

DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

Spirit

June 2019

In this issue:

- DG Harry Schuh
- VIP Fishing
- Lion Around Connecticut TV
- Pediatric Cancer
- Diabetes Update
- Pediatric Cancer
- GMT report
- In Memory of Lion Blanche Sewell

CLUBS

Bloomfield LEOs

Bristol

East Windsor

Hartland

New Milford

Terryville

Torrington

Windsor Locks

Woodbury

Where Is This Box?



We don't know!

We've gone through our entire library of collection boxes—we only received 15 pictures from the 54 clubs in the district. Why hasn't your club shared theirs yet?

Is it because it looks like all the others? Not a problem—it adds a challenge! Is it because you don't have one? Why don't you make one? It doesn't have to be fancy or elaborate. Contact us for ideas! When your box is in place, take a picture and sent it to us at District23BSpirit@gmail.com. We'll use it in a future issue of The Spirit!

Congratulations to Lion Sue Boilard, who correctly identified the collection box from the last issue of the Spirit: The Bristol Senior Center.

DG Harry Schuh

Thank you so much for the support you have given me this year! I am having a great time serving as your District Governor. It's hard to believe that it has been over a year since I stood before our Lions at the 2018 State Convention with my Universal Studios clapper and talked about the theme for my upcoming DG year: "LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!" What an exciting, memorable year this has been for me and for Lion Carol.

Lion Carol and I really appreciate the warmth, generosity, and hospitality shown to us during our club visits these past 3 years. I enjoy listening to the many and varied activities that you Lions are engaged in, and also enjoy sharing information with you regarding District, Multiple District, and International initiatives.

As we are now into the next century of Lionism, LCI is uniting our Global Service around five areas of need: Diabetes, Vision, Hunger, Environment, and Childhood Cancer with Diabetes as a major focus. One of my District Governor (DG) service goals is to establish a district-wide Diabetes service project. I am delighted to report that we are actively involved in Diabetes projects in two areas: 1) to establish a multiple district one-week day camp in the summer of 2019 for children with Type 1 diabetes and 2) to bring diabetes testing to Hartford Middle School students. We are partnering with the CT Children's Medical Center on both of these projects. Dr. Cem Demirci, Director of Pediatric Endocrinology & Diabetes, has offered his and his staff's services and equipment to volunteer at a Health Fair/Diabetes and Vision Screening for Hartford Middle School students that Cabinet Diabetes Chair Wendella Benjamin-Batley is organizing for June 1st, and to volunteer during the 1-week day camp during the first week of August. Multiple District 23 Diabetes Camp Chair PCC Alan Daninhirsch is going a great job leading this project.

Another DG goal is to actively promote and support LCIF's Campaign 100. Lion Carol and I have been supporting LCIF with personal donations for many years. I encourage all Lions to make a personal donation to our own foundation which has distributed over \$1 billion dollars since its founding in 1968. District LCIF Coordinator PCC Dan DiVirgilio held training for club LCIF coordinators on February 2nd and March 14th in East Hartford. A second New Member Orientation seminar was also held by Orientation Chair PCC Alan Daninhirsch on Thursday, March 14th to complement the first one held on October 18th.

An additional DG goal is to explore the use of new technology to enhance our leadership development and communication options. To that end, we are finalizing the acquisition of GoToWebinar software to be shared by the Multiple District. This software will enable us to be much more flexible in offering training seminars, holding meetings, etc. throughout our Multiple District.

Lions Day with the UN was held on Saturday, March 9th. District 23B sent more than 75 Lions and Leos to attend this international event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. LDUN Cabinet Chair PDG Dave Roberts did an outstanding job chairing this project! District 23B chartered two buses to transport Lions and Leos to the UN. A bus seat scholarship program was also established to provide free transportation for 37 Leos to attend this great annual event.

Another initiative is the partnering of District 23B Lions Clubs with the Rotary Clubs in Northern CT and western MA to join forces to combat the opioid crisis. Lion Bob Bessel and 2nd VDG Heidi Zacchera have been instrumental in organizing and leading the formation of this Rotary-Lions Addiction Task Force. The task force will connect citizens with multiple resources that are designed

to help prevent and to address opioid misuse and addiction at home, in the workplace and in the community. For example, we are encouraging clubs to provide local pharmacies with Deterra drug deactivation pouches for distribution with an opioid prescription. Districts 23A and 23C are joining us also.

