



June 2020

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Where Is This Box?



No one guessed last issue's eyeglass collection box. Congratulations to the Torrington Lions Club for stumping the entire district!

So, since we've run out of our entire library of collection boxes, we decided we're going to begin a brand new contest starting with the September 2020 issue of the *District 23B Spirit*. We considered several possibilities, running from a "Guess the Lion from their Silhouette" to "Best Lion in Action Photo Contest" and even, possibly, "Zoom Karaoke". Fortunately, PDG David Yadach came to the rescue and is allowing us to adapt a fun game he created for the MidWinter Conference to replace "Where Is This Box". Thank you, PDG Dave for allowing us to entertain the district with your great puzzler. This one will be even more challenging. But remember, you need to enter to win.

A Thank You is also given to all the clubs who have sent in pictures of their collection boxes over the past few years, and we hope that all the readers of the Spirit enjoyed the game.

The Spirit Team



DG Ev Lyons

LIONS CONTINUE IN TRYING TIMES

Whether it is posting a sign celebrating the heroic work of those individuals at work to keep our society functioning and safe or arranging help for community members in need, our District 23B Lions continue on despite our historic and perilous times. One of our major district activities in this crisis has been the dispersing of food support to local pantries and protective equipment to emergency responders (See this issue's article). Local clubs have been identifying agencies and their specific needs.

What was "normal" months ago has undergone a radical change—that is the obvious. Clubs are using technology provided by the district to transact business and maintain their member connections. Some have used Go to Meeting as a recruiting device and membership is holding with nearly 15 new members added in April and more scheduled for May. Others are looking for safe ways to continue their contributions to their communities. We don't know what the future holds as we slide into summer, but we must sustain our innovative Lions spirit.

What is clear is that Lions are not backing away from our "We Serve!" commitment. We will continue to be watchful of our fellow Lions and care for their wellbeing. We will continue to introduce our friends and neighbors to the satisfaction of being a Lion. Above all, we will continue to contribute to our community's welfare and global needs in a safe, yet positive manner. Even a pandemic cannot halt the good works of our Lions in District 23B!! If you haven't yet, now is the time to **ROAR LIONS!!**

WE ARE...
Local. Global.
Lions.
BeALion.org



District Is Rated 100% By Lcif

Congratulations to the clubs of District 23B!

Official word has been received that 100% of our district clubs have been credited by donations this Lions Year (2019-2020) to our Lions Club International Foundation. Clubs were credited by LCIF in one of three ways: (1) Direct club donations, (2) Donations made by individual club members or (3) Funds from the District Governor's Award Breakfasts raffle participation assigned to a club.

This year LCIF provided nearly \$17,000 in aid to District 23B alone; not to mention similar assistance given to our fellow districts, A and C. This coming year, let's have every club make a direct donation to LCIF part of the club budget despite the tough times generated by a loss of fund raisers due to the pandemic. It takes as little as \$10.00 to gain club credit and make our district a 100% district two years in a row!!



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Two Ways To Retain Members In Financial Distress

Clubs have reported concerns that, with members being unemployed or underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they may see significant "drops" in June as members weigh their Lions obligations against real financial issues at home.

There are two possible ways to deal with such a situation and both concern an adjustment to a member's club dues for the first half of Lions Year 2020-2021. One way is to issue a general dues reduction across the board for club members with the amount determined by the club membership. Several clubs are already implementing this approach as reported in the most recent round of zone meetings. While the LCI and district portions will remain the same, some creative adjustment to the club portion of a member's dues might help retain your club membership and give those in need some time to recover during the first half of the year.

The second approach is a more personalized approach in which clubs can place individual members on "Member at Large" status, again for the first half of the year, in which the member is responsible only for the payment of the LCI and district assessment. The member would not be obligated to pay the club portion of regular membership dues. This would be a more individualized approach than a general dues reduction but, again, might help your club to retain members who are still struggling into financial recovery. As with our service projects, fund raising activities and membership recruitment, member retention will require a creative approach from club leaders as we deal with the effects of the pandemic.

