

DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

Spirit

February 2015

**SPECIAL
MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE
PREVIEW**

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Words from the DG

By Mike Wilcox, District Governor

Time really does fly by when you are having fun. I want to thank the clubs that I have visited with for their warm hospitality. What a great group of Lions we have in our District! The community service is outstanding, and your involvement with the Leos and Scouts really shines.

Membership and Retention: My theme this year is "Each One Reach One...Just Ask." International President Joe Preston's theme is "Strengthen the Pride, Ask One." The fact is, we are doing very well asking people to join. Unfortunately, we are not doing so well keeping them. The numbers show that we are losing members faster than we are gaining.

I have asked Cabinet Secretary Carol Kearns to send an exit questionnaire to each departing Lion to ascertain why they are leaving. Please read District Membership Chair Bobby Clark's summation on why Lions leave. We can learn a great deal from departing Lions that can prevent others from departing as well.

As you may know, every



District 23C Governor Nanette Burdick(L) with our own District 23B Governor Mike Wilcox at his District 23B Christmas Party. Hiding in the background are Lions Tammy Deak and Pat Daigle

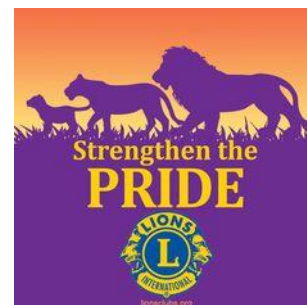
new member receives a letter from me and the Vice District Governors thanking them for joining. The sponsor also receives a letter. International President Joe also sends an email to them with a link for the new member to access additional information.

Beyond membership, I am also asking that we stay focused on the Centennial themes. As you complete them, please log into that site and report what your club has accomplished. This is important to Lions throughout our district and beyond, helping our organization overall attract

major donors who will match our contributions and our work.

Thank you for all that you do.

DG Mike



Greetings from East Hartford

2nd Vice District Governor, Kathy Randall

President Preston's theme to Strengthen our Clubs includes assessing the standard service projects we have done for years, and perhaps starting a new service project that will benefit our communities and give members a greater sense of pride in their club and the activities it completes or is expected to complete. From President Preston's theme book, "every Lions Club is encouraged to examine what they are doing... and energize their club. The goal is to have clubs with better focus, direction, drive and purpose."

Lions Clubs International has developed tools to assist clubs with assessing our clubs and the activities we do in our communities. Utilizing the Club Ratings Guide, Clubs can determine why members may have stopped coming to meetings or are not participating in service projects. The tool is anonymous, and it helps to have somebody from outside your club assess the results. You may learn that many in your membership are proud and happy to be Lions, but may not be able to afford 2 dinner meetings a month. This is an opportunity to discuss other options, such as 1 dinner meeting and 1 business-only meeting, or a meeting with only desert provided by different members each month. You

may learn most Lions would appreciate having a printed agenda for each meeting, or would prefer your meetings are held in a different location. Some of these items are unknown until you complete the Club Ratings Evaluation.

The second aspect to determine how best to serve our communities is to ask them! The Community Needs Assessment is a valuable tool to determine service projects for your club, and makes the leaders in the community more aware of your club; it can be a tool to build relationships with key members of the community and to recruit new members. Through the Community Needs Assessment, you may discover a project that is highly needed in your community and many of your friends and neighbors could benefit.

Once you determine specific needs in your community, you likely will have an opportunity to involve new members in a new project. Retaining members is best accomplished by mentoring them, supporting their ideas and involving them in projects. Making your membership an integral part of the club, making them comfortable and willing to raise new ideas is a good first step to retention.



Completing the Club Ratings and Community Needs Assessment and you are on your way to earning a new badge for your club banner. The Club Excellent Process "is a fun, interactive process that brings members together to look at what your club is today and what it will be tomorrow. It gives you the tools to strengthen your service, improve your club effectiveness, and enhance your membership experience." Forming a Plan of Action and implementing said plan are the final steps.

For more information, please contact any of your District Leadership Team - District Governor, 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors and our Global Leadership Team Chair. Do you know who they are?

South Windsor Lions Club

Members of the South Windsor club have been busy, They performed vision screening in November for 331 children, with 39 referrals. They also held a senior center vision screening for 13 people on December 9.

The club held their first Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Nov 8, offering veterans or active duty military a free meal.

With another first, the South Windsor Lions had their first Craft Show on April 26 at Maneeley's Banquet Hall. Plus, club members worked one night at Holiday Lights Fantasia, benefitting Channel 3 Kids Camp which now serves children with disabilities and welcomes all children regardless of ability or family income.



When leaders know how to lead great meetings, there's less time wasted and less frustration. We have more energy to do the work that matters, realize our full potential, and do great things.

— Justin Rosenstein

East Windsor Lions Club

The East Windsor Lions club had a busy October/November holding our 43rd annual Turkey Shoot (and we DO NOT shoot turkeys!). There are 20 paper targets per round, and the winner is the one that comes closest to the bulls-eye.

The prize differ each round, and consists of frozen turkeys, hams, roasts, cash, and donated gift cards. The ticket prices vary on the prize and can range from \$2 to \$3.75.

We also have an event long "special" that costs \$5 per shot where the 2 top winners win "bigger prizes". This year it was a chain saw and a cord of wood.

We did this the six Sundays before Thanksgiving. We have a loyal local following of shooters that we see almost every year, and we are thankful that they continue to support us. The shoot doesn't start until 9:00AM, but some of they show up before 7:00AM, bring firewood to burn to keep warm, help us set up, and then spend money!

We also have great help from our own Leo club members who volunteer to handle the paper targets (setting them up each round, and bringing back the ones that were shot for judging).

I would also like to mention that PDG Lion Dick Stathers has worked at this event EVERY year that we have had it. That's dedication! This year we raised almost \$5,200.

On Jan 7th, we held a combination meeting/Holiday party/Leo's installation. This is the 2nd year we have done this, and it has gone well each year. This year, Lions DG Mike and IPDG Dan came to install the Leo officers and new members headed by their advisor Ms. Kelly Blais. Lion Leo Club Assistant Blanche Sewell also joined the festivities and gave more info on the Mid-Winter convention and how the

Leo's could participate. We had a homemade buffet dinner of pasta and meatballs, pulled pork, sweet & sour meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. We discussed the various projects (service and fundraising) that our club does and where those fundraising dollars go - explaining that almost 70% goes directly back to the East Windsor community.

We also decided to increase our high school scholarships from 2 (\$500 each) to 3 (\$750 each) – so that excited the Leos and the high school principal. We ended the meeting with a Podunk blessing for Lion DG Mike. Last year we did one

for PDG Dan, and this year we "passed the blessing" from him to DG Mike. We even had a couple of Leos (blowing bubbles from "peace pipes") and a parent (playing the drums) help us out! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves before heading home in the brutal cold!

Next we look forward to a visit from 2nd VDG Kathy Randall at our next meeting on Jan 21st. And coming up, we have our 33rd annual Farmer's Breakfast at East Windsor High school on March 15th with Dee's famous biscuits and homemade apple pie (see our ad in this edition for more info).



Lion DG Mike (R) and PDG Dan installing a Leo officer



A group picture of some of the LEOs

<http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/eastwindsorct/>

LCIF Update

By Sia Dowlatshahi, CLU

My Fellow Lions,

2014 is now history and we are experiencing very cold weather. Before you know it, the summer is going to be here and we will begin a new Lion Year in July. I wanted to thank all of you for stepping up and making a difference by making donations to LCIF for the past 6 months. We are doing much better than last year at this time, but we are far from reaching our goal of \$40,000 by the end of June, 2015. Our district donations have been down from last year and we need to step it up. In other words "I NEED YOUR HELP!" I am available to visit your club to talk about LCIF. Please let me know when I can visit, especially if I haven't visited your club in the past 2 years. We need to educate our new members about LCIF. So far this year we have 150 new members in our district. Without

LCIF millions of children would have died (Measles Initiative); without LCIF millions of people would have been blind (Sight First). There are many stories in the LCIF website (Our Impact) that you need to read. Please take 15 minutes of your time to read them and be proud of what you have been doing. All those stories happened because you decided to donate to LCIF to make a difference. I personally thank you but our job is not done. We need to continue helping them. Last year more than 20 clubs did not donate to LCIF. I know we are helping many people, but if every person in our district donated \$100 to LCIF for the year we will have \$20,000 in donations. I thank you for your past donations and ask you to please make a donation.

Thank you and have a fantastic 2015.

NEW CERTIFIED GUIDING LIONS

District 23B held a Certified Guiding Lions course, led by CC Dan DiVirgilio and GLT Ev Lyons, on January 10, at the CT Association of Schools in Cheshire. Once certified, a Guiding Lion is appointed by the District Governor to guide a new club through their first two years. The District Governor may also designate a Guiding Lion to help established clubs that need assistance.

