

DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

February 2016

In this issue:

- 1st VDG Kathy Randall
- Guide Dogs
- Lion Around Connecticut
- LEPH
- KidSight
- Fidelco
- LEOs
- USA/Canada 2016
- "Making A Difference"
- Mid-Winter 2016

Club Highlights:

Hartland	3
New Britain	3
Berlin	3
Rocky Hill	4
Rocky Hill Veterans	4
Hartford	
West Indian	4
Woodbury	9
Windsor	10
Avon	15

Happy New Year, fellow Lions!

I hope you enjoyed a festive December and time with family and friends. Many thanks to all who attended my Holiday Party at Terryville Congregational Church. I am grateful for the support I have received from so many of you during the first half of my year as your District Governor, and I look forward to a very successful remainder of my year. Club visitations have resumed, and our Joint Zone Meetings are being held in January. Club leaders, please make every effort to attend your Zone Meetings, as these meetings provide an opportunity to share information about your club's events and activities, as well as district and LCI news.

As we kick off 2016, as a District we are down 19 members. With your help, we can turn this negative into a positive. Please reach out to my Global Membership Team Leader, Lion Harry Schuh, if you have any questions regarding membership recruiting or retention.

Lions Day at the United



Words from the DG

By Steven Daigle, District Governor

Nations (with an Invitation for Your Leos, Too!)

Mark your calendars to attend the 38th Annual Lions Day with the United Nations ("LDUN") on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Hear from the Carter Center and UN Women and be amongst the first to celebrate this year's winners of the International Peace Poster and Essay Contests. LDUN participants also have the option to attend the popular Lions-UN luncheon with invited ambassadors in the Delegates Dining Room. Seating is limited and offered on a first come, first served basis. As this event sold out last year, reserve your spot now so you don't miss this exciting event. The cost to Lions is \$75 per person. We hope to have enough interest to offer bus transportation, at an additional charge. Deadline to register is January 29, 2016.

Also this year, Past International President Al Brandel has arranged for Leos and Leo Advisors to attend this year's LDUN.



A youth component has been incorporated into the day that is sure to engage our youth/Leos. Only 100 spots for Leos are available, and I hope some of our OUR Leos and advisors will attend. The make-up of this youth component is as follows:

During the morning session, we've secured a dynamic youth keynote speaker. A special Leo-UN Luncheon inside the UN's South Dining Room is being offered to all Leos who register to attend (see more info below)

During the afternoon session, we will reveal the Peace Poster and Essay Contest Winners

We've also added a Leo from Canada to represent the voice of youth during a gender equality roundtable that is sure to be amazing and leave the audience with a call to action.

Greetings from East Hartford

1st Vice District Governor, Kathy Randall

As District Governor Steve Daigle relayed his remarks at recent Cabinet and Council meetings, we have completed the first half of the Lions year 2015-2016. As clubs, we still have plenty of opportunities to fulfill your established goals for this year. Did you plan to induct 3 new members in your club? Did you do a Community Needs Assessment to develop a new service project? Did the service project fulfill your expectations? Time is available and you can reach your goals, if you have not already.

This is also the time to begin planning for the next year.

According to the Lions Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws, an officer nominating committee will be established by **March¹**. The Club votes on the proposed slate of officers at an **April** meeting, and the Secretary can report new officers to Lions Club International by **May 1, 2016²**. Completing the Club Officer Report (formerly known as the PU 101) is an important step as we all prepare for the next Lions year.

The club president, secretary, and treasurer comprise the core of the club officer team. Working as a team, they provide effective club leadership, develop team strategies, coach and motivate the membership, and monitor overall performance of the club.

The **Membership/ Orientation Chair** is also an important position in each Lions Club. Their duties are NOT to look for new members, but to work with the club and district leadership teams to develop a club membership growth and retention plan. As a club leader and motivator, they encourage the club membership to recruit quality members, prepare, and implement member orientation sessions, and participate in Zone or District membership activities.

Other positions within your club offer your membership the opportunity to learn more about our organization and our projects, and encourages greater participation by your membership in club and district activities; and the bonus—everybody develops skills.

Depending on the size of your club, you may have **Directors** serving 1-year or 2-year terms. The Board of Directors is established with the club officer team. The **Tail Twister** promotes harmony and good fellowship at meetings. Remember, the Tail Twister cannot be fined except by unanimous vote of all members present. The **Lion Tamer** is responsible for the property of the club. This Lion brings the bell, gavel, flags and banners, name badges and any other materials needed during a club meeting.

At the Lions Club website (www.lionsclubs.org), the Lions Learning Center offers all Lions the opportunity to sharpen their knowledge of Lions fundamentals and leadership skills through online, interactive courses. Available through the Leadership Resource Center, courses related to public relations, motivating members, managing meetings, public speaking, and managing service projects are included. Check out the site

<http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/index.php> and enroll in a course to hone your skills – you could be the next Lion Leader!

¹ Constitution - Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws (la2.pdf)

² Club Officers Team Manual (la15.pdf)



Service Dogs

PDG Dick Foote and Lion Bud Johnson reports that Fidelco is opening a new facility in Wilton in mid-February. It will house administrative, training and public relations offices. It will give Fidelco a presence closer to New York.

The annual Open House is May 14. There will be blindfold walks, tours, kennel walks, and the club check presentation. Fidelco has clients in 25 states and 5 Canadian provinces.

Because the total cost for a dog is \$45,000, which includes all the overhead costs, most clubs cannot afford to support a dog. However, there are other areas where a club can provide support such as sponsoring a van. There is a \$35,000 LCIF grant that Fidelco is looking to match. A sponsorship of a kennel mural is \$3000 for 3 years; kennels are \$1000 a year and is renewable (the club's name will be on kennel); and training harness, \$250. LEOs may be interested in supporting the harnesses. The Good Shepard Award is available for a one-time \$1,000 donation.