Lions Quest Cabinet Chair Nancy Schnyer is actively promoting Lions' Quest in the district and the multiple district. She brought in a Quest trainer to present a workshop to Canton and Region 6 schools. There will be a Quest presentation to the CT Association of Schools on October 3rd. They have pledged their involvement and support of Quest pending a positive outcome from the October 3rd presentation. International President Gudrun Yngvadottir and I have stressed Lions Service throughout this Lions year. Thanks to the clubs in our District who are actively engaged in projects that not only support our five global causes but that support our communities. Continue to focus on activities that improve your community, act on those initiatives, shine a light on what you do! And, celebrate your successes! On a personal note, on March 4th Lion Carol and I celebrated 6 years of videorecording and producing our weekly half-hour TV show "Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry."

Thanks to my District 23B Cabinet, the Lions of District 23B, and my wife Lion Carol for supporting me and making this year so special for me!

Stay tuned for the rest of this Lions Year!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Yours in Lionism,
DG Harry Schuh



New Milford Lions Club

The New Milford Lions held their 90th Gala on March 16th at the Fox Hill Inn in Brookfield, which was attended by one hundred and six guests, mostly dressed up in 1920's fashion.

We were entertained during the cocktail hour by the High School Jazz quartet. We then meandered to the Ballroom, where music was playing to tunes of the roaring 20s! President Tammy introduced the Distinguished Guests of Honor, State Representative, Bill Buckbee, District Governor 23B, Harry Schuh, Mayor of New Milford, Pete Bass. Each of the guests briefly spoke. Then, President Tammy gave her President's Address.

Perhaps, the highlight of the evening was when President Tammy honored long time member Lion Charlie Chapin with a Life

Member Award and other gifts. She then asked Lion Charlie to join her in the first dance to kick off the Gala.

The evening flew with a delicious meal provided by the venue, the D.J. was entertaining, and his song selections kept us all on the dance floor! The raffles were a huge success, thanks to Lion Katie and Lion Marie. Lion Dottie—thank you for making these gorgeous baskets! President Tammy called up all of the Past Presidents for a ceremonial cake cutting in honor of our 90th Anniversary. Each President had a knife and cut through the cake. More dancing and the night was over...all a fabulous memory...until our 100th...

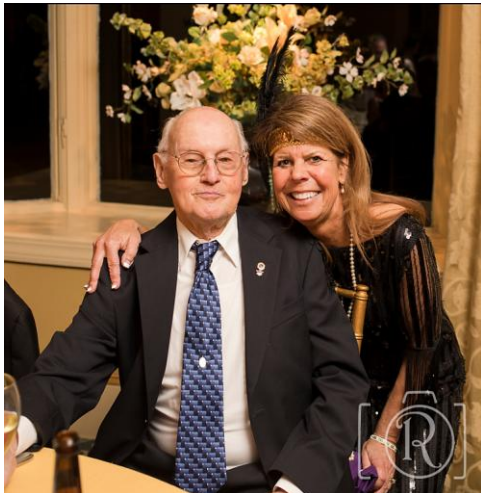
The New Milford Lion's distributed ninety beautiful Sugar Maple, White Oak and Spruce Trees to very

happy people in our community on Friday, April 26th, which was also Arbor Day.

The magnificent trees were donated to us by Bartlett Tree Experts in New Milford. President Tammy Deak asked the Manager if they would be willing to donate the trees to help celebrate our 90th Anniversary. She picked them up from Bartlett Tree and gave them out with help from Lions Frank Caviello and Lion Jason O'Connor.

It was pouring rain but fifteen minutes prior to the event; ten to twelve people arrived anxiously waiting to pick out their free tree!

Ninety years is long time! The club's goal is to celebrate this Anniversary all year! Watch for more 90th Projects from the New Milford Lions!



Top left: At their 90th Gala, Lion Charlie Chapin (left) was awarded a life-time membership by the New Milford Lions Club. Lion Charlie is pictured here with club president Lion Tammy Deaks.

Above: The New Milford Lions cutting their anniversary cake, celebrating their 90th year of service.

Bottom left: As part of their anniversary activities, the New Milford Lions honored Arbor Day by giving away ninety free trees, donated by the Bartlett Tree Company.

Fund Raising for Childhood Cancer Research is a *Service*

Meredith Spector, Childhood Cancer Co-Chair

With childhood cancer research receiving only 4% of federal funding, raising money for new research, emerging scientists, funding gaps, and late-effects are important Lion actions because there is a need.