The following Lions attended and completed the recent course. Many were Certified Guiding Lions who were recertifying for another three-year eligibility period.

Congratulations to:

Bob Bessel—Canton Lions
 Bob Casey—Canton Lions
 2VDG Kathy Randall—East Hartford Lions
 Bobby Clark—Hartford Evening Lions
 Nora Clark—Hartford Evening Lions
 DG Mike Wilcox—New Milford Lions
 Bob Coppola—New Milford Lions
 1VDG Steve Daigle—Terryville Lions
 Patty Daigle—Terryville Lions
 Marty Sandshaw—Terryville Lions
 Donna Severson—Thomaston Lions
 Frank Longo—Woodbury Lions

East Hartford Lions Club

The East Hartford Lions Club inducted two new members at its January 5 meeting at the Marco Polo.

At the Induction Ceremony, Club President Pat Sirois was pleased to welcome Lion Fiona Batwala of the Kampala Host Lions Club MD 411B in Kampala, Uganda, who was visiting family in East Hartford.

Having a Lion from Uganda visit was something very special! If you have any questions on these pictures, please give me a call or an email. Thank you! Lion Eileen Driscoll, Publicity Chair, East Hartford Lions Club 860-568-7305 Epda23@aol.com



From left, 2nd Vice District Governor of District 23B, and East Hartford Lion, Kathy Randall stands with Lion Joshua Seals, whom she sponsored; center, Past District Governor Lion George Precourt who performed the induction; new Lion Heidi Joseph and her sponsor, Lion Eugene Market.

East Hartford President Pat Sirois (L) welcoming Ugandan Lion Fiona Batwala to their club.



Pin Trader's Corner

By LITPC International Director Phil Dzurnak and Lion Elaine Dzurnak

Why did we become pin traders? It really started years ago when I joined the Torrington Lions Club. When I went to my first Mid-Winter Convention, I was introduced to the Connecticut State Pin, which was the 1979 Colonial Soldier. As the years went by, I added to my collection of Connecticut State pins. Elaine always had me purchase two pins, one for me, and one for our son Christopher. Once she joined the Torrington Lions Club, several years ago, she had to have her own set of pins and we no longer shared them with Christopher.

Towards the end of 2002, several of us joined Lion Curt Fitch in establishing the Pin Traders Club of Connecticut. Shortly thereafter, our pin collection expanded three or four fold as we started collecting other state pins as well. The more and more we saw of the various pins that are available, the more we wanted them. However, we decided to stay mostly with collecting State Pins. Don't get the wrong impression; we do have other types as well, just not as many.

Our first real exposure to Lion Pin Trading arrived when the Connecticut Pin Traders Club hosted the Northeast pin swap a few years ago. By the way we are again hosting one this year in August. At this swap we were really exposed to pin swapping. There were pin traders from all over the East Coast and then some. It was exciting to see all of the different pins that were available for collecting, and just how many a couple of pin traders had available. They had sheets and sheets set up on their respective tables. We shared one little corner with Curt during that swap.

Our next visit to a swap was another

Northeast pin swap held in Boston. The number of pin traders and pins that were available amassed us. Next was another trip to Boston, this time for the International Pin Swap that brought about another surprise for us. Not only were there a larger number of local pin traders, but pin traders from other states and countries as well.

There are so many pin swaps available to attend throughout the U.S. that you can go to as many as you want or you can pick and choose the one or two you may want to attend. We chose the Pennsylvania pin swap, held at York, PA.. That was really an adventure for us. After having a terrific time trading and purchasing more pins, it was time for us to leave for Connecticut and home. Well on Friday night, it started snowing and snowing. By the time we approached our car, it was buried in approximately a foot of snow. The parking lot had been plowed, but on top of the car, and all around the car, was the foot of snow. I approached the checkout desk and asked them if they had a shovel I could borrow. They told me that all that they had was a broom. After a hardy laugh, I remember I had a small shovel in my trunk. However, I parked my car the wrong way. In order to get to my trunk I had to plow my way through the snow. Finally, I cleared my car off and the surrounding area to a point where I could load our hoard of pins and other items in the car and head home. To show our commitment to Lionism, and our motto of We Serve, I did lend my shovel to several other Lion Pin Traders so that they could also get out.

We really have a great and enjoyable time at these swaps and

are really into pin trading. Next year we were off to York, PA for another Pa pin swap. We left home at 4:30 A.M. (you have to love pin trading to get going at that time of the morning) and arrived at 10:30 A.M. Although we couldn't check into the hotel until 4 p.m. we were able to set up our two tables (no longer a small corner to share with Curt) with pins for trading and off we went going from table to table obtaining pins we need for our collection and then some. We met up with several of the Pin Traders from last year, and also met up with several others whom we trade with by mail.

Oh, I almost forgot. During the pin swaps, they have auctions where you can bid on various pins you either need for your collection, or just happen to like because of their looks. It is amazing to see how some pins would go for a few hundred dollars while other would go for as low as \$10.00 a pin. By the way, we have also had the pleasure of designing one of our Torrington Club pins, along with help from Lions Curt Fitch and Ralph Dolan. Why not consider joining our Pin Trading Club and having some fun collecting pins, meeting our interesting Lions, and establishing new friendships with Lions throughout the U.S and other countries. Lion Ralph Dolan joined us when we travel to another International Pin Trading Swap, which was held in Jefferson City, MO.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Pin Trading Club of Connecticut, please contact me via e-mail: pedzzz@snet.net or by phone: 860-482-5305. Why not go to a pin swap and find out what pin trading is really about. Hope to see you there.



London-based firm OwnFone has released what it says is the world's first Braille phone.

The front and back of the phone is constructed using 3D printing techniques and can be customized.

For those who can't read Braille, the company can print raised text on the keypad.

The phone, currently only available in the UK, retails for £60 and according to its inventor Tom Sunderland, 3D printing the front and back of the device helped to keep the costs down.

THOMASTON LIONS CLUB 5TH ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER



**SATURDAY MARCH 14TH
4:30 TO 7:30 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
150 MAIN ST. THOMASTON
FOR ADVANCE TICKETS CALL 860-283-5577
\$10.00 IN ADVANCE
\$12.00 AT THE DOOR
\$8.00 10 AND UNDER
TO BENEFIT THOMASTON LIONS CLUB
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



"Members of the Terryville Lions gather to deliver holiday food baskets and gifts to town residents in need."

Did You Know?

A schoolboy from California has secured funding to bring his idea for a low-cost Braille printer to market.

Tech company Intel has promised 13-year old Shubham Banerjee to develop his idea.

The teenager originally created a prototype of the printer out of Lego when he was just 12.

Avon Lions Club

Avon continued its long-standing program of aid to the elderly and disabled with a monthly service of coffee and light refreshments to nursing home residents. The club continues the program of delivering Meals on Wheels to home bound residents with 34 Lions delivering meals to 189 residents since September.

Members participated in the JDRF Walkathon; deck staining at a FAVARH group home; cleanup of the Farmington River Watershed along with LEO's from the Avon Middle and High School.

During this same period club members assisted other Lions Clubs and Social/Charitable

organizations in providing services and fund raising: New Britain Lions Oktoberfest; Veterans Stand Down; Friends of Heublein Tower Toot; Miller Food Tent; Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Holiday Store Toy Collection which also included forty LEO's from the Avon Middle and High School.

In September, the club staffed a booth at Avon Day and conducted pediatric eye screening of eighteen children. The booth was coordinated with the Canton/Avon Rotary Club's Amber Alert registration.

For two weeks in October, club members conducted pediatric eye

screening at eight nursery schools and daycare facilities in Avon. 225 children were screened with 22 referrals to eye care professionals.

Members represented the club at Zone meetings; USA/Canada Forum; CLERF board meetings; 23B Council meetings; VDG Kathy Randall Fundraiser; ASD dinner; and Lions Low Vision breakfast.

In November the club held its annual Harvest Breakfast and raised over \$3,000 to support its ongoing charitable donations.

In May the club will hold its annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser.

<http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/avonct/index.php>



**East Windsor Lions Club
Annual Farmer's Breakfast**


To Benefit East Windsor Lions Club Charities

**Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,
Hash Brown Potatoes, Sausage,
Dee's Famous Biscuits,
Homemade Apple Pie &
Beverage**


**Sunday March 15, 2015
8am 'til 11:30 am
East Windsor High School
South Main St. Rt. 5**

**Adults \$7.50
Children 12 & Under \$4.00**

For more information call 860-623-0669



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



District Governor's Award Breakfast

Zones 5, 6, 7 & 8

Sunday, March 22, 2015

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!

