



Spirit

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The Heart of District 23B

By District Governor Dan DiVirgilio

This Lions year has been consumed by great acts of kindness by you my fellow Lions. The number of peoples' lives that you have touched and changed has grown every day. To say I am proud of all of you is an understatement. I have learned so much about your hearts, why you are Lions, and what you do. The stories that I have been privileged to hear from you have been more than heartwarming; they inspire me to continue the Lion's cause.

Since our first planning and organizational meeting last year in April, we have grown together and developed a shared vision. Our Cabinet Workshops and meetings have been fun, entertaining and filled with leadership learning activities. We have seen videos on inspiration, courage, leadership, education and fun. Our action plans have helped each cabinet member and club officer who has used them. This has had a very positive effect on everyone.

that day as well. We now have an additional Professional Leadership location in Cheshire thanks to GLT Lion Ev, and have found an inexpensive location to meet in Southington - all meals are under \$15 for groups up to 30. We all can take advantage of all the Leadership Courses on line at www.MYLCL.com.

Membership

Membership is moving in a positive direction now. Last year, some clubs dropped large numbers of members at one time for various reasons. We have now begun to charter a new Lions Club in Newington and possible other locations which we will announce as they charter. PCC Lion Jim Canon joined us for a week in February to help start that new Branch Club. More than 15 Lions helped meet with business leaders to explain what Lions do. Lion Jim's class on how to recruit was very well-received and we will be inviting him back again. **Thank you all.**

Low Vision

Another Low Vision Center Facility is now available for our use in District 23B, in Waterbury at 1312 West Main Street at the St. Mary's Health and Wellness Center. There is plenty of free parking and easy access from I-84 and Route 8. The Occupational Therapist is completely paid for by the hospital and reimbursed by Medicare or insurance so more of your hard-earned Lions money will go towards devices, not payroll or overhead expenses, to help more members of the community.

Zone Progress

The reduced number of zones has made a positive impact on our clubs. We have formed new relationships and shared more ideas. Some zone workshops had 100% attendance. If you missed them, you missed a lot of good and new stuff! They are completely different and innovative where you as the clubs get to share and speak and we get to listen and become more of an important resource for you. **Get involved!**

Pediatric Eye Screenings

Because of your commitment to children and our mission, our Pediatric Eye Screenings have been a tremendous success. We have screened nearly 3000 children and will reach 5000 before July. We are approved to perform eye screenings at all the Connecticut Agriculture Fairs this year which will double the number of screenings next year. **Pick a fair and volunteer!**

American School for the Deaf

Together, as a Team, we have contributed over \$10,000 dollars to the American School for the Deaf (ASD) since last year and now have a class room with a plaque honoring our Lions District over the door. **Congratulations!**

Leadership

Leadership training is going full speed ahead as Zone Chairs, Cabinet Members, Guiding Lions, Emerging Lions, Liaisons for Leo's have completed their 23B University and Leadership Training. The Club officers' training is scheduled for May 10 with another Leo and Guiding Lions Training Seminars planned



Prelude to Toronto



District Officers

Dan DiVirgilio
District Governor

Mike Wilcox
First Vice District Governor

Steve Daigle
Second Vice District Governor

Carol Kearns
Secretary

Harry Schuh
Treasurer

Mike Wilcox & Steve Daigle
Zone 1 Chairs

Jim Trompeter
Zone 2 Chair

Josh Cohen
Zone 3 Chair

Winston Barnaby
Zone 4 Chair

Tina Rafala
Zone 5 Chair

Tim Hilliker
Immediate Past
District Governor



Terryville Lions were among 40 volunteers who read to elementary school students on Plymouth's Reading Day - March 3rd in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Communications – District Spirit

We have had difficulty with email addresses, over-worked volunteers, and on-line computer issues, but we have overcome those issues by continue to work as a Team. Some of those issues affected our ability to get the District Spirit out in email format where you can print copies. Many new and experienced individuals have stepped up to help improve the new system better. Please check out our E-Clubhouse where you will find lots of new stuff. The address is <http://www.e-district.org/sites/23b/index.php>.

Touched by a Lion

"Touched by a Lion" is my inscription on the District Banner and Pins. That's what is in my heart. I believe we have the greatest opportunity to change lives for the better – more than any other civic group. My beliefs have not changed because someone else may not believe in them or may believe that titles are more important.

We do not gain respect by the titles we wear, but build respect for those titles by who we are and what we do.

I continue to stand for Leadership, the Human Side and to hold people accountable for the positions they hold when they don't follow through. It is too easy to let things slide. It is much harder to stand for what you believe in and fight for it, but I will continue to do so for you. You, our Lions membership, are the most important reason that I am a District Governor. I will continue to serve for your best interests and not for personal gain.

In closing, we have 3 months together and we will share time on April 27 and May 18 at our District Governors breakfasts. I hope to see as many Lions and friends as possible. Take a moment to say hello and tell your fellow Lions a wonderful story.

Thank you for all you do and you do. Change peoples' lives for the better every day.

Sincerely yours in Lionism,

Dan DiVirgilio
District Governor

What Can Low Vision Rehabilitation Do for You?

By Raechaell Corbett MS OTR/L

Low vision describes vision loss that cannot be corrected by lenses, contacts, surgery, or medicine. Common causes of low vision are Macular Degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. Many people don't know that many patients with these eye diseases do have some AVAILABLE VISION.