Hartland Lions Club

Time for skiing, skating and snowballs. At least I think so, but if December is any indication, all the ski resorts may have a hard season. While we did enjoy the warm weather we have to admit - It was not like December in New England - and another Christmas without even a coating of snow - Poor Santa. It is bound to get cold and snowy, so sharper those skates and sled runner or stock up on fire wood, hot toddy and be ready to settle in.

Hartland Lions have been busy: In October, with the assistance of new, very enthusiastic art teacher at the elementary school, we reviewed twenty entries in our 20th participation in the annual "Peace Poster" project. Sent our top choice on the District with our fingers crossed. All the posters were displayed at the annual school Christmas concert at which time we presented Barns and Noble gift certificate awards to the three top choices and a Thank You to the teacher for her enthusiasm. This is a worthy project. We encourage all clubs to participate in. There is an article in the latest "Lions" magazine under Club Talk. Look at it and consider getting involved.

October was very busy. Our annual free Senior Roast Beef Dinner for all our seniors, with all the fixin's, was held in November. Filled

the firehouse with eager talkative seniors for a great meal and time to visit before the Snow Birds leave for the season and the colder weather keeps us inside.

Huge Tag Sale over the Columbus Day weekend added nicely to our coffers for work in the community.

Upcoming, hope you get this before it happens and can join us. Our Annual Soup and Sandwich Extravaganza on January 30, 4 to 7 PM, East Hartland Fire House. 12 to 14 homemade soups and stews, grilled ham and cheese sandwiches and good comradery. \$8 adults, \$5 children, under 3 free. Hope you can join us.

If you miss the soup then join us for a unique Fun Night Square Dance, 19 March, at the Nellie B West House in East Harland (Route 20 toward Granby). You do not need to know how, just be willing to try. Professional Caller Gene King will teach and lead us through basic fun square dancing and lines.

\$15/person, hot appetizers', desserts, BYOB. 18 years of age and over. All proceeds to benefit local and Lion programs. For those who were at the dance last year this promises to be another night of fun. So get your boots, hats and be ready to dosado.

Happy New year to all our Lion friends. May it be a year of PEACE.

New Britain Lions KidSight Program Reaches Record Numbers

Under the able leadership of PDG Alan Daninhirsch, the New Britain Lions are about to break their own record for screening pre-school and elementary school age children.

"We should screen our 6,500th child later this week. Our collaboration with the Connecticut Eye Bank has been crucial, enabling us to use two machines simultaneously. And this year we began early in the fall and avoided all those pesky snow days that made scheduling so complicated last year," Lion Alan explained. He also reported that referrals to optometrists and ophthalmologists have been averaging about 17%.

"Another benefit to the club has been the opportunity for members to do some real, 'hands on' service. Raising money is, of course, gratifying. But the 12-15 members who were doing the actual screenings were right there interacting with those wonderful children," Alan added. "It makes you feel really good."

Berlin Lions Club

The Berlin Lions Club have had a busy fall and holiday season! Starting with its annual agricultural fair, they also cleaned up their sponsored playground - Friendship Place and performed a community project - raking leaves for some community residents. Several senior citizen dinners were held and many food bank collections were conducted.

With their enthusiastic members gaining momentum the Berlin Lions continued into the holiday season by preparing and delivering hot Thanksgiving Meals to Town

residents and gift shopped and delivered Christmas gifts and food baskets to over fifty families in need. Members also managed to decorate the Lions sponsored Gazebo at Veterans Party for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. They also managed a few eye screening events for children.

After a brief winter break, they are beginning the planning and organizing for their annual Wine Tasting Event (May 7, 2016) and of course their Annual Agricultural Fair (Sept 30, Oct 1&2).

Lion Eileen Driscoll Graduates Lions University

By Ev Lyons, 23 GLT

Lion Eileen Driscoll of the East Hartford Lions Club is our first graduate of the District 23B Lions University. Lion Eileen completed the required coursework in public speaking, conflict resolution, Lions leadership, goal setting, and member motivation to earn her certificate. Lion Eileen will be honored at the District Governor's Breakfast in 2016.

"Making a Difference"

International Vice Presidential Candidate PID Lion Carolyn Messier has been spreading the word about how Lions are "Making a Difference".

This year, at the MD23 Mid-Winter Conference, we invited every club in the state to tell a story about how they've made a difference in their community in the past year. Ten clubs rose to the challenge. The Winners were announced at the MD23 Mid-Winter Banquet.

The Third Place winner, The Norwich Lions Club (23C), worked with the Leffingwell House museum to create a "Touch of History" display for the visually impaired.

The second place winner, The Greater Hartford West Indian Lions Club's (23B) project helped children by donating school uniforms to needy children (see article below).

The first place winner, the Cheshire Lions Club, has been hosting a dinner dance for the visually impaired throughout the state since

The Cheshire Lions ask other clubs in the state to sponsor the guests from their community, but no one is turned away for lack of a sponsor. Invitations, printed in Braille, are sent to invitees, and this year, over 160 guests and their drivers mingled with Lions.

Two clubs received Honorable Mentions:

The Meriden Lions Club has been working since 1994 to make improvements to the Quinnipiac River Gorge Linear Walking Trail, and other support for the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, including providing improvements to their headquarters.

The Wolcott Lions sponsor five American Red Cross blood drives each year. The Lions staff the collection venue and work with the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary and their own LEOs to provide refreshments to donors.

Congratulations to all who entered. Thanks for all that you do!

Rocky Hill Lions

The Rocky Hill Lions Club held their Christmas Party at the home of Lions Phil and Mimi Theroux. As a community service project the club donated to the Rocky Hill Human Service un-wrapped toys, canned food, and monetary funds.

February-April the club is working on Kid eye screening for day care and nursery centers.

Our yearly carnival will be held at Elm Ridge Park September 9, 10 and 11, 2016.

