

DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

Spirit

December 2017

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CLUBS

Hartland
Manchester
Marlborough
New Britain
New Milford
Plainville
South Windsor
Suffield
Terryville
Thomaston
Torrington
Windsor
Woodbury

Where Is This Box?



Once again, we perplexed the Lions of District 23B with last issue's eyeglass collection box. This means the jackpot increases, and some lucky Lion may walk away with 37¢ and a lint-covered sourball—IF they can guess this month's collection box. Congratulations to the Hartland Lions for stumping our readers!

Obviously, this issue's challenge is a well-used club-made box, hidden in plain sight somewhere around District 23B. Do you know where it is? Send your guesses to **District23BSpirit@gmail.com** and, remember, if it's your club's box, you're ineligible to win.

We've added a few more pictures of collection boxes to our library for future issues, but we need more. Our goal is a picture of every box in the District. Send those pictures in today!

Let's all get out and explore our District! Let's find those boxes (and send us the pictures)!

Greetings from Hartford

District Governor, Robert "Bobby" Clark

Every day, I see how small things done by many Lions generate tremendous value. Take the case of Nicolas Burgis of Wolcott.

A few days after his third birthday, Nicolas went to his first checkup at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). He had been feeling "under the weather" for several weeks, and after multiple trips to multiple doctors, something just didn't seem right.

A CAT scan at uncovered Nicolas's problem: a massive tumor in his back had invaded major arteries and his bone marrow. The doctors immediately began a year-long course of chemotherapy to treat Nicolas's stage IV neoblastoma. The goal is to shrink Nicolas's tumor, remove it and transplant stem cells for complete recovery.

I heard about Nicolas at the Manor Inn in Milldale, Connecticut. The Manor Inn hosts many Lions meetings. It's also where Nicolas's mother works as a server. I described Nicolas's plight during a recent Lions meeting and asked everyone to contribute whatever they could to assist Nicolas's family. Just by passing a basket that night, we collected \$903 for Nicolas.

Those dollars made me proud to be a Lion. We handed the money to Nicolas's mother and wished him a happy, healthy life. But his struggle is far from over. His family is going through a hard time. Your thoughts and prayers and support are much appreciated. Think of Nicolas next time you attend a Lions event at the Manor Inn.

Another way that Lions are making a difference is with the VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) Fishing Tournament. This event is unlike any in the world. Nowhere else are visually impaired people given the opportunity to go fishing. It means a lot to the participants. Very often, it's their only opportunity to go outdoors and do something they had crossed

off their lists because of their disability.

This year, our Lions District was named New England Lions Regional VIP Tournament Champions for 2017. All of the top prize winners came from 23B. First prize winner - Maryann Cooney-Melley, second prize winner - William Gaughan, and third prize winner Carmen Marattolo. Congratulations!

I also want to call your attention to the efforts of our Diabetes Awareness Chair Wendella Battey-Benjamin who is putting together a presentation for your club meetings. This devastating disease touches one third of all Americans (pre-diabetics) in addition to the 10 percent who have the disease. Please contact Lion Wendella to get your copy of this timely presentation.

Finally, I must ask for your help in fully funding LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation). To date, our constitutional area has received \$3,118,757 in grant requests, yet our Lions have contributed quite a bit less - \$2,410,308 - in the same period. Without proper donations, we might face the possibility of reduced grants from LCIF.

Each of us can change this equation by doing something small. If every Lion in every club contributed \$10, we would raise \$50,000 for LCIF. If every Lion contributed \$10 per month, the amount would rise to \$600,000. That's a reasonable goal and it would mean so much for our state, our foundation and for Lions in general.

When all of us do small things, we can make a big difference.



While attending the USA Canadian Forum in Portland Oregon on September 17, 2017, District Governor Robert D. Clark "Bobby" and his wife, Lion Nora De Leon Clark, had the pleasure of meeting Lions International President Naresh Aggarwal. He talked about how to service our communities, and how to increase membership by transitioning LEOs to become Lions and by bringing millennials to our great organization.



Lion Louise Kraft, Chairperson of the Rocky Hill Lions Homeless Project presented Nicole with Human Services six homeless bags. WE SERVE!



SOUP & SANDWICH

HARTLAND LIONS CLUB

Saturday, January 20, 2018

4:00-7:00 PM

East Hartland Fire House

homemade soups & stews
grilled ham & cheese sandwiches
homemade desserts

\$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children (3-12)

Under 3 Free

This Pride of Lions is Proud to Serve New Milford

For 88 years our club has served our community with projects supporting youth programs, vision health, the environment, and eliminating hunger.



Senior Christmas Party 2016



Stop and Shop Food Drive 2017



Boy Scout Troop 58 picnic 2016

More at <https://www.facebook.com/nm.lionsclub/>



Diabetes Awareness

By Lion Wendella Battey Benjamin, Diabetes Chairperson

Did you know that every seven (7) minutes someone in America becomes Blind or Visually impaired?

Did you also know that Diabetes is a major contributing factor, among others, to blindness?

Various conditions require only eyeglasses or contact lenses to correct the person's vision. Other conditions may require surgery. Additional health concerns can affect a person's vision as well, such as Diabetes or Glaucoma.

And while we are spending vast amounts of money to combat this disease, we also know that millions more throughout America, and the world, are suffering every day. This is why LCI has decided to take up the cause of "Diabetes Awareness" as another one of its major objectives.

Diabetes Awareness to me means to get people to understand what this disease is, and how they can prevent/delay/or manage it, and ultimately how we can eradicate it from our communities. This is where LIONS can have a great impact.

The good news is that Diabetes can be prevented in many people. Changes in lifestyle can prevent or delay the development of type 2 diabetes in 58% of those with prediabetes.

One of the groups no one has focused on or is talking to are high school teenagers who are about to leave home and perhaps go off to college. What do these young people all have in common? Poor eating habits, coupled with the lack of knowledge as to whether they have diabetes or are pre-diabetic.

LIONS, overall, are concerned with general health and wellness, and particularly the prevention of blindness. Testing for this disease is a great way we, as LIONS, can begin to make an impact on the prevention, management, and

eradication of what is vastly becoming a world epidemic, unconcerned with race, religion, gender, age or sexual orientation. Testing by way of a finger prick blood test, is a simple way to determine whether someone has diabetes or is pre-diabetic, and may save thousands of lives, or save thousands from eventually losing their eyesight.

Testing can be done in schools on a voluntary basis with parental permission, similar to the pre-school vision screenings many of our clubs are familiar with, and would be a wonderful way to get our LEOS involved in something that will impact them directly.