Low Vision Therapy focuses on teaching patients how to use their AVAILABLE VISION and trains patients in the use of low vision aides to maximize their AVAILABLE VISION. Low Vision doesn't have to prevent you from being able to use your eye sight. Don't let Low Vision force you to become dependent on others and avoid doing activities that you enjoy.

Joan Carrah, a recent patient of the Saint Mary's Hospital Lions Low Vision Center in Waterbury, was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration years ago in both eyes. The disease became progressively worse, leading to difficulties reading her mail, recipe cards, and bills. Writing legibly also became a problem when Joan tried to write a check or a grocery list. Meal preparation, managing her medications, and even matching her clothing became a challenge. "I was giving up because I couldn't see. I had to rely on my husband to read labels and check dials on our appliances for me."

Joan attended Occupational Therapy for low vision rehab. She expressed interest in being more independent with all of her daily activities and wanted to enjoy playing cards, sewing, and using her computer again. We also discussed safety concerns such as pouring hot liquids and how well she did with stairs and adapting to

changes in walking surfaces. She was educated on how to locate the AVAILABLE VISION in her right eye and received training in the use of low vision aides to ENHANCE her AVAILABLE VISION.

Joan is now able to read her bills, the newspaper, and her medication labels and to write legibly with the use of low vision aides. She is once again independent and safe with all of her daily tasks. "I am thrilled about being able to sew again; it's one of my favorite things to do. I think that everyone who has vision trouble should come here. You learn a lot and get your confidence back. I can do so much more for myself now."

The Lions Club raises money to purchase items such as LED hand held and stand magnifiers in varying powers, task lighting, chest magnifiers, reading stands, low vision playing cards, and a multitude of other items that are distributed by the low vision centers free of charge to patients. The Lions also accept donations of CCTVs that are then distributed to appropriate patients.

The glass isn't half empty, it is half full. Come to a LIONS Low Vision Center and get started on learning how to use your AVAILABLE VISION to reclaim your independence.

Raechaell Corbett provides low vision rehab services at Saint Mary's LIONS Low Vision Center, Waterbury, CT.



The Watertown Lions Club Ninth Annual Golf Tournament

Friday May 16, 2014
Crestbrook Park Golf Course
834 Northfield Rd.
Watertown, CT 06795



Entry Fee \$110 per person

10:00 am Registration, Lunch

12:00 pm Golf - Scramble Format

4:30 pm Cocktails (Cash Bar)

5:00 pm Steak Dinner & Raffle

Call: Lion Joe at 860-274-5905

or Lion Rudy at 860-274-0236

Watertown Lions Club

P.O. Box 281 • Watertown, CT 06795

www.watertownctlions.org

Wanted:

Vendors

for the Torrington Lions
Club

2nd Annual Craft Fair

October 11 - Torrington

Armory

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For Details, Contact

Lion Kiki

kiki73055@hotmail.com



Low Vision News

The Lions Low Vision Center (LLVC) of 23B needs your assistance with our latest no risk, no costs and no fee to the center fundraiser. We have teamed up with The Travellers Championship and the Birdies for Charity. We will be receiving **100% plus an extra 15% of all proceeds**. All the proceeds will be used to purchase low vision aids for our clients. **We have a goal of \$5,200.**

The person who correctly guesses the exact number of birdies will win:

The Grand Prize of one 24-Month Lease on a **2013 Ford Fusion SE Hybrid**. In addition, due to the continued support from the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, your nonprofit of choice will receive an additional \$500 donation, a year membership and four training sessions with their organization.

Other prizes, depending upon eligible entries in the event of a tie, include:!

- A World Golf Hall of Fame Vacation package which include:!
- Two nights at the Renaissance Hotel in St. Augustine, Florida!
- One round of golf for two at The Slammer & Squire World Golf Village!
- One golf lesson for two at the PGA TOUR Academy!
- Admission for two to the World Golf Hall of Fame and IMAX Theatre!
- \$600 Travel Voucher!
- Four rounds of golf at TPC River Highlands!
- \$1,000 Cash Gift Card!

As well as the above prizes, The Lions Low Vision Center of 23B will be giving the first **(5) donors (individual or organization) of \$100 or above (2) entry tickets valued at \$58.00** to the Championship. Also the top (10) donors to the program will be given a prize (to be announced) at our fall dinner.

How can you help?

If you normally donate to the LLVC in the fall. Please consider giving your **donation in the Spring before June 22nd** through the Travelers birdie program. Any and all donation including club's donations, Wall of vision donation can all be made through this program so that we can receive **15%** on top of the donations.

You do not need to know anything about golf to take part. We need you to guess the birdies scored by the Golf professionals during the tournament. Wednesday June 16 to Sunday June 22, 2014 at 6.00pm. In the past birdies made were 1,888 in 2009, 1,834 in 2010, 1,839 in 2011, 1885 in 2012 & 1,620 in 2013.

Minimum pledge is **\$0.02 per birdie**. (an example is if 1,500 birdies were made $\times \$0.02$ per birdie = \$30 donation to the Lions Low Vision 23B.

If you would rather to just make a flat rate donation. The minimum amount is \$10.00

If the LLVC 23B is in the **top 4 pledge** collecting charities we will receive a day on site exposure at the championship where we can market and promote Lionism.