More to come!

Checks Payable to District 23B Governor's Breakfast

Mail to:
Lion Eileen Driscoll
672 Forest Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-568-7305 Ep da23@aol.com

A Little Bit of Heaven- Lion John Garoppolo

A Fidelco Story

As they approached retirement, John and Patricia Garoppolo shared a grand vision for their golden years together. They purchased the boat of their dreams and John was putting the finishing touches on a hobby workshop behind their Manchester, Connecticut home. The year was 1992, and the Garoppolos' future together looked bright.

That vision was shattered the moment an eye surgeon told John, "We're very sorry, but there's nothing else we can do. You're going to be blind."

"Nobody plans to go blind," Pat recalls. "He had staphyloma in both eyes with retinal detachments; it was irreversible. I really thought, now what happens?"

Although his eyesight could never be restored, John knew there was still hope for a fruitful life. During his education at Teachers College of Connecticut and subsequent career as an industrial arts teacher, John met Fidelco's founder, Charlie Kaman, and learned of Fidelco's mission. A German Shepherd Dog lover himself, John became a Fidelco donor in the late 1970s, never dreaming that he would one day become a client.

"I knew I wanted a guide dog, and it had to be a German shepherd," says John. "But I didn't want to travel to some place to live on a campus for weeks. I knew that Fidelco would come to me. So I

applied right away."

"The boat was the second love of his life," adds Pat. "That is, until the guide dogs came along." It's been sixteen years since her passing, but John's eyes still well up with tears whenever he talks about his beloved "Fenix," his first Fidelco Guide Dog. Her ashes sit in a small, painted urn on a mantle in the family living room, amid a veritable shrine to the canine partners who have changed the lives of the entire Garoppolo family by restoring John's independence.

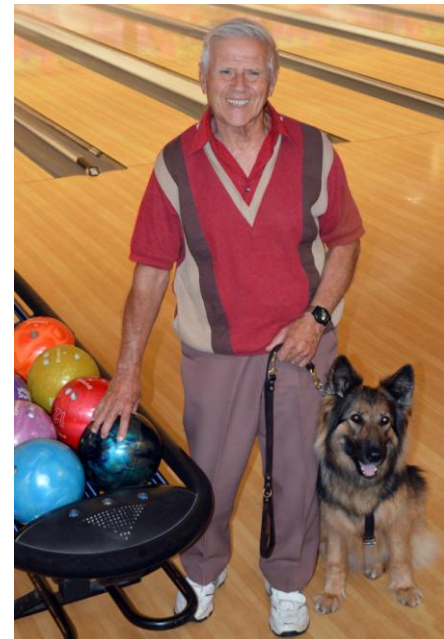
"The bond with Fenix was intense," says John. "She saved my life twice in traffic situations. Fenix worked her miracles in many ways, turning the results of a devastating event into some of the happiest years of my life. It wasn't just me; Fenix also gave my wife the freedom to live how she wanted to."

The memory of Fenix, the Fidelco Guide Dog who restored so much hope, lives on in the "Fenix Memorial Bowling Tournament." Now in its 19th year, the tournament, organized by John with the Manchester and Vernon Lions Clubs, has raised well over \$200,000 to support Fidelco.

"John's freedom has been sustained by his Fidelco Successor Guide Dogs," says Pat. "It frees me up so I can do the things that I like, and I don't worry. I am not confined to doing what he wants to do 24/7."

A great-grandfather seven times over, John remains as busy as ever with ten-year-old Fidelco Guide Dog "Garner" by his side. He is an active member of the Lions Club of Manchester, bowls on a Senior Mens' League, volunteers at a homeless shelter and his church, and is constantly discovering new hobbies like growing peppers and tomatoes.

"Fidelco has changed our lives so much," says Pat. "John just wants to be out there, be part of the world, and his Fidelco Guide Dogs have helped him do just that."



Manchester Lion John Garoppolo with his Fidelco guide dog "Garner", bowling a few frames.

Rocky Hill Veteran Lions

Rocky Hill Veteran Lions held a book drive from November through December for the Hartford Milner Elementary School grades Pre-K through 8.

The two groups lending a hand with the book drive were the '61 Lunch Group, along with the St James

Wednesday Sewing and Knitting group. Over 200 books were given to the school library.

Just one more way to demonstrate that "We Serve"





Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

We are excited to announce that on Tuesday, January 6th we aired our 87th show! Since the last District Spirit was published, the following shows have aired: Harwinton Fair Parts 1 and 2, Torrington Lions Craft Fair Parts 1 and 2, Woodbury Haunted Barn Parts 1 and 2, Harwinton Lions 41st Annual Scholarship Pancake Breakfast Parts 1 and 2, New England Lions Council / Melvin Jones Fellow Weekend Necrology Service Parts 1 and 2 (featuring an interview with Past International President Wayne Madden), LARC Festival of Trees Closing Ceremony (Harwinton Lions Club served as a Closing Ceremony Sponsor), and the Harwinton Senior Center Lunch Parts 1 and 2 (served by Harwinton Lions). Thanks again to all our fellow Lions who welcomed us and appeared on our shows! We love to highlight the many exciting events that Lions are involved in district-wide.

We are now broadcast on 4 community access franchises in central, western, and northwestern CT: Nutmeg TV in Farmington, Charter Community Access CTV13 in Winsted, Cablevision in Litchfield, and Charter Western in New Milford, and collectively reach an audience of hundreds of thousands of viewers in 35 communities. If you are outside our viewing area, you can 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 are having a great time recording on location and producing shows that illustrate what we do as Lions to change people's lives! Please contact us if you are interested in distributing our DVD to your local cable access franchise.

We also 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 or by phone: (860) 485-9018.



The intrepid hosts of television's "Lion Around Connecticut," Lion Harry Schuh (L) and Lion Carol Kearns



Here are some Terryville Leos ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. LEOs and Lions volunteered countless hours this past month to ring the bell at their local IGA.

Pictured are (L to R): Amanda Antonioli, Brianna Della Valle, Haley Grey



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"All the news that fits, we print!"

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WANTED: FUTURE LION LEADERS

By Ev Lyons, District 23B GLT

Future Lion leaders have an outstanding opportunity in our multiple district to receive top-notch training at the Regional (Emerging) Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI). A distinguished faculty of present Lion leaders will conduct workshops geared to preparing Lions for the position of club president and beyond. Open to any Lion who has yet to be elected club president, the RLLI will be held the weekend of March 7-9 at the conference center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield.

This overnight experience will enable future leaders to learn skills

(Continued on page 12)

Peace Poster Contest

Peace, Love, and Understanding was the theme for the 2014-2015 Peace Poster Contest. Eight clubs held contests and entered posters at the District level this year. Participating clubs included Hartland, Windsor Locks, Simsbury, Watertown, Terryville, Bristol, Colebrook, and Bloomfield.

Attendees at the Hartford Evening Club's 40th anniversary dinner on November 22, 2014 served as judges. Normally, the annual Low Vision Dinner is the judging venue, but the event was held as a breakfast this year, and the date was after the deadline to submit the winner to the Multiple District level.

The Watertown Lions Club sponsored this year's winning poster. 2nd and 3rd runners up were sponsored by the Bristol and Colebrook Clubs, respectively.

The winning poster, drawn by Charina Manalo, has been selected as the winner poster at the Multiple District. She will represent MD23 at the International Contest in February.

At the international level, judges from the art, peace, youth, education, and media communities will select one grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners. Each poster is judged on originality,

artistic merit, and expression of the theme. The international grand prize winner receives \$5,000 and a trip to a special award ceremony held during Lions Day with the United Nations.

The international grand prize winner, two family members (one being a parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring club president, or a club member designated by the sponsoring club president, are required to attend the award ceremony. Each of the 23 merit award winners receives a cash award of \$500 and a certificate of achievement.

Terryville had the most successful club level contest with more than 80 entries. Anyone interested in learning about its formula for success should contact PDG Len Johnson. Lion Len is the Terryville club's Peace Poster co-chair along with his wife, Lion Lani Johnson. **"Share Peace"** is the theme for the 2014-2015 Peace Poster Contest.

Your Lion club can sponsor the contest for students in your local school(s) or in organized, sponsored youth groups in your community such as YMCA programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Scouts, etc., although Leo clubs or Scout units sponsored by your Lions club cannot participate. However, individual

members of those groups may participate if the contest is held at their school or another organized youth group.

Participants must be at least 11 years old and not older than 13 years on November 15. A sponsoring club must purchase a Peace Poster Contest kit (PPK-1) for each contest it sponsors. Each kit includes a sticker to be placed on the back of the winning poster before forwarding it to the next level of judging. Entries not featuring the official sticker will be disqualified. The kits are available from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Kits may be ordered from:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/planning-projects/youth/peace-poster/index.php#promoting>. The cost of the kit is \$11.95 plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes.