Diabetes testing can be done in every community with a high school (that means every community). This is an opportunity for clubs to raise funds directly earmarked for Diabetes Awareness and with LCI providing matching grants, to purchase the hand-held testing machines. I firmly believe this program can be enormously successful just like our pre-school vision screening program.

I am appealing to every club to designate someone willing to become a part of our diabetes team so that every club, through its diabetes liaison can get all the information we develop at the same time.

I was so honored to be asked to Chair the Diabetes Awareness Committee for District 23B. I wish you all the best of luck with your fundraising activities to further our DIABETES AWARENESS agenda.

Please contact me with any questions you have or to join the diabetes team. Email me: wabattey@gmail.com (preferred); Tel. (860) 883-8604.

Yours in Lionism,

Wendella Battey Benjamin
Diabetes Chairperson
District 23B

Hartland Lions Club

Hey, how have you been? I have not seen you since our last Senior Dinner. You're looking good for your years. How many grandkids and great grands now, and how old are they? They must be growing because you're adding years.

Oh, I'm doing well just normal aches and pains that seem to come with maturity. Had successful surgery this summer. I'm ready to run a marathon.

And so it goes as our seniors arrive and greet each other for the **Annual Senior Roast Beef Luncheon**—or let's make that a dinner. With succulent Roast beef, sides and dessert individually served by a Lion—beats any fine restaurant. And time to just sit back, relax, rekindle long friendships, and start new ones. After all, you're never past needing friends.

Once again, Eye Screenings to all in the school. Any club who has not gotten into this simple, but highly effective, program is missing a wonderful opportunity, not only to serve our FUTURE LIONS, but to see smiles and giggles.

Enjoy the Holidays! Our attention is directed to the needs of others and we are Thankful as we celebrate these days with our families and friends. Help others celebrate as well—invite someone who is alone, going through hard times, or someone who just needs a friend.

Serve with a smile,
No grumps allowed;
Serve with compassion,
No judgment permitted;
Serve with humanity
To all countries of origin.
You did not choose
Your place of birth.
Neither did many in need.
Serve with a genuine love.

All of us, from our little club in the hill country, wish all our brother and sister Lions a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Be Safe and keep SERVING!

Mark your Calendar!

Governor's Awards Breakfast for Zones 1-4



Sunday - March 4, 2018

8 am. to 11 am

Chatterley's Banquet Facility (formerly Cornucopia)

371 Pinewoods Road

Torrington, Ct.

\$20 per person

Select your "Outstanding Lion of the Year"

100% Secretaries Awards

Bring your glasses and hearing aids

Invite family and friends - all are welcome

Please donate a door prize or raffle prize

For reservations or questions, email or call Lion Blanche Sewell

blanchs@zoho.com or 860-489-8656



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



District Governor's Award Breakfast

Zones 5, 6 & 7

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT

Coffee at 8:00 A.M. Buffet Breakfast at 8:30 A.M.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

It's time for each club to honor its **Outstanding Lion!**

See you there!

Checks Payable to District 23B Governor's Breakfast

Mail to:

Lion Eileen Driscoll

672 Forest Street

East Hartford, CT 06118

860-568-7305

epda23@aol.com

Manchester Lions Club

Manchester Lions are really active people !

Guest speakers at our recent business meetings have been Ed Fenton, Zone 6 Chair, and Marty (23B LCIF Coordinator) and Phyllis Sandshaw (23B CLERF Coordinator)

Interesting topics included District 23B goals and support services, LCIF goals and support, CLERF review, Kidsight and Lions Eye Screening program, and the Lions Low Vision Service Centers

Thanks to Ed Fenton, Marty & Phyllis Sandshaw - this was really helpful.

Manchester Lions are focused on Membership Growth, Fundraising, and Increased Community Involvement.

Our December 2017 and early 2018 events include:

December 2017 projects Holiday Gift Wrapping (Barnes & Noble) and Holiday Baskets for Manchester residents

January 16, 2018 - hosting the 3rd Annual Multi-district dinner at Adams Mill Restaurant (new

Plainville Lions Club

We are proud of our Kidsight event which took place during the week of September 25th at our three local elementary schools. In the past, only Pre-K's and Kindergartens were screened. This year we screened Grades Pre-K thru Five totaling 952 screenings (11.55% referrals) which was approximately ten times the amount of our previous Kidsight events. We are grateful for the assistance of Lions Paul (Southington) and Wayne (Burlington) as well as six local volunteers.

Lions Mark and Jen handed out candy and distributed LIONS information at Plainville's Pumpkin Fest on October 21st. Lion Mark received a lot of attention and hugs from the children since he was wearing the LIONS costume.

Our Pancake Breakfast on November 5th was very successful. Although the exact profit figures have not been tallied, we know attendance was higher than normal. The children were very busy with Arts and Crafts with our volunteer, Faith, free balloons and an appearance by Valentine the Clown. Terry, Riverside Health, offered free chair massages. We would like to thank the Low Vision Committee for



Lion president Brian Lavigne and Lions Brenda and Flo at the Plainville Pancake Breakfast On November 5th

their information table at this event.

Save the Date: Our next Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for March 25, 2018.



Woodbury Lions Club

On August 24, the Woodbury Lions participated in the annual Tri-Town Lions Picnic, hosted by the Bethlehem Lions, and also attended by the Watertown Lions. Besides BBQ, beer, and good fellowship, the combined Lions met special visitor PCC Mark Lyon from District 23A who introduced himself to the combined groups and explained his goals in seeking the office of International Director. Next year, the Watertown Lions will host the picnic.

The Duck Race Raffle, held on September 9 at Three Rivers Park in Woodbury, was a rousing success. Luckily, heavy rains the week before the event filled the river

with water, and the ducks swam downstream in record time. This event funds all the sight and hearing efforts the clubs make during the year, and several other local Lions clubs benefitted by selling tickets for the raffle, and keeping part of the money for their own Sight and Hearing funds.

And, again, great weather held for the Club's annual Haunted Hayride the last two weekends in October. The first night, the 20th, was a special event as the crystal clear skies afforded a fantastic view of the Milky Way and the Orionid meteor shower from the open hay wagons. Fun was had by all, and special

thanks to all the volunteers who helped us create this special annual event.

