



August 2015

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Words from the DG

By Steven Daigle, District Governor

I would like to start by saying "thank you" for this opportunity to serve as your District Governor for the 2015-2016 Lions Year. We will face many challenges along the way; some will be difficult, while others may seem simple. Together with my Sister Governor, Nancy, and my Brother Governor, Tom, we look forward to successfully completing the tasks that lie before us.

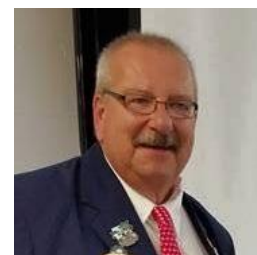
That being said, I have many goals I would like to accomplish. First, I will strive to provide training for our Lions as necessary or as requested to ensure all Lions have a solid understanding of how our Districts and the Multiple District operate. I will also focus on membership growth as well as retention. It will take all Lions working together to promote our organization and the good we do in an effort to grow our membership rolls, as well as to strengthen existing clubs and help those clubs who may be struggling.

As we set out to accomplish these goals, I believe I have gathered some of the most committed Lion leaders to

serve on my Cabinet. I have added a couple of new positions to my Cabinet this year. First, I have appointed a "No Borders" chair, who will encourage multiple Lions Clubs to work together on projects and fundraisers to achieve a successful outcome. This may be especially helpful for smaller clubs or those with mostly "seasoned" members who do not feel confident they could pull off a project or fundraiser on their own. A Lions Club can also partner with another local community organization in the same way, and could maybe even add to its membership rolls once the partnering organization sees how we work together. We believe this partnership can also carry across District lines.

I am also appointing a chair for the "Opening Eyes" program that works in conjunction with the Special Olympics and has been successfully run through the Multiple District. I hope we can get many volunteers to work at the Opening Eyes event in June.

We have many exciting opportunities to promote our Lions Clubs and



ourselves during the next couple of years as we prepare for our upcoming Centennial in 2017. The Multiple District committee is already hard at work, and I hope you will all feel the excitement and want to become involved in planning for this celebration.

In closing, I can tell you I am passionate about serving as your District Governor for the year ahead. I set this goal many years ago, and am so humbled to be standing here before you today. I feel a fire burning inside me, and hope to be standing here a year from now with the same intensity. I would like to thank each of you who have touched my life along this journey and want you to know how much I appreciate your valuable advice and words of encouragement along the way. We are a great team, and I look forward to working with all of you.

Greetings from East Hartford

1st Vice District Governor, Kathy Randall

It's a New Year and a New DG I am very happy to serve District 23B as your 1st Vice District Governor. With the leadership of District Governor Steven Daigle, 2nd Vice District Governor Bob Clark and I will be sharing a message of growth during the Lions 2015-2016 year.

Growth in Service will motivate Lions and Clubs, and will also support the International Centennial Service Challenge (CSC). The CSC is an initiative to celebrate Lions' 100 years of service and challenges clubs to participate in all four service campaigns to benefit 100 million people around the world through June 30, 2018. The identified service areas are projects for the **Youth**, including Scholarships, Peace Poster Contest and/or Leo Clubs; **Vision** projects, including vision screenings and/or supplying low vision aids; projects to help the **Hungry**, including helping Food Pantries or Soup Kitchens, Community Gardens and/or meal delivery to Seniors; and the final area is the **Environment**, including tree planting and/or recycling programs. As your Club Secretary files the service activities for your club, they select the type of project; be sure to record the number of Lions that helped on the project, the number of Lions hours, as well as the number of people served or

benefitting. I am very happy to report the 23B Lions served over 38,000 hours, and we served over 193,000 people, last year. This includes used eyeglass collection, scholarships, Leo Clubs, Food Baskets, providing rides for Seniors and/or visually impaired, and many projects too numerous to mention.

Membership growth will encourage new Lions, as well as sustaining the current membership in all our clubs. Membership growth will cultivate new clubs or rebuild existing clubs. DG Steve has a positive message to be sure all Lions in 23B are informed and knowledgeable about our District and Lions Clubs International. Becoming a Lion provides the opportunity to volunteer within your community and to help others. Lions develop skills they can use both in their volunteer lives as well as their professional lives. Skills like leadership, presentation and public speaking skills, or organizing a project. Ask a friend, neighbor or family member to join you working on a Lions project, a dinner meeting or event. They may find they enjoy the feeling of being with your club and develop a sense of satisfaction providing a service for others.

Finally, I am pleased to share information about the New England Lions Council (NELC). The six New England States have joined for



many years for cooperative support and member/officer development opportunities. It is the New England Lions Council that sponsors the LCIF Melvin Jones Fellow Weekend. This fall, the dinner will be Saturday, October 17, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, Rhode Island. The International guest will be Past International President Jim Ervin, from Albany, Georgia. PIP Ervin will be presenting Melvin Jones Fellowships to our Lions. Please see the ad in this issue of the District Spirit for more details. Connecticut's representative to NELC is PDG George Cooper. PDG George will be sharing more information as it becomes available, but in the meantime, select a member of your club you would like to honor with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



Winsted LEOs

The Winsted Lions Club, sponsor of The Gilbert School Leo Club, recently recognized the Leo Club on its 15th anniversary. The Club was chartered in 2000, and has continued to carry out the Lion's motto "We Serve" in a variety of activities. The Lions Club presented a patch and certificate to the Leo Club President.