Let's face it, the greatest amount of money goes where the greatest population of cancers and profitability are, typically breast and prostate cancers and their treatments. Children of different ages have relatively rare incidences of different cancers, usually leukemia, lymphoma, or solid tumors such as osteosarcoma (bone), hepatoblastoma (liver), or neuroblastoma (nervous system), and because of this rarity the grant funding initiatives are not seen as impacting as many victims or producing as much pharmaceutical profit as highly visible cancers in adults.

But, the horizon is changing in many respects. For one, the incidence of childhood cancers has slowly risen over the past few decades. This is, in part, due to the fact that 80% of children now survive the five-year window, when the survival rate was only 58% in the past. Most of this increase has been among the survivors of leukemia with its marked improvement of

chemotherapy and treatment protocols.

Survivorship may also be a double-edged sword since chemo, radiation, and treatment can produce late effects to developing brains, growing bones, reproductive, and cardiovascular systems, as well as behavior and learning difficulties. These areas are emerging as solid areas to research for quality of life, as is the field of human genomics, which is looking for causes and genetics for targeted treatment protocols.

In the month of June, you can *serve* childhood cancer research with great action.

**BE THE FIRST LIONS CLUB TO
ACT—AND ACT QUICKLY**

<https://greatcyclechallenge.com/>

(TEAM OSTEO is the team to sponsor!)

<https://www.alexslimonade.org/>



Hartland Lions Club

Trees once again donated to the 4th graders with the attached note.

Hartland Lions
are pleased to once again provide
this tree for
Arbor Day

We hope you will plant it in a
prominent location.
Who knows maybe one of your
grandchildren will climb it someday.

Trees
The quiet best friend of man.
without protest yielding year after
year
Flowers signaling a spring day and
the blooming of new life,
Shade on a summer day to cool and
purify the air we breathe,
Fruit on an autumn day to nourish,
Wood to burn on a bitter winter day
to warm,
Boards to build houses and fancy
woods for boats and furniture,
Homes for birds, squirrels, insects
and crawly things.

Plant a tree
Care for it
Watch it grow

Tell your grandchildren
"I planted that tree for YOU when I
was your age!"

RP Mocarsky with inspiration from
Lillian Jackson Braun
Arbor Day 2019

Clubs Helping Clubs



*Bristol and Terryville
Lions delivered
meals to local shut-
ins from the Zion
Lutheran church
soup kitchen in
Bristol.*



Join The Greater Hartford Host Lions Club
at



Saturday, June 1st from 10 AM to 6 PM

Sunday, June 2nd from Noon to 6 PM

See us at our French Fry booth!



CRIS Radio's "Dancing in the Dark" fundraiser was held at the Bond Ballroom in Hartford on April 27. Picture here are DG Harry Schuh, and Lion Carol Kearns, with DITD Judge Joe Furey.

Wish You Were There Connecticut's Great Lions Convention of 2019

By Lion Bob Bessel

Connecticut Lions' 98th Annual Convention was great fun, informative, and largely ignored by most Lions in the state. Approximately 300 Lions out of nearly 5000 showed up— that's 6% of the total. What does that say about the convention? What does it say about Lions in Connecticut?

I honestly don't know. But, I'd like to find out by asking three questions of the 94% of Lions who didn't attend:

What convinced you not to attend this year's convention?

What would persuade you to attend our 2020 event?

Could you suggest a few ideas to improve next year's convention?

The point of a Lions Convention is to strengthen our cause. Sure, we have fun— togas and a live band Friday night were terrific. Sure, we heard from great speakers—from Lions Second Vice President Haynes Townsend to Roland Dunham and Melissa Smith. Sure, we learned about Tail-twisting and the MyLion app. We even met next year's Lion leaders.

But, if you didn't attend, what's the point?

It's time to have a serious conversation about Lions Conventions and other District activities. The people who do these jobs are unpaid, the same as you. They believe this work has value for every Lion in District 23B, the same as you in your club. If we're missing the mark, tell us. We're Lions. We can take it. If you think you can do it better, you're welcome to make a difference.

The worst thing is silence. The second worst thing is non-attendance. Let's put our heads together and try to make next year's convention an event you want to attend. We are all in this together.