Where are forms mailed to:

Please send check with a copy of the Birdies for charity invoice. Make checks payable to "Travelers Championship" and send: "Attn: Birdies for Charity Cohn Reznick 180 Glastonbury Blvd, 4th Floor Glastonbury, CT 06033. This is a 501c3 and is tax deductible.

How do I sign up online?

For electronic pledge forms go to: www.TravelersChampionship.com/birdies-for-charity and follow the link to our site.

Please note that donor information will remain confidential by Travelers.

The Chairpersons for this program are:

Marcia Anderson-Esson and George Precourt - 860-214-0192 or 860-983-8988

Thank you for your support

Steve Daigle - President

Spring Dinner - May 16



New Britain Bristol Torrington

The District 23B Lions Low Vision Center will have its annual Spring Dinner at Nuchie's Restaurant, 164 Central Street, Bristol, CT.

Social will begin at 6:30 p.m.; Buffet Dinner at 7:00 p.m. All Lions and guests are invited to attend. Cost is only \$25 per person, all inclusive

Come learn more about your Lions Low Vision Center and how you can help our efforts to assist the visually

impaired. We would like members from every club to attend not only to find out what is happening at your Lions Low Vision Centers, but also learn what you can do to make the citizens of your community aware of what we are all about and how we may be able to help the visually impaired cope with their loss of sight.

CLUBS, this is a perfect occasion to honor a new Ambassadors of Sight!

To make your reservation, please contact Lion Cindy Cooper by Friday, May 14 at (860) 627-9777 or by e-mail at

CindyBCooper287@aol.com

Learn how your club can change children's lives with a pediatric eye screening - See page 3

A Report from Lions 23B Low Vision President, Steven Daigle

As most of you may know, our Bristol Lions Low Vision Center had been closed for a period of time. We are happy to report that the center reopened late last year, and today it complements the services offered at our New Britain and Torrington facilities. Members of our LLVC Board have been examining and visiting possible sites for new low vision centers in Hartford and Litchfield counties. More information will be available shortly.

Past President Ev Lyons, along with First Vice President Bobby Clark and myself, visited the new Waterbury Low Vision Center at St. Mary's Hospital to see their operation. We will report our findings to our April LLVC Board meeting.

Our officers and Board members have been working hard on fundraising initiatives to benefit LLVC. First, our annual Spring Dinner will be held on Friday, May 16 at Nuchie's Restaurant in Bristol, CT. Tickets are \$25 per person, all inclusive. This is a great opportunity for your clubs to present Ambassador of Sight awards. Also, please consider the Wall of Vision awards. The Wall of Vision is a great way to honor or memorialize a family or club member. Please contact the New Britain Low Vision Center or me for further information on these awards.

Our 23B LLVC will once again be participating in the annual "Birdies for Charities" fundraiser as part of the Travelers Championship

golf tournament. Board member Marcia Esson has been hard at work organizing this, and information will be circulated to the clubs shortly.

Tickets are still available for the wooden hand-carved Lion. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from any LLVC officer or Board member. The drawing will take place at the Spring Dinner on May 16.

Last but not least, you can now find our 23B Lions Low Vision Center on Facebook! Please check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/llvc23b>.



Why Write?

By Kimberly Nguyen

Just recently, I asked my advisor what should I write about for my next LEOs article. He suggested this topic: "Why it is important to let your community and your peers know what you have accomplished."

That, in my opinion, was brilliant. Here I was writing all these articles about involvement, and I never once explained why writing for LEOs, Lions, and the general public is so important. What's the point? There are so many, but I'll touch on the top four:

Reason One: Sharing Experiences

My last article was on technology. One of the social media platforms I talked about was Facebook. Speaking from experience, I could honestly say that it really connected everyone in my Student Council group!

Reason Two: Spreading the Message

When an article really connects with someone, s/he will want to spread the article's message. You always want to make it easy for your audience to relate to your article; for me, that's getting LEOs involved!

Reason Three: Getting Readers to Think

This pretty much goes along with the above. Let your readers figure out some things for themselves. It's okay to be opinionated sometimes...all the better for your readers to agree or disagree!

Reason Four: Enhancing the LEOs Reputation

One club's accomplishment can be an accomplishment for all. When one LEO club does an amazing job, it shows the world how amazing LEOs are as a whole. It's an instant confidence booster!

My advisor also suggested another statement for me to explore: "It is more important to organize and complete a project than it is to write an article."

Of course, completing a project is a great feeling! However, no one

except outside of your club might ever share the excitement of completing a project without an article to inform the public. Organizing takes time and you might have reached an impasse at some point. Why not let others know how you overcame those difficulties so their projects can succeed as well?

My advisor added: "Writing an article also gives the Lions or Leos an opportunity to publicly thank those individuals and businesses that many your project so successful...Lions are just as guilty of not writing!"

I hope that my article inspires you to write more about your accomplishments and to share them with the world! If this all seems like common sense to you, all the better. If not, now is the time to sit down, let your ideas flow and influence someone else.

LEOs fill important roles, like helping with a child's dental exam in the Philippines. Writing about these projects reinforces the value of LEOs around the world.



HELP!

**Graphic Designers
Journalists
Marketeers
Photographers
Writers**

**The District Spirit
needs YOU!
Call Bob Bessel at
860.324.8267**

Officers Training – May 10

Get Ready for Your Great Year!

By Ev Lyons, GLT

As an incoming president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair and, new this year - LEO Liaisons - you want to have the best information available to start off on the right foot.