Pictured are Peter DiMartino, Leo-Lion Liaison, Leo Club President JoJo Harrington, and Blanche Sewell,

Fund Raiser for Robert Clark

Please join the Hartford Evening Lions Club for a Picnic Fund Raiser as we proudly support Lion Robert D. Clark for the office of 2nd Vice District Governor 2015 -2016 August 22 2015 ~ 1-5 PM Clark Home, 40 Goff Brook Ln. Rocky Hill, CT .

\$20 Per Person, and there will be food, beverages, games and fun!

Please RSVP by August 19th

For tickets please call 860-966-3550 or 860-966-3549

Hartland Lions Club

Summertime—fried dough and fireworks - what could be better!

Each July, Hartland Lions work the fried dough booth at the East Hartland Volunteer Fire Department Carnival, and this year was no exception.



Some of the participants at the April Hartland Lions Club Square Dance

We are now looking forward to our annual events, including the Columbus Weekend Tag Sale, Senior Dinner, Soup and Sandwich, Mother's Day Breakfast, as well as a few new events, which are still in the works.

In April, we had a very lively square dance, and are now making plans for a Harvest Square Dance. Stay tuned, you won't want to miss it!

Watertown Lions Club

Organized over 66 years ago, Watertown Lions Club remains a very active club that boasts almost as many members as years. The club strives to reinvent itself constantly. Every year a new local project is selected in addition to its regular service projects and fundraisers.

In the 2014-5 year, with money raised from fundraisers, the club established 6 flagpoles at Veteran's Memorial Park, one for every service branch. At that same park in previous years they had developed a softball field for youth and built, nail by nail, a picnic pavilion for use by the entire community. In this same 2014-5 year, they purchased a portable ramp system that they loan out to infirm members of the

East Hartford Lions Club

Two Lions and a Bear with backpacks and supplies for East Hartford School Children.

East Hartford Lions Ginny and Phil Ferlazzo pose with their bear and 375 individual school items that the East Hartford Lions Club has purchased for the back-to-school "Fill a Backpack" drive sponsored by the East Hartford Social Services Department. This picture appeared on page 5 of East Hartford's hometown newspaper The Gazette on July 9, 2015. (Shared here with permission) Pre-identified children in grades K-12 whose families are going through hard times will be very thrilled to go back to school with the items the East Hartford Lions Club has collected.

Any questions on this article call or email Eileen Driscoll - East Hartford Lions Club epda23@aol.com and 860-568-7305. I am the one who took the picture and the editor of the Gazette is the brother-in-law of one of our members and a friend of all.



Torrington Lions Club

PDG Marianne Bannan installed the Torrington Lions Clubs new officers for the coming year 2015-2016 on Thursday, June 4th at PSam's. The following officers were installed. Immediate Past President Margaret "Kiki" Tucker, President Phil Dzurmak, V.P. Rob Stango, Secretary, Donna Robideau, Treasurer, Doreen Whitney, Asst. Sec./Treas. Carmela Sanzo, Lion Tamer, Andy Ferencak, Tail Twister, Kathy Oligny, 1 year Directors, Janet Morrill, Claudia Neri and PDG Dan DiVirgilio, 2 year Directors, Andrea Tallman, Joe Fazzino and Jean Gelormino, Membership Chairperson, Elaine Dzurmak.

More club info: Annual Golf Tournament being held at the Greenwoods Country club on Aug. 21st. For registration and more info please contact Lion Norm Nejaime at 860-482-3321 Reasonable cost, only \$115.00 -Green fees and Cart, Cookout Lunch and Buffet Dinner. Come to the Goshen Fair on Labor Day weekend, we will be serving Rib eye stake sandwiches and Corn.

If you know someone who has a vintage car or if you do bring it to our annual car show being held on Torrington's main street. Sept. 18th, rain date Sept. 25th. Show runs from 5 to 9, food vendors available. Come and check out the cars.

Again, if you know someone who is a craft vendor or if you are a vendor why not sign up for our Craft show which is being held at the Torrington Armory (South Main Street) on Nov. 7th. Contact Rob Stango at 860-294-0000.



Canton LEOs gathered around their hefty list of 2014-2015 accomplishments. This year promises to be even stronger!

Bloomfield Lions Club

The Bloomfield Lions Club proudly completed service projects in all four challenge areas by reviving the gardens at the Bloomfield Historical Society building located at a major intersection in town.

With efforts of six members, the grounds were weeded, period blooms purchased, and planted and the beds were mulched. This has been a welcoming addition not only to the society but also to the town.

Pin Trader's Corner

By LITPC International Director Phil Dzurnak

What Is Pin Trading?

Pin trading is a fun and enjoyable hobby that you can share with your whole family. It usually involves trading one pin for another. However, at times it can require a pin or two in exchange for a rarer or a valuable pin. Pins vary in price or exchange value depending on their scarcity or the type of pin traded.

