



1000 Westgate Drive • Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114
612-625-5159
LionsGiftofSight.umn.edu

April 7, 2020

Eye Bank Association of America
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Eye Bank Association of America,

On behalf of Lions Gift of Sight, I am writing to strongly endorse the application of Brian Philippy, CEFT, to serve on the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) Board of Directors. Brian has a long and distinguished career that started at my very own Lions Gift of Sight (née Minnesota Lions Eye Bank) and that encompasses all aspects of eye banking. His contributions have not stopped at his own door as he has tirelessly aided the EBAA by serving on numerous committees (many as Chair), workshops, and task forces, as well as a prior term as a Member of the Board. This service has helped establish the EBAA as a model organization dedicated to its members.

Brian is well qualified to serve on the Board and not just for his impressive resume. He has an impressive depth and breadth of knowledge as it applies to all aspects of eye banking. This thorough understanding has benefited, and will continue to benefit, EBAA member eye banks in every way possible. Brian is pragmatic, thoughtful, thorough, and transparent in how he conducts himself whether representing himself, his eye bank or the EBAA.

Brian is aware of the changing face of eye banking, both domestically and internationally. He is a staunch supporter of community-based not for profit eye banking. He has an appreciation of the importance of not only providing tissue for transplant but also for seeking cures via research and for educating the next generation of eye banking professionals and corneal surgeons.

I have the privilege of writing this letter of support during the COVID-19 pandemic that has shook eye banking and our nation to its core. I am deeply concerned about the short-term impact of this pandemic on eye banks across America, but I am more concerned about what our eye banks may look like later this year when, hopefully, this pandemic is behind us. We will need strong leadership to guide the EBAA and to help its members navigate an uncertain future. Brian Philippy is this type of leader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Poppoff", written over a horizontal line.

Sean M. Poppoff
Executive Director