There's no better place to get it than our annual Officers Training Workshop on May 10 at the ITBD Center on Main Street in New Britain beginning with coffee at 8:00 a.m. and concluding by noon. Click [here](#) to sign up!

This year, we will feature:

Presidents..... Tina Rafala
Membership Chairs Bob Clark
Club Secretaries..... Kathy Randall
Treasurers Harry Schuh
Leo Liaisons Blanche Sewell and DG Dan DiVirgilio
Levitating Hula Hoop All
Help us work the magic on May 10 – click [here](#) to sign up!

"Peace, Love and Understanding"

2014-15 Peace Poster Contest

Sponsor the Lions art contest for kids in your community through your local schools or organized, sponsored youth groups



"Our World, Our Future"
2013-14 Grand Prize
Winner

Order your kit before the end of the school year!

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/planning-projects/youth/peace-poster/index.php>

Who is Lion Mike Wilcox?

The Next District Governor of 23-B!

By Tammy J. Deak

First VDG Mike Wilcox was a member of the New Milford Jaycees for ten years before joining the New Milford Lions Club in 1994. He has been President of our club on three separate occasions and has served on the Board of Directors for many years. He chaired the 4th of July Carnival for eight years and chaired the Trip Raffle on one occasion. 1st VDG Mike has sponsored thirteen members into our club. He has received three Presidential Certificate of Appreciations, an Ambassador of Sight, and is a Melvin Jones Progressive Fellow.

First VDG Mike joined the Cabinet of 23-B in 2007. He served on the Lions Low Vision Center Board for three years, was Zone Chair for three years, District Membership Chair for two years, as well as, 2nd VDG and 1st VDG.

First VDG Mike was born in Old Town Maine, where he lived until he served in the U.S. Air Force, during the Vietnam Era. He moved to New Milford and lived here since 1973. He worked for Woolworth for eight years, then joined MetLife as an agent for the past 39 years. 1st VDG Mike lives with his wonderful wife, also a Lion, Dottie. He is the father of three children and one, handsome, grandson, Devon, four and a half years old.

First VDG Mike will be sworn in Toronto, Canada. He officially takes office on July 1, 2014! His motto is: "Each One, Reach One, Just Ask..." Retaining Members and Growth are very important!

Tammy J. Deak, Secretary
New Milford Lions Club

CHANGE

By First VDG Mike Wilcox

According to experts, doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is a form of insanity. Now, I'm not saying that if we don't change, you and I are insane. However, sometimes we need to change, even though some people, including me, resist it.

IPDG Tim started it by having Vice District Governors visit some clubs. He also included us and Zone chairs in the reports from International on dues and charges and Club Health Assessment. We met outside of Cabinet meetings, and he encouraged then VDG Dan to start organizing his Cabinet and, as we now know, the rest is history.

A year ago we started having pre-cabinet meetings on Saturday mornings over breakfast and so far I have had one. Under the Leadership of GLT Chair Ev Lyons, and with guidance from Governor Dan, we have implemented Guiding Lions and Zone Chair training. We are currently working on Guiding Lions training for LEO Liaisons.

Membership is growing and I'll let Gov Dan and GMT Chair Bobby Clark report on that.

At a recent Zone meeting, it was suggested that I talk about what I am going to do. Well, I will follow along with what Gov's Tim and Dan have started. Will there be some tweaks? Yes, as needed.

I am currently working on filling the Cabinet. There are some positions open and we will reinstate some that haven't been used in a few years. Interested? Please contact me at lionmikewilcox@yahoo.com, or call 860-354-8821.

My theme is "Each One Reach One... Just Ask." Tell them what we do and how we help change someone's life. Looking for ideas? Read and reread the International Magazine and you'll find page after page that describes how Lions help people. That's how we are going to grow together.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Mike

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

**Please remember to
bring any hearing aids
your club has collected
to the upcoming District
Governor breakfasts for
recycling.**

Thank you!

Making Measles HISTORY

Lions Clubs International

In November 2013, one of the strongest typhoons ever to make land devastated parts of the Philippines. Tens of thousands became homeless overnight and thousands more lost their lives. Lions around the world responded with generosity, raising more than US\$1 million in the first two weeks following the disaster. Yet there is another disaster that takes place each day that may not make headlines, but it takes the life of 335 children every day – more than 122,000 a year. This disaster is measles – and Lions have vowed to continue the fight against it. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases known to humankind, and people who aren't protected have a high risk of infection. When one person has measles, 90 percent of the people they come into close contact with will become infected, if they are not vaccinated or have not previously contracted the disease.

Through our partnership with GAVI Alliance, Lions have committed to raising US\$30 million by our 100th anniversary in 2017 towards the fight to eliminate measles. The funds raised by Lions will be matched through the GAVI Matching Fund, which is financially supported by the



United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Through our joint efforts with GAVI and other partners, **we will help immunize more than 114 million children** and increase access to quality immunization services to benefit children throughout the world.