Although the deadline for submitting winners at the club level to the District Governor is not until November 15, now is the time to order your kits and begin working with the local schools or eligible youth groups in your area to guarantee sufficient time for a well-planned contest.



First-place Winner – from Watertown



Second-place Winner – from Bristol



Third-place Winner – from Colebrook



Plainville Lions Club

Annual Spring Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 1, 8 AM to 12 Noon

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Center
Plainville, CT

Tickets \$6
Children six
& under free



Come see Rocky, the Rock Cats' Mascot!



For more information, contact:
William Gaughan 860 747-6023
Florence Nixon 860 410-5071
or any Plainville Lion



**GREATER HARTFORD
HOST LIONS
CLUB**



PANCAKES!

ANNUAL PANCAKE & BUFFET BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 19, 2015
8:00AM-12NOON

American School for the Deaf
139 No. Main St., West Hartford
\$6.00 per adult & \$4.00 per child
under 12



Join the
East Hartford Lions Club Foundation
In celebration of our 65th Anniversary
And Vision Awards Night

Please join us on Saturday, April 11, 2015

6:00—9:00 p.m.

for dinner and a silent auction

Marco Polo Restaurant

1250 Burnside Avenue

East Hartford, CT



Tickets are \$40 per person or reserve a table for 10 for \$375.
Contact Ram Aberasturia for tickets.

860-796-6252

Proceeds benefit the Lions Quest Program, college scholarships,
and many other Club sponsored programs.

Please make payments to The Lions Club of East Hartford
Foundation, PO Box 380765, East Hartford, CT 06138-0765



Woodbury Lions Club

Christmas time is the season for giving, and this is how the Woodbury Lions celebrate the season. We started with a \$1000 donation to the American School for the Deaf that we presented at their annual dinner in November. We followed this up with a \$1000 donation to the Woodbury Community Services Council at our annual Thanksgiving Feast at The Curtis House in Woodbury. This money helps the food and fuel banks in town. Every member at the meeting also brought non-perishable goods to help the food bank. We filled three tables full of donations, which goes a long way to help those in need.

This is also the meeting where members pick from our traditional "Giving Tree," a small imitation pine decorated with slips of paper containing a store and an amount. The member buys a gift card for the amount at the specified store, and we collect them and turn them over to the WCSC. This year, our tally was over \$700 that went to help families in need in our town. This comes from member's pockets, and not from money we've raised.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, we start to spread of tidings of good cheer by decorating the bandstand on the North Green in Woodbury

with lights and greens. There was snow on the ground, and the temperature was frigid, but enough Lions showed up to get the job done in about an hour. Our newly repainted Christmas Card to the town was set up at the same time, now with a stronger base and new lights.

Unfortunately, the climax of our festivities, the Lighting of the Luminaria, was cancelled because of rain. This is only the second time, in the nearly thirty years we've been creating this display, that anyone can remember having to cancel it.

In other club news, DG Mike Wilcox assisted in inducting two new members to the club. Lions Debbie Deschino and Steve Morris became members on December 2. We have one more prospect in the pipeline, and the club received a challenge to bring in five members by the end of June.

Until June, our attention turns to the Annual Car Show, now in its 37th year. It's a lot of work, and we're anticipating one of the largest shows yet. Last year, we added a vendor's row, and we're looking to expand it in 2015. Keep Sunday, June 14 open on your calendar so you can come down and join in the fun.



DG Mike(Center) inducting new Woodbury members. From left Lions Matthew Smith and Ken Deschino, co-sponsors of Lion Debbie Deschino, Lion Steve Morris and his sponsor, Lion William Barthelmess

<http://www.woodburyclions.org>

On Membership

GMT Robert Clark

This year, Lions International set our goals for the first six months of this Lions Year: form new clubs and grow our membership. Every club in District 23B can add four new members. In fact, we have clubs that have attained this goal. Just ask, invite potential new members, and keep doing good things, keep them informed and ask them to join your activities. They will be your new members!

Now that we are in the second six months of our Lions Year, we will continue these goals and pay greater attention to retention - a subject that I have always emphasized.

Here are three ideas to help your club retain its members:

1. When a member has missed three meetings and no club members have heard from this Lion, please make a phone call to your Lion. Reach out and advise them that the club is concerned that they have not seen him or her at any meetings or activities.

2. Invite your member to participate
(Continued on page 17)

Emerging Lions

(Continued from page 9)

in areas such as member motivation, public speaking, goal setting, time management, team development and a number of other topics as well. Each participating Lion will be charged a fee of \$100 that, we hope, will be covered by their local Lions club. This fee covers accommodations for two nights, six meals and all presentation materials.

Questions? Contact GLT Ev Lyons (lyonsev50@gmail.com or 860-584-2560). Your club president has registration materials and additional information.

2014-2015, Mid-Winter Conference

Where can you learn about Lionism, meet Lions from across Connecticut, and become inspired by Lions Leaders? Our own Mid-Winter Conference in Cromwell, February 6-8 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

This smorgasbord of events, seminars, business meetings, lunches, and dinners lifts the spirits during the coldest winter days. It's just plain fun!

Start on Friday evening with a salute to Hawaii, site of the 98th Lions Convention in July. Bring your leis, grass skirts, and coconut shells to the grand ballroom for an equally grand reception – called a Luau in honor of the convention site. Meet your incoming Lion leaders for 2015-16 and bask in Hawaiian style hospitality.

Breakfast with Lions from across the

state on Saturday morning, then learn about MyLCI, the latest Lions website features that will streamline your input and access to information about your club, your district and to Lions International.

We also have seminars on Lions' Hearing and Speech services – "What's happening and what's ahead" and Pediatric Eye Screenings. If you haven't done an eye screening or you want to know what's new, this is the seminar for you. We will be demonstrating the features of our advanced scanning equipment.

Saturday lunch features a great speaker – International Director Karla Harris – followed by district business meetings (very important) and a gala dinner at night. On Sunday morning, you'll have a chance to meet your Lions leaders one more time at an informal

breakfast. This is where you can have those one-on-one conversations that can make the difference for your projects in the year ahead.

The best part is the price – a mere \$20 gets you in the door Friday night and Saturday morning. Meals do incur a cost (to be expected!), but all reasonable considering the value of this experience.

Encourage your newest members to attend. Encourage your long-standing members to attend. Encourage your LEOs to attend – there are special activities for LEOs too! Matter of fact – encourage everyone to come to Cromwell for this once a year event.

It's the best deal going for Lions!



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST ZONES 1,2,3 and 4

*Sunday March 15TH
The Cornucopia Banquet Hall
371 Pinewoods Road
Torrington, CT
8:30 AM*

"Each One Reach One...Just Ask"

*Come and honor your
outstanding Lion of the Year!!*

*For more information contact
Lion Carol Hoebel 860-283-5577
Email: davidhoebel@yahoo.com*



Harwinton Lions Club

This year's 11th Annual Harwinton Lions "Concert for Sight" in July was a smashing success! Funds raised through the concert support many programs and projects in our community including food baskets and a food pantry that serves the needy, college scholarships, and eye care for deserving individuals. The Lions Club of Harwinton also supports Lions Low Vision Centers statewide, The American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, the Diabetes Center at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, LARC, and many other causes.

In October, the Harwinton Lions once again sold their world-famous chili at the Harwinton Fair. Although the poor weather prevented us from making a profit this year, we were happy to show our Lions presence in the community. Five Harwinton Lions attended the American School for the Deaf Annual Lions Dinner where we presented our annual donation.

Our 41st Annual Harwinton Lions

Scholarship Pancake Breakfast in November raised enough money to fully fund our 2 scholarships for deserving Harwinton senior students. In the week following the breakfast, we partnered with the Burlington Lions to conduct pediatric eye screenings as part of Lions KidSight USA. Locations included Lake Garda School, Harwinton Consolidated School, 3 daycare centers, and the public libraries in Harwinton and Burlington.

A new initiative this year was to partner with the Town of Harwinton Recycling Coordinator Tracy Mirsky during the month of November. This was a month-long effort at Harwinton Consolidated School to promote collection and reuse of eyeglasses and hearing aids. This was in celebration of America Recycles Day.

The Harwinton Lions Club participated in the 4th Annual Harwinton's Hometown Holiday Celebration in December. Our Lions Club gave a monetary donation, and

club members baked cookies and assisted in parking cars. For the past 5 years, Harwinton Lions have served the holiday luncheon at the Harwinton Senior Center. What a joy to serve such an appreciative group of senior citizens! Harwinton Lions purchased and delivered 32 Christmas baskets to needy families in the community once again this holiday season.

