Today, he works as a Peer Specialist at Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), guiding individuals in recovery toward healthier, more fulfilling lives. His work includes helping clients overcome addiction, secure housing, find employment, and reintegrate into society. For Daniel, the role is not just a job—it’s a mission. Additionally, Daniel is excited to become a Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Volunteer.

“I credit my return to health and this new chapter in my life to the kindness of my corneal donor,” Daniel shared. “Their gift gave me the opportunity to give back and pay it forward.”

Daniel’s story is a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of corneal donation. Through the gift of sight, he’s not only reclaimed his independence but also discovered a renewed sense of purpose. As he helps others find their path to recovery, he carries forward the legacy of his donor—proving that the gift of sight is a gift that keeps giving.

At the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, stories like Daniel’s inspire us to continue our mission. They remind us of the extraordinary ripple effects that corneal donations create, touching lives in ways that extend far beyond the individual.

To Daniel and all who contribute to the miracle of sight restoration—donors, surgeons, and advocates—we thank you. Your generosity and dedication make stories like Daniel’s possible. Together, we can ensure that the gift of sight continues to transform lives for generations to come.