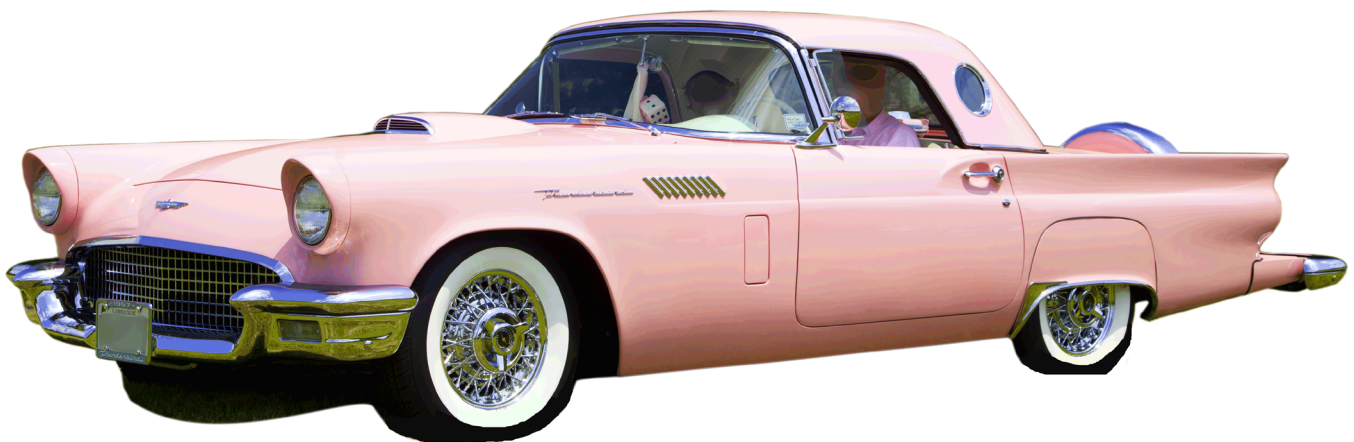
World Immunization Week is April 23-30, 2014. Throughout the month, Lions in measles priority countries will be out in their communities encouraging their neighbors to participate in vaccination events and serving as volunteers at vaccination centers. Since 2010, Lions have helped to contribute to the vaccination of 200 million children against measles.

In celebration of World Immunization Week, **all donations for measles during the month of April will be matched dollar for dollar by Lion Aruna Oswal and her family, up to a total gift of US\$500,000.** This means that during the month of April, your contribution will save four times the number of children from the potentially devastating effects of measles.

In honor of World Immunization Week and Lions commitment to making measles history, consider making a donation to LCIF to help eliminate measles. For additional information about LCIF and our commitment to the global elimination of measles, please visit www.lcif.org.



36th Annual Antique Car Show



Sunday, June 8, 2014

Hollow Park, Woodbury, CT

Car Entrance at 9 AM - General Admission at 10 AM

Judging starts at Noon, Awards at 3 PM

Car Registration: \$15/General Admission: \$5/Children (under 10): \$1

Vendor Space Still Available

For more information visit <http://www.woodburyctlions.org>

A Report from Second Vice District Governor, Steven Daigle

I have been busy visiting clubs, including Litchfield, Thomaston and Harwinton. As Co-Chair of Zone 1, we recently had a great combined meeting with Zones 1 and 2 at The Yankee Peddler Inn in Torrington, with over 60 people attending. The clubs discussed their year-to-date activities, including what has worked and what hasn't worked so well this year. They also discussed upcoming events and activities.

On Thursday, March 27, we held a New Member Orientation session at the Plymouth Town Hall. There were approximately 14 new members in attendance, along with their sponsors. Many thanks to PCC Alan Daninhirsch

for leading the session, and to DG Dan DiVirgilio, 1st VDG Mike Wilcox, and Cabinet Treasurer and Secretary Harry Schuh and Carol Kearns, respectively, for their help in making this event a success.

As the year starts to wind down and you elect your new officers for the 2014-2015 year, it is important that the new officers plan to attend the Officer Training Workshop to be held on Saturday, May 10. More details to follow.

If your club needs guidance or assistance, please contact me and I will be happy to help.

**Lions look to the
POSITIVE
We help others see
the rainbow
that follows
every storm**

Admission \$5 PP

Terryville Lions Bike Swap & Car Show

Sunday, June 8, 2014

7 am – 3 pm

Terryville Fairgrounds

Vendor Spots \$30



**\$10 per entry for Bike
and Car Show
Judging @ 2:30 pm**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call Steve Daigle at 860-589-4893
Or email: bikeswap@terryvillelions.org
terryvillelions.org/bikeswap**



93rd Annual MD23 Lions State Convention

May 2 – 4, 2014
Sturbridge Host Hotel
366 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566



Welcome Our
International Guest
IID Harvey Whitley
from
North Carolina



www.lions23a.org/Events2014/2014State/Conventnion.html

Taking Care of Business

Your Vote is Important

Candidates for Election

District 23 A

District Governor Kathy L. Patterson
1st Vice District Governor Tom Sullivan
2nd Vice District Governor Colette Anderson

District 23 B

District Governor Mike Wilcox
1st Vice District Governor Steven Daigle
2nd Vice District Governor Kathy Randall

District 23 C

District Governor Nanette Burdick
1st Vice District Governor Nancy Tucker
2nd Vice District Governor George Salpietro

You will also be asked to
vote on changes to the
Constitution and
ByLaws of MD23 and
possibly your District

Who is This Lion?

By Margaret "Kiki" Tucker



This Lion is always happy to help out. She is a quiet person but she will give her very wise opinion when asked. She has an important role calling Lion members, delivering flowers, helping out at ALL fundraisers, like the car show, the golf tournament, the Goshen fair. She is a wonderful mom, grandmother and friend to all who meet her. She is very active in her church - St. Francis. She is also a Eucharistic minister. She has been one of those Lion members who is always there when you need her. She is a very valuable long time member of the Torrington Lions Club - her name in Lion Betsy Quartiero.