At our January business meeting, we collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Harwinton Food Pantry. This is part of the Lions Worldwide Week of Service to commemorate Melvin Jones Birthday on January 13th and the "Filling the Food Banks" challenge from District Governor Mike Wilcox.

We are just past the halfway point of an incredibly rewarding and exciting year! 2015 promises to be just as busy as we continue to seek opportunities to participate in a Global Service Action Campaign for International President Joe Preston's Centennial Challenge.

<http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/harwintonct/>

Southington Lions Club

The Southington Lions Club will conduct its **24th Annual "Everything Goes" Charity Auction** on Saturday, March 7, 2015.

This is a fun-filled evening offering something for everyone. This year's edition will feature baseball tickets to a Red Sox vs. Yankees game at Fenway Park, and a YMCA family membership.

In addition, there will be household items, dining packages, theater tickets, entertainment packages, YMCA and Camp Sloper certificates, paintings, home decorator items, carpeting, professional services, automotive services, and many other items too

numerous to mention. There will also be the popular Instant Auction Raffle and the Mystery Treasure Chest.

This is made possible due to the generosity and donations of local businesses and citizens.

Complimentary refreshments, including wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and dessert items will be served during the evening. Admission is \$5 and includes entry into the drawing for the Grand Door Prize, a 32" LED HDTV, plus several bonus door prizes.

Tickets are available from any Southington Lions Club member

with a limited number of tickets available at the door. All purchases payable in cash or checks.

This event will take place at Mary Our Queen Church Hall, 248 Savage Street, Plantsville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration and to preview auction items. The auction will commence at 7:15 p.m. Proceeds from the auction benefit Southington Lions Club Eye Research Fund and community services projects.

Meetings get a bad rap, and deservedly so - most are disorganized and distracted. But they can be a critical tool for getting your team on the same page.
— Justin Rosenstein

<http://southingtonct.lionwap.org/>



Sailing on Long Island Sound
Cover Photo by Randy O'Rourke

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 Chosen as one of the best Lifestyle Covers of 2013 by the
 American Society of Magazine Editors.

The All New ...

2015 Car Show
 Presented by
 The Woodbury Lions Club
 June 14
 Hollow Park, Woodbury, CT



VIP Fishing Tournament

By Charley Satkowski District Chair

What would you call a three-day event for educational and recreational fellowship, personal growth opportunities, and old-fashioned fun? Yes, we are talking about the 32nd annual North Carolina VIP Fishing Tournament. This year, the event drew 525 VIPs, plus 375 sighted guides which included 125 students. High school Leos were assisting visually impaired on all four ocean piers. Our own VIP, Bill Gaughan from the Plainville Lions Club, along with VIP Joe Flanagan, a World War II vet, and VIP Lexie Page represented Connecticut in the tournament. VIPs from Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and several other states and Canada joined our Connecticut VIPs this year.

Getting to North Carolina has been a challenge for the New England VIP teams. This year was different. The Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation secured a generous corporate sponsor. Pasbt Blue Ribbon Brewing Company donated funds necessary to rent a bus to transport VIPs and guides from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to the event. We quickly developed lasting friendships. The tournament

revolves around friendship and fellowship.

Monday our VIPs were treated to a BBQ lunch provided by the Manteo Lions Club at their Community Center, where all VIP meals and celebrations were held. On Tuesday the VIPs hit the water aboard the Crystal Dawn chartered fishing boat for the New England fishing tournament. a great day of fishing. Lots of fish caught, and we even enjoyed some dolphins frolicking right behind the boat as we were cruising out. Again this year, Rhode Island snagged more fish and thus, the trophy for another year. Sorry DG Mike! Wednesday was the National fishing tournament held on Jennette's Pier. The weather had turned sharply colder, windy and eventually rainy. The VIPs didn't let it dampen their spirits, though.

In past years, all fish caught were weighed and bagged. Some participants proudly brought their fish home. This year, the tournament was a "catch and release" event. All VIPs wore a laminated card on a lanyard. The card had a series of numbers. Official score keepers

Zone 4 Report

Zone Chair Robert Casey

Our Southington and Thomaston clubs are very active this year with events scheduled right up to the end of this Lions year. Thomaston is planning a Food Drive and Paint Social this February, a Corned Beef dinner in March (did somebody say St. Patrick's Day?) and a Clothing Drive, Fall Harvest Dance and more Food Drives in the year ahead.

Our Southington club is planning an annual event that highlights our new town Art council, local music, community businesses, and the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails. The club is planning to hold this event on National Trails Day, the first Saturday every June, on the town Farmington Canal Rails to Trails. Southington Lions have presented and received approval from town council and are planning to have this first annual event on June 6, 2015. The additional benefit of this event is to highlight the Southington Lions club to the community, in yet another way, to create the desire to join the club!

To help all the clubs in Zone 4, we are preparing to host our first online seminar on project management – a subject requested by members of each club. The seminar aims to increase everyone's sense of accomplishment while reducing overall frustration. Plans, planning concepts and execution techniques will be covered in this interactive online session.

We'll let everyone know how this online seminar goes in our next report!

our town for all local civic organizations and this coming spring a sign with logos of all civic groups in our town will be displayed in the Seth Thomas Park.

Upcoming will be our annual Corned Beef Dinner for our scholarship fund. Save the Date: March 14th.

Thomaston Lions Club

The Thomaston Lions Club hosted its first Fall Festival Dance in October with all proceeds going to Fidelco. A representative came from Fidelco with a puppy in training. It was a small turnout but fun was had by all and looking forward to making it bigger and better for next year.

With donations from fellow Lions we made Christmas for a family of seven much brighter. With the help of Santa, their wish list came true, and with the help of First

Congregational Church, all food was supplied for a very Merry Christmas.

We reached one of our goals and that was to provide 2 people in Thomaston with the purchase of eyeglasses. For the second year we will have provided pediatric eye screening to preschool and kindergartners in our daycares and elementary school.

Another big project we have been working on was to get signage in

<http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/thomaston/>



1st DG Steve Daigle setting up a holiday display in Baldwin Park with Terryville Lions

Hartland Lions Club

Service and Fellowship, Fellowship and Service - that is what Lionism should be about. We serve and we have a good time doing it because we do it with friends and neighbors. And being a small club in a small town, our service is every personal. Yes, we need money to do many of the projects so, alas, we do need to have fundraisers. Our Tag Sale was a big help in October, again rainy, but we were indoors. Selection was incredible. It is amazing what people have collected that were once treasures. This was followed by the Election Day Bake Sale, which sold out by 1:00 p.m. Where else but in a small town can you vote, get breakfast or dinner dessert, and a flu shot all in one place!

Then, there is the joy of turning right around and giving it back to the community with a free Senior Roast Beef Dinner with all the fixin's and homemade desserts. What is so great about this event is the joy and thankfulness on our Seniors' faces and that they stay long after finishing the food to catch up, talk, share with each other.

It is always fun to work with the Art teacher and the kids on the Peace Poster. We had 12 entries this year with gift certificates going to the first, second and third place entries presented at the school Christmas Concert. Great imagination and talent from our upper elementary age students. Thanks to all who participated to remember the need for World Peace.

Club member Christmas Dinner celebrated with good cheer, food and sharing your favorite Christmas songs. No, you did not have to sing it, but how could anyone's favorite be "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer."

By the time you read this, we will have had our Annual Soup and Sandwich. Twelve to fourteen homemade "my best recipe" soups, accompanied by grilled ham and cheese and again – dessert. Next year we will get news of this unique meal out early so you can all come to this "all you can eat" for a very reasonable price - chili, onion, corn chowder, kapusta and kielbasa, Italian wedding, split pea and ham, goose sausage, venison stew and others surprises. But you will want get there early if you want the venison stew.

Hartford Evening Lions Club

The Hartford Evening Lions Club installed a new member by District Governor Mike Wilcox on October 9, 2014.

We celebrated its 40th Anniversary on November 22, 2014 at the Marco Polo Restaurant in East Hartford, CT, where we gained a prospective member. We also contributed several food baskets to the Food Share for Thanksgiving and they were distributed in the Hartford Community. (See photo)

And on December 14, 2014 we celebrated our club's Christmas Party and had a club installation by 1st Vice District Governor Steven Daigle of two new members.



On Membership

(Continued from page 12)

in club activities. They may be planning to relocate, have health issues or their hours of work may have changed.

3. Keep in mind that membership is not only the Membership Chair's concern; it is in fact a concern of all of your club members. This member is our brother or our sister in Lionism.

If you have any question or need help with membership, please feel free to contact me at (860) 966-3549.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MATRICULATE!

By Lion Ev Lyons,
District 23B GLT

Hey! Where's that ol' college spirit?

