

## IN MEMORIAM

**Lion Jeff Brantner** passed away on Sunday, April 7, after a long battle with cancer. We offer this tribute to Lion Jeff, for all that he meant to the Tri-Village Lions, the Lions of 13-OH5, and the Lions of Ohio.

Lion Jeff Brantner began his career in Lionism in 1979, as a member of the Columbus Northwest Club. While a member of that club, he served in various capacities including being President of the club, and then served as a Zone Chair – his introduction to life at the District level. In 1996, when the Columbus Northwest club gave up their charter, Lion Jeff transferred to the Tri-Village Lions Club. Since that time, he has served as an invaluable member of the Tri-Village Leadership team. He was the treasurer for more than 15 years, and the Tri-Village Lions relied on his guidance in all matters of budgeting and accounting. For almost two decades, Lion Jeff and colleague Lion Brian Turner served as the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the Tri-Village Lions, and they oversaw several critical revisions to our governing documents. Lion Jeff was honored by his club over the years, receiving a Founder's Award, and a Dick Bryan Fellowship, as well as a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



His service to the Tri-Village Lions marked him as an important part of Tri-Village Lions history, but his service to the District and to the Lions of Ohio marked him as both leader and visionary. In 1985, Lion Jeff was instrumental in the formation of the Ohio Lions Foundation. In the intervening 32 years, he has served as the Executive Secretary of OLF and has safeguarded that organization legally, while providing responsible management of their fiscal resources. It was not just about bookkeeping with Lion Jeff. When tornados struck Southern Ohio several years ago, devastating several small communities in their wake, OLF provided significant and *immediate* relief to residents, in the form of several thousand dollars in Kroger gift cards. In order to get those gift cards to the people who needed them in such a timely manner, Lion Jeff Brantner drove all over the state, getting the necessary signatures from OLF trustees, visiting Kroger outlets to gather the dozens and dozens of cards needed, and then handing them off to local Lions in the stricken communities, for distribution. Then, too, along with Lion Brian Turner, Lion Jeff has spent almost two decades shepherding the Constitution and Bylaws committee for the District, as well as several years on the State Constitution and Bylaws committee. In 2018, Lion Jeff was named to the District 13-OH5 Honor Roll.

Lion Jeff Brantner gave selflessly of his time over the years, and demonstrated his commitment to service and to Lionism. His energies, wisdom, and dedication to the Lions community will be sorely missed.