



PRESS RELEASE

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Eye Bank Association of America Announces 2017 Awards Recipients

Washington, D.C. (June 19, 2017) – The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) honored four recipients at its 56th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 16, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Each year, [EBAA awards](#) individuals and organizations that dedicate their time and expertise to restore sight to the blind and visually impaired. This year’s awardees are truly deserving of the honors EBAA will bestow on them.

- The Leonard Heise Award is presented annually to an outstanding eye bank in recognition of his/her commitment to the profession.
- The Gift of Sight Award is presented to a professional who whose efforts have demonstrated significant support of eye banking and corneal donation.
- The Crystal Cornea Award is given to an individual or organization not directly affiliated with eye banking but which advances the profession’s interests and EBAA mission.

“This year’s award recipients are at the heart of our organization and paramount to the achievement of our mission to restore sight worldwide,” stated Kevin Corcoran, EBAA CEO and President. “We take heed to their efforts to vigorously and enthusiastically encourage eye, organ, and tissue donation and transplantation.”

This year’s recipients are as follows:

Leonard Heise Award

David Korroch, CEBT

Chief Executive Officer

Lions Medical Eye Bank and

Research Center of Eastern Virginia

Gift of Sight Award

Kurt B. Nolte, MD

Chief Medical Investigator

New Mexico Office of

the Medical Investigator

Crystal Cornea Award

Ross C. “Rocky” Anderson, JD

Former Mayor of Salt Lake City

This year, EBAA presented a special award to Lions Clubs International, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Lions Clubs were charged by Helen Keller in 1927 to be “the Knights of the Blind”; since then, the Lions have dedicated themselves to providing services the prevention and treatment of vision loss. The majority of eye banks in the U.S. were founded by Lions Clubs, and more than half of



EBAA's member eye banks retain their relationship with the Lions. The Visionary Award is just a small demonstration of our appreciation for their long-standing support and encouragement.

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About the Eye Bank Association of America

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation and sets standards, provides education, and engages in advocacy to support eye donation, and cornea transplantation and research. EBAA has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for eye banking, and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye bank personnel. Over 90 member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, and Asia. These eye banks made possible 82,994 sight-restoring corneal transplants in 2016. To learn more, visit www.restoresight.org.