You know you haven't lost it, for sure! So, why not join District 23B's Lions University? It's free, courses can be taken quickly and on your own schedule, and best of all, our course of study provides skills not only for success as a Lion, but in your "real life" as well.

Registration and course participation is easy. First, know your membership number or see your club secretary who can provide with this valuable information.

Second, log onto the LCI website, go to the Member Center, and click on Leadership Development.

Click on Lion Learning Center and you are there!

Have questions or need assistance? Contact GLT Ev Lyons (lyonsev50@gmail.com) or call 860-584-2560.

VIP Fishing

(continued from page 16)

identified the fish caught and punched a hole in the card corresponding to the type of fish caught. An amazing 2,200 fish were returned to the ocean.

Corporate sponsors are wonderful, but the Connecticut VIP Fishing Tournaments would not have been possible without the financial support of the Berlin Lions Club. We are also grateful for the support our program receives from the Terryville and Plainville Lions Clubs, and from Dr. Jerry Neuwirth.

Zone 2 Report

Zone Chair Jim Trompeter

wind chill is 15 below, but the Spirit of the Lions in the Litchfield Hills is warm and hearty ready to help their Communities the State and Lions International projects throughout the world.

We do have one club that does not hibernate in the winter, the **Bethlehem Lions**, hold their major fundraiser Valentines weekend, their annual **Sweethearts Ball** on Saturday February 14th. If you get the District Spirit prior to this event, I can guarantee you an enjoyable evening at a reasonable price. All the clubs in the Zone were active during the Holiday Season, helping out the Food Banks and the Community Service organizations within their communities.

The **Lions of Litchfield** are gearing up for a busy May, with annual Golf Tournament in late May and the Litchfield Road Race in early June.

New Milford held a very successful car raffle in December, along with hosting a Senior Citizens Christmas party. They are now dreaming of warmer weather and their Gold Tournament in May.

Kent is preparing for the CT Mechanics and Machine Show in May.

Watertown held their annual Christmas Tree Sale in December, and they are now gearing up for a warmer project their Golf Tournament in May.

Washington is starting to plan for their Memorial Day Lobster sale and Festival of Flags

Woodbury is packing away Luminaries; their Christmas Eve show was rained out, but they will be ready for next year. The club did decorate the town green for Christmas, and individual members donated over 700.00 in gift certificates to the Clubs Giving Tree. Their Car Show is coming June 14th.

As of the November report the Zone is up 8 members for the year net and 2 member below last year at this time.

It is still cold and the wind is howling, I look forward to warmer weather for my next article.



Connecticut Lions and fishing aficionados at the 32nd Annual North Carolina VIP Fishing tournament. How many can you name?

COURAGE FOCUS DETERMINATION

Do you have the courage to make your financial future **ROAR?**



As a lions club leader I have helped 186 million children find their courage, strength and focus by preserving and improving their eyesight.

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Projects!

By Bob Casey, Zone

Do you love projects? Do you hate 'em? Most likely, there are some projects you like and others you don't.

It's a fact of life. Some Lions projects go smooth as silk. Others, well, we'd rather let them fade into time soup. Or maybe not.

Maybe there are lessons to be learned from our 'not so good' projects, lessons that might inform and improve other club projects. Maybe those lessons could make a success out of the project that everyone prefers to forget.

Our goal in Zone 3 is to raise everyone's sense of accomplishment while reducing overall frustration. Don't we all want to avoid the "last minute scramble" when someone drops the ball? We can do it through project planning and effective execution.

THE PLAN

Where would our projects be without a plan? Every project has one, but that's just the beginning. We want to execute our Lions plans to a successful conclusion.

To do that, the plan must be simple enough for everyone to understand, yet effective enough to matter. A key element in any plan is addressing the issues we face in addition to the steps that need to be taken, and tracking them both to minimize potential hiccups.

There are a few concepts to understand too, such as how one task or person or resource can impact others. We call these impacts "dependencies" and often find that hiccups occur when members of the project team don't understand them. There are several

more concepts, such as due dates, resources, critical paths and communications, that help projects go more smoothly when everyone buys in.

Our next Zone 4 meeting (via webex to save travel time) will focus on these concepts as well as the techniques that make those concepts work. In the spring, we will report on how we did, the results we achieved, and tips that can help your club complete more projects successfully.

We're all in this together. Stay tuned.



International Director Karla Harris will share her experience of "Rockin' the Vest" – a promotional rap video for Lions at this year's Combined District 23 Mid-Winter Conference

*"Be a pro at what you do. No one shows-up to meetings of the Unsuccessful Skydivers Club."
— Ryan Lilly*

Mid-Winter Conference

Guest Speaker
International Director
Karla N. Harris

International Director Karla Harris is an active member of the South Milwaukee Lions Club whose public relations efforts and volunteer work has raised the profile of the organization in her area and internationally.

In addition to serving as a corneal tissue transporter, preschool vision screener, and eye glass mission volunteer, Harris supports Blind Outdoor Leisure Development (B.O.L.D) Racing, an effort that allows visually impaired people to get behind the wheel of a race car with the assistance of a sighted person. Blind Outdoor Leisure Development (B.O.L.D). She was also pivotal in the creation of the "Rockin' the Vest" Lions rap video, a public service announcement featuring Lions in her area rapping about community service.

In recognition of her service to the association, she has received numerous awards, including the Leadership award, Membership Advancement Key Award, the Knight of Sight Fellowship and one International President's Medal. She was honored by the White House as a "Champion of Change" for her work to raise awareness for the visually impaired.

ID Harris is excited about sharing her experiences as a Lion at our 2015 Mid-Winter Conference.



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



LOOKING FOR ALL **FUN** LIONS

Harness your coconuts,
Comb out your grass skirts for our ...

FRIDAY NIGHT

THEME

HAWAIIAN LUAU

HOSPITALITY ROOM # 352. 6-8pm.
SERVING FINGER FOOD & DRINKS

MAIN BALLROOM 8-10pm.

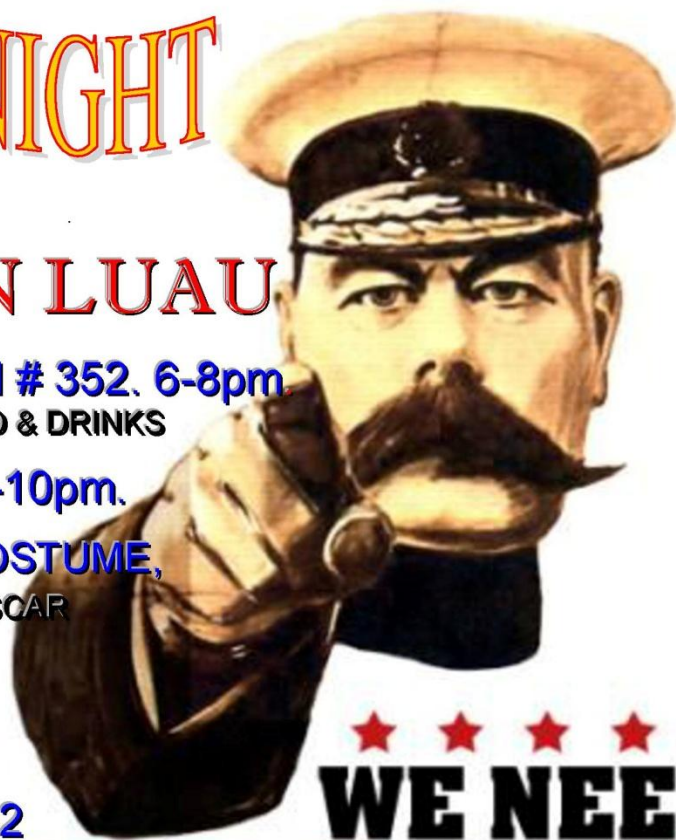
LIONS SKITS, BEST COSTUME,
DANCING TO D.J. LION OSCAR
CASH BAR & SNACKS

RAFFLES
TO SUPPORT VDG'S

Hospitality Room # 352
FROM 10PM...

JOIN THE CAMARADARIE

AND **FUN**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
WE NEED

YOU!

.....We promise you'll laugh!

Windsor Lions Donate to Voices Against Lyme Disease

At a recent meeting the Windsor Lions donated \$400 to “Voices Against Lyme Disease”, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the disease and the resources available to people who have contracted it.

Bonnie Waterhouse and her son Darren, of Windsor, started the campaign about Lyme disease awareness earlier this year. Darren, now 41, contracted the disease when he was a teenager and has struggled with it ever since.