Now, we head into the Giving Season, with our donation to the American School for the Deaf on November 20. That's followed by our annual donation to the Community Services Council of Woodbury (and our club's collection for the Woodbury Food Bank), the decoration of the town's bandstand, pediatric eye screenings, and, of course, the annual Luminaria display along Main Street in Woodbury on Christmas Eve.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Torrington Lions Club

The Torrington Lions Club, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department of Torrington, and the Torrington Municipal and Teachers Federal Credit Union, sponsored a Trunk or Treat Halloween event on Main St, Torrington on October 21st, 2017. Participants decorated their cars or other vehicles and handed out treats to children who can go trick-or-treating from parked vehicle to parked vehicle. Local merchants also had activity booths and there were prizes awarded for the top three decorated vehicles.

The event was created years ago. After the city was battered by a storm and past mayor, Ryan Bingham, asked the Torrington Lions Club to create an event to cheer up its residents. Since then it has been a beloved annual event which has always been free to the public. However, this year, due to the city costing cuts, there was no budget for the event. Fortunately, participants stepped-up and purchased the candy and other free treats given out at the event themselves. And, of course, the Torrington Lions Club, THS Leos Club, and International Centennial Lions Club also participated in making it happen. They just couldn't let the kids miss one of their favorite events.

(Left) Torrington Lions Club and (l to r) Membership Chair Elaine Dzurnak, Secretary Phil Dzurnak, and President Norm Nejaime visiting the CHH Diabetes Center and presenting a check of \$750 to Dr. Egils Bogdanovics and Lois Pelletier, RN, CDE.



Bobbie Jo Clug, Torrington Lions Club past president Margret "Kiki" Tucker, Torrington Lions Club president Phil Dzurnak, Torrington Lions Club Board Member Joseph Fazzino and International Centennial Lions Club member Linda Hamm standing with Torrington mayor Elinor Carbone (third from right) waiting for the massive crowd of children to start Trick or Treating!



(Left) Torrington Lions Club and (l to r) Membership Chair Elaine Dzurnak, Secretary Phil Dzurnak, and President Norm Nejaime visiting the CHH Diabetes Center and presenting a check of \$750 to Dr. Egils Bogdanovics and Lois Pelletier, RN, CDE.



Regional Lions Leadership Institute

Here's a scene from the Regional Lions Leadership Institute, held on the Weekend of October 20-22 at the St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Sixteen lions from Districts 23A, B and C spent an entire weekend learning the finer points of Lionism.

This annual event is geared towards Lions who have yet to become president of their club, and are looking to develop their leadership skills. Plan now to attend next year's session.

International Director Candidate Special Convention November 4

On November 4, 2017, 341 Lion delegates and 16 alternates from the combined District 23 convened at the Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Middletown for the Special Convention to select our candidate for International Director.

After months of campaigning (and a preliminary election in District 23B), the two candidates, PCC Sia Dowlatshahi, from our home district, 23B, and PCC Mark Lyon, from District 23A, were down to the final vote to decide which candidate would win the endorsement of the Multiple District.

At 9:45, Council Chair Kathy Randall took the podium, the buzz in the auditorium fell silent, and she welcomed the delegates. She relinquished the microphone to convention chair PCC Ken Tucker, who called the convention to order

After the usual preliminaries, the candidates' credentials were presented. District 23C PDG Dr. Keith Lemire and District 23B PDG David Yadich and spoke on behalf of PCC Mark, followed by PCC Dr. Steven Polezonis and District 23A Nancy Tucker speaking for PCC Sia.

Now, it was time to vote. The assembled delegates marked their ballots, and made their way to the front of the room, depositing their slips in the official ballot box. The chatter and tension in the room increased as the Lions waited for the results.

At 11:10, Election Committee Chair Laura Rowe announced the winner—PCC Mark Lyon.

PCC Mark took the podium and thanked the all Lions who make the conventions possible, who attended the special convention, who allowed him to speak at their club meetings, and gave a special thank you to PCC Sia for a challenging and fair campaign.



The Chosen One: PCC Mark Lyon thanking the delegates and alternates from MD23 after his victory at the Special Convention

LCIF

LCIF Coordinator Marty Sandshaw

The **Club LCIF Coordinator** is an ambassador for LCIF at the club level. This position is crucial to the promotion of our foundation. This Lion shares LCIF stories, motivates fellow Lions to support LCIF, and enables LCIF to advance its humanitarian work both locally and globally. Club LCIF Coordinators will be equipped with resources that will allow them to champion the goals of the foundation to Lions. This position is truly an exciting role and is of great importance to LCIF. If you would like to serve in this position for your club for the 2017-2018 year, tell your club president today!

Donating to LCIF is now easier than ever:

Go to: LCIF.org/donate, click on the 'members' box, fill in the required information and submit. Your donation will be charged to your credit card number you entered. You can even make your donation recurring.

Marlborough Lions Club

The Marlborough Lions Club recently held free vision screening for Marlborough children in Pre-K classes through Grade 6 at the Elmer Thienes Mary Hall School during the week of October 2nd. The screening is non-invasive and does not require any eye drops. The procedure uses a photographic process from a distance of three feet.

The screening is performed to detect early indications of far and near sightedness, astigmatism, anisometropia, strabismus, amblyopia, and anisocoria. The Marlborough Lions have also provided screening at local Day Cares.

The Marlborough Lions recently obtained a vision screening camera and printer at a cost of approximately \$8,000.

Supporting various Lions events such as the Pancake Breakfast, Memorial Day 5K Race, and Wine Tasting events all help the Marlborough Lions to support Lions charities as well as local services like the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks.

For further information about Lions Club services or about how you can become a Marlborough Lion, please call Lions Club President Bob Cindric at 860-295-0025.



Lions Club Vice President Tom Reiser and Lions Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom perform vision screening testing for Marlborough Elementary School 5th Grade student Andrea Bartolucci.

Manchester Lions Club

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Thanks to Ed Fenton, Marty & Phyllis Sandshaw - this was really helpful.

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Our December 2017 and early 2018 events include:

December 2017 projects Holiday Gift Wrapping (Barnes & Noble) and Holiday Baskets for Manchester residents

January 16, 2018 - hosting the 3rd Annual Multi-district dinner at Adams Mill Restaurant (new location) please see our flyer!

March 3, 2018 - 22nd Annual Lions Club Bowling Tournament @ Spare Time Lanes, Vernon, CT - see flyer

Please Join Us !