This person has been a Lion since 1982. He has two children, and six grandchildren. He is the club historian and a Melvin Jones recipient. He is an avid hunter and fisherman. He grows and sells Christmas trees. He has served in many positions in the club. He has sponsored 4 new members. He has a very supportive active wife who helps the club with many artistic projects and volunteering at many of their fundraisers. He is a valued member of the Hartland Lions Club-his name is Lion Robert Davis.



This member is presently secretary of his club. He is celebrating his 50th year as a Lion. He retired from Hamilton Standard and has been an active member of Sacred Heart church in his town. He has a keen sense of fine dining and can tell all the good cheap restaurants in town. He keeps in good shape by working out 3 hours -3 times a week. He has served in all capacities in the club-officers and chairperson. He is very friendly and very dedicated- He is a valuable member of the Suffield Lions Club and his name is Lion Ron Corriveau. Thank you valued members!

Without you, we would be unable to do what we do best - SERVE and Change people lives..

Unionville Lions Craft Fair

By Elsie Talmadge

The Unionville Lions Club is looking for Connecticut crafters to participate in a Fall craft fair to be held at Camp Happy Hill in Unionville Saturday, October 4th from 9:30 to 4:00.

The holidays are just around the corner and shoppers abound in the valley! All they need is the perfect place to shop for those perfect holiday gifts -- and Harvest on the Hill is just the place! But we need YOU -- and your wonderfully creative products -- to entice them into the holiday shopping mood!

If you are interested in becoming a crafter at this event or know of other local crafters who have works to sell and who might like more information, please contact me at the phone number or email address listed below. Event application and guideline information are attached to this.

I hope you will join us for this Fall extravaganza. Let the shopping begin!

Elsie Talmadge, 860-673-2926, lionsfestival@sbcglobal.net



FISH Executive Director Deirdre DiCara accepting a donation from Harwinton Lions President Harry Schuh at the 3rd Torrington Veterans Stand Down at the Torrington Armory on March 26, 2014.

Since opening its doors in 1972, FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut has evolved into the largest emergency shelter in the northwest corner of Connecticut, providing families, individuals and veterans a safe and secure haven, as well as serving the residents of area communities as a food pantry that is open four days a week.



Avon
Barkhamsted
Caanan N.W.
Canton
Colebrook
Hartland
New Hartford
Norfolk
Sharon
Winsted

Mike Wilcox & Steve Daigle

Steve Daigle has been busy visiting clubs, attending the Mid-Winter Conference and the Pre-Council Meeting concerning Hearing Awareness Committee, and visiting the United Nations for Lions Day at the UN. At the end of March, he hosted a New Member Orientation in Terryville.

Steve also held a multi-zone meeting at the Yankee Peddler Inn in Torrington for Zones 1 and 2 where 46 Lions participated in a lengthy discussion about the accomplishments and challenges encountered this year. A number of great suggestions were made. We also discussed membership and upcoming events.



Canton Lion, Amor Lomibao, examines a child in his Phillippine home town. He leads an annual medical mission, focused on diabetes.



Bethlehem
Burlington
Harwinton
Kent
Litchfield
New Milford
Thomaston
Torrington
Watertown
Washington
Woodbury

Jim Trompeter

The clubs of the Litchfield Hills have survived the cold winter blasts of 2013 and are geared up for the busy Spring and Summer seasons. Congratulations to the Club Presidents and their team for a fine year. 9 out of the 11 clubs in our Zone have participated or will be participating in the Pediatric Eye Screening Program. All of the clubs in Zone 2 have been actively involved in their communities and have strived to fulfill the needs of their communities.

Membership in our Zone is an issue the same as it is throughout the District. We need new ACTIVE MEMBERS in order to continue to fulfill the needs within our Communities, the State and Lion's International. Several of the clubs are working on increasing membership

in a variety of ways. 4 clubs are participating in the April 4th Lunch program, One club is having a former members dinner night, 2 clubs are conducting a membership open house event. Others are promoting Lionism through community participation at their fundraisers. There are a variety of ways to recruit new members no one way is better than another, the key is that the clubs recognize the problem and they are doing something about it.

Below is a brief synopsis of what the clubs in the Zone are involved in the upcoming months,

Bethlehem: Very successful Sweethearts Ball in February,

Burlington: April 5th Fund Raiser for the family of a member who died unexpectedly, donations will be accepted after the event.

Harwinton: First Annual Car Show May 17th, Summer Concert to benefit Low Vision July 19th Harwinton Fair Grounds

Litchfield: Will be selling food at the annual Litchfield Road Race. June 8th.

New Milford; Murder Mystery Dinner May 10th

Thomaston: Corned Beef Dinner Fund Raiser in March, Art festival in May, Hunger Project in May.

Torrington: 100,000 Meals, Canton, CT, DG Dan's Testimonial June 20th

Washington: Memorial Day Weekend Lobster Sale

Watertown: Golf Tournament May 16th - Crest Brook Golf Course

Woodbury; Car Show – June 8th.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OF THESE EVENTS VISIT THE CLUBS WEBSITE OR CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY.

“Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people.”

— Elizabeth Green



East Hartford
Glastonbury
Greater Hartford Host
G. Hartford West Indian
Hartford Diversity
Hartford Evening
Hartford Multi-National
Hartford St. Lucian
Marlborough
Trinity College

Winston Barnaby

More than one third of our clubs were represented at our combined Zone 3 and 4 meeting at the Skyline Restaurant in Windsor Locks on Monday, March 10.