Our International guest at the State Convention was International 2nd VP Judge Haynes Townsend (left), shown here with Harwinton Lion and host of Lion Around Connecticut Carol Kearns

VIP Fishing

The Berlin Lions hosted the 11th annual Connecticut Visually Impaired Person's (VIP) Junior Fishing Tournament on Sunday, April 28th at Sage Park in Berlin. Twelve children braved the rain, the cold, the puddles and lots of mud to fish in the tournament. No one seemed to care! I think some actually enjoyed it!

Brody in first place caught a total of 94" of trout, Kaden came in second place with a total of 59.5" and Riot was close behind in third place with a total of 57" caught! Everyone in the tournament caught some fish. It was a great day of shared friendships, networking and fishing!

We had a total of 12 VIP Children, 3 siblings, 21 Adults (Moms, Dads, Grandfathers, Grandmothers, Aunts and Friends), 15 Berlin Lions, 3 Terryville Lions, 1 Hebron Lion and 7 volunteers...a total of 62 people in attendance!

All of our kids received a VIP Hoodie, and we enjoyed breakfast, fishing, a pizza lunch and awards.

Just one message from one of our moms:

"I just wanted to reach out and say thank you. Today was one of those experiences all 4 of my kids will never forget. Thank you for being so kind to Juliana, even though she is my only child that doesn't have a visual impairment. Your kindness and generosity didn't go unnoticed. We will for sure be back next year."





Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

On March 4th, Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry celebrated its **6th Anniversary** of producing a weekly half-hour show celebrating Lions events and activities throughout our district! Our show is aired in 58 communities on six cable access TV stations: Charter Communications (Winsted), Cablevision (Litchfield), Charter Communications (Newtown), Charter Communications (Willimantic), Nutmeg (Farmington), and Skye XIII (Waterbury).

Listed below are our last eleven shows. We begin with Harwinton Consolidated School's Read Aloud Day, where Harry reads to 3rd graders and Carol videorecords. This supports the Reading Action Program (RAP) initiative begun under LCI Past President Wayne Madden in 2012-2013. We then celebrate our Lions with a number of shows! Past International President Jimmy Ross from Texas helped present Melvin Jones and Progressive Melvin Jones Awards to deserving Lions at St. Clement's Castle in Portland, CT. We thank Harwinton Lion Gary Cicognani for filling as Co-Host with Lion Carol at the District Governor Awards Banquets at Chatterley's in Torrington, and Maneeley's in South Windsor. Show #307 is Part 1 of the 9th annual CRIS Radio fundraiser "Dining and Dancing in the Dark" featuring Scot Haney as emcee and Joe Furey as celebrity judge.

Below are the titles for our latest shows 284 - 296:

297	Harwinton Consolidated School Read Aloud Day
298	Melvin Jones Banquet at St. Clement's Castle Part 1
299	Melvin Jones Banquet at St. Clement's Castle Part 2
300	Melvin Jones Banquet at St. Clement's Castle Part 3
301	Melvin Jones Banquet at St. Clement's Castle Part 4
302	DG Breakfast at Chatterley's Zones 1 - 4 Part 1
303	DG Breakfast at Chatterley's Zones 1 - 4 Part 2
304	DG Breakfast at Chatterley's Zones 1 - 4 Part 3 (with Dr. Matt and Atty. Audrey Blondin)

Zone 2

Zone 2 Chair Frank Longo

After scrambling around to secure an alternate location after The Curtis House Inn unexpectedly closed, the Lions of Zone 2 met at J&J's Country Tavern in Southbury on April 10 for the final zone meeting of the 2018-19 Lions year. Six of the seven clubs in the zone attended.

We finished our discussion on service by finding ways that clubs could partner with other clubs or groups in their community towards a common goal. Several good examples and thoughts sprang forth from this roundtable, and clubs are anxious to put these ideas to use.

We also briefly talked about the MyLion app, which is where service reporting will take place starting on July 1. Some Lions had already downloaded the app, and, in spite of some initial problems, are waiting to see how it works once the cutover takes place.

Sadly, this was my last meeting as Zone 2 chair. The past three years have been a learning experience for me, both as a Lion and as a leader, and I want to thank the clubs in Zone 2 for their efforts in helping to build a better Lion program. My last official act as Zone chair will be New Officer Induction on June 27 for the Bethlehem Lions.