DG Ev

Fidelco Update

by IPDG Harry Schuh, New England Lions Advisory Board (NELAB) Chair

Fidelco has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic along with other non-profit companies in New England. According to their most recent email update of May 7th, "Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation is now over six weeks into operating remotely. Puppies are being born, lovingly raised by volunteers, and formally trained by our staff as they prepare to be matched with clients when it's safe to do so. Our mission continues, thanks to hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, and the ongoing support of our donors." Because the Fidelco Bloomfield campus is closed to all but necessary staff, NELAB held its annual meeting via GoToMeeting on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Fourteen Lions from CT and 1 from MA attended. I would like to highlight two of the activities this year:

- Thanks to East Windsor Lion Peter Nevers for organizing the "Towels for Puppies" drive which culminated in countless boxes of gently used towels being donated at the Lions MD23 Mid-Winter Conference. Thanks also to Windsor Lion and District 23B Leo Cabinet Chair Cindy Daniels and our CT Leos for their generous donations of towels as well.
- Thanks to Glastonbury Centennial Lion Yun Li for her "Asian Moments Card" fundraiser to be used for the purchase of a commercial washer and dryer for the Bloomfield campus. Yun has raised \$1,955 toward her \$1,980 goal!

Please remember Fidelco as our Lions year comes to a close. Non-profits need our support now during this pandemic more than they have in past years. Our NELAB annual meeting has traditionally been held during the annual Fidelco Open House, which gave clubs an

opportunity to present their annual donation at the Parade of Checks held at the Open House. If your club has not already done so, mail your check to:
Corrienne Gagliardi, Fidelco Lions Liaison
103 Vision Way
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Thank you for your continued support of Fidelco guide dogs!

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

The 44th Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be held September 17-19 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Forum's mission is to develop leaders, motivate and educate attendees, provide an open exchange of ideas, and support programs and goals of Lions Clubs International. The Forum is open to ALL LIONS and will feature over 70 educational seminars in 2 1/2 days that will give you insight and guidelines to develop your growth as a Lion. In addition, many Lions University courses will be offered for you to begin working toward your Lions degrees. Louisville is only a 13 hour drive from Connecticut and this offers a great opportunity for you to see other Lions from around the world due to the cancellation of our International Convention in Singapore.

Early bird registration is still available for \$285 and already over 1,045 Lions have registered to attend. Register today at www.lionsforum.org or call 605-723-4007.

For more information, please contact LCI Events Chair Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.

Membership

GMT Frank Longo

Even in a time of physical distancing and online meetings, we are still increasing our pride. Since it was announced to the District on April 18, District Governor Ev Lyons' membership initiative exceeded its goal of 35 new members by May 31, three weeks early. Welcome to all our new members, and I hope that clubs will still work to attract new members. My suggestion is to use your social media to invite prospects to your online meetings. Even if we're not physically meeting, we can still fulfill our mission as Lions, and recruiting is a part of expanding the level of service we provide. Please contact me if you need more ideas of how to attract new members.

The new buzzword on the block is NAMI—North American Membership Initiative. While there is more detail about this important program elsewhere in the Spirit, what I'd like to do is explain how NAMI relates to your club.

One of the facets of NAMI is for clubs to change their thinking on how they bring in new members. Up to now, each club has had varying degree of success in recruiting. But, as the old saw says, "If you keep doing things the same way, you'll keep getting the same results." Clubs that are struggling to find new members need to find new approaches to reach the people in their communities that would be an asset to their club. This means adopting strategies like open houses and the MD23 Plan to reach those in our communities that the current "Just Ask" model doesn't touch. We also need to look at ourselves and determine why we aren't attracting more new members. Some of the most common reasons are our dues structure, lack of service projects, and even our club cultures.

So, as we start our new Lions Year, let's think about how we can start attracting new Lions.

Windsor Locks Leo Club

It's in the Cards for the Windsor Locks Leo Club

Despite the quarantine due to the Coronavirus, members of the Windsor Locks Leo Club found a way to continue to serve their community.

Just before Easter, and under the direction of their Advisor, Lion Dawn Sopelak, members of the Club created handmade "Thinking of You

Cards."