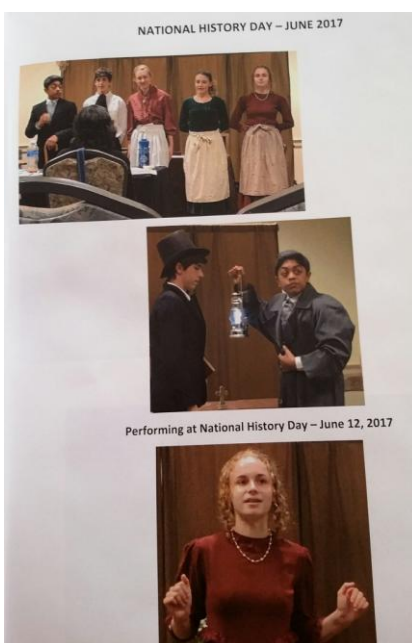
Zone 4 Report

ZC Carol Hoebel

Zone 4 had a meeting November 2, which was hosted by the Burlington Lions Club and 6 Clubs were represented. I have visited four Clubs so far and looking forward to visiting the rest in Zone 4. Our next meeting will be a joint meeting in January with Zone 3.

South Windsor Lions Club

Last spring South Windsor Lions helped with the expenses for our town's team to compete nationally for National History Day. They had won in regional and state rounds of the competition. Five students created a skit about Harriet Beecher Stowe and her activist family. They all came to our September meeting to tell us about their skit and the enriching experience they had going to the competition.



The South Windsor team performing at National History Day



VDG Harry Schuh and Carol Kerns filming the New England Lions Council meeting for their Lions Around Connecticut show



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

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The District 23B Spirit

Our next issue of the District 23B Spirit is March 1, 2018. The deadline for all ads and articles is February 10, 2018.

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

Any submitted pictures should be in .JPG or .GIF format, and should be clear (blurry pictures do not reproduce well).

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

Membership Seminar

GMT Jim Trompeter, GMT

For the past three weeks I had the opportunity to attend five out of the seven Zone Meetings (**The two Zones I missed you are on my radar for your next meeting**).

Zone Meetings are great you get to meet club officers and members that you have not met and you get hear about the great projects and fund raisers that take place throughout the District. We do a lot of Great Things to raise money or provide services to help others not as fortunate. To accomplish this we need dedicated members who are willing to donate their time and talent. We currently have 1,850 members in our district—that is 50 fewer than last year at this time, and almost 100 fewer than two years ago.

Trying to implement and effective recruiting program to bring in new members, is a club function that requires the support of all members. We have never really had a program with specific guidelines for the effective recruitment of new members. **WE DO NOW!**

At the Zone Meetings I attended I handed out copies of this program to the clubs present; the Zones I missed will have their copies by the time you read this. This program offers specific guidelines on how to get new members, and you do not have to pound on doors, or make cold calls. This program was highly successful in the Midwest, and was tested in District 23C last year resulting in a +21membership increase.

Five clubs in the District have contacted me to visit them to discuss the implementation of this program. Obviously I cannot make it to every club.

Because of that, we are holding a two- hour seminar on how to implement this program on **December 2nd at The CT Association of Schools, 30 Realty Dr, Cheshire CT**. This

seminar will provide time for discussion on some of your specific recruiting problems, as well as the utilization of electronics and social media. All three Districts will be participating. This will be, I guarantee, two hours that will be well worth your while. You should all have received a Flyer and Memo on this.

As I said in the beginning of this article we all need Dedicated Members to achieve our goal to help others

You can also contact me at m20t50@aol.com, to RSVP

Have a Joyous Holiday and a Healthy New Year Hope to see you December 2nd!

New Britian Lions Club

Lion Ryan Cady and CCSU student nurse Annette Brzoska performed eye screenings (Kindsight) at New Britain's Lincoln Elementary School. While they were there, they distributed Lions logo string back packs with school supplies to needy students. The club will complete approximate 6,500 screenings this fall in New Britain.

Other good news from New Britain this fall:

We established the Otto Strobino Lions Memorial Scholarship Fund at CCSU.

We will provide 600+ needy school children with winter clothing through our Warm the Children Program.

We will hold our Annual Poinsettia sales during the month of November.

We reestablished our famous Lions/New Britain High School Basketball Jamboree.

We worked together with New Britain High School's ManUp program. ("Making men from boys.")

We continued PDG Steve Polezonis' free New Britain Lions Eye Clinic.

We Cooperated with Talbots (Westfarms) getting 10% of sales on a particular day.

We installed a Centennial Lion Bench in Walnut Hill Park.

We had quite a fall!

(below)

Lion Ryan Cady and CCSU student nurse Annette Brzoska screening students at Lincoln Elementary School.



VIP Fishing

The 34th annual North Carolina VIP Fishing tournament was held October 16-18, 2017, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Both blind and visually impaired residents of North Carolina gather together for three-days of educational, recreational, and personal growth opportunities. This year, VIPs from Canada and ten states participated in the National VIP Fishing Tournament.

It was also the seventh anniversary of the New England VIP Fishing Tournament. Connecticut fielded its strongest team ever. Anglers from District 23B swept this regional tournament, finishing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and brought home the coveted New England Governors' VIP plaque for DG Bobby Clark. Maryanne Melley finished first in the New England tournament and finished second in the National tournament, which featured VIPs from Canada, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Weather on the outer Banks is determined by the direction of the wind. On Monday, a gentle southeast breeze brought us 75F weather, warm enough to go swimming. Monday night, after dinner, VIPs rocked the night away to the sounds of the Rondells.

Overnight, the winds shifted, with 30-35mph gusts out of the northeast, sending ocean piers and charter boats rocking and the fish hiding. A high spirited Connecticut team led "F-I-S-H" cheers and lifted the moral and spirits of all on board our charter boat, the Crystal Dawn.

We tucked early Tuesday night (missing another dance) in anticipation of the national tournament. The winds cooperated, shifting to the southwest. Temperatures were again in the 70s. As the tide came in, the fish returned with a vengeance! A well-rested Connecticut team took advantage of the changing tide. A big shout of thanks goes to PDG

Steven Daigle and Lion Patty who again traveled south at their own expense to work the tournament. When volunteers arrive, titles and credentials are put aside. Lion Steve worked the parking lot detail, showing up as early as 5:30am to park and direct cars and buses and then pulling the night shift parking and directing cars and buses entering and leaving the grounds. Lion Patty served plated dinners, all three nights, to VIPs and guests. Two PID joined Lion Patty. They were in good company, as Past International President Sig Scruggs, and Lion Judy served dinners each night to VIPs and guests and did not take their places at the head table until all VIPs had been served.

For those of you not familiar with NC VIP Fishing Tournament, it is the world's largest event serving the visually impaired community. The Connecticut VIP Fishing Tournament serves the same demographic. Both tournaments have everything to do with people. They are life changing experiences for all. It is an opportunity to walk along-side those we serve. It has everything to do with being a Lion. Please stop by our Midwinter booth and learn more about this meaningful event.