The mother and son team are creating a forum where people can learn more about Lyme disease, how to help prevent it, treatment options, and the support groups available to them. To learn more about the organization, you can visit

www.facebook.com/voicesagainstlymedisease.ct.A



Shown in the photograph is Windsor Lions President Deborah Orth as she presents the check to Bonnie Waterhouse.

“Great ideas doesn't need approvals, they need application.”
— Amit Kalantri

More Than a Newsletter

By Robert Bessel

The District Spirit - our beloved newsletter – is so much more than a publication for Lions. It's a chronicle of what Lions do. It's a statement about who we are and what's important to us. It's one of the best ways to inform the general public about Lions.

When you approach local businesses to participate in your club's service project or fundraiser, do you hand them a copy of the District Spirit? Do you highlight articles about your club? Do you draw their attention to a great project somewhere else in District 23B?

The District Spirit may be one of the best tools we have for recruiting new Lions and gaining support in our communities. It's also a great way to draw attention to the businesses that advertise in the Spirit. That's another reason to approach people in your area.

If you wonder what the District does for your club, wonder no longer. Among the conventions, the classes and camaraderie, we have the District Spirit. We invite you to use this publication to grow your club – both in influence and membership. It's a great way to help you serve.

Partner with Walgreens

By Lion Kiki Tucker

Did you know about a service that Walgreens provides the communities they serve?

They offer “Brown Bag” events, hosted at local Senior Centers, where participants are asked to bring in their medications. A Walgreens pharmacist reviews their medication and offers advice to them. They also can counsel people about Medicare Part D, offer free

blood pressure tests, and, at some events, they can provide flu and/or pneumonia vaccinations, directly billing their insurance carrier, or provide them for free if you're a veteran with a VA Hospital ID card.

The pharmacist also explains that they can provide easy-open containers for people who have problems with the child-proof caps. For those with visual impairments, they describe the talking-pill reminder caps they sell [*Ed: We featured this in the August 2014 District Spirit, page 9*].

Where do we, as Lions, fit in?

Why not plan a health event in your community. There's no reason why your club can't work together with your local Walgreens to bring a full range of health services to your town. Contact me to arrange the connection with your local store.

Explain what you, as Lions, do in the local community, the state, and around the world. Offer to help set up and assist at the event. Invite other health professionals to participate in the event. Some ideas are:

- Offer senior eye screenings at the same time
- Invite visiting nurses in to explain their services
- Have a representative from a medical supply company come in and explain the things that are, and are not, covered by insurance
- Bring in a physical therapist to show some simple exercises that help senior joints stay limber
- Ask a local doctor or nurse practitioner to attend and explain about diabetes health

Now that the holidays have passed, it's the perfect time to schedule a senior health fair. You can reach me by email, kiki73055@hotmail.com, to arrange an introduction to your local Walgreens.



Take Better Pictures!

With almost every cell phone having a camera, and the affordable price of digital cameras, picture taking is easier than ever. However, if you're taking pictures to share or to print, you may find that the results aren't what you expected. Here are some hints to help you take better pictures:

1) Pick the right light: The best time to take a picture is early morning, or late afternoon. Try to avoid the harsh noon sun. Soft/diffused lighting is best—shoot your subject under a tree or in shade to eliminate harsh contrast. A bright, overcast day is great for eliminating shadows.

2) Use your flash correctly: Outdoors, turn on your flash to provide a "fill" that eliminates shadows. Indoors, turn off your flash and open window shades for more natural lighting. Turn on more lights, if you need them. Make sure you adjust your white balance for the lighting—fluorescent lights cast a green tint, for example.

3) In low light situations, even with a flash, you may want to stabilize the camera to get a picture without blurs. For cell phones or small digital cameras, brace it against a pillar, a tree, or even the edge of a table. For larger cameras, a tripod or monopod may be the best way to keep your camera from shaking. Keep in mind that if you zoom in on a subject, even the tiniest shake is magnified. It's better to move closer to your subject than to use the zoom.

4) Your subject is the whole point of the photo. Get close to your subject to fill the frame with it, and reduce the amount of background visible. Most cameras will allow you to focus on your subject by holding the shutter button halfway down, and then you can frame the shot before

you push it down all the way. If you have aperture control, open it as wide as you can to reduce depth of field so it will make the background less distracting—unless the background is part of the reason you're taking the picture.

5) Don't shoot with the sun directly behind you—it makes your subject squint. Try to keep the sun at a 45-degree angle between you and the subject—over your shoulder, instead of at your back.

6) Action! A picture of your subject performing a task is much more interesting than the standard group shot.

7) Adopt a new perspective! Lie on the ground and shoot up at your subject. Stand on a chair and shoot down at them. Take a picture of a child or a pet at their level.

8) Take a lot of pictures. A picture may look good on the tiny screen on your camera, but it may look a lot different when you look at it full-sized. With digital cameras, those extra shots don't cost you any more money, as they did with film. Change your perspective for some; change the angle of the subject. Play with the difference between vertical and horizontal framing. You may capture that winning picture when you least expect it.

9) If you're planning to edit or print pictures, set your camera to save them at the highest resolution you can. This means you need more memory per picture, but many cameras use removable flash cards, and most can handle 32MB or more. Advanced users may want to save the files in .RAW format instead of .JPG. This will give you the most control in editing. You can always save them in another format to share.

Success with Pediatric Vision Screening

Connecticut Lions have built upon last year's success with pediatric eye screenings, expanding the program to include inner city schools in New Britain, Hartford, Waterbury, and Torrington.

"Last year at this time, we had screened 4,443 children between the ages of six months and six years. This year, we have screened 7,846 children, and are well on our way to screening 12,000 children before our Lions year ends on June 30," said Alan Daninhirsch, one of the original architects of the program.

The goal of the program is for Lions to be the organization that screens all pre-school children in Connecticut for "lazy eye" (amblyopia), strabismus, astigmatism, near sightedness, far sightedness and several other diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 14 million Americans aged 12 and older suffer from visual impairment, one of the most common disabling childhood conditions that strikes 6.8 percent of those younger than 18. More than 80 percent of these cases could be corrected.

Recent studies have shown that as many as 20 percent of students diagnosed with attention deficit disorder may actually be suffering from one or more of these eye diseases.

"By detecting these diseases early in the child's life, they can be corrected and the child can achieve more in school and in life," Daninhirsch said.

"The sauce to meat is ceremony; Meeting were bare without it."
— William Shakespeare, Macbeth



64TH ANNUAL MD23 LIONS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

February 6-8, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel
100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416



Honolulu, Hawaii ~ Aloha Hawaii Theme

Featuring Lions Clubs International Director Karla Harris (Wisconsin)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION							
Lion / Lioness Name:			Current Position:		District: (circle) 23A / 23B / 23C		
Club		Veteran (Branch):		Badge Name Preference:			
Street address:			Home Phone #: ()		Other phone if preferred #: ()		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	Email Address:		First Mid-Winter Conference? Yes / No		
Other Attendees Names:		Badge Name Preferences:		First Mid-Winter? Yes / No	Indicate Lion Position / Title If Applicable		
				Yes / No			
				Yes / No			

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS

(Registration Forms must be received no later than January 27, 2015. NO REFUNDS after January 31, 2015)

Make Checks Payable to "2015MD23 Mid-Winter Conference" and mail with form to cover all selections below to:

Registration Chair Lion Cindy Cooper
287 South Elm Street
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860) 627-9777 cindybcooper287@aol.com

\$5 LATE FEE

MEAL AND REGISTRATION PLANS

Plan	# of persons	Cost	Total
a. Registration (Includes Friday Night Entertainment, Hospitality, and Saturday Seminars – no meals)		@ \$20.00 each	\$
b. Saturday Lunch (Chicken Entrée with Dessert)		@ \$29.00 each	\$
c. Saturday Cocktail Reception and Banquet (NY Strip Steak OR Salmon OR Vegetarian Entrée)	_____ Steak	@ \$45.00 each	\$
	_____ Salmon		
	_____ Asian Stir Fry		
d. Sunday Breakfast Buffet		@ \$23.00 each	\$
e. Children 10 & Under Saturday Lunch <i>only</i> - children's menu (no registration)		@ \$29.00 each	\$
TOTAL DUE: <i>remember to include registration fees for all attendees</i>			\$
Please indicate any food allergies on reverse of this form and identify the person(s) with need.			

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Hotel Reservations are to be made directly through the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 1-860-635-2000
The Lions room rates are: \$96.00 (Standard per room/per night plus tax).
Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter Conference.
Room rate prices are good through January 24, 2015, so reserve yours today!

Mid-Winter Seminars

Seminar #1 Topic

“The Electronic LCI - Accessing the Information You Need When You Need It”

This seminar will touch on navigating around MyLCI and accessing valuable information on the Lions Clubs website. Information will be shared about the data that is available, how to update information for your Lions Club and who can access specific information. Learn why we report what we report and the bigger picture of the value of that information. Secretaries can become more efficient with their electronic filings, Treasurers can make electronic payments, and Club Presidents have access, too. Lots of information in less than one hour!