At first, you may start out as a pin collector, and eventually you may become a pin trader. Not only are collecting and trading involved, there are social aspects where you meet new Lions from all over the US and World. You also get to know about the pin trader's families, as well as exchanging information about your family. Traveling, not only in the US, but also to other countries as well to attend pin swaps.

What seems to scare potential collectors and traders away from becoming a member of a pin trader's club is many feel they don't have enough pins to trade or it is an expensive hobby. Yes, it can be expensive, but only as expensive as you may want to get involved. A number of pin traders are more than happy to help you build up your supply of pins to trade by graciously donating pins to your collection. In other words, it is not really about the number of pins you have, but a lot about fun and camaraderie as well as enjoying a hobby you may like. We have traders from district 23, A, B and C who would be more than happy to explain more about trading and help you get started.

There are many, many different types of pins that you can collect and trade, too numerous to mention.

Anything you can think of is probably in the form of a pin or a future pin already. Pin swaps are held year round at various locations, some close, and some not so close. You can choose to go to any of them for a reasonable amount of money that covers your hotel room, registration and possibly a renting a table for displaying and trading you pins. My wife and I have attended several different locations: Reno NV, York PA, Dedham MA, Winchester VA, Nashville TN, as well as other states, all in the US. We have also been to PR and we're headed to Honolulu HI next.

Another interesting aspect of pin trading are the auctions that are usually held at least one night during the pin swaps. Some of them are low key, while others can be exciting to see how the bidding goes on for a specific pin. Club membership costs are not expensive. To join the CT pin trading club, the first year's cost is \$17.00 and only \$7.00 every year thereafter. Other pin trading clubs have different dues than the CT pin trading club, and you can become a member of them, if you so desire.

Once you are involved in pin trading you can even design your own pin for trading, or you can join the pin trading design committee of the CT pin trading club. Hopefully, you have seen some of the previously printed articles about pin trading in past District Spirit issues. Finally, if you want more information about pin trading or if you would like to join the CT pin trading club, please contact me at 860-482-5305 (answering machine) or e-mail: pedzzz@snet.net. You may also contact Walter Keach, Roger VanDyke or Joan Bennett.

New Hartford Lions Club

New Hartford added another person to our membership. We welcome Scott McNeill!

As usual we held our spring Giant Flea Market and the "fleaers" (members) were very busy at work...it was held on June 6th, at Brodie Park in New Hartford. We had delicious food as usual, this year we added pulled-pork to our menu! We also had live music, the day was a little wet to start, however the sun came out in the afternoon! We made a profit, and therefore was able to present Scholarships to students from our local schools.

This year it amounted to \$5,000.00. I would like to extend a special thank you to Al Brunoli and past president Donna McDonald and the Scholarship committee members for their hard work. In addition, we made the following contributions: CRIS Radio, \$650.00; Beekley Library, \$100.00; Bakerville Library, \$100.00; Hands of Grace, \$200.00; and Neighbor to Neighbor, \$600.00 (local charity organizations).

Earlier this spring we voted to give \$1,000 to LCIF, plus \$100.00 to the Low Vision Wall of Honor, in New Britain. So far, a wonderful year of giving.

Summer is here and as always The Brunoli's are offering there lake side home (West Hill) to us for a day of swimming and partying.

A reminder: don't forget our fall Giant Flea Market, at Brodie Park, in New Hartford on Saturday, September 26, 8-3, please come out and join us!

Clubs Really Can Help Other Clubs

By Susan Peak

Movies have certainly changed from the "Cowboy and Indian" days. One of my favorite scenes from "yesteryear" featured an Indian chief explaining how easily one stick breaks while a bundle of sticks scarcely breaks at all.

The same principle applies to Lions clubs. We enjoy autonomy so much that few if any Lion members have ever attended a meeting at another club. Working with other clubs on fund-raising and service projects? Why on earth would we do that?

My job is to introduce you to the world of knowledge and camaraderie beyond your local Lions Club.

It's a fact that clubs working together do more than clubs working alone. Connecticut Lions screened 14,000 pre-school children last year. Nine clubs joined together to pack 64,000 meals in just four hours. Millions of used eyeglasses have been recycled for use in third world countries. One

club didn't create these miracles - we all created them together.

This year, we are going to extend the idea of "clubs helping clubs" to create a network of Lions clubs that can help every club work better.

Every club has its strengths. Some raise a lot of money. Others park cars, award scholarships and grow like wildflowers. Every club has its weaknesses. Some haven't added a member in years. Others haven't raised or donated a penny more than they did ten years ago.

If your club wants to do better, send me an email (skpeakaprn@sbcglobal.net). I will be happy to connect you with several other clubs that can help you achieve more. Who knows - you might just help them as well!

Together, we do more, we do it better and we have more fun. Aren't those Lions goals? Let's get started!

Thomaston Lions Club

Wow! Thomaston Lions have hit the ground running! President Carol Hoebel passed the Gavel to me at a lovely picnic meeting at the home of Lion Darlene on July 8th.