Materials for the cards were delivered to member's homes, which were then collected and distributed to residents of the Bickford Convalescent Home. In addition to the cards, each of the home's 48 residents were given a flower bouquet. Due to the current health crisis, the residents of the home are not able to have visitors since mid-March.



It's in the Cards - Windsor Locks Leo Club President, Hunter Sopelak and the Bickford Convalescent Home Social Services Director show off the cards and flowers that were given to the home's residents.

Four Town Fair Hunger Service

Four Town Fair was established in 1838 and is considered the oldest fair in Connecticut. This year, the fair asked Lions to partner with them in a multi-District, multi-club project to collect non-perishable food items for this Lions' global cause at the two entrances to the fair on September 17, 18, 19 and 20 in Somers. Both Enfield and East Windsor Lions Clubs in our District have signed up to support this project.

If you would like to volunteer on Thursday, September 17, anytime between 4 PM and 10 PM, please contact Enfield Club President Bill Vayda at billvayda@gmail.com or 860-623-1081. If you would like to volunteer on Saturday, September 19, anytime between 8 AM and 11 PM, please contact East Windsor Club President Cathy Boulais at boulaisc@cox.net or 860-977-4068.

Lions, Leos and their guests can volunteer and anyone who volunteers for two or more hours in one day will receive a free ticket for each volunteer to the fair.

Questions on this project should be sent to Chair Madhav Atreya at matreya641@gmail.com or Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org. And the link to the Four Town Fair site is <http://www.fourtownfair.com/index.htm>

Winsted Lions Club

Pam Wright (our Vice President) and her family have been creating masks. They have now as of last Wednesday have created over 1,600 masks to date. They have been donated to various senior housing organizations and the like. They have done a majority of this out of pocket, however our club gave them a boost, as well as people online wanting to help support their efforts. Here's Lion Pam (to the right) with some of her masks. Another picture of masks is on page 12.





- 1** Did you know that with the SECURE Act there is a delay to the Start of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)?
- 2** With the expansion of plan eligibility for long-term part-time employees, are you now eligible?
- 3** How does the The SECURE Act interfere with the Elimination of "Stretch" IRAs?

Sourced from Prudential Financial 2019



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If any of the topics above spark some concern or curiosity with your current income and retirement planning, please feel free to reach out. I will be happy to offer advice or a second opinion on your financial plans and retirement goals.



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Windsor Locks Lions Club

Despite losing three of our major fundraisers to the current COVID-19 health crisis, the Windsor Locks Lions have remained active by making use of the World Wide Web for several of their projects

Chocolate Easter Bunny Sale -

With the cancellation of our Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, and the closing of many of our sale venues, the Club's annual Chocolate Easter Bunny Sale appeared to be trouble. Then along came the idea to sell the bunnies via a Facebook sale. End result, a sell-out..

Social Distancing Easter Egg

Hunt - The Club painted 33 Easter Eggs on 2x3 foot plywood sheets. The eggs were placed at 20 different sites around town (parks, schools, businesses, and private homes). Over 60 families / individuals signed up via Facebook and were given a registration sheet that gave clues to where the eggs could be found. All eggs were easily visible from the street, so that no one had to leave their vehicles. Participants finding all of the eggs were entered into a random drawing for several prizes. The project was adopted from a similar one that was held in Washington, Connecticut. Lion Kathy Doody coordinated the endeavor, and was assisted by her husband Mark, and children, Karen, Michael, and David, all of whom are Lions.

"Thinking of You Rocks" – The Club hand painted rocks with floral and heart designs and inspirational words. The rocks were given to residents of the Bickford Convalescent Home just prior to the Easter holiday. The residents currently are unable to have visitors.

Thank You Banners for COVID-19

Workers - Banners honoring COVID-19 Workers for their efforts have been posted in a several locations around town. The banners were the idea of Past Presidents, Pat and Ron King. They were installed on April 23rd

"Takeout and Tune In" Club

Meetings – On April 16th, the Club conducted a "Takeout and Tune In" Club Meeting. Members were encouraged to order takeout meals from the Skyline Restaurant, our normal meeting site, return home and sign into an on-line meeting via Zoom. Seventeen Lions participated in this event. The takeout and tune in meetings will continue until the Restaurant can again offer dine-in services.