305	DG Breakfast at Maneeley's Zones 5 - 7 Part 1
306	DG Breakfast at Maneeley's Zones 5 - 7 Part 2 (with Dr. Jerry Hardison)
307	CRIS Radio 9 th Annual Dining and Dancing in the Dark Part 1

To view our last 10 shows on the Internet:

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

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



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

Editor

Frank Longo

Advertising Editor

Robert Bessel

District IT Chair

Sonny Olomi

Website Guy

Dan Uitti

Layout

Lauren Ipsum

Printed By

Southbury Printing Center
Southbury, CT

Copyright © 2019
by Lions International District 23B

District23BSpirit@gmail.com

The District 23B Spirit

Our next issue of the District 23B Spirit is September 1, 2019. The deadline for all ads and articles is August 10, 2019.

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

Any submitted pictures should be in .JPG or .GIF format, and should be clear (blurry pictures do not reproduce well). We need pictures of collection boxes! PLEASE!

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

Torrington Lions Club

At the Torrington Lions Club recent regular meeting, which was held on March 7th, the club presented the International Lions highest award, a Melvin Jones Fellow award, to three individuals.

The first one was presented to Lion Margaret "Kiki" Tucker, the second to Lion Kathy Oligny, and the third one was presented to a member of the Torrington community, Torrington High School teacher Michael Schieb.

Both Margaret and Kathy have been valuable members of our club for many years. Michael Schieb is the THS Leo Club advisor, who has served in his position for several years. Michael is the first non-Lion in the history of the Torrington Lions club to ever be awarded a Melvin Jones Fellow award, and although he is not a Lion, he truly exemplifies our motto, "We Serve".



(At left) Club President Donna Robideau (left), Lion Margaret "Kiki" Tucker (center) and Lion Phil Dzurnak (right).

(At right) Club President Donna Robideau (left), Lion Kathy Oligny (center) and Lion Phil Dzurnak (right).



(At left) Lion Elaine Dzurnak, Torrington Club Leo Advisor (left), Michael Schieb, THS Leo Club Advisor (center), and Lion Phil Dzurnak, Torrington club Leo Advisor (right).



Left: The Windsor Locks Lions Club held their 24th Annual 5 and 10K Bradley Road Race on March 30th, with a record 838 participants. Jon Kittridge, a Windsor Locks High School Senior finishes 1st in the 5K race. It was the second consecutive year, that Jon has won the race.



Above: Bloomfield CAS Director of Student Activities, Charese Miller (left) presents the "Heart of the Arts Award" to the 2019 state recipient, Bloomfield LEO Caroline Gwara (right)



Above: Lions Clubs are known for two things: Service and Pancake Breakfasts. The Bristol Lions held their 2019 Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday .

Right: Pediatric Cancer Awareness display at the MD23 State Convention.



Right: The East Windsor Lions club at their annual Farmer's Breakfast.



DIABETES: CT Lions take on a global epidemic in their community

By Wendella Ault Battey, Cabinet Diabetes Chair

The number of people living with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014 and continues to rise, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The good news is that, with changes to diet and lifestyle, Type-2 diabetes can be prevented. And that is where Lions get involved.

Globally, an estimated 422 million adults are living with diabetes, according to the latest 2016 data from the World Health Organization (WHO). Diabetes prevalence is increasing rapidly; previous 2013 estimates from the International Diabetes Federation put the number at 381 million people having diabetes. The number is projected to almost double by 2030. Type-2 diabetes makes up about 90-95% of all cases. Type-1 diabetes account for about 5%. Increases in the overall diabetes prevalence rates largely reflect an increase in risk factors for type 2, notably greater longevity and being overweight or obese.

Type-1 diabetes is caused by an autoimmune reaction (the body attacks itself by mistake) that destroys the cells in the pancreas that make insulin, called beta cells. Some people have certain genes (traits passed on from parent to child) that make them more likely to develop Type-1 diabetes. Diet and lifestyle habits don't cause Type-1 diabetes.

Type-2 diabetes is a disease in which the body does not properly use insulin. Diabetes can lead to serious health complications, including skin conditions, eye problems, and nerve damage. Left unchecked, it can lead to premature death.

Diabetes is now the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. People with diabetes are more likely to suffer from complications such as heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure, kidney failure, blindness

and amputations of feet and legs. Diabetes costs \$174 billion annually, including \$116 billion in direct medical expenses.

While the number of people with diabetes in the United States continues to grow, today, more than 30 million people have diabetes in the United States, and 1 in 4 of them don't know they have it.

