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March 9, 2022

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

Dear Eye Bank Association of America Members,

On behalf of Lions Gift of Sight, please accept this letter of support for Brian Philippy, CEBT, to serve as Chair-Elect for the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA). Lions Gift of Sight is proud to know that Brian's long and distinguished career began right here in Minnesota at Lions Gift of Sight (née Minnesota Lions Eye Bank).

Brian's curriculum vitae (CV) outlines the diversity of eye bank positions and roles that Brian has served in for nearly 25 years. His service has been at the local, regional, national, and international level. Being associated with the University of Minnesota – this record would certainly align Brian as a Professor of Eye Banking, if such a title existed. What is not outlined in Brian's CV is the countless undocumented hours that Brian has dedicated to advancing our profession. How many of us have reached out to Brian and asked him a range of questions from the most basic (guilty as charged) to incredibly complicated questions about the history of our profession and how eye banking and the EBAA got to where we are today? This is all to say that Brian's depth and breadth of knowledge is incredibly valuable to our organization and to all of eye banking.

In a leadership role such as Chair-Elect, the character of the individual matters as much as the experience that someone brings to the table. I have now known Brian for more than four years. In that time, I have never found Brian to be anything short of perfectly honest (at times to his own detriment), transparent, thoughtful, pragmatic, and thorough. Simply said, Brian delivers.

Equally important to the experience and character of the Chair-Elect is an appreciation of the history of eye banking and the desire to move the EBAA forward as a member-serving organization. Brian has a deep understanding and appreciation of eye banking that will serve the EBAA well. In addition, Brian is a staunch supporter of community-based, not-for-profit eye banking. He understands that eye banking's highest calling is to transplant but that we must, simultaneously, provide tissue for sight-saving research, drive innovation in eye banking, and educate the next generation of eye bank professionals and surgeons.

I would be remiss without mentioning that Brian is the most recent recipient of our distinguished Leonard B. Heise Award (2021). Many may see this as the exclamation point on the end of their career. With Brian, it was a pause to recognize his contributions to eye banking up to that point, with much more to come.

Brian has the unreserved support of Lions Gift of Sight to serve as Chair-Elect for the Eye Bank Association of America Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Poppoff", written over a white rectangular area.

Sean M. Poppoff
Executive Director