Lion Winston Barnaby, Zone 4 chair, welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. District Governor, Dan DiVirgilio gave a brief pep-talk and Lion Marty Sandshaw reported on the district's Pediatric Eye Screening program.

To date, 30 clubs have completed eye screenings across our district, and 13 more are scheduled between now and the end of the school year. 12 clubs are now scheduling their second and third eye screenings. The combined effort has resulted in 2500 pediatric eye screenings in District 23B.

Since January, the clubs in Zone 4 had conducted Pediatric Eye Screening in Betances STM Magnet School and the Naylor CCSU Leadership Academy. While we continue to have challenges getting volunteers, but we are able to get the work done.

The East Hartford club held their annual pasta dinner on Saturday, March 8, at the First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street, East Hartford.

The Greater Hartford West Indian club held their annual Black History Month function at the West Indian Social Club in Hartford.

Of course you have a story!

Share your story with your fellow Lions by sending it to rbessel@yahoo.com.



Tina Rafala

Berlin
Bristol
Middletown
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Southington
Terryville
Unionville
Windsor

We held our last zone meeting/workshop on March 17 at Elaine's Restaurant in Wethersfield. We had a total of 28 members present with the Berlin, Bristol, New Britain, Rocky Hill, Terryville, Unionville, and Wethersfield clubs in attendance. We missed our Newington, Plainville and Southington clubs!

The workshop was a great success. We had a guest speaker from CRIS Radio, open discussions, and team breakout brainstorming session.

Our open discussion was focused around the challenges that clubs face some of those challenges were: Communications, Retention, Membership with quality members, club projects and member involvement.

Some of our thoughts to tackle these challenges were:

1. Use of social media to advertise your clubs projects, events, and community involvement. Invite local community leaders to these events and let the local newspapers know.
2. Utilize your local chamber to do community outreach. Have members attend a chamber breakfast or after hours event. "Tell Your Story"!!

3. Let your members get involved in a project or event so that they feel that they have a connection of why they joined your club. "Todd from Bristol Club is a new young member and he stated, he joined because of the community service involvement". "Bring Value to Your Members"
4. Communication from cabinet to club officers to club members. That line of communications needs to be ongoing. Thanks to Dan Uitti we have our new District website up which is district23b.org encourage members to visit the website. Here they will find events and activities that are going on throughout our district. Also, strongly encourage members to visit the lionsclubs.org website learning center. Here they will find useful resources to help build their club and train new members.
5. Encourage new members and incoming officers to attend District trainings and orientations.
6. Reach out to your Leo's.. Don't let them leave without given them the option to join your local club and if they're leaving for school connect them with a Lion's club were they're going to school. That way when they come back home they can transfer their membership back to your club. Stay in touch with them during the holidays and summer vacations.

We have a new Newington Club: DG Dan DiVirgilio, LCI Chair Sia Dowlatsahi, Zone Chair Tina Rafala, GMT Bobby Clark and Woman and Family Nora Clark were in attendance on March 19 at Newington Library to establish a new club. Three members signed up and the club currently has an estimated 10 – 11 new members. Next club meeting will be on April 9 at the Newington Library.

1920'S
RED CARPET
ATTIRE
Optional

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



EMCEE
SCOT HANEY
WFSB meteorologist
and co-host of
Better Connection

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

5:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

THE BOND BALLROOM

338 Asylum St., Hartford, CT

DONATION:
\$100 per person
(Includes formal, three-course dinner)

MUSIC:
Eight to the Bar



CRIS Radio's
4th Annual

*Dining
&
Dancing in
the Dark*

Special performances by
Arthur Murray Studios
professional ballroom dancers,
and CRIS listeners/volunteers
Diane Duhaime and Rosie Morlene.

CRIS RADIO'S DANCING WITH THE STARS CELEBRITIES:



BILLY JOHNSTONE Broadway actor (appeared in CATS), theater director and faculty member at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy; PAUL MARTE Director of Marketing and Public Relations, The Bushnell; TODD PIRO NBC Connecticut anchor/reporter; KAITLYN TARPEY Miss Connecticut 2013; JOSE VEGA Co-host of "Viva Hartford" on Hartford Public Access TV, "Godfather" of the 2013 Puerto Rican Parade, and manager of McKinney Shelter; COURTNEY ZIELER WFSB Reporter

NEW THIS YEAR! OPEN DANCE CONTEST

"ANYTHING GOES SWING"
for social dancers

"TANTALIZING TANGO"
for serious ballroom dancers

Prizes will be awarded.

Pre-registration
is required by
**MONDAY,
APRIL 21**

JUDGES

MARY ELLEN FILLO Java Columnist, Hartford Courant; JOE FUREY Chief Meteorologist, FOX CT TV, and CBS Radio Hartford; HEATHER LEYDEN, competitive ballroom dancer and instructor



crisradio.org

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, donate an auction item or register for the Open Dance Contest, e-mail INFO@CRISRADIO.ORG or call (860) 527-8000

Supporting the Harwinton Senior Center

By Carol Kearns

The Harwinton Lions Club has been a strong supporter of the Harwinton Senior Center for many years. In addition to donations for special Senior Center needs, programs, and requests, the Lions have done many projects at the Center.