On July 11th we held a Bake Sale to assist the Thomaston Crisis Fund. I bought Lion Barbs Chocolate Cake—Delicious! We also held a food drive that day to benefit the Town Pantry.

On Monday we were out in Seth Thomas Park continuing our "Lions on the Green" - Snack table. The Concert in the Park Bands have been fantastic this year! Concert in the Park continues until August 17th.

Later in August we will be "Lions

in the Pit" - helping our Sponsor Club, The Terryville Lions Club, at their 67th Annual Terryville Fair.

For our Fall line-up, we will be rustling up Cheese and Sausage burgers at The Thomaston Police Explorers Annual Summer Cruise Event on September 13th. October brings our Fideleco Fundraiser Dance on October 3rd, (see our Ad in this Edition of DS), followed by our annual Chowder give away at Light Up Thomaston.

Speaking off line-up, we have new lions in ours and I can't begin to tell you how much energy they are bringing to the club. They and my veteran lions make me both proud and humble to be President of such a great club!

Windsor Locks Lions Announce 23rd Annual President's Golf Tournament

The Windsor Locks Lions Club will hold their 23rd Annual President's Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 19th at the Suffield Country Club in Suffield.

Proceeds from the event allow the Club to continue support of their many projects including the Ambulance Service, Scholarships program, and "Kids Sight First" pre-school eye screenings. In addition, Club President George Cooper has selected a special project to work with the Windsor Locks High School's Pathways Program to develop a networking day where students can spend a day in workshops related to career, college, and life readiness skills.

The tourney is a four-person, 18 Hole Scramble format and has an entry fee of \$125 per golfer. The entry fee includes; green fees, cart, prizes, lunch and dinner.

Special events at the tourney include a chance to win \$10,000 by scoring a "Hole in One" on the selected par three, as well as, three other prizes for scoring an ace. The winner of the "Putting Contest" will also be given an opportunity to sink a 60-foot putt for a \$5,000 prize.

Finally, one lucky golfer, just by participating will go home with a 1/4-carat diamond donated by Swede's Jewelers in East Windsor.

For additional information, contact Tournament Chairman, John Boscarino at 860-216-8737 or Club President, George Cooper at 860-627-9777.



Thomaston Lion Club Share the Vision Benefit Harvest Dance



Saturday, October 3, 7:30 PM
180 Watertown Road, Thomaston, CT

Snacks! Desserts! Door Prizes! Raffle! Cash Bar!
Donation \$20 - Proceeds to benefit Fidelco Guide Dogs

Live music by CLEARVIEW

Contact

Carol H. 860-307-2520

Donna S. 860-309-8462



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American Society of Magazine Editors.

What Effect Will the Centennial Have on Local Clubs?

By District Governor Steven Daigle

With the Centennial fast approaching, about two years away, Lions Clubs International has set a goal of serving 100 million people by December 2017. You ask, "What does this mean to my club?" What we as Lions and leaders must do is ensure our Lions know what the Centennial is all about. We can't educate the general public about Lions if we do not have a clue about our past. Our past is the key to our future. Quiz your club -- ask them what major event is coming up in 2017 involving Lions. Quiz your club on Lions' history. Who was Melvin Jones? What did Helen Keller do to challenge Lions?

The Centennial gives us an opportunity to educate our community on the history of Lionism. Your club may be known around town, but does the community really know the basis of what Lions are all about—our motto, "We Serve" and how our service affects our own community? Think about service projects performed in your city or town in the last five years. If you were to ask your neighbors what the Lions do in town, would they know? We don't only want to be known for our pancake breakfasts and pasta dinners. Think about pediatric eye screenings, and how the results can change a person's life.

How does this affect your club? The Centennial gives us the opportunity to be more visible in our community. By expanding on existing projects that include partnering with other organizations, we can create excitement within our community. We need to consider asking other clubs in our district to conduct projects during the same weekend, or have two or three clubs work

together on one project. Make sure the press is aware of your event so the word gets out in the papers, television, etc. Lions at work!

Past International President Preston has already started this process—August was "Engaging our Youth;" October was "Sharing the Vision;" December and January are "Relieving the Hunger"; and April is "Protecting our Environment." We are being challenged to plan projects and events that fit each of the four themes.

Using our Terryville Fair as an example, it takes literally hundreds of volunteers to put the three-day fair on each August. Approximately 75% of the volunteers working the fair are non-Lions. They come from our local churches, school clubs, the PTAs, other special interest clubs like the local Fish and Game Club, and so on. We all work side by side in our food booth feeding the public, parking cars in the parking lots, running events and providing entertainment to the masses. All of these things together make the event a success.

The best effect the Centennial can have on your club would be a growth in membership based on your partnering with non-Lions for your activities and events, so that they witness your passion for serving others, making them realize the good that comes from helping those in need, and wanting to be a part of it themselves.

This Centennial really does affect all of us as Lions and as non-Lions. We need to be visible now, so Lions will be here for the next 100 years.