Visit their website: ncvipfishing.org
Visit our websites:
ctvipfishing.shutterfly.com/
ctvipjuniorfishing.shutterfly.com/



(above) Bob Christianson and DG Bobby Clark present the first prize to Mary Ann Cooney-Mully for her performance at the VIP Fishing Tournament.



(above) A sample of pictures taken at the 2017 VIP Fishing Tournament


COMBINED MID-WINTER CONFERENCE & 97th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018
THE RADISSON CROMWELL, 100 BERLIN ROAD, CROMWELL, CT 06416

"Viva Las Vegas" - Still Celebrating a Century of Service

INTERNATIONAL GUEST: International Director Bruce Beck— Minnesota


REGISTRATION INFORMATION (Please use separate forms if not in same household.)

Lion / Lioness Name:		Current Position:		District (circle) 23A / 23B / 23C	
Club:		Veteran (Branch):		Badge First Name Preference:	
Street Address:		Home Phone #: (10 digits)		Other preferred #: (10 digits)	
City, State and Zip:			Email Address:		
Other Attendees Names:			Badge First Name Preference:		Lion Position:

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS

(Registration Forms must be received no later than January 28th. **NO REFUNDS after January 31, 2018**)

Make check payable to: "2018 MD23 State Convention"

Mail check with form to cover all selections below to:

Registration Chair Lion Cindy Cooper

287 South Elm Street, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 (860)627-9777

ONLINE PAYMENT ACCEPTED

(email form if paying online)

cindybcooper287@aol.com

REGISTRATION AND MEAL PLANS

Plan	# of Persons	Cost	Total
A. Required Registration <i>Registration includes SATURDAY NIGHT Entertainment, Hospitality, Saturday Seminars and Business Meetings.</i>		@ \$20 each	\$
WILL YOU BE ATTENDING FRIDAY EVENING? <i>Meals listed below are not included.</i>	YES _____ NO _____		
B. Saturday Lunch Garden Salad, Chicken Florentine, Rice Pilaf, and Dessert	Vegetarian Option? _____	@ \$30 each	\$
C. Saturday Cocktail Reception and Banquet Pacific Rim Buffet featuring Grilled Chicken Breast, Marinated Skirt Steak, and Vegetarian Entrees, Dessert		@ \$40 each	\$
D. Sunday All American Breakfast Buffet		@ \$25 each	\$

Please remember to include registration fees for ALL attendees.

TOTAL DUE \$

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Hotel Reservations are to be made directly through the Radisson at 1-860-635-2000. The Lions room rate is \$98 for a standard room, plus tax. Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions Winter State Convention. Room rate prices are good through January 21, 2018, so reserve yours today!

Lions Mid-Winter and State Convention

You're invited to the new Mid-Winter/State Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, February 3-4-5, 2018.

We've combined programs, rearranged the schedule and added features to give you more reasons to attend this convention.

Why?

Because there is no better place to learn about, connect with and be inspired by your fellow Connecticut Lions.

Friday Night

This fun evening gets a big value boost this year with a special speaker and a Q&A session with our three District Governors. This is the time and the place to ask your questions, to suggest your ideas and to make your opinions known. After a brief business meeting, our incoming district officers will host a party.

Saturday

We have seminars. We have our International Guest – ID Bruce Beck from Palisade, Minnesota. We have our Leos and pin traders and ideas to make your club stronger in the months ahead. ID Beck has a special seminar for Club Presidents. You can't miss it! And, at night – music and dancing!

Seminar List

- ❖ "How to Plan and Accomplish a Successful Service Project"
- ❖ "The Power of Low Vision Support"
- ❖ "Guiding the Blind" – FIDELCO Guide Dogs Change Lives
- ❖ "Lions Diabetes Initiative — Prevention, Public Education and Awareness"
- ❖ "It Isn't Rocket Science: Member Recruitment (Ohio Plan)"
- ❖ "Opening Eyes: Supporting Special Needs Individuals"
- ❖ ID Bruce Beck: Club Presidents Seminar [Open to all Lions Membership]

We have our keynote address at lunch, our gala dinner and awards ceremony, and a special breakfast on Sunday morning where you can glean the wisdom of ID Beck before he returns to Minnesota.

Take the Plunge

If you've never been to a Mid-Winter Convention or if you've been to every State Convention we've ever had, you owe it to yourself and your club to attend this one. Take it all in or come for a day, an evening, a breakfast. It's all good!

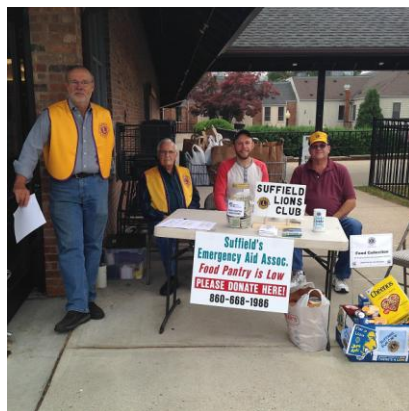
For more details and our new online registration form, visit <http://www.lionmwc.com/>. We now accept online payment for registration and meals.

See you at the Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter/State Convention on February 3-5, 2018!

Suffield Lions Club

Suffield is really going a great job. This photo shows Suffield collecting for the Suffield Food Pantry when they learned that the pantry was low on items to be given out.

We finished up the day with eight shopping carts full of food items and collected \$503 in cash donations for the EAA. Everything was delivered to the Emergency Aid Association.



(right) Suffield Lions participated at Suffield Days Sept 9th and 10th, promoting KIDSIGHT USA, LCIF and collecting for LCIF disaster Relief effort for then Texas and Florida.

Zone 1

Zone Chair David Boilard

On Wednesday October 11, 2017 Zone 1 held its first zone meeting of the year.

Five of the six clubs in the zone were represented. Canaan Northwest, Colebrook, Sharon, Torrington and Winsted club presidents or a representative gave reports. For the size of the clubs representing the northwest corner of our state, a lot of good work is being done.

Canaan Northwest are filling and distributing boxes called "Bonnie Boxes" filled with personal care items to people and children with cancer and undergoing chemo therapy.

Colebrook club had a fair Labor Day weekend. They are also doing pediatric eye screening.

Winsted club was planning their annual Halloween party which is always a fun time and a great success.

Torrington club is doing eye screening and a craft fair.

Sharon club has lost their meeting facility and is currently regrouping an adjusting. GMT Jim Trompeter and I will be meeting with the officers of the club to offer aid and support.

I am continuing to make club visits.

I have visited the Norfolk club with Governor Bobby Clark and they have been busy as well.

I am proud to report that the Northwest corner clubs embrace the true spirit of Lionism.