Virtual Ambulance Executive Board and Board of Directors

Meetings – The Club conducted a virtual Ambulance Executive Board and Board of Directors Meetings via Zoom on April 8th. These virtual meetings will continue until normal meetings can once again be conducted.

Nightly Bell Ringing – Joining many residents of Windsor Locks, members of the Club stand on their front porches and ring bells from 8:00 until 8:02 every evening. The idea is show that while respecting social distancing, we can still show we are all in this together regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Woodbury Lions Club

With present distancing rules in effect, we've made the decision to tentatively postpone our annual Car Show to August 23, cancel our annual Duck Race, and scrap our plans for our float in the town's Memorial Day Parade, which was also cancelled.

But, we've channeled all our efforts into supporting our food bank, with members volunteering to assist in distribution of food, and to hold several food drives. We were also able to make a donation of PPEs and disinfectant concentrate to our local ambulance association, thanks to the grant from LCIF.

We continue to serve!

Childhood Cancer

Lion Meredith Spector
Childhood Cancer Chair

Wondering what you can do right now to help?

Collect and hold onto toys and game cards for the hospital oncology clinics who can't accept them during the pandemic. To find out when to deliver them safely, contact:

kfoy@connecticutchildrens.org

Kelly Foy at CT Children's Medical Center

Annie.Kaplan@ynhh.org

Annie Garcia Kaplan at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

Join the CTLIONSROAR team for THE GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE

www.GreatCycleChallenge.com/teams/CTLIONSROAR

Set goals-get sponsors-ride now-take pictures and track mileage-post online in September

Socially-distant fitness for the good of childhood cancer research. Anyone anywhere can be a rider for our team!





Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

On March 4th, Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry celebrated its 7th Anniversary of producing a weekly half-hour show featuring Lions events and activities throughout our district and beyond! Our show continues to be aired in 58 communities on 5 cable access TV stations: Charter Communications (Newtown), Cablevision (Litchfield), Charter Communications (Willimantic), Nutmeg (Farmington), and Skye XIII (Waterbury). We are also airing on YouTube! To watch "Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry" online, you can subscribe to Nutmeg TV on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/NutmegTelevision. You can also access our playlist directly at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVHmFM06IZKxGruhD6iUjIAT2J7Y-ltW4>.

Listed below are our last 11 shows. Lion Anne Schullo from Lions Clubs International updated us on the Model Club Initiative at the New England Lions Council Winter Meeting held in Norwich. PDG Mary Krogh surprised us with a telephone call to Past International President Joe Preston during the evening ceremony. Our next show was at District 23C's Humanitarian Banquet held at St. Clements Castle in Portland. Due to snow and slippery road conditions, we left the event early. Our next event was the MD23 Mid-Winter Conference at the Wyndham Hotel in Southbury on the weekend of February 21st. Our special guests this year were 2nd International Vice-President Brian Sheehan and his wife Lion Lori. It was a great weekend featuring the band Night Shift on Friday night along with an appearance by "Puff the Magic Dragon" – a 20' dragon propelled by CT Lions. 2nd VP Brian was entertaining and informative at both his town hall seminar and as keynote speaker at the banquet luncheon. And, congratulations to all Lions receiving Presidential awards and medals!

Listing of the past fourteen shows:

| | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 348 | NELC Winter Meeting Part 4 |
|-----|----------------------------|

The Lions' Roar

The next two deadlines for The Lions' Roar are June 10, 2020 and July 10, 2020. Please send your event notices in a text format (we do not publish flyers) to D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com.

You should submit all events your club has planned through at least the end of that issue's month (for the July issue, we want everything from June 15 through the end of September 2020).

| | |
|-----|---|
| 349 | District 23C Humanitarians Banquet Part 1 |
| 350 | District 23C Humanitarians Banquet Part 2 |
| 351 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 1 |
| 352 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 2 |
| 353 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 3 |
| 354 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 4 |
| 355 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 5 |
| 356 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 6 |
| 357 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 7 |
| 358 | MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Part 8 |

We look forward to videorecording Lions events onsite once again after the state has been safely reopened. Please continue to enjoy our new weekly shows using footage we recorded prior to the pandemic.

