

IN FOCUS



PCC Shirley Staats

Shirley L. Staats, age 85, passed away January 8, 2025, at her residence. She was born on January 22, 1939, in Bentonville, AR. Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Roxie Holcomb of Bentonville, AR and her sister, Wilma Faulkner of Springdale, AR. She is survived by her husband of 67 years Oliver Eugene (Gene) Staats, daughter, Renee (Joe) Miller of Murfreesboro, son, Bryan (Tracy) Staats of Rockvale, 5 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren her sister, Bernell (Howard) Womack of Bentonville, AR and a host of nieces and nephews. Shirley was a graduate of Bentonville High School class of 1957. Shirley worked in banking for over 30 years. Shirley joined Lionism in 1975 as a member of the Murfreesboro Lioness Club where she held many officer positions. She was the first woman to join the Murfreesboro Lions Club. She was the District Governor of the Lions Club from 2006-2007 and the second woman to be Council Chairperson in 2007 to 2008. She served as Executive Director of the Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service for 20 years. She received the Lindsey -Jones Fellow Award in 2017 and was inducted into the Tennessee Lions Hall of Fame the same year. She was a recipient of the Melvin Jones Award and the International Leadership Award which is the 3rd highest award presented by International President 2020-2021. Shirley was very active in her church, Mt. Herman Baptist Church.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Shirley Staats served as Executive Director of Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service and dedicated years of her life to MTLSS. We are collecting Memorial Donations to MTLSS in memory of Shirley. We hope to present PDG Gene Staats with many, many donation cards at our April MTLSS Board of Director meeting. You can make a donation to MTLSS before April 15th.



There finally here!!

The Crusade Against Darkness license plates came out November 18, 2024. We were so excited to let all those who placed a pre-order know that their plates were ready. For those who did not pre-order a plate, they can now purchase a plate at their local County Clerk office. We are excited to see where the sales go within the next few months.

Strategic Plan

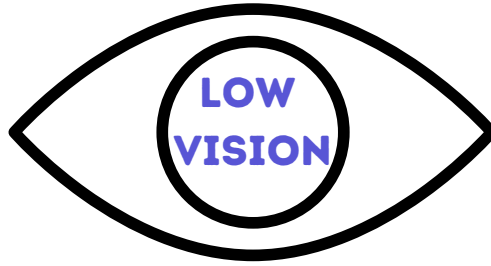
If you are not moving forward, you are moving backwards.

Michael Gorbacher

In moving forward Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service felt it was important to develop a strategic plan. A strategic plan helps you define who you are, what you want to achieve, and how you'll get there. We developed a mission and vision statement that defines who we are. The Strategic Plan is what we want to achieve. The Board of Directors voted on the Strategic Plan at the January Board meeting. Now we will begin to make plans to accomplish those plans. We initially made the Strategic Plan as a three-year plan.

Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service Strategic Plan 2025-2028

- Goal 1: Raise awareness of Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service and what we do.
 - Raise awareness in our Lions Clubs.
 - Raise awareness in our communities with eye doctors.
- Goal 2: Increase the numbers of ophthalmologists who will work with us providing high quality cataract surgeries to those in need.
 - More providers will allow us to provide more cataract surgeries.
- Goal 3: Promote the continued sales of the Crusade Against Darkness specialty license plates.
- Goal 4: To write 3 grants per year. Attain at least one grant per year.
- Goal 5: Increase the number of cataract surgeries we provide to 50 per fiscal year.
- Goal 6: Increase the inventory of our Low Vision Equipment by a minimum of 5 pieces year.
 - Replace and remove the old obsolete equipment.



The Low Vision Department has been adding new low vision equipment. This equipment is used for those with low vision in their home to see better. We have Digital Magnifiers that you can place a book or paper under to be able to read. We also have smaller handheld magnifiers. They are good for reading directions on a box, reading a prescription bottle, reading the mail, and many other uses around the house, grocery store, or restaurant. If there is someone in your community who needs equipment like, let us know and we can help place this low vision equipment.



Handheld magnifier, has handle also. Presently have two.

Clover Book- have two sizes, have one text to talk. Presently have three.



Merlin Pro Elite- magnifier with talk to text. Have one.

WHAT DOES MTLSS DO?

1- CATARACT SURGERY FOR THOSE IN NEED.

2- LOANS OUT LOW VISION EQUIPMENT IN HOMES FOR THOSE VISION PROBLEMS.

3- LOANS EYE VISION SCREENING EQUIPMENT TO LIONS CLUBS.

NOTES FROM OUR MTLSS PRESIDENT

Dear Board of Directors and MTLSS Supporters,

Great work this past quarter! These are exciting times for our organization as we continue to grow. I am especially proud of the progress we've made with our low vision program and the magnifiers we're placing for those in need.

As we look ahead to the next quarter, let's energize our efforts for the upcoming golf ball drop! I greatly appreciate everyone's support with our fundraisers and helping to raise awareness for MTLSS. With our rack cards (soon to be available), social media presence, and license plate initiative, I'm confident we'll continue to see a steady stream of applications for cataract surgeries or magnifiers.

Remember, we offer equipment loans. If your club needs a vision screening machine, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to MTLSS.

Warm regards,
Lion Chris Ross
President, MTLSS