- More than 84 million US adults—over a third—have prediabetes and 90% of them don't know they have it.
- Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States (and may be underreported).
- In the last 20 years, the number of adults diagnosed with diabetes has more than tripled as the American population has aged and become more overweight or obese.

As simple blood test will let you know if you have diabetes.

That is why on June 1, 2019, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, CT Lions, in participation from volunteering physicians from Connecticut Children's Medical Center, will conduct diabetes screenings for the first 200 children who attend Hartford Public Schools and are in grades 5,6 & 7. Permission forms will be sent home to parents throughout Hartford, which must be signed and returned to the schools for your children to be tested.

The Lions will also conduct eye screenings for all who attend the "Healthy Kids Day" Initiative in the City of Hartford. The event will be held at The Koepfel Community Center, 175 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, and its FREE. There will be Diabetes Educators and Nutritionists available to speak to kids and parents, along with a host of other fun activities, including

snacks, face painting and a DJ. Test results will be given to parents and the Hartford Public Schools only if the test is positive. **THIS WILL BE A HEALTHY, FUN, AND INFORMATIVE EVENT**, which we hope to continue in Hartford and other towns in Connecticut.

Interested sponsors are encouraged to contact their local Lions clubs, or

Wendella Ault Battey, District 23B Diabetes Chairperson @ (860) 883-8604, or by email: wabattey@gmail.com, or, Hartford Multinational Lions Club, Lillian Ruiz, President @ (860) 614-5499 or by email: lillyreina@aol.com.

MyLion App

As most of us already know, service reporting will no longer be done through the MyLCI program, but through a new mobile application: **MyLion**. This app, for both Apple and Android devices, is a social media portal, service reporting interface, and collaboration tool for Lions around the world.

You can download the free app from the app store for your device. Create your user id (you need your member number, which is on your Lion magazine label), and you're good to go.

Through MyLion, Lions are able to connect with other Lions to chat or work together on projects, report their individual service hours, make donations to LCIF, or look to see what Lions around the world are doing. More features will be added in the future, and the aim is to give Lions a consolidated platform to share ideas and accomplishments.

Information on bringing MyLion to your club can be found at <http://www.mylion.org/tools/>



In Memory of Lion Blanche Sewell

On the evening of May 4, Lion Blanche Sewell, a past-president of the Winsted Lions Club, passed away, surrounded by family, after a long illness. Lion Blanche is best known to many as the organizer of the Governor's Breakfasts for Zones 1-4, but she was much more than that, being influential in the establishment of the LEO program in District 23B and beyond.

Anyone who met Lion Blanche Sewell knew her instantly — a warm, attentive, and ultimately unstoppable presence among Connecticut Lions. From the get-go. From the moment we met her.

Blanche was the first Zone Chair I ever met. She wanted to visit the Canton Lions Club, and somehow, I had to tell her that our next meeting was a potluck. "I'll bring lasagna," she volunteered. And, that was it. The date of our meeting arrived, and so did Blanche, with one of the best lasagnas I've ever tasted.

Since that evening, Blanche and I shared a lot of lasagna and good Lions times. She started the Canton LEOs club—something that seemed impossible since she was hardly the age of the teenagers she recruited. But, something about Blanche drew Canton teens to her. It was the same something that brought us all to Blanche—her genuine interest in us.

I'm sure Blanche had a vision, but she never stood in front of a PowerPoint and laid it out, point-by-point. Instead, she lived her vision of people trusting each other to do good things together. And, by living her vision, she brought it to life. She shared it with everyone she met. She infected them with it, long before visions went 'viral' on social media.

Blanche brought out the best in us, and most of all, she taught us to do the same. Every Lion knows Blanche Sewell, whether they met her or not. And, if we forget Blanche, as we all do from time to time, she'll remind us. She is on the

faces of the people we meet and in the service we provide.

RIP, Blanche. We will carry on!

— Lion Bob Bessel, Canton Lions

Blanche started the LEO program from scratch. She visited clubs, schools, met with school administrators, and all of the Lions Clubs Liaisons. Once a club was started, Blanche would follow-up with an annual visit to each club.

The success Blanche had in getting the Leo program off the ground did not go unnoticed by the other Districts. Blanche was frequently asked to help the other two Districts. in the forming of their own LEO Club programs.