Be safe!



Published four times a year
"All the news that fits, we print!"

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The District 23B Spirit

Our next issue of the District 23B Spirit is September 1, 2020. The deadline for all ads and articles is August 10, 2020.

Ad prices are \$30/quarter page (3.5" wide, 5" long), \$50 for a half-page (7" wide, 5" long), and \$100 for a full-page (7" wide, 10" long). Please provide ads in .BMP, .JPG or .GIF formats only—no .PDF or .PUB files, please. If you don't know how to create an ad, send us your information and we'll create one for you.

Any submitted pictures should be in .JPG or .GIF format, and should be clear (blurry pictures do not reproduce well). We need pictures of collection boxes! PLEASE!

Submit materials for publication to District23BSpirit@gmail.com only.

Litchfield Lions Club

By Lion Cindi Zeller

LWhat a beginning to 2020 we had!

As a highlight, at the time of this printing, we have inducted at least 17 new members—17 new active members—and expect to have four more by the end of May for a total of 70 plus.

In the beginning of February, we celebrated our 70th anniversary with a Sunday brunch at the Litchfield Inn. With congratulatory remarks by District Governor Ev Lyons, highlights included conferring of the Melvin Jones Award to John Tarrant, and recognition of 25-year members Jon Tarrant, and Gary Zeller, and 21-year member Leo Paul, as well as our longest standing members Ronnie Philippini (59yrs), Frank Fisher, Peter Carpenter, Jim Koser, Rick Bunnell, Guy Baldwin and George Baldwin.

In addition, we distributed 80 carbon monoxide detectors to the Litchfield, East Litchfield, Bantam, and Northfield Fire companies. Thanks to Lion Sam Kinkade and Lion Sue Smith for leading this activity. The Litchfield True Value gave us a fantastic price and donated some in the deal. Also, in February, three of our new members were inducted.

While we had the best year yet planned, like many other clubs, our events have either been cancelled, postponed, or are on hold due to the Covid -19 virus. Still, we have been able to support our local food bank (\$500 donation for Bread and supplies), we just awarded ten scholarships to local graduating seniors and have worked tirelessly to provide some sort of recognition for local volunteers. At present we have had four virtual meetings with GoToMeeting. Our average attendance has been 22 Lions.

We Are All In This Together and Together We Serve.



(Left) Induction of new Litchfield Lions Club members by club president John Bongiorno (far left)

(Right) Lion John Tarrant (on left) receiving the Melvin Jones award from club president John Bongiorno



(Left) The Litchfield Lions Club recognized their longest serving members.



(Below) Members of the Litchfield, Bantam and Northfield fire departments receiving donations of CO2 detectors from the Litchfield Lions Club



Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions Club

Audrey Lampert became the 24th Charter Member of the newest District 23B Club; the Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions Club.

During her first month as a Lion, Lion Audrey and other members of the club helped raise funds to purchase new pants for Kelly Lane Elementary School in Granby. An urgent call went out from the school nurse that new pants were desperately needed at the school for disadvantaged youth and our newest club jumped into action.

If you know of an individual who is interested in joining Lions, but the traditional club concept is not for them, please have them contact Guiding Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.



(Above Left) PDG Dave Roberts installing new Lion Audrey Lampert



(Above Right) Lion Audrey Lampert and Lion Dave Roberts delivering new pants to Kelly Lane School nurse (who was moved to tears!)

Virtual Member Orientation Session On June 10

New Lions and veteran Lions seeking to sharpen their understanding of our organization are invited to a virtual orientation program set for 7:00 pm on June 10, 2020. Renowned Lions expert, PCC Alan Daninhirsch, will be our featured presenter and both PCC Alan and DG Ev will be on hand after the short 25-minute webinar to answer participants' questions. So, sit back with your favorite beverage and learn what it means to be a Lion!

Meeting Access Codes:

Computer: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4482654337785756176>

Phone: +1 (415) 655-0060
Access Phone Code: 170-048-254

Barkhamsted Senior Center Lions Club Branch

In order to grow its membership, the Barkhamsted Lions Club has been working to establish a branch at the Barkhamsted Senior Center.