23B LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

By Ev Lyons, GLT

Ninety incoming club officers and Lions attended the recent 23B Leadership Conference held in New Britain at the ITBD Center on June 13, 2015. A new dimension to this year's program was the invitation to attending club presidents to bring a Lion guest to the leadership seminars. Participants were treated to a "preview of coming attractions" for Mid-Winter with an opening community relations seminar led by Lions Bob Bessel (Canton Lions) and Frank Longo (Woodbury Lions).

Presidents and guest Lions were then provided with three leadership seminars by graduates of this winter's Regional Lions Leadership Institute: Goal Setting by Lion Donna Severson (Thomaston Lions), Effective meeting Structure by Lion Mike Criss (Harwinton Lions) and Developing Teams by Velma Simpson (Greater Hartford West Indian Lions). District GMT Bob Clark (Hartford Evening Lions) and MD GLT Sia Dowlatsahi (South Windsor Lions) led membership chairs through the new MC Toolkit and Orientation CD. Brian Luba (Terryville Lions) and 2VDG Kathy Randall (East Hartford Lions) took the club secretaries through their paces. Cabinet Treasurer Harry Schuh (Harwinton Lions) provided valuable financial information to incoming club treasurers.

Participant evaluations indicated that the new format and the quality of the presenters made the morning experience well worth the time for new and returning club leaders. This year's conference was one of the best attended and its faculty the most diverse in recent years.



Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

In the last issue of the District Spirit, we reported that on March 31, 2015 we delivered our 100th show to Charter Studio in Winsted and Cablevision Studio in Litchfield. Since then, we have produced shows 101 – 115:

101 KidsPlay Museum Fun Fair and Lions KidSight USA Warner Theatre Part 2

102 Lions MD23 Women and Families Symposium - Wesleyan University Part 1

103 Lions MD23 Women and Families Symposium - Wesleyan University Part 2

104 Humanitarian Dinner District 23C "Melvin Jones" Part 1

105 Humanitarian Dinner District 23C "Barbra Streisand" Part 2

106 Humanitarian Dinner District 23C Ed Farrington and Dick Blumenthal Part 3

107 CRIS Radio Dancin' in the Dark Part 1

108 CRIS Radio Dancin' in the Dark Part 2

109 CRIS Radio Dancin' in the Dark Part 3

110 Lions Low Vision Center Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Grand Opening Part 1

111 Lions Low Vision Center Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Grand Opening Part 2

112 Lions MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Crowne Plaza Part 1 - Saturday Exhibitors Interviews

113 Lions MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Crowne Plaza Part 2 - ID Karla Harris - Luncheon Keynote

114 Lions MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Crowne Plaza Part 3 - PCC Jim Canon - Banquet Keynote

115 Lions MD23 Mid-Winter Conference Crowne Plaza Part 4 – Awards Featured

Please contact us if you would like a copy of any of our previous shows #1 – #115.

Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry also airs on Charter Studio in Newtown and Nutmeg TV Studio in Farmington.

To view our last five shows on the Internet:

- Go to www.ctv13.net
- Click on Watch VOD at the bottom left of the screen
- Type the word Lion in the box to the left of the Search button
- Click on Search

We invite you to appear as studio guests on our show or please invite us to document and publicize your Lions events on-site!

Contact us by email:
carolkearns@charter.net or
hschuh@charter.net



Congratulations to Windsor Lion, and past Zone 7 Chair, Joshua Cohen who competed in the Unified Sports and won 4 gold medals during the Special Olympics held at Southern CT State University during the first weekend in June.



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"All the news that fits, we print!"

Editors-in-Chief

Robert Bessel
Frank Longo

Contributing Editors

Kiki Tucker
Phil Dzurnak

District Advertising Sales

Steve Gallant

District IT Chair

Brian Luba

Website Guy

Dan Uitti

Layout

Lauren Ipsum

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A Plea from the District Spirit Team

In order to keep the District 23 Spirit a useful communication tool, we need your help. Besides your club news, we need ads. Lots of them.

We've revised the submission guideline document to help you put together your articles and ads, and club presidents and secretaries will receive it soon.

We will also continue our ad discount program. 10% off the same ad placed in two consecutive issues, 20% off three and 30% off four.

Support *the District 23B Spirit!*

ORIENTATION PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL CLUBS

By Ev Lyons, GLT

Membership Chairs who attended the recent 23B Leadership Conference were trained on a new tool for club retention--the Club Orientation Program. A CD was given to each chair attending the conference.

As part of your Membership Chair responsibilities, an orientation for new members to Lions and your local club should be provided as a first step toward retaining your new members. The Club Orientation program is easily edited beyond the LCI materials furnished to allow local chairs to include club activities, structure and history. If you missed the 23B Leadership Conference and would like access to this valuable tool, email GLT Ev Lyons (lyonsev50@gmail.com). An electronic version will be sent to you and this program then can be loaded onto your computer for editing to include club information and eventual projection during a club orientation session.



Carolyn Messier with Steven Daigle, Lizette LeSavage-Pelletier and Normand Messier.