Terryville Lions Club

The Terryville Lions Club "Keys to Kindness" Committee, was presented a certificate from Terryville's Mayor who proclaimed April 14th Kindness Day for the town of Plymouth/Terryville.

Keys to Kindness mission is to provide tools and training for an Encouraging Environment within the community, business', and schools, and to empower and educate on the impact of intentional kindness.

The Terryville Lions also distributed a flyer to local pharmacies, doctors' offices, the local library, and Town hall, and it was posted on the Terryville Lions and Town Web sites. The town's digital marquee was updated to inform Plymouth's residents of World Diabetes Day.



*Lion Jennifer Deforest, Lion Donna Koser, and Mayor Merchant
Taken at the Terryville Fair.*



*Plymouth Digital Marquee
announcing "World Diabetes Day"*



*(above) The proclamation presented
to the Terryville Lions denoting April
14th as "Kindness Day"*

Thomaston Lions Club

The Thomaston Lions are enjoying this beautiful weather and have been super busy!!!

In September we set up a booth at the Police Explorer's Car show and sold hamburger and sausage patties and it was a sell out!

Started October with a Shake the Can event and raised over \$2000.00 which was shared with our Food Pantry and Crisis Fund on October 9th. Week of October 23rd was spent doing Pediatric Eye Screening in our schools and nursery school. Items were collected and homeless bags were made up with the help of the Leos and given to our Social Services Dept.

We are gearing up for Light Up Thomaston where we will again be handing out free Clam Chowder and also offering free eye screening to Children. Come down and see us!

We are still selling cookbooks and if interested in one, email Carol at hoebes@optimum.net or call 860-283-5577. Great recipes from fellow Lions in 23B! Make great gifts!!!!



*(Above) Thomaston Lion greets motorists
on Main Street during the recent Shake
the Bucket event with Tail Twister Barbra
Cowen.*

*(Below) Lion President Karen Cozza
Turner shaking her can on Main Street
Thomaston.*



District 23B University

There's still time to earn your degree from District 23B University, a set curriculum of five online courses from LCI. These can be accessed from the member area of www.lionsclub.org in the section "Become a Lion Leader". You need your membership number (found on the mailing label of your LIONS magazine, or in your MYLCI record) and you'll asked to create a password. You need to have Adobe Flash installed, and pop-up blockers disabled. Each of the lessons take about twenty minutes, and you can work at your own pace.

The five core courses are:
LEADERSHIP - "Introduction to Lions Leadership"
ACHIEVING RESULTS - "Setting Goals"
COMMUNICATIONS - "Public Speaking"
MANAGING OTHERS - "Conflict Resolution"
MANAGING OTHERS - "Member Motivation".

When you've completed all five courses, notify GLT Peter Nevers (grampy2010@hotmail.com) and you'll receive your Lions District 23B University diploma at your Governor's Breakfast, and earn the admiration and respect of all Lions assembled there.

New Milford Lions Club

Several town non-profit organizations joined forces to create a 45-minute Haunted Trail in the woody, dark, dank river banks of the Still River bordering Harrybrooke Park. The event ran Friday and Saturday nights, the second and third weekends in October. Each of the separate organizations created its own scene of fright and mayhem to entertain apprehensive groups of 12-15 people (those not faint of heart or under the age of 12). The event attracted 4,000 visitors and admission proceeds were divided among the participating non-profits. It was a horribly fun time!



A ghillie ghoul taking a rest between scares at the New Milford Haunted Trail



It looks like Plymouth wasn't the only town that promoted World Diabetes Awareness Day on their digital marquee. This picture shows that the Town of Bloomfield did the same. Thanks to the Lions and leaders of both towns in spreading the word about this global threat to health.

New England Pin Traders

The New England Pin Traders Swap, held August 16-18 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, was a success in so many ways, including a well-deserved award recognition, "The President's Certificate of Appreciation", for our own Phil Dzurnak. He led a project during Bob Libin's two year term as LIPTC President. Phil coordinated an event at each of the pin swaps, either with a club in the area, or with the person in charge, collecting funds or items to be distributed to the needy individuals within the pin swap areas. Phil has stated he would be willing to continue the project if our new LIPTC President, Mike Gutyan, wishes during his two year term. President Mike will continue the effort and once again Phil will be coordinating.

Our committee worked hard to make this swap a success, and I can tell you as a "first time" pin swap attendee, it was wonderful. I had an opportunity to meet so many new, friendly and educated Lions pin traders, who were willing to swap or in some cases even give a "newbie" some pins. I had an

opportunity to obtain more pins from the auctions held and received advice from these "collectors" the best way to display the pins and where to obtain supplies needed. If you didn't make this swap, you missed a great time, so try to make the next one.

As PTCCT President Joan Bennett said, the swap was a great success, and we received many complements from several pin traders. A lot of hard work was done by our committee to make this successful and thanks to all who helped. There were forty-two traders who set up forty-six tables filled with pins. Silent auctions were held on Wednesday and Thursday, with the main auction being held on Thursday night. All were very successful. At the Friday morning breakfast Mystery Pin Trader pins were handed out to forty-three traders who managed to trade with our two Mystery Traders. No one knows who they are until the final breakfast, and this special event was created to get traders to swap with everyone else, hoping to qualify for this special pin.



Lion Phil Dzurnak's right, Past LCI International Director and immediate Past LITPC President Bob Libin and on his left, Past LCI International Director and current LITPC 2VP Steve Sherer.



Lions enjoying breakfast.



Lions at the Thursday Auction



Several Lions getting their breakfast pins

Windsor CT Lions Club Dedicates Its Centennial Project

For a year, the Lions of Windsor, Connecticut had been working on its centennial project, organizing a self-guided tour of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum.

The finished project, called "Vision Not Required", consists of multiple QR coded stations throughout the museum which enable anyone, sighted, blind, or low-vision, to learn about the museum's history and exhibits with the use of a smartphone.

Working with museum staff and CRIS (Connecticut Radio Information Services, which provides information read from newspapers and magazines to those who are unable to read) the Windsor Lions developed and installed narratives and signage for each QR station, sixteen for adults, and six especially for children.

The official dedication ceremony was held on October 14th and was attended by club members, present and past District Governors and cabinet members and Windsor's two district representatives from the Connecticut General Assembly.



Windsor club president Jim Daniels (center) receives a state proclamation from general assembly representatives Scott Storms and Tami Zawistoski.

What is a Veteran's Stand Down?

On September 22, 2017, the Rocky Hill Veteran's Campus sponsored a Stand Down for veterans. Many of us who have not served in the military are unfamiliar with the term, and what a Stand Down means to our veterans. Here's a brief tutorial.