Presenter Biography

Lion Kathy Randall, 2nd VDG for District 23B, has been a Lion for 21 years. She has served as Cabinet Secretary twice and has presented many seminars, including Secretary/Treasurer training, Membership Chair training and Leadership Development. As a graduate of both Train the Trainer and Senior Lions Leadership Institute, Kathy is a qualified presenter and very knowledgeable about the “Electronic LCI”.

Seminar #2 Topic

"Aloha...Aloha...AnyoneThere?" Hearing Problems? How the Lions Can Help!"

This seminar will provide an overview of the Lions' Hearing and Speech services, and what the future may bring. Critical information for you to take back to your clubs!

Presenter Biography

Lion Chris McCormick has been a Lion for the past 6 years and, in that time, was honored to be the

President of his AAA Lions Club, Co-Chair (with his wife, Lion Phyllis) of District 23C's Hearing and Speech Committee these past 4 years, and twice Chair of the MD23 Hearing and Speech Committee. He and Phyllis have 3 children and 4 grand-kids which, hopefully, will someday also be Lions! It has been his pleasure to have met so many good people associated with the Lions, and had a small part in helping serve the community's needs on behalf of the Lions.

Seminar #3 Topic

"Pediatric Eye Screenings: An Overview"

This seminar will include a brief overview of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (“CLERF”) and its support program for our pediatric eye screening program – Kids Sight USA. Inspiration on why this program is so important to the young children in our own communities. How this program has grown and how to grow it further...moving forwards. We will share personal experiences and demonstrate the advanced Spot Camera used in these screenings. The presenters will describe the protocol followed to conduct a screening, and will conclude with a few words on the adoption, marketing and launch of Kids Sight USA, using MD23 as the model. A seminar not to be missed!

Presenter Biography

Lion John Bradshaw, a member of the East Haddam Community Lions, has been a Lion since 2001. He has been a member of the District 23C Cabinet for several years, served as a Zone Chair, 3 years as CLERF Chair, and is currently serving as Region 3 Chair. Lion John is also 23C District Coordinator for Pediatric Vision Screening. A graduate of Train the Trainer and a Certified Guiding Lion, he has presented seminars at Lions Leadership Forums and the Mid-

Winter Conference. He is an enthusiastic advocate of this program.

Kiki's Member Spotlight

By Lion Kiki Tucker



Lions Carol and Harry from the Harwinton Club suggested this month's Spotlight.

This Lion works at every event and has chaired or co-chaired all of the major club fundraisers at one time or another. You can find him working in the Lions Chili Booth at the Harwinton Fair, working in the kitchen at the Annual Lions Scholarship Pancake Breakfast, delivering Christmas baskets to the needy, and chaperoning high school kids at Safe Harbor events. He is one of three Harwinton Lions who founded the “Concert for Sight” in July, 2004.

This Lion has appeared many times on “Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry.” He has been a guest on “Lion Around CT” WAPJ with host Enfield Lion Pete Cianciolo. He is also a member of our Harwinton Lions KidSight USA team.

This Lion is very patriotic and donated the large American flag that he faithfully brings to every Lions dinner meeting. He refurbished our club banner, and now brings it to all the Harwinton Lions meetings.

He is a past Harwinton Lion of the Year, an Ambassador of Sight, and a Melvin Jones Fellow. He currently serves as 1st Vice-President.

In his younger years, he served as a boxing referee and was a competitive water skier. These days, in the summer, you can find this Lion on the waters of Bantam Lake aboard his boat.

In our Lions Club, he goes by four names – Gary, Chick, Chickie, and the Chickster! If you have not already guessed, this is Harwinton Lion **GARY CICOGNANI**.



64TH ANNUAL MD23 LIONS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



Connecticut Leos Mid-Winter Conference

Saturday, February 7, 2015
 Crowne Plaza Hotel
 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

With Lions Clubs International Director Karla Harris (Wisconsin)

Connecticut Leo/Leo Advisor Registration Form

- Complete this registration form for each Leo/Advisor attending.
- Registration fee per person is \$20.00 and includes lunch.
- Make checks payable to the "2015 MD23 Mid-Winter Conference."
- Mail completed registration form and a check to cover all costs to: Lion Diana Grisé, 2 Autumn Ridge Drive, Windham, CT 06280. For more information call (860) 456-1980 or email diana.grise@snet.net.
- Deadline for registration is January 23, 2015. Please return registration form(s) & payment promptly.

LEO MEMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

CLUB NAME _____ LEO OFFICE HELD _____

PARENT(S) _____ HOME PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ PARENT'S CELL PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

LEO ADVISOR _____ DISTRICT _____

CLUB NAME _____ LION OFFICE HELD _____

First Name preference on badge
 (Please Print) _____

Schedule of events, speaker(s) and program content to be announced.

Leo Registration	8:45 a.m. ~ 9:30 a.m.
Leo Program and General Meeting	9:30 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.
Leo Lunch	12:15 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.
Leo Program	1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Please note any dietary restrictions (i.e., Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Kosher, Allergies, etc.):

T-shirt size: _____ (if registration not received by JANUARY 23, 2015 no guaranty on t-shirt!)

Bill Dowling is Guest Speaker at Windsor Lions Meeting

At a recent meeting of the Windsor Lions, the guest speaker was Bill Dowling, former co-owner and general manager of the New Britain Rock Cats. Bill had fascinating tales to tell about his legal career, his relationship with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and his years with the Rock Cats.

A Holyoke native, a Columbia alum and a 1973 grad of the Boston College Law School, he began his career as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan for four years. He then became chief of the New York State Attorney General's criminal division for six years, during which time he met Steinbrenner, who offered Bill the job as General Counsel for the Yankees (George wanted an aggressive prosecutor in the position).

Because he was a die-hard Sox fan, and knew of Steinbrenner's mercurial style, Bill said he had to think hard about accepting the job, but he did and held it for three years, then for two more as outside counsel. Dowling said "George was a great person to be a lawyer for because everybody feared him." He also said George fired him about seven times, but each time only for about a minute until he regained his composure.

A couple of Bill's favorite Yankee players were Don Mattingly and Dave Winfield, and his favorite manager was Lou Pinella. Bill recalled a story about the fourth game of the season in 1984: Bobby Meacham flubbed a ground ball and George was on the phone to Pinella right away, telling him to send Meacham down to AA immediately.

Then there was a 1988 game with the Twins that the Yankees seemed to have in hand, only to have Dave Righetti give up the tying run. Even though the Yankees eventually won, Steinbrenner called a late night

District Officers

Mike Wilcox
District Governor

Steve Daigle
First Vice District Governor

Kathy Randall
Second Vice District Governor

Carol Kearns
Secretary

Harry Schuh
Treasurer

Howard Lang
Zone 1 Chair

Jim Trompeter
Zone 2 Chair

Haolyn Erickson
Zone 3 Chair

Bob Casey
Zone 4 Chair

Tina Rafala
Zone 5 Chair

Winston Barnaby
Zone 6 Chair

Josh Cohen
Zone 7 Chair

Peter Nevers
Zone 8 Chair

meeting with his managers to find out exactly why Righetti had given up the run to begin with.

As to his thirteen years with the Rock Cats, Dowling had nothing but praises for New Britain, saying the team had a great relationship with the city. After selling the team to the new owners, Bill stayed on as President for two years, but did not know of ownership's plans to relocate to Hartford. He said that, had he known, he would have counseled against the idea because of how well the team had always done in New Britain. He mentioned that the day he gave up his position as president was the day the team announced the potential move to Hartford.

He believes that the new affiliate of the Colorado Rockies will be in for some very expensive negotiations with New Britain in order to play there while the new stadium is readied, which he thinks will be about four or five years away.

When asked about what he is doing these days, Bill mentioned that he is considering a few options; meanwhile he is happy being the chairman of the United Way in the New Britain-Berlin area.



Bill Dowling, former owner of the New Britain Rock Cats, speaking to the Windsor Lions

Connecticut Lions Present
the MD23 64th Annual

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

February 6-8, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell CT

Every Waipahē Wahine & Kāne* is invited!

Join us for a maika'i nui loa** Friday Night Luau,
Saturday Luncheon, Banquet & Seminars , & More!

*Good Natured Woman & Man
**very, very good

Bring your Grass Skirts, Leis, Coconuts and
raise your palms for a fantastic weekend!
Tropical breezes replace winter freezes.

Come visit the Ho`okipa lumi
(Hospitality Room)



International Guest:
International Director Karla Harris
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