Woodbury Lions Club

The Woodbury Lions Club marched into the final months of the 2014-2015 year by participating in the town's Memorial Day parade. Our float, honoring the men and women of the armed services who made the ultimate sacrifice, and decorated with the flags of each branch, glided down Main Street, with club members handing out American flags and flowers to the townspeople lining the road.

Our last fundraiser of the year, the 37th Annual Car Show, took place on June 14. With clear skies and warm weather, the event attracted nearly 300 show cars and close to 1000 attendees. We had many vendors: jewelry, housewares, cosmetics, and crafts, and our

commercial vendors included Newtown Savings Bank, who supports us at every event, and Wells-Fargo, who brought their stagecoach for people to climb in and photograph themselves against. This event raises money for our scholarship fund, which this year totaled \$20,000.

And, at our final meeting of the year, a dinner dance with spouses at the Painted Pony in Bethlehem on June 20, we inducted the new officers for 2015-2016. Lion Bill Hubert took over the reins as club president, with Lions Jeff Bassett and Frank Talarico supporting him as 1st and 2nd vice presidents. We wish them all the best.



Woodbury IPP Frank Longo (2nd from right) passing the torch to incoming president Bill Hubert (2nd from left) while club secretary Dave Mechler (far left) and Zone 2 chair and Woodbury member Jim Trompeter (far right) watch.

PID Carolyn Messier Announces Bid for Lions International Vice President

A special convention was held on July 18, 2015 at the American School for the Deaf, to endorse PID Carolyn Messier for the high office of Vice President of the International Association of Lions Clubs. The nominating speeches were given by 1st VDG Kathy Randall and PDG Keith Wuerthner. Both speakers provided the qualifications, leadership skills and personality which make PID Carolyn the best candidate for this position. The 65+ Lion delegates who attended the convention shouted a resounding unanimous vote. PID Carolyn has achieved this status through her

hard work and dedication to Lions all over the world. This endorsement is well deserved and we are thrilled to see her move to the next round.

Good luck PID Carolyn and PDG Norm we know you will represent us well as you move up the stairs. Stayed tuned for details of the next special convention, as PID Carolyn seeks endorsement from the Multiple District to complete her journey in CT. We will be looking for lots of help with her campaign and fundraising as we move forward.



NEW ENGLAND LIONS COUNCIL

Family LCIF Melvin Jones Fellow Weekend

CROWNE PLAZA WARWICK
801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886

Save the Date!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Saturday, October 17, 2015

Check in Friday, 10/16/15, Saturday 10/17/15 \$129.00 per night

Hold your reservation now by calling or emailing below:

Email: www.crownehotelwarwick.com

Direct: (401) 7322-6000 code word: NEL

Toll-Free: 1-800-227-6963

New England Lions Council Memorial Service
will be held at the Lions Memorial, Roger Williams Park

Tentative Schedule of NELC Lions and Family Activities

Friday, 10-16 4pm Hospitality Room and fellowship with Lions

Saturday, 10-17 7-8:30am Breakfast

9-11:30am Family time at pool; activity and games for children

9-11am Meeting with GLT, GMT, PID, DG and other committees if want personal time

11am - Noon NECL meeting

12pm Lunch

1:30pm NECL Memorial Service @ Lions Memorial in Roger Williams Park in Providence

2-5pm Enjoy Roger Williams Park and Zoo

5:30 Social and Fellowship

7pm LCIF/Melvin Jones Fellow Dinner

9:30pm NELC Hospitality Room

Sunday, 10-18 8am Breakfast and Farewells

Price of meals:

Saturday: Buffet breakfast, \$10.00 / Lunch, \$20.00 / Banquet Dinner \$35.00

Sunday: Breakfast: \$13.00

Ad Book to announce your District, Business, Events, Fundraisers,
Personal notes or Memorials is now available

Please contact: PDG George Areson (RI) (401) 732-0190 lionspdg12@verizon.net

ALL DISTRICT GOVERNORS & CLUB PRESIDENTS: PLEASE INVITE ALL
FAMILY/FRIENDS OF
MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AND WILL BE REMEMBERED AT THE SERVICE

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

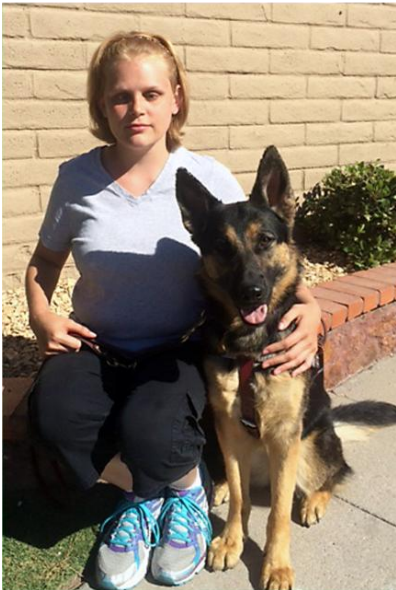
Fidelco Stories

Everyday Freedoms

Summer is a time to enjoy simple, everyday freedoms: the freedom of being able to drive with the windows down, trips to the beach, grilling outside, and of so much more. It's a time of relaxation, of days off. For the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation's blind clients, these everyday freedoms are achieved with adventurous spirits in their quest for independence—and with a Fidelco German Shepherd Guide Dog by their side.