Harwinton Lions built a new office for Director Sharlene which allowed her former office to be converted into a large activity room for the seniors. Sharlene made a name plaque for the room affectionately titled the "Lions Den." The Lions serve as waiters for the annual Senior Center Christmas turkey dinner. Approximately 100 seniors from around Northwest CT enjoy the dinner and program.

The Harwinton Lions also donated an ornamental Japanese Maple Tree to the Senior Center as part of Past International President Tam's 1,000,000 Tree Planting Project. First Selectman and Harwinton Lion Michael Criss officiated at the dedication of the tree as part of Harwinton's Arbor Day Celebration.

Visiting Newington City Hall

On March 20, DG Dan DiVirgilio and Zone Chair Tina Rafala attended a Community Assessment meeting with Karen Futoma Director of Human Services. This was an excellent meeting where we discussed how the new Newington Lions Club and possibly nearby clubs could assist in community projects. Among the worthy causes that the Human Services Department oversees are:

Community Education & Coordination

- Early Childhood Development
- Parent Education Workshops
- Support Groups
- Diversity & Disability Awareness



Harwinton Lions Membership Co-Chair Carol Kearns and President Harry Schuh presented a check to Harwinton Senior Center Director Sharlene Copeland.

Basic Needs Assessment

- Food Bank
- Clothing Closet
- Holiday Food, Toy & Gift
- Energy Assistance Applications

Crisis Response

- Food, Shelter, Clothing
- Domestic Violence

Casework & Counseling

- Child & Family Development
- Alcohol or Drug Abuse

Positive Youth Development Programs

- After School Activities
- Community Service Projects
- Mentoring
- Youth Leadership

Information & Referral

- Daycare, Elderly Care, Housing
- Community Resources
- SEAN - PTA Special Needs Expo

Pediatric Eye Screenings

A big thank you to all my clubs that have participated in or conducted a pediatric eye screening. Also, thank you from the bottom of my heart PDG and LEHP Chair Dan Uitti, PCC Alan Daninhirsch, and CLERF Chair Marty Sandshaw for all their hard work and dedication to the District eye screening project.

Rocky Hill	168 on 9/20/13
New Britain	30 on 10/8/13 386 in Jan/Feb 2014 Scheduled for 4/14/14 Scheduled for 4/28/14
Bristol	154 on 11/1/13
Terryville	15 on 11/8/13 (adults) 139 on 11/22/13
Berlin	104 on 1/17/14
Southington:	Screening 3/21/14
Plainville:	Scheduled for 4/28/14

Terryville Lions Club Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday May 11, 2014
8:00am – 12:00pm

At the Terryville Lyceum

Adults \$8.00
6 and under \$4.00



terryvillelions.org

Lions Feeding Children - May 17

By Dave Hudon, Canton Lions

I hope that Spring has finally come to your house and that the piles of snow have departed. We have important work to do and don't want to be distracted by any more snow or cold weather!

The information about the upcoming Lions Hunger Project is up on the www.feedingchildren everywhere.com website and if you have not visited there yet, PLEASE do so soon. I have received several commitments for donations and some names of those who will be coming to the packing event to help - that's all great news - but we are heading to the finish line and need to dot the i's and cross the t's.

You can donate online and even sign up for a preferred time slot to help pack meals. If you have difficulty doing either, please let me know.

Here are the details of the event:

Lions Clubs Hunger Project.

What: Participants will be hand-packing 60,000 (or more) healthy meals that will be distributed through our US Hunger program. This program keeps the food local for distribution at our area food pantries. There will be great music, good fun and the chance to make a tangible difference in the life of a hungry child.

Why: There are more than 520,000 people in Connecticut at risk of hunger every year. Through this Hunger Project, YOU are helping those affected by the hunger epidemic right here at home.

We learned over the past year just how extensive the hunger problem is, right here at home. The food we packaged last year went to about two dozen food pantries in our neighboring towns, providing over 63,000 meals to those in need.

When:

Saturday, May 17, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
3 x 1 hour shifts

Where:

Canton High School
76 Simonds Ave
Collinsville, CT 06019

How to Get Involved: One of our greatest needs is donations. It's easy for anyone to make a difference when each meal only costs one quarter. Please click the "Donate" button at the www.feedingchildren everywhere.com website to donate directly to this event or "Fundraise" to create your own social giving page. Together, we are Feeding Children Everywhere.

You may also send a check to the Canton Lions Club, P.O. Box 363, Canton, CT 06019 - BUT please make it payable to Feeding Children Everywhere to make it tax deductible!

AND THERE IS MORE GOOD NEWS!!

We have a matching donation offer - one of the donors from last year will match up to \$5,000 of individual donations made toward this event if made by May 1st. We have six weeks until the event but just under four weeks for the matching donation

offer to be met. That would mean an additional 20,000 meals that can be packaged on May 17th!! EVERY DONATION IN ANY AMOUNT HELPS. Please help us reach that goal. Send your donation or go online and make a donation today.

We are getting close. Help us get to our goal, and go beyond!

Thank you all for your help.

Dave Hudon
Event Chairman
Canton Lions

Lions District Spirit
Lions District 23B
8 Patriot Circle
Enfield, CT 06082

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Wildfire Safety

By Robert Norton

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action steps for around your home:

- **CLEAR** leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- **SCREEN** in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- **REMOVE** flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. **PRUNE** trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. **DISPOSE** of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- **COVER** exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.