The club formerly met at the Barkhamsted Senior Center located on West River Road in Pleasant Valley many years ago and some Senior Center members expressed interest in joining Lions Clubs International if they could meet at the Barkhamsted Senior Center.

The Barkhamsted Lions Club meets at the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department Community Room.

Currently, the branch has four new members and one transfer member from Simsbury Lions Club.

With these five members, the branch has the minimum number needed to launch the new branch.

Barkhamsted Lions Club President

Dave Roberts has been asked to serve as liaison between the Barkhamsted Lions Club and the new Barkhamsted Senior Center Lions Club Branch.

For more information on this new branch or on how your club can start a branch, please contact Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.



Barkhamsted Senior Center where new branch club will meet.

Windsor Leo Club

The Windsor Leo Club at Sage Park has continued to serve during this very difficult time. Only in their second year as a club, Leos and their Advisor, Lion Cindy Daniels have figured things out to continue to support their community.

Leos and Lions have been supporting residents at Kimberly Hall North by creating beautiful cards and notes that have been given to facility administrators to be distributed. Leos also honored healthcare workers with "Thank You" notes and gift cards for meals.

Planning our "Second Annual Plant Sale" on the Windsor Town Green had to be redefined while meeting virtually. Windsor Leos at Sage Park are offering a "no contact" order on line plant sale with delivery offered within Windsor. Leos are doing the behind the scenes work of making delivery maps, calling folks with delivery times, and creating "Thank you" notes for everyone who supported this fundraiser. Leo parents and Windsor Lions will conduct plant delivery. All proceeds from this event will go to the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank.

In these unprecedented times the spirit of "Leos Serve" shines through. Lifelong lessons are being learned as we figure things out while working together to serve our community.



A sample of the cards made by the Windsor LEOs

Zone Meetings Via PC

In order to continue Lions operations during this scary pandemic, District Governor Ev Lyons tasked GoToMeeting POC Lion Dave Roberts to work with all Zone Chairs to set up virtual Zone meetings for all seven zones in order for DG Ev to share critical updates on grant opportunities from Lions Clubs International Foundation, and for Club leaders to share how they are continuing to serve their local communities.

All seven zones met over the last few weeks and Zone 1 Chair Dave Boilard gets the Gold Star for having 100% club attendance at his zone meeting. District Governor Ev complimented all Zone Chairs for operating so well under these adverse conditions. He also mentioned that Connecticut Lions have funded GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar technologies for clubs to use this service free of charge to host meetings and conduct trainings.

If you would like to use this technology, please contact District POC Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.



A sample of what virtual zone meetings look like

What Are Lions Known for?

Ask any Lion about Lions - what do you think they'll say? "We Serve" is always near the top of the list. "Blindness" comes next. We might even get "Where there's a need, there's a Lion."

But ask a non-Lion, and the answer isn't always so clear. In Berlin, Harwinton and Terrville, Lions are known as "fair people." In Bloomfield, Lions are associated with Fidelco. In Canton, Lions park cars and serve hot dogs. We should ask ourselves: Is this the way we want to be known?

We all know that Lions do a lot. Some might say just too much! But if

we're going to stay relevant in our communities, we should be known for something. It could be Blindness, Diabetes, PPE, Childhood Cancer or just plain Service. If that something is "Service," then your club might want to think "How do we demonstrate to the public that we serve?" The same is true of Blindness, Diabetes and the rest.

By focusing your club's projects, you focus the public's attention on your club. Do those projects well, and that attention will guide the club for many years, and bring new members, too. You'll be known for something.

New Milford Lions Club

New Milford Lions Club Served up Protection and Then Some

- Delivered Chocolate Bunnies to New Milford Hospital front line workers
- Donations made through LCI Disaster Relief secured by DG Ev Lyons and District 23B grant:
 - 4 \$50 Stop and Shop gift cards for New Milford Food Bank
 - 50 N-95 masks, 100 other masks, 500 pairs of gloves, 1 gallon of disinfectant to New Milford Ambulance
- Collected 90+ toys and game cards for CT Children's Medical Center oncology Prize Closet; in storage until CCMC can receive outside donations following Covid-19 precautions.