Here are some notes received recently from grateful clients:

"I was thrilled to travel to Italy this past spring in a Semester Abroad program! With Ryder by my side, I was able to visit several major cities to enjoy the sights. Ryder has been on planes, trains, taxis, buses, boat taxis and a gondola! He is my best friend, and I really don't know what I would do without him. Thank you, Fidelco, for this incredible gift!"
Michelle Ward & "Ryder"



"I recently received my third guide dog but first Fidelco German Shepherd Guide Dog. Thank you, Fidelco, for restoring my faith and trust in a well-trained, fully focused and trustworthy guide dog. I look forward to many years with Eva by my side!"
Kristen Miller and "Eva"

"After hiking the Appalachian Trail last fall, Oscar and I have set off to trek 1,100 miles across the beautiful state of Wisconsin on the Ice Age Trail. I couldn't fathom taking this on without Oscar; he's a true trail rockstar!"
Bryan Brown and Oscar



Summer may be a time for vacations, but Fidelco doesn't take a break from its life-changing mission of providing men and women who are blind with our highest quality German Shepherd Guide Dogs. With the Lions' continuing support, we will be able to offer our clients increased independence and the ability to follow their own adventurous spirits wherever—and whenever—they choose.



Windsor Locks Lions Club 23rd Annual President's Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, September 19th, 2015

Place: Suffield Country Club
341 North Main Street—Suffield CT

Time: 11:30 am Registration
11:45 am Lunch
12:30 pm "Shot Gun Start"

Format: Four-Person — 18 Hole Scramble

Entry Fee: \$125.00 per person

Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Prizes, Lunch & Dinner

Contests/Events: Special Prizes for (first) Hole-in-Ones, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hitting the Green, Don't Lose the Orange Ball and Putting Contests

"Diamond Giveaway" for One Lucky Golfer
\$10,000 "Hole In One" Prize (*first on selected hole*)
\$5,000 "Putt to Win Contest" (*Putting Contest Winner*)

For information Call - Lion John Boscarino at 860-216-8737

Rocky Hill Veteran's Club Makes the News

By Mara Dresner, reprinted with permission from Rocky Hill LIFE Magazine

Years ago, when Barry Lorette's family was going through a tough time, the Lions Club was there to help.

"We were struggling to make ends meet and both kids had broken their glasses accidentally," he said.

The school nurse put them in touch with the Lions Club, which twice helped out the family with new glasses.

Lorette is now the president of the Rocky Hill Veteran Lions, located at the Connecticut State Veterans Home on West Street. The club was started this past year as a charter club of the Rocky Hill Lions.

"I was looking for an opportunity to give back to the Lions Club and when this opportunity came up, I jumped right on it," said Lorette, who served in the Coast Guard.

Once the group has 20 members it can become an

independent club. The Lions are all about helping the community.

"We serve' is our motto," said Jackie Fischer, first vice president of the Rocky Hill Lions Club and the liaison between the two groups.

"We have several areas where we have boxes where we collect eyeglasses. We sort them, box them and then they go to a distributing center where they're sorted again and then they're shipped out to Third World countries," she said.

"Our club also holds a carnival every September and all funds go back to the community."

Despite being a new club, the Rocky Hill Veteran Lions is already having an impact. A back-to-school drive at the end of the summer raised funds for Walmart gift cards that were donated to Rocky Hill Human Services.

They also held a book drive in November and December with

assistance from the '61 Lunch Group and the St. James Wednesday Sewing and Knitting group. More than 200 books were donated to the Thirman Milner School in Hartford.

The idea to create a club at the veteran's home came up at a joint meeting between three Lions Clubs in the fall of 2013.

"The district governor, Dan DiVirgilio ... got up and spoke about membership extension and membership retention, and a program for United States veterans where the application fee is waived for the first 5,000 [applicants] in the United States," said Bobby Clark, who is membership chairman for the district.

Space prevents us from reprinting the entire article. To read the rest of it, please visit:
http://turleyct.com/archives/RHL_0515_Layout.pdf

The Long Touchdown with Pediatric Vision Screening

By PDG Dan Uitti, District 23-B LEHP Chairman

Twenty-five Lions Clubs participated in the Pediatric Vision Screening program that we now know as Lions KidSight USA. We aim to provide this free Vision Screening to smaller children, ages 6-months to 6-years. We are screening children in daycare centers, private nursery schools and pre-schools and public schools. Our partners are the schools where the school nurse or program directors will follow-up on treatments of the children that we refer.

For these young children, we change the course of their lives when we find a referral. They begin to read much earlier with their better functioning vision. This immediately improves their ability to learn. It improves their hand-eye coordination, so they can better participate in sports. It improves their social behavior, so it is less likely that they will be bullied, or become bullies and a juvenile delinquent. It is less likely that they will be classified as "handicapped." Our first Touchdown is helping these children.

We refer about 12% of the children screened. Last year, we screened nearly 12,000 children, which means that we hope that 1,440 received treatment.

When we refer a child for eye care services, we can expect that nearly 60% will begin to wear eyeglasses, 12% will receive other treatment, 10% might be diagnosed to have normal vision, which might change, and nearly 20% seek no treatment, or did not report this to the facility when asked. This is the perfect project of direct service of our Lions that is fun and easy to do; and fulfilling when 'the touchdown' is made. With this success, your Lions Club can grow with pride. Retirees are perfect for running this daytime program. The second touchdown is when we see another successful program work in our Lions Clubs. Ask your Lions Club to be a part of our Lions KidSight program. Your contributions to the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation helped get this started, and further contributions will help us to expand the program.

Plainville Lions Receive Surprise Scholarship Donation

The Plainville Lions had a very pleasant surprise this past May when they received a check in the amount of \$1000 to be donated to their scholarship fund. The donor stated "this June will mark the 50th anniversary of my graduation from Plainville High School. It will also mark the 50th anniversary of my receipt of one of four college scholarships which the Plainville Lions Club awarded that year." The donor stated that the funds are sent with "renewed gratitude for all the work that your fine organization has done and continues to do for the town of Plainville and its citizens." The amount we received was considerably more than what the donor we awarded fifty years ago.

Lion Stanley E. Sherman and Lion Herman E. Papenforth established the scholarship fund sixty-five years ago. These two Lions started a trust fund that was only to be used to provide Plainville students scholarships for higher education. Since then many persons have contributed to the fund that has grown considerably. The only monies from the fund that can be used is the interest earned, therefore allowing us to be able to award scholarships in perpetuity.

This year we were able to award five scholarships totaling \$6000. Our scholarship night was on May 20th and each student brought two guests. Our guest speaker was Detective David Posades who spoke on Computer Fraud and the pitfalls of social media.



The Winsted Lions Club recently presented their annual scholarships to two graduating seniors at The Gilbert School. The Club earmarks a portion of each fundraising activity for the continued funding of the scholarships. Pictured are Peter DiMartino - Scholarship Committee Chair, scholarship recipients Bianca Pimentel and Julie Vincent, and Winsted Lions Club President Blanche Sewell.





Sia Dowlatshahi, PCC, future CLERF president, received the Knight of the Blind award from the South Windsor Club on March 25. Pictured with Sia are Bob Grillo, ass't zone chair and Bill Gabriele, club president.

Apologies to the South Windsor Lions Club for not including this in the May 2015 issue of *The District Spirit*!

Zone 2 Report

By Zone Chair Jim Trompeter

The clubs in Zone 2 are ready to move forward for the 2015 – 2016, Lions Year.

Our officers are in place and each club is ready to kick off the year. Many of the clubs have been busy over the summer with activities in June, July and August. Others are gearing up for a busy September / October.

Last year Zone 2 made significant strides in the areas of membership and community assessment. I am sure we will continue to make progress in each of these areas. We look forward to working with the District Governor Team of DG Steve, VDG Kathy, and 2nd VDG Bobby.

District Officers

Steve Daigle
District Governor

Kathy Randall
First Vice District Governor

Robert Clark
Second Vice District Governor

Lizette Pelletier
Secretary

Fran Scott
Treasurer

Howard Lang
Zone 1 Chair

Jim Trompeter
Zone 2 Chair

TBA
Zone 3 Chair

Bob Casey
Zone 4 Chair

Jackie Fischer
Zone 5 Chair

Ivonne Centeno
Zone 6 Chair

George Cooper
Zone 7 Chair

Peter Nevers
Zone 8 Chair

Mid-Winter 2016 Roaring to go!

By PCC Dan DiVirgillio

Get ready. Get pumped. Mid-Winter 2016 will be unlike anything you have seen.

Seminars? Sure. Ms. Kidsight Connecticut? That's different. Our first ever "Make a Difference" banquet? That's a whole new ball game for the 5000 Lions in our state.

Our goal this year is to **deliver value to every Lion in Connecticut** by making Mid-Winter 2016 memorable, educational, and fun **for you**.

We started planning Mid-Winter back in March. We surveyed Lions to learn what they liked, what they thought, and what matters most. Those surveys formed the basis for our new conference layout, events and seminars – all aimed at bringing Lions together – just like we did decades ago.

Very shortly, you will begin to see brochures and registration offers for Mid-Winter 2016. Once you see what we have planned, you'll want to register early because frankly, this event is going to sell out. That's right. **Sell out.**

We will provide advertising and sponsorship opportunities to help defray costs. We ask you to use them to spread the word among businesses in your community that Lions are the biggest and best service organization in Connecticut.

Get ready, Lions. We're **Roaring to Go!**



ROARING TO GO!

MORE LEARNING, MORE FUN, MORE VALUE!



**LIONS
MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE
2016**

REDESIGNED FOR YOU!

- *Pick Your Day*
- *Pick Your Sessions*
- *Roar For Your Club*
- *Warm Your Spirit*

Feb 5: Welcome Reception

Feb 6: Sessions

Making a Difference

Banquet

Feb 7: ID Breakfast

REGISTER TODAY!