Blanche kicked off the involvement of the Leo's in the Midwinter program. She helped set up the events for the day, and coordinated with each club in getting to the mid-winter Conference. Every International Guest was impressed with how well the program ran, and with the quality of the clubs and its members.

The continuing MD23 LEO program is a living testament to the efforts of Lion Blanche.

— GMT Lion Jim Trompetor

I met Lion Blanche at the first Governor's Breakfast I attended in 2011. I was a new Lion, and walked into the venue, not knowing what to expect. I guess Blanche sensed my awkwardness, took the time to show me to my table, and checked up on how I was doing during the event.

After that, at my first Mid-Winter Conference, I found her sitting at the LEOs table. She remembered me, welcomed me to the conference, and sold me a LEO pin. From there on, no Mid-Winter conference was complete for me without tracking Lion Blanche down and buying a pin, even the year when they were all gone and she sold me the one she was wearing.

It was always a pleasure to see her at cabinet meetings, and she made it a point to attend my zone meeting when she could. Her first words to me were always, "Is there anything I can help with?"

Blanche was a Lion's Lion, and her influence on the future of Lionism and our youth programs will live on.

—Zone 2 Chair Frank Longo

We, at the Spirit, join the rest of the Lions in Connecticut in offering our condolences to Lion Blanche's family. Blanche was the Lion we all should strive to become, and she will be dearly missed.



Woodbury Lions Club

The Woodbury Lions have been busy preparing for their 41st Annual Car Show, being held on June 1 at Hollow Park in Woodbury. This year's show will include a "Salute to Our Veterans", as well as the standard features, such as the "Touch-a-Truck", the vendor area, and an expanded food tent, which will now be serving breakfast.

However, getting ready for this major event has not stopped us from our other annual activities. We awarded twelve scholarships to graduating Nonnewaug High School seniors this year, totaling \$20,000. They will be recognized by the club at a dinner on August 6.

The club's 25th Annual "Shoot-out for Diabetes" took place on May 11 at the Heritage Village Golf Club, with \$315 being raised for the district's fight against Juvenile Diabetes. This is a 'closest to the pin' contest at the fifth hole, and all the prizes were donated by local businesses.

Not only the Woodbury Lions busy, but the Nonnewaug High School Leos were active, as well, with a visit by Fidelco guide dog Ocean, with Fidelco's Corrienne Gagliardi. The NWS Leos presented a check for \$500, raised from sales of NHS water bottles, to Fidelco.

And, on the evening of May 21, the club presented its 25th Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion George Assenza. Lion George has served the club since 2012, holding the office of Secretary for a couple of those years, but always working behind the scenes to make every club event successful.

While the club slows down after the car show, we still have the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in July, and the Tri-Town picnic, with the Watertown and Bethlehem clubs in August to look forward to.

We anticipate a busy 2019-2020 Lions year! Thanks for all you do!

District Officers

Harry Schuh
District Governor

V. Everett Lyons
First Vice District
Governor

Heidi Zacchera
Second Vice District
Governor

Pat Daigle
Secretary

Steven Daigle
Treasurer

David Boilard
Zone 1 Chair

Frank Longo
Zone 2 Chair

Phyllis Perry
Zone 3 Chair

Maureen Lafland
Zone 4 Chair

James Daniels
Zone 5 Chair

Edward Fenton
Zone 6 Chair

Jamie LaForge
Zone 7 Chair

Membership

GLT Jim Trompetor

Congratulations, we broke a 4-month streak! For the month of April, we increased Membership in the District by 19. We ended March with 1,788 members, and ended April with 1,807. We are also up for the Month of May. We need to keep the momentum going. The months of May and June are usually the time when are Clubs have their greatest exposure.

I have seen a change in momentum; there are more people in our communities interested in what the Lions are doing, especially our involvement in Eye Screening, Diabetes, Prescription Drug Control, and the Environment. These are the areas where our potential future members have interest in addition to programs that serve our communities directly.

On June 1st, I will be conducting a discussion about Membership in our District: *Where We Are and Where are We Going*. This will be session focused on discussion and an exchange of ideas.

This is part of the Officers Training Program. If you are going to be your clubs Membership Chairperson, or you are someone who just want to learn more about our Membership Program, please come your input will be appreciated.

To be held:

June 1st, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
CT Assoc. of Schools
30 Realty Drive Cheshire CT

Please Attend! I promise it will be worthwhile.



LCICon 2019

Milan, Italy
July 5-9, 2019