The term "Stand Down" originated during the Vietnam War, when soldiers returning from extended combat operations were given a safe space in a secured base camp to relax and recover. Basic hygiene needs were taken care of, medical and dental care was received, clean uniforms acquired, hot meals were available, and mail was received and sent. The most important aspect of this time was to provide camaraderie with others in a safe space. It was a time to renew their overall sense of well-being.

In 1988, the concept of a Stand Down for returning veterans, many of whom were homeless, originated in San Diego by two Vietnam veterans, Robert Van Keuren and Dr. Jon Nachison. Together with the Veteran's Village of San Diego, they provided basic human services for the area's displaced veterans. Since that time, there are over 200 Stand Downs organized across the country to help assist the estimated over 107,000 homeless and at-risk veterans.

Many current Stand Downs are multiple-day events, providing hot meals and lodging. Even at one day events, basic medical and dental care is available, along with other necessities, such as showers, haircuts, clothing, legal assistance, job counselling and referrals, and, most importantly, the companionship of other veterans who are in the same situation.

Unfortunately, the necessity of Stand Downs stems from a lack of a coordinated effort by the traditional services to assist veterans. Many returning warriors must visit multiple agencies, with long wait times, to acquire the basic resources they need to adjust to civilian life. This

fosters a distrust of the government agencies created to assist them. A Stand Down consolidates all these needed services in a single place.

The approach is that this is a "hand-up" and not a "hand-out", and the goal is to help our veterans rebuild their lives.

What can we, as Lions, do to help?

First, if you provide an essential service of value to our veterans—you're a doctor, dentist, lawyer, job counselor, barber, or other needed professional service, volunteer it at a Stand Down.

If you don't provide a professional service, you can still volunteer. There are plenty of opportunities to help out, even if it's just sitting and listening. And if you don't have the time to volunteer, you can help by donating.

Our homeless vets are always in need of warm clothing, especially in the winter months. Heavy socks, underwear, knit hats, gloves, scarves, and gently used heavy coats are always appreciated.

Personal care items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving supplies, and feminine products (yes, many of our veterans in need are women) are crucial for those trying to readjust to a normal life.

And, as a club, you can organize donations from your community to help the effort.

One category that is often overlooked is dressier clothes suitable for job interviews, for both men and women. Many of the veterans want to work, but lack the appropriate clothing to interview. Suits, shirts and blouses, ties, and dress shoes will help a vet on their way to employment.

For more ways to help at a Veteran's Stand Down, contact Lion Jackie Fischer, the District Veteran's Affair Chair, at fischerjackie@sbcglobal.net

Lions Briefs

Updates on Lions around the World

Lions Show Kidsight to Educators

Every year, Connecticut's school superintendents gather for a two day conference (CABE/CAPSS). This year, Connecticut Lions joined the superintendents in Mystic to show off Kidsight.

"The CABE/CAPSS convention is an excellent opportunity to celebrate Kidsight and to win over school districts that have not participated in the program," said PDG Dan Uitti, Director of Kidsight Connecticut. The Kidsight momentum is growing. Since July 1, PDG Dan reported that Lions have already screened as many children for vision issues as it had for the entire 2016-17 Lions year. That's more than 54,000 children!

French Lions Open "Salon du Chocolat"

In Capbreton France, the Christmas season opens with the Lions' Salon du Chocolat. This is the tenth year for the Chocolate Fair and the 40th year for the Hossegor South Coast Lions Club (as well as the 100th year for Lions Clubs International! The Lions chocolate fair features quality creations by Stallion of Leon, Bath chocolate Dax, Delicacies of Nicolas de Peyrehorade, Moustirats of Bayonne or Thuries of Tarbes. Additional French items include foie gras, honey, champagne and Jurançon wine. If you're traveling anywhere in the world, check in with the local Lions Club. You will be greeted with great Lions hospitality and unbeatable local flavor.

South Tuscon(AZ) Lions Support Local Culture

The South Tuscon Lions Club adds a bit of local culture to their service. This month, they sponsored the South Tucson Lions Student Mariachi Fiesta, showcasing high school players who continue the tradition of playing Mariachi music. Tuscon is one of the first school

systems to incorporate mariachi into the educational curriculum.

Along with their cyber branch club, the South Tuscon Lions continue to chip away at pediatric vision screenings in their area. As of November 15, they have screened a total of 27,327 children in 3 months.

Take Time Now to Strengthen Your Club

By VDG Ev Lyons

[Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the February 2016 issue of The District 23B Spirit. The message, however, is important enough to reprint, especially as clubs struggle to retain members.]

We are close to the half-way mark for the current Lions Year. Now would be great time to take stock of how your Lions Club is structured and functioning. Are there challenges and roadblocks to even greater success? What might need to change to allow your club to soar even higher and be a real lighthouse for service in your community?

It is often difficult to have those frank discussions in the confines of a monthly club meeting. First, where would you start? You don't want a "gripe session" or a meeting so conflict filled that members leave even more disillusioned and disheartened than at present. So what is the pathway to organizing the conversation and keeping it on track toward action for change?

LCI has provided three tools for the use by club leaders in this delicate task of promoting positive change. Each is available on the LCI website and free to clubs.

1. **Your Club, Your Way** is a guide to the development of effective club meetings. We know that effective and

interesting club meetings is the primary way to keep members involved and active in club affairs.

2. **Blueprint for a Stronger Club** is a step-by-step process to assess all aspects of your club's operations and structure. Using the provided worksheets, club leaders can work with their members to review how their club operates within the meeting, itself, as well as in the community.
3. **Club Quality Initiative (CEP)** provides two formats to take an in depth look at all dimensions of the club. CEP Light can be done by the club, itself, or a more detailed look is possible with the assistance of the district GLT.

Club leaders are encouraged to look at each pathway as the choice of a program will depend upon the individuality of the local club. These are not "one-size fits all" approaches.

Club leaders are encouraged to contact GLT Peter Nevers (grampy2010@hotmail.com) for support and information.



CT Lions did another great job supporting CRIS Radio last year. We donated \$40K+ which represents more than 8% of their annual budget.

Pictured here, at CRIS Radio's annual meeting September 27 are (l to r) VDG Harry Schuh, Cabinet Chair Carol Kerns, DG Bobby Clark, CRIS Radio Executive Director Diane Weaver Dunn, and District 23C Governor Hilary Kumnick

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

by Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh,
The Centennial Celebration runs through **June, 2018** and offers all Lions opportunities to celebrate and serve. Encourage clubs to complete a Legacy Project.