Rocky Hill Veterans Lions

The Rocky Hill Veterans have named Lion Edward Jones as their Lion of the Year. Congratulations, Lion Ed.

Over 100 eyeglasses have been collected by the club.

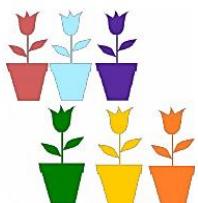
Greater Hartford West Indian Lions Club

The Greater Hartford West Indian Lions Club shows off the school uniforms it donated to needy children at the Fred D. Wish School in Hartford.

Some of these students live in shelters and cannot afford the uniforms that are required by the Hartford Public School system as an anti-bullying measure.

This is the tenth year that the club has donated uniforms. In all, the club estimates that it has donated more than 600 school uniforms.





The Lions Club of South Windsor
Invites you to join us for our annual

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Plant & Bake Sale

Sunday, March 20, 2016

8:30 – Noon

Ellington Fire Station

1175 Ellington Road

South Windsor, Ct.



BUS TRIP

(Sponsored by South Windsor Lions)

To the

SUGARLOAF CRAFT FESTIVAL

At the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, New Jersey

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016

\$55 per person

(Includes bus fare, driver tip and entrance to Craft Festival)

Pick up #1 – Departs 7:30 am Geisler's Market, South Windsor, Ct.

Pick up #2 – Departs 8:45 am Southbury, I-84 Exit 14

Commuter parking lot, Rte. 172 & Main Street South

Return trip departs from Somerset, NJ at 4:30 pm

For more information or to reserve a seat

Contact: Janetrodrigue@comcast.net or call 860-214-0709

On the Road to International President

By 23C Vice District Governor Lion George Salpietro

The time is now, we're ready, and we have the candidate that is perfect for the job. Past International Director (PID) Lion Carolyn Messier is not only the right candidate, but she is the right candidate as we move forward into the next 100 years. "Our campaign is up and running and rolling forward to Chicago in 2017", PID Messier stated.

The journey is a long one that started when PID Messier stepped into the international spotlight as International Director. The process in the undertaking of the endorsement of a candidate for the office of International President is one that MD23 hasn't taken in a long time. We haven't had an International President from Connecticut for 38 years when Joseph McLoughlin from Stamford served as International President in 1977-1978. Since Lions International was formed in 1917, a lot has changed:

In 1917 not only did we not allow women in our organization, women didn't even have the right to vote in our country; that didn't happen until 1920. In fact, we didn't even recognize women as Lionesses until 1975 -- 58 years after Lions were formed! The world is constantly evolving, changing, and improving and the inclusion of women in Lions has allowed clubs to be more versatile in their fundraising and service project efforts.

With the Lions International 100th anniversary taking place in Chicago in 2017, this is the perfect time to bring not only a United States member in as a Vice President, but someone from our proud State of Connecticut! By then it will be 40 years since our own Joseph McLoughlin of Stamford had that honor and it is certainly time for Connecticut to be honored with another International President.

Our candidate has been busy in recent months throughout New England attending Midwinter Conferences and spreading her message of *Making a Difference*. "We have been so warmly received in our travels as we visit old friends and make new ones" states PID Messier.

Anyone who has ever had the opportunity to hear PID Messier speak at a convention or a club meeting always leave having a deeper understanding. They understand not only how passionate she is about what we do as Lions, but leave with a newfound sense of direction and purpose. They leave knowing how important each one of us are to our mission and to our International organization.

Join us in supporting Past International Director Carolyn Messier in her quest for International President. Her commitment, dedication, experience and expertise will certainly be an asset to Lions of Connecticut and throughout the world.



PID and International Vice Presidential candidate Carolyn Messier.

2016 USA-Canada Lions Leadership Forum Omaha, Nebraska Sept. 15-17, 2016

**Leadership ? Service ?
It's what Lions do !**

"Leadership for Service", the theme for the 2016 Forum, reflects our goal of equipping our Lions to meet the Centennial Service challenge in performing 100 million acts of service.

Saturday afternoon will have three large service projects that every attendee will be able to participate in. Corresponding seminars have been added, teaching the skills and organization needed to better prepare service projects at the Club and District level.

Opening night, Thursday brings master illusionist and motivational entertainer, Billy Riggs. On Friday, Lion Jay Blake brings his drag race car "Follow a Dream" to the Forum, along with his amazing story of overcoming a blinding accident to follow his racing dream.

Saturday we look forward to the inspiring words of our then International President, Cahncellor Bob Corlew. We finish the evening with Retired General Dick Abel, who after a long career of military, private sector and public leadership will be talking about the leader within each of us.

Register now via their website:
www.lionsforum.org





**THOMASTON LIONS CLUB
CORNED BEEF DINNER**

SATURDAY MARCH 12TH
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THOMASTON
4:30 TO 7:30 PM

\$12.00 Adults
\$10.00 10 and under
Raffles
Tickets sold at the Door



The Avon Lions Charities, Inc. invites you to their

***** 2016 Pasta Dinner*****

Date/Time:
Friday, April 22 /5:00 –7:30 PM

Location:
**1st Company, Governor's Horse Guard
280 Arch Road, Avon, CT**

Tickets:
At the door or from any Avon Lion
Adults, \$10.00 / Children 5-12, \$5.00
Children 4 and under, Free.



*The South Windsor Lions Club invites you to
Sign up now and join us on
Tuesday, May 10, 2016*



*At
Mohegan Sun Golf Club
7 Dows Lane, Baltic, Ct.
For the*

***South Windsor Lions Club
34th Annual Charity Golf Tournament***

Fee - \$180 per player

Includes 2 mulligans and 20 raffle tickets

Registration 11:30 / Shotgun start 1:00

For more information go to our website

www.swlions.org

Take Time Now to Strengthen Your Club

By GLT Ev Lyons

We are past 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.

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.

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.