Membership Initiative To Launch On July 1st To Support District Clubs

For Lions Year 2020-2021, DGE Heidi Zacchera has chosen to enroll our District in the North America Membership Initiative (NAMI) prototype program to bring fresh thinking and bold action to maximize our District's membership in order to maximize our service. DGE Heidi appointed Lion Dave Roberts as the NAMI Champion to lead this effort.

The initiative has four teams which have already begun planning via GoToMeeting teleconferences for a fast launch come July 1st:

Team #1 -- New Clubs and Branches: Co-chairs VDG Ed Fenton and Specialty Club Coordinator Raj Shrestha; and members Dr. Akella Sarma, Krishna Kandel, Julie Vecchitto and Jamie Laforge

Team #2 -- New Membership for Established Clubs: Chair Lion Dave Roberts; and members Frank Longo, Maria Cornicello, Madhav Atreya and Jim Daniels

Team #3 -- Inspiring Service for

Membership Retention: Chair (PDG) Dave Yadach; and members Harry Schuh, Brian Lavigne and Susan Gabriele

Team #4 -- Club and District Leadership: Chair (PCC) Kathy Randall; and members Jim Trompeter, Pat Daigle, Lilly Ruiz and Kevin McNally
DGE Heidi launched the initiative with all four teams and the Team Chairs on April 9th with a Visioning Session to discuss the District's strengths, weaknesses, obstacles and threats. The four teams next met to discuss ideas for each focus area. DGE Heidi and the team chairs then created a District NAMI plan which was submitted to Lions Clubs International on April 30th.

The goal of this initiative is to be a resource for clubs and the District.

To learn more or to get involved, please contact NAMI Champion Lion Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.

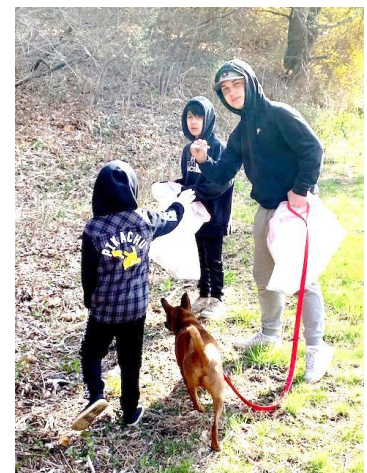
Joint Club Environmental Service Project to honor Earth Day!

Despite the pandemic, the Barkhamsted and Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions Clubs and the Northwest CT Cyber Leo Club are encouraging members to follow all CDC guidelines to undertake family-centric litter cleanup events. One such event was held in West Granby and Barkhamsted with all three clubs represented and three large trash bags were filled by members in just one hour.

Top items collected were e-cigarette cartridges, beer cans and used Styrofoam coffee cups.

Usually, the Barkhamsted Lions Club hosts a community cleanup event in conjunction with Earth Day, but that day was cancelled this year

and instead members were encouraged to complete cleanups on their own and report their service with photos to Club President Dave Roberts.



(Above) Northwest CT Cyber Leos Julian and Manny Oliver and Joe Roberts collecting trash

(Left) Leo Natalee Roberts finds a trove of trash

The District Moves to Help Those in Need

By District Governor Ev Lyons

District 23B has taken action to assist those in need as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic by initiating two LCIF grants. The first, the Community Impact Grant, is based on the donations made by district Lions to LCIF over the past two years. The second, the LCIF Emergency Grant is a standard \$10,000 grant available to every district governor in the event that a natural or made-made disaster strikes their district.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Our previous contributions to LCIF entitled us to apply for a \$6,700 grant to be used in a non-restrictive manner in support of a district project. Our district project, "Feeding Those in Need", was accepted for funding. Working with the Stop and Shop Cash for Causes program which netted us an additional 5%, over \$7,000 in gift cards were distributed to area food pantries and soup kitchens.

Twenty-five agencies were supported with this grant funding as a result of requests made by their

local Lions club. Grants ranged from \$200 to \$500 based on the population size of the community with a special grant of \$1,000 made to FOODSHARE, which is supported by a number of area Lions clubs. The only criteria to receive funding was that the local Lions club had to have contributed to the agency as this grant did not replace local funding but was designed to augment the impact of local Lions.