Save the date! There will be a **Centennial Gala** on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell. Stay tuned for additional information.

Centennial pins are still available. Contact MD23 Centennial Coordinator Denise Dudek (ddudek@snet.net) if you are interested in purchasing pins (\$5.00 each).

As of November 10, 2017, Lions have served 192,471,145 people. Lions clubs have reported 22,891 legacy projects - Congratulations!

"WHERE THERE'S A NEED,
THERE'S A LION"



Lions Day

PDG Mike Wilcox

Lions Day at the UN will be held on March 24th if we have enough interest we might be able to arrange for a bus. International will be forwarding more information sometime in late November.



Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry is now airing on YouTube! We videorecorded the MD23 Lions International Director Candidate Forum held on September 9th at the Middletown Senior Center, and loaded all 4 episodes on YouTube. More "Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry" episodes will be added.

Our show is also aired in 58 communities on 6 cable access TV stations: Charter Communications (Winsted), Cablevision (Litchfield), Charter Communications (Newtown), Charter Communications (Willimantic), Nutmeg (Farmington), and Skye XIII (Waterbury). We are planning to air Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry in the Hartford/Bloomfield area. Thanks to Bloomfield Lion Phyllis Perry, who will sponsor our show.

Congratulations to CST Dave Yadach for organizing a very successful 1st Annual Avon Lions 5K Scholarship Race. We were also very pleased to attend and videorecord the soft opening of the Windsor Lions Tobacco Museum which uses QR codes to provide audio tours to visually impaired patrons. Congratulations to Windsor President Jim Daniels! We also took our show north to beautiful Mt. Snow, VT for the Fall New England Lions Council Weekend featuring an inspirational keynote by Past International Director Jerome Thompson.

Below are the titles for our latest shows 224 - 237:

224	Harwinton Lions "Cars For Sight" Car Show
225	DG George Salpietro Testimonial Part 1
226	DG George Salpietro Testimonial Part 2
227	DG George Salpietro Testimonial Part 3
228	Avon Lions 5K Scholarship Race
229	DG George Salpietro Testimonial Part 4

230	MD23 ID Candidate Forum Part 1
231	MD23 ID Candidate Forum Part 2
232	MD23 ID Candidate Forum Part 3
233	MD23 ID Candidate Forum Part 4
234	Windsor Lions QR Code Project Soft Opening – CT Valley Agricultural Museum
235	Dan DiVirgilio Golf Tournament and LCIF Videos
236	New England Lions Council Luncheon at Mt. Snow VT
237	New England Lions Council Banquet with Keynote Speaker PID Jerome Thompson

To view our last 10 shows on the Internet:

- Go to www.ctv191.com
- Mouse over "What's On"
- Click on "Watch Programs"
- Type the word Lion in the Search box and Click on Search

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

Zone 2

Zone Chair Frank Longo

My first zone meeting was held October 5, at Curtis House in Woodbury. Six of seven clubs attended, and special thanks to DG Bobby Clark, VDG Ev Lyons, GMT Jim Trompeter, GLT Peter Nevers, and cabinet chairs Nora Clark, and Phyllis and Marty Sandshaw for participating. The next zone meeting is January 10, 2018, with Zone 1. All Lions are invited. This is a great way to introduce your new members to Lionism beyond your club. Details to follow.

I've visited five clubs so far, with two more after the first of the year. I've performed inductions at two (one, with the member attending via Skype—a first for me!) Keep up the good work!

USA/CANADA Forum

By VDG Harry Schuh

The 41st USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum was held in Portland, OR from September 21 – 23, 2017. The mission of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is to develop leaders, motivate and educate attendees, provide an open exchange of ideas, and support. This was the first forum held in our new century of leadership and service and featured more than 90 seminars on all the different aspects of Lions leadership.

We learned at the 2017 International Convention in Chicago that Diabetes was added as one of our service challenges as we move forward into the new century. This forum began with a Diabetes Symposium which Carol and I attended along with many of our CT State Lions at the forum. Attendees learned what diabetes is, how it is treated, how people with this illness are affected, and what we can do to allow them to live healthier, happier and more productive lives.

Carol and I attended the New England Lions Council Breakfast on Friday morning. 3rd International Vice President Haynes Townsend was the featured speaker and regaled us with some great personal inspirational stories about his Lions career.

I attended the seminar for 1st Vice District Governors given by 1st International Vice President Gudrun Yngvadottir. She will become our first LCI female President at the 2018 International Convention in Las Vegas! She presented the four areas of focus in LCI Forward, our new strategic initiative:

- Pursue Frontiers of Service
- Shine a New Spotlight
- Be the Best Association
- Delight the Member

LCI Forward is an exciting start to our next century of service as we strive to fulfill our LCI vision to be the global leader in community and

District Officers

Robert Clark
District Governor

Harry Schuh
First Vice District Governor

V. Everett Lyons
Second Vice District Governor

Pat Daigle
Secretary

Steven Daigle
Treasurer

David Boilard
Zone 1 Chair

Frank Longo
Zone 2 Chair

Heidi Zacchera
Zone 3 Chair

Carol Hoebel
Zone 4 Chair

George Cooper
Zone 5 Chair

Edward Fenton
Zone 6 Chair

Anthony Gesnaldo
Zone 7 Chair

humanitarian service. We will be hearing much more about LCI Forward in the coming months.

During the Q & A part of the seminar, one of my 1st VDG colleagues asked Gudrun the question that was on all our minds, "How do you pronounce your last name?" She said that it was very simple. "I am a daughter and my father's name is Yngva (pronounced ing-va). So, my name is pronounced Ing-Va Daughter." We all experienced an "aha moment" when we heard how simple it really was!

We enjoyed the inspirational / motivational speakers at the Forum:

- Colonel Don Petit – He is the 4th most experienced Spacefarer of all time, who spent 370 days in space and 13 hours walking in space.
- Jen Bricker – Born without legs, Bricker's amazing adoptive family gave her one simple rule, 'Never say can't,' and helped her forge a life of triumph, not tragedy.
- LCI International President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal – He discussed his theme "The Power of We" – together we can do so much.
- Willie Jolley – He is the number one motivational speaker in America today, according to the Zig Zigler 'Get Motivated Organization.'

The forum concluded with a lively presentation by next year's USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Committee. The forum will be held in Columbus, OH from September 20 – 22, 2018. The theme is "Building Teams Through Leadership." Register now by visiting the forum website at <https://lionsforum.org/>.

Carol and I look forward to seeing you in Columbus!

MD23 Mid-Winter/State Convention February 3-4-5, 2018

Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT