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 Ev Lyons (lyonsev50@gmail.com) for support and information.

Project "Help the Homeless"

Announcing **Project Help the Homeless**, a service project every club in our District, regardless of its size, can support. The concept is a simple one: collect one or more, or all, of the items listed below. These items will eventually be packaged into small backpacks or duffle bags, and will be distributed to homeless within your community.

Items to be collected can include:

- Personal care items (travel size works best), including deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, and gender-specific items, ie. shavers, feminine products, etc.
- Cold weather apparel, such as socks, hats, gloves, mittens
- Wash cloth and/or hand towel
- Personal size fleece blanket
- Food items, such as peanut butter or cheese-filled crackers, small canned meat or peanut butter, granola bars, juice box or bottled water, etc.
- Small cash donations, between \$2-\$5 per bag
- Bags, boxes or backpacks

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. These are just some suggestions; there is a long list of items we can incorporate into these kits.

Please discuss this matter as a

club. Understand that this is meant to be an ongoing project within the District, and not a one-time-only commitment.

You may consider partnering with one or more civic organizations or the social service agency within your community, or perhaps with the schools within your community. If you are willing to participate, you should identify one or two people in the club to chair this service project.

The next step would be to identify the appropriate agency within your town to work with to set up a designated collection area.

Suggested drop-off locations can include your town hall, local library, or your town schools (especially those with a Leo club, so they can be a part of your project).

Once you have collected items, they will be combined with items collected by other clubs within the District, and then the bags will be assembled and distributed through Lions Clubs to local communities that have identified needs.

The goals of this project are multi-faceted. First, you will be helping your local government to identify and address the needs of the homeless within your community. Your club will become more visible within your community, and by demonstrating your concern for those less fortunate, you may actually attract new members interested in being a part of this initiative.





Lion Around Connecticut

With Carol and Harry

Lion Around Connecticut co-host Harry Schuh reports that they have completed 140 shows which are seen on 4 different cable companies in the District. To get on a company's schedule, the program needs a sponsor who is a subscriber to the cable company. They will be attending the District C Humanitarian Dinner in New London.

Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry is broadcast on Charter in Winsted (their home studio), Cablevision in Litchfield, Charter in Newtown, and Nutmeg TV in Farmington. To view the last five shows on the Internet:

- Go to www.ctv191.com
- 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

Contact them by email:
carolkearns@charter.net or
hschuh@charter.net or by phone:
(860) 485-9018

Thomaston Lion Club

Thomaston is gearing up for their annual Corned Beef Dinner on March 12. Look for the ad in the District Spirit! All proceeds go toward our Scholarship fund. In November we held a food drive and bake sale for our local Food Pantry and Crisis Fund. We also did a "Shake the Can" event to raise money for our Crisis Fund and in just 2 hours we raised \$1200!

We also volunteered at "Light up Thomaston" by giving out free Clam Chowder. Thanks Lion Patti Kelly for donating it! At our January meeting we are inducting new members along with the Leos Club. We welcome all of you to this wonderful organization. We wish the best of luck to the Mid-Winter Conference and look forward to seeing many of you there.

LEPH

By Chair PDG Dan Uitti

PDG Dan Uitti reports that 8500 kids have been screened so far this year, which puts the district on course for 16,000 children by the end of the year in June.

He will be phasing 12-13 additional new machines into service as the LCI grant and the CLERF fundraising comes in for their purchase. This will require teams to manage the machines.

The Bloomfield's eye screening nearly didn't happen, but the club was able to convince the new principal to hold the event. They will likely be able to screen for a second week.

New Britain recently screened 6,000 kids. Sister District 23A had been unable to get into the Waterbury schools. PDG Dan, as a member of the CLERF board, was able to speak to the Board of Education Health Director who is now enthusiastic about the program. There is now a contract awaiting the mayor's signature to have the Lions do the eye screening rather than the school nurses. There are about 6,000 children in the Waterbury school district. This is the beginning of a cross-district effort.

Connecticut Lions have screened 42,000 children and have found over 5,000 vision problems. There are 200,000 pre-school age children in the state so we still have a lot of work left to do.

We have doubled our numbers from last year.

This is what Lionism is all about.

Woodbury Lions Club

Once again, the Woodbury Lions kicked off the holiday season with their traditional Thanksgiving Feast at the Curtis House Inn, where they

DISTRICT
CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

Qspirit

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

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presented a check for \$1000 to Bob Taylor, President of the Woodbury Community Services Council. Along with this, the club collected eight bins of non-perishable food for the Woodbury Food Bank, and gave them another \$1000 in gift cards from their "Giving Tree."

From there, the Woodbury Lions really began to get into the holiday mood. The decoration of the bandstand at the town's North Green took place the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and work began on the Christmas Eve Luminaria display. With temperatures in the 60's and clear skies, over 100 members and volunteers set thousands of luminaria along two miles of Main Street.

Now on to the Car Show in June!

Zone Two Report

By Zone Chair Lion Jim Trompeter

On January 21, Zones 1 & 2 held a successful and informative Zone Meeting with over 30 lions in attendance.

One of the larger clubs within one of Zones initiated a discussion on the clubs ability to continue to do the type of fundraisers they currently have. This club has a strong membership but it is an aging one and the ability of the members to handle the physical aspects of putting on a fundraiser is diminishing. Other clubs in the room echoed the same sentiment. The Lions Clubs in these two towns are entering a phase where they are dealing with an aging membership, similar situations I am sure exist throughout the multiple district and beyond.

Our discussion then centered on how do we deal with this problem? The revenue generated by these fundraisers is too significant to walk away from, but at the same time we don't want to burnout the good members we have. One suggestion was to utilize the Leo Club, one club had the Leo's participate with them in one of their fundraisers and they were given a donation for their

efforts, another club lets the Leo's run a food booth at their event and the profits from that booth go to the Leo's. A third club suggested involving other organizations within in their community in the fundraiser, as many of them are dealing with the same situation. Lastly, a suggestion was made to have neighboring clubs work together. One club assisted another in selling raffle tickets and made a quick \$500.

From this it can be learned that working together or utilizing sources outside your own organization, clubs can continue to put on the successful fund raisers they have in the past, a stronger community spirit can be developed, and the potential of getting new members increases.

I hope you find this food for thought. We agreed to discuss this further at our next Zone Meeting.

Below is a brief summary of what is taking place in the clubs:

Bethlehem: Mid-Winter Dance February 13th. This is a new twist to their Sweethearts Ball. Contact 203 558 8680 for information and reservations.

Litchfield: Held a successful joint Christmas party with Harwinton. They are working on new meeting format to get better attendance. Their fundraising activity starts in May.

New Milford: Heavy focus on developing membership. Held their annual Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens. Their activities start in earnest in June.

Kent: Held successful fundraisers this past fall, actively involved in the community over the Holiday Season.

Washington: Lobster Fest and Field

Watertown: Highly successful Christmas Tree Sale, with the help of the Leos. Put together 150 gift packages for the needy.

Woodbury: Very successful Luminaria presentation Christmas Eve. Community Services Giving Tree: club members with their own money purchased over \$1000 in gifts for the needy in Woodbury.

Windsor Lions Install New Member

In December the Windsor Lions welcomed and installed Bruce Boisture as a new member.

Bruce was pinned by his wife Margaret, who had joined the club just a few months before.

In the photo are Margaret Boisture, President Debbie Orth and Bruce.

The club held an Ugly Holiday Sweater contest that evening and Bruce won it in a landslide.

We are very happy to welcome in two very active new members.





SQUARE DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

7:30 – 10:30 PM

BYOB

Ages 18 and over

Professional Caller - Gene King!
Hot Appetizers & Desserts!

Donation - \$15.00

*Proceeds benefit local charities
(food bank, ambulance, Fidelco)*

Nellie B. West House

Alice Merritt Girl Scout Camp

Route 20, East Hartland, Connecticut

Tickets / Info: Diana Evans 860-653-4395 (evenings)

HARTLAND LIONS CLUB



Watertown Lions Club Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament

Friday May 13th, 2016
Crestbrook Park Golf Course
834 Northfield Rd.
Watertown, CT 06795



Visit

www.watertownctlions.org

To download a registration form
Or Contact Jim Kosloski
860-945-6944 for more information.

Sponsors Needed!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST



ZONES 1-4

DISTRICT 23B

SUNDAY MARCH 6th, 2016

CRYSTAL PEAK

164 TORRINGTON ROAD

WINSTED, CT

8:30 AM

"The Future is Ours"

BEST WISHES TO MID WINTER 2016!



The Woodbury Lions Club Presents their 38th Annual Car Show

Sunday, June 12, 2016
Hollow Park, Woodbury, CT

Food
Music
Vendors
Raffles



And hundreds of vintage cars!

Save the date ...
You won't want to miss it!

www.woodburyctlions.org

Fidelco Stories

"Just Do It"

Ray Collins served in the United States Marine Corps for four years beginning in 1978, and when he received his Honorable Discharge in 1982, he probably thought the biggest challenges of his life were behind him. After all, military service and all its associated training are notoriously tough. Yet less than four years later, Ray was dealt a blow that would put to the test all the grit, perseverance, and strength his military career afforded him.

In March of 1986, Ray was involved in an automobile accident. In the aftermath, he found himself without his sight, the result of a bilateral enucleation, and with an uncertain future. But Ray, at the time a corrections officer with the Plymouth, Massachusetts, County Sheriff's Department, was fully intent on continuing his work. This determination, as well as his desire to remain wholly independent, led him to Fidelco. Within a year, Ray received his first Fidelco Guide Dog, and nearly 30 years later, Ray has not only risen through the ranks in the Sheriff's Department but has done so with a series of Fidelco Guide Dogs leading the way: Yadkin, Frisco, Nala, Spencer, and, today, Bob.

One of Ray's personal mottos is "just do it," and he lives by it—and then some. From his earliest days as a corrections officer to those during which he held the titles of lieutenant, training officer, program services manager, and caseworker (with hundreds of clients), Ray's dedication to public service has been evident, and this was only reinforced when, in 2001, he received his master's degree in criminal justice.

Away from the office, Ray is just as accomplished. A proud member of the United States Association of Blind Athletes, Ray competed as a tandem cyclist from 1993 through 1997 and is a five-time national champion as well as a 1996 Paralympics champion. And, he has

cycled cross country... twice!

Of his remarkable successes and his continual desire, and



uncompromised ability to move forward, Ray says, "I can honestly say that it was the Marine Corps and my Fidelco Guide Dogs that helped me get through some very tough times after my blindness. I have had guide dogs for a long time and don't know where I would be without their assistance. My Marine Corps training and the overall toughness of attitude had a lot to do with my success as well."

Clearly, whatever challenge Ray takes on next, he'll rise to meet, and then far exceed, it—and he'll "just do it" with Fidelco by his side literally every step of the way.

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation **OPEN HOUSE**

& Lions Appreciation Day

**Saturday,
May 14**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Featuring:

- Campus Tours
- Puppy, guide dog and K9 demos
- Experience what it means to "trust the dog" by taking a blindfold walk with a Fidelco Guide Dog
- Lions Hospitality Suite for Lions and their guests



QUESTIONS?
Call Lions Liaison
Kris Fletcher at
860-243-4052
or email
kfletcher@fidelco.org

103 Vision Way Bloomfield, CT
860-243-5200 • www.fidelco.org

The Terryville Lions Club has many exciting events planned for 2016!

Mother's Day Breakfast | Bike Swap & Car Show

July Tractor Pull | VW BUG-A-FAIR Car Show

Terryville Lions Country Fair | Country Campout



Please visit our website for more information!

terryvillelions.org

Woodbury Leos

By Lion Ken Deschino

On Feb 6th, ten Leo club members from the Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug HS attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Cromwell, CT. The Leos met Chai, a 12-week old Fidelco guide dog puppy.

They also listened to a very dynamic guest speaker, Mike Boganski. He is a karate instructor and holds an 8th degree black belt. He talked about how to recognize and defend against bullying as well as using karate to improve on self-esteem and respecting others.

Among their other activities, the Leos have served meals and stocked shelves at the soup kitchen at St. Vincent DePaul. They also helped the Lions with the annual luminaria display on Christmas Eve. Notice the shorts and tee shirts—it was close to 70 degrees that day.



The Woodbury LEOs, along with LEOs from around the state, listen to guest speaker Mike Boganski at the MD23 Midwinter Conference.



The LEOs learned how to recognize and defend themselves against bullying.



One of the long-term projects for Woodbury LEOs is to help out at the soup kitchen at the St. Vincent DePaul Mission in Waterbury.

A couple of LEOs helpers taking a break with members of the Woodbury Lions at Cannon Green while assisting in setting up the annual Luminaria display.



MAKING YOUR LIONS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

By Ev Lyons, LLVC President

As you are reading this article, the holiday season has passed with all its wonderful sights and sounds of the season. The Lions Low Vision Centers directors hope that your holidays were filled with family and friends, delicious food and good cheer.

But think for a minute if your vision was impacted to the extent that those loving faces and heart-filled sights were just a blur or limited to a tiny fraction of what most of us with normal sight take for granted as a field of vision? What if your holiday cards needed to be read by someone to you and your traditional festive dishes no longer were able to be part of your holiday celebration?

Our friends and neighbors with severely impacted sight just spent the holiday season experiencing that sense of frustration and an awareness of their diminished capacities as most of us with normal sight gave little thought to what the season would mean if we, too, were sight-impaired.

Most of us, that is, except for Lions.

We have made it our life's mission to reach out to and aid those whose sight is impaired in a variety of ways. One such way is to support the work of our 23B Lions Low Vision Centers. As you begin this new year, let's make just one more New Year's Resolution to recommit to our sense of service; to be a "knight of the Blind" in the words of Helen Keller.

So what could be your resolution? How about any of the following:

1. To ensure that your club provides transportation to a Lions Low Vision Center for someone in need. Low vision often means limited mobility. Let a center know

that your club can be called upon to transport a client.

2. To promote the existence of our 23B centers in Torrington (Charlotte Hungerford Hospital) and Bristol (Bristol Hospital Rehab Dynamics). What people don't know can hurt them! Low vision can mean a sense of isolation.
3. To work toward establishing a center at your local hospital (We directors are more than willing to assist with the "sales talk". We just need someone locally to help "open the door.").
4. To invite a director to your club meeting to talk about our stories of low vision and how our centers assist our clients. Lions need to know about the good they do.
5. To urge your club to support the low vision centers financially with a donation of any amount. Notice, this is last? Not that funding isn't important with an increased need for free devices to our clients. But there are so many ways you and your club can support us. Helping us isn't always about funding.

The need continues within our communities in light of diminished governmental support to support our fellow citizens in need of low vision assistance.

Let's make 2016 a year in which each of our clubs can look upon our service and be proud that a community member was helped to cope with their loss of vision.

Here's hoping 2016 will be a great year for you and your Lions Club!

Avon Lions Club

The end of 2015 was a busy time for the club, in addition to the individual members' preparations for the holiday season. Over two weeks in October and November we conducted pediatric eye screenings at eight daycare and nursery schools in Avon and screened 264 children with 23 receiving referrals to eye care professionals.

During November and December, we delivered 165 meals to individuals under the McLean Meals on Wheels program. On a warm November day, members cleaned trash from Tillitson Road under the Avon Adopt a Road program. Individual home assistance was provided to several Avon residents ranging from furniture assembly and repair to yard cleanup.

Our annual Harvest Breakfast fundraiser was held on November 15 following a last minute change of venue. Due to floor refinishing, the location was moved from the Avon Senior Center to the Governor's Horse Guard facility. With great assistance from the members of the Horse Guard, the event was very successful and raised nearly \$3,500 to fund our charitable donations. Additionally the new venue provided a tour of the Horse Guard facilities, and a meeting of the horses! Our April Pasta Dinner fundraiser will also be held at this venue.

In December we assisted the Salvation Army with two annual events: Bell Ringing with the Red Kettle including 36 LEO's from the Avon Middle and High Schools and the Holiday Toy Store including 10 LEO's from the Avon High School.



LEOs Update

By Lion Blanche Sewell

WE ARE GROWING

We welcome the Shepaug Valley Leos into Lionism.

There were 17 students inducted into the Leo Club by Leo Chairman Blanche Sewell, with Liaison David Werkhoven from the Washington Lions Club, who is their sponsor. The Officers were installed as Lion David did the honors of giving out the Leo pins to each new member. A special Thank You to Lion David who is now liaison to both the Devereux Glenholm School Leos and the Shepaug Valley Leos. Thanks to the Washington Lions President John Quist and his members for offering their leadership to these Leo clubs and being their sponsor.

This past month Leos were inducted and installed from East Windsor. They had 10 new LEOs, Terryville had 42, Thomaston had 20 and more students are joining.

On January 27th PDG Mike Wilcox will be inducting new members for the Green Wave Leo Club at the New Milford High School.

Many of the Leos in 23B will be attending the Mid-Winter. So far we have over 100 leos registered from districts A,B and C. Last year we had 235.

OFF TO Lions Day at the UN

There will be a special LEO program and lunch, combined with guest LEO speaker from Canada.

I am hoping to get at least 20 Leos from 23 B to go to the UN.

There are only 100 spots for Leos available.

A youth component is being incorporated into the day. This was set up by IPP Al Brandel. He arranged for the LEOs and LEO Advisors to have a special rate of \$30 for LEOs, and \$50 for Advisors.

This included registration and lunch News on the happenings that day will be in the next issue

I will be going with the Vice President Debbie Ciriello from the Winsted Club assisting me with the Leos. PDG Mike Wilcox has arranged for a bus from Farmington, and I have a bus for those in the Northwest corner. I hope we fill both buses.

Leos are active in our community the Nonnewaug HS LEOs have played an active role in the betterment of their community. The Leos sold duck tickets and worked on various venues of the Haunted Hay Ride as well as serving cookies, and carving pumpkins. They are now collecting white socks for the Mid-Winter Conference. The socks will go to service men and women and homeless shelters. Many Leo clubs have been busy during the holidays doing wonderful services for their communities. Please Advisors send the info to me or the District Spirit so other Lions can see how their leadership inspires the Leos.

Where are all our "Retired Lions"?

There is a need for liaisons and advisors and volunteers to help with the Leos. Retired men and women can give their time and talents and leadership to our Leos. Retired Lions—do you have a morning, afternoon or even an evening free at least once a month?

We can give you the opportunity to make a difference in the life of our Leo Club members.

If you are interested, contact Leo Chairman Blanche Sewell by e-mail, blanchs@zoho.com or phone, 860-489-8656.

Lion Blanche is also available to visit Lions clubs to speak about our wonderful Leos.

LCIF

Cabinet LCIF Chair Lion Marty Sandshaw thanks all zone chairs and clubs for their participation in this year's drive to help support LCIF. Forty-one percent of clubs have donated towards the district goal of \$34,000.

Lion Marty stresses that the Monthly Activities reports help LCI determine the District's needs, and how effective clubs are.

Large corporate donors use these numbers for allocating matching funds. Every activity counts, including zone meetings.

The cabinet discussed ways to get more secretaries to file their reports. 1VDG Kathy will reach out and encourage those behind in reporting to come to the Mid-Winter seminar session specifically for secretaries. She has already been working one-on-one with some club secretaries to help them understand the reporting system.

There needs to be better explanation of what constitutes an activity. She has created a chart of activities to report to LCI because the drop down menu on the website is not user friendly. CS Lizette will distribute the chart to the secretaries when she sends out the January reminder.

There will be a table at Mid-Winter with information about Melvin Jones recipients and a video from LCI. PID Carolyn Messier reported that only 40% of clubs worldwide are reporting their Centennial projects.



Breaking News: IPCC Dan DiVirgilio Injured in “Lion of Duty”

Our Friday Night entertainment at the 2016 MD23 Mid-Winter Conference had an unplanned climax when Conference Chair IPCC Dan DiVirgilio made an unexpected trip to the emergency room.

Demonstrating how Lions seize the moment, IPCC Dan was on the dance floor showing off his sweet, old-school moves with Miss Connecticut/Miss KidSight CT Colleen Ward. Unfortunately, Dan miscalculated the edge of the stage and tumbled off, snapping three bones in his ankle.

When the partying Lions, Miss Connecticut, and headliner Marty Q realized that Lion Dan had good reason to be lying face down on the floor, they called an ambulance. Whisked off to Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, doctors there determined that Dan needed surgery to repair his ankle. They proposed to operate then and there.

Not one to let a crippling injury dissuade him from our conference, Lion Dan declined the operation (it was re-scheduled for Thursday, February 11), returned to the hotel at 3 a.m. and showed up for lunch in a wheelchair, his leg wrapped in plaster.

Our last report is that Dan survived his surgery and is expected to be up and around within a few months. He could be dancing again at Mid-Winter 2017!

We wish Lion Dan a speedy recovery. Please make an effort to send Lion Dan your best wishes, and we understand flowers, fruit baskets, and (more) alcohol will be welcome.



2016 Mid-Winter Conference Chair IPCC Lion Dan DiVirgilio teaching Miss Connecticut Colleen Ward how to Dougie. Lion Marty Sandshaw-sama tries to follow along.



Never known to miss a meal, IPCC Lion Dan makes a triumphant return to the conference in time for lunch.

In December the Windsor Lions Club donated \$2000 to the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank.

In the photo are Sue Raggio, Windsor's Social Services Director, Lion Lou Morando and Ernie Perreault, a member of the Board of Directors for the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank.



A Letter from LCIF

For more than four decades, Lions Clubs International Foundation has relied on the generosity of individuals to carry out our humanitarian work.

Donations make possible our worldwide efforts to restore sight, provide disaster relief, support youth and address other humanitarian needs.

To support these programs, there are four areas of giving to choose from which to choose when making a contribution: Area of Greatest Need, Disaster, Sight and Youth. Donations within these four areas are eligible for Melvin Jones Fellowship recognition; donations beyond these areas will be honored by LCIF but will not be eligible for MJF recognition.

When you give to the Foundation, you can be sure that your contribution is making a difference in the lives of people in need. It's easy to make a donation on line and there are several other ways to make a donation and contribute.

Recognition programs for Lions

provide one way for us to honor the generous dedication Lions have to supporting LCIF.

Area of Greatest Need:

Supports all program areas and allows LCIF the flexibility to supplement initiatives where additional funding is necessary or where the need is most urgent. Funds projects that meet diverse community needs beyond sight, disaster, and youth, such as the measles program, water wells and vocational training programs for the disabled.

Disaster:

Enables LCIF to direct the funds to the areas most in need following disasters to provide for immediate, mid and long-term relief. The Foundation will be able to immediately provide funds for large-scale disaster relief, rather than collecting and distributing funds over a period of weeks or months.

Sight:

Funds seek to support hundreds of sight-related activities ranging from equipping eye clinics to providing Braille computers for the visually

impaired.

Youth:

Supports the Lions Quest program and other initiatives such as educational infrastructure improvements and programs to assist at-risk youth.

Please support LCIF as we enter our 100th year of service.

Lions Around Connecticut Radio

Lion Pete Cianciolo thanks those who have come on the show. He is looking for a co-host to fill in when his work schedule conflicts with the show. If he can get a co-host, he can increase the number of shows. The person must be trained by the studio staff. Sonny Olomi from the Watertown club is interested in being a co-host.

The head of WJPJ, John Ramsey, was recently inducted into the CT Radio Hall of Fame. DG Steve stated that this is a great forum for promoting club activities.

Fighting Vision Problems One Kid at a Time



Miss Connecticut, Colleen Ward, testing a child's sight with the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener VS100 at the MD23 Mid-Winter Conference.

The MD23 Mid-Winter conference launched a new phase in our quest for eradicating vision problems in children 6 months to 6 years.

Miss Connecticut, Colleen Ward, became the state's first Miss KidSight CT. She will help the Lions in Connecticut promote the need for vision screenings in our schools.

This comes on the heels of the contract signed with the town of Waterbury for the Lions to perform vision screening in that city's elementary schools.

This is just a start. With Miss KidSight's help, we can promote this worthy effort and bring our program to other city school systems in the state.

We're Lions; We Can Do Anything

My favorite words from the 2016 Mid-Winter Conference came from ID Jack Epperson at the beginning of his keynote address: "We're Lions; we can do anything."

This year's Mid-Winter Conference proved Jack's words again, and again. Let me quickly review two lists: the planned and unplanned events of our conference:

PLANNED

- Our Welcome Parade
- The Marty Q Band
- 12 seminars (four times more than 2015)
- ID Jack Epperson's Keynote Address
- Kidsight screening with Miss Connecticut
- "Making a Difference" Banquet
- Lovely Decorations at every meal

UNPLANNED

- Dancing with Miss Connecticut
- Conference Chair Dan DiVirgilio's broken ankle

- Dozens of first time attendees
- Extra banquet meals
- Extra LEOs (249)

Attendee after attendee praised this conference – from the quality of the sessions to the efficiency of the conference team. The biggest question of the conference: "Why aren't more Lions here?"

So let me make this suggestion:

Next year, every club should commit to sending its current and incoming president, its newest members, and its oldest member. That's orientation, connection-building, and recognition all in one. I guarantee it will be worth your while.

If you think "it can't be done," I would ask you to remember ID Jack Epperson's words: "We're Lions; we can do anything."

See you at Mid-Winter 2017!



ID Jack Epperson during his Keynote Address

The MD 23 Mid-Winter Conference through Pictures

Courtesy of Lion Frank Rowe/Ledyard Lions/23C





"Every club should commit to sending its current and incoming president, its newest members, and its oldest member to the Mid-Winter Conference. That's orientation, connection-building, and recognition all in one."





Vision Screening Training at 2016 Mid-Winter

During Saturday afternoon at the 2016 Mid-Winter Conference, a pediatric vision screening training session was held for all Lions. This allowed Lions to learn how to use the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screening camera.

Leaders from all three Districts were present to provide basic instruction and tips. Thanks to John & Linda Bradshaw, Joyce Wruck, Marty & Phyllis Sandshaw, and Lions Eye Health Chair Dan Uitti.

Four training stations were established, with LEOs volunteers standing in as school children. A single line fed all four stations. After screening, the LEOs would get back in line to be screened at a different station.

With four stations, eighty-seven screenings were performed over forty-five minutes—an average of twenty-nine screenings per hour per station. This means, with the twelve new screening cameras available soon, it will be possible to screen an entire school district within a couple of days.

Of course, Miss Connecticut and others were present too.



District Officers

Steve Daigle
District Governor

Kathy Randall
First Vice District Governor

Robert Clark
Second Vice District Governor

Lizette Pelletier
Secretary

Fran Scott
Treasurer

Howard Lang
Zone 1 Chair

Jim Trompeter
Zone 2 Chair

Pat Daigle
Zone 3 Chair

Bob Casey
Zone 4 Chair

Jackie Fischer
Zone 5 Chair

Ivonne Centeno
Zone 6 Chair

George Cooper
Zone 7 Chair

Peter Nevers
Zone 8 Chair

Support the District Spirit

The *District 23B Spirit* needs your help!

We've seen a drop in the number of submissions to *The Spirit*. Like any newspaper, we rely on ad revenue to offset the cost of printing and postage. We ideally need one page of ads to pay for four pages of *The Spirit*. So, why doesn't your club advertise your next event?

Rates and sizes (Width x Length):

Full Page - \$100, 7" x 10"
Half-page - \$50, 7" x 4.8"
Quarter-page - \$30, 3.4" x 4.8"

For best reproduction, ad copy should be submitted in a standard graphics format - .GIF, .BMP, or .JPG, and formatted to size. We cannot accept .PUB files at this time.

Please go to the LCI website to download the latest Lions logo. When you use the logo, we suggest sending us two versions of your ad, one using the 2-color .GIF file, and one with the B&W .GIF file. The 2-color version does not print well in black and white. Also, make sure any graphics in your ad will look good in black and white.

We also need your club news. We'll accept up to 350 words in .TXT, .DOC, or .DOC format about your club's activities and future events. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited to fit available space.

Pictures that tell the story are important as well. Make sure all submitted photos are clear, bright, and sharp. Please provide a caption, identifying everyone in the picture, what they are doing, and why. A reprint of the article "How to Take Better Pictures" is available by sending an email to District23BSpirit@gmail.com.

Send submissions to the same email address.

Thanks for making *The Spirit* great!

Photo courtesy of
Miss Connecticut/Steve Smith

LCICon **Fukuoka Japan**



The 99th Annual
Lions International Convention
Fukuoka, Japan
June 24-28, 2016

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Network
Learn
Have fun