LCIF EMERGENCY GRANT

Working in unison with our two fellow MD23 districts, and our MD LCIF coordinator, PDG Mary Krough, \$10,000 in personal protective equipment (PPEs) was purchased from local and New York vendors. As a group we researched available equipment and pooled our purchases for pricing advantage. **7,500** masks of the NK-95 and surgical procedural varieties were purchased, as well as **40 gallons** of disinfectant concentrate (Each gallon makes 60 gallons of disinfectant), Tyvek suits and **thousands of vinyl gloves**. Again,

local clubs stepped-up with recommendations and contact information for their community first responders. **Twenty** emergency response organizations and **three** district hospitals were provided with these needed supplies.

NUMBERS WORTH NOTING

To make it easier to realize our impact:

FURNISHED BY OUR LCIF EMERGENCY GRANT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS/HOSPITALS

1500 KN-95 MASKS (NEEDED FOR COVID CASES)

6000 CIVIL MASKS (3 PLY FOR GENERAL USE)

40 GALLONS OF DISINFECTANT CONCENTRATE (MAKES 1600 PREPARED GALLONS)

17,000 VINYL GLOVES



(Above) Manchester presenting PPE to their Fire Responders
(Below) Canton donated PPE to their police department. NBC Connecticut filmed the presentation.



(Above) New Milford donated masks, gloves and disinfectant to their local Ambulance Association
(Below) Windsor Locks ready with their donation of PPE



(Above) Masks made by Winsted Lion Pam Wright
(Below) Woodbury presenting PPE to their local Ambulance Corp



Membership

James Trompetor, GLT

Starting on July 1st a transition in leadership will take place in most to of our Lions Clubs. Many of our In-coming leaders have had some exposure to their new position, others have not. Whether you have previously held your position or starting in a new role, the year of 2020 – 2021 will be a total new norm due to Coved-19. The format of our meetings, Clubs Finances, Fundraisers will all be taking on a new dimension.

Previously we would hold an Orientation Workshop for all new Officers the 1st Saturday in June, not this year. Due to Coved-19 we will be providing Video Training for each position. You will be receiving a letter from Governor Elect Heidi with details on accessibility to the Training Video's. You will also be sent a list of training that is available through Lions International. We will then follow-up the On-Line Training with an In Person or Got to Meeting format in late July. Lastly after you have been in office for a couple months we will set-up a Virtual or In-Person format to answer any questions you are encountering that were not covered in the Training.

This will be an unusual year for everyone New Ways of doing things will be implemented to meet the needs of each club. There will be questions and we will be there to support you. We are just a Zoom Meeting away.

Stay Safe and Healthy



District Officers

V. Everett Lyons
District Governor

Heidi Zacchera
First Vice District Governor

Ed Fenton
Second Vice District Governor

Pat Daigle
Secretary

Steven Daigle
Treasurer

David Boilard
Zone 1 Chair

Sonni Olami
Zone 2 Chair

Phyllis Perry
Zone 3 Chair

Tracy Dubois
Zone 4 Chair

Lilly Ruiz
Zone 5 Chair

John Habib
Zone 6 Chair

Jamie LaForge
Zone 7 Chair

Free Webinar About Lions and Childhood Cancer

*Lion Meredith Spector
23B Childhood Cancer Chair*

Childhood Cancer 101: a Lions Global Cause and How You Can Help is a new webinar waiting for viewers. Gain insight beyond the mere basics of childhood cancer as you listen to two experts with ties to Connecticut and broad outreach for helping children around the world survive and thrive. Give yourself a lunch and learn time of about 50 minutes.

The video is on YouTube and is free to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SMujMQZa5w&feature=youtu.be>

Are You Using Your Social Media Effectively?

With many of us isolating at home, how are we getting our message across to others? The use of social media has become our primary communication to the outside world. What do we need to do to make sure our message gets across?

- 1) Post often—the more activity on your wall, the more people your posts will be displayed to.
- 2) Post relevant information—avoid overusing memes, and post pictures of your club in action from past events
- 3) Engage your followers—polls and discussion questions prompt followers to reply, which also increases your visibility.



Lions Clubs International