

# DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

## Spirit

*December 2016*

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## Where Is This Box?



No one correctly identified last issue's eyeglass collection box, so the prize money rolls over to this issue's contest (for the record, last issue's boxes belong to Woodbury). The rules are simple: Be the first to identify to which club this box belongs (who would have thought more than one club uses old mailboxes?). Send your guess to [District23BSpirit@gmail.com](mailto:District23BSpirit@gmail.com). The first correct guess wins the admiration of all Lions in the district and this month's jackpot. Of course, members of this box's club are ineligible to participate.

## Greetings from East Hartford

*District Governor, Kathy Randall*

I have been very pleased to visit many clubs this fall. Each club is different, and special in their own way. The projects I learn about, the fundraising opportunities, and the ways you are looking to strengthen our clubs is fantastic. It is my pleasure to support so many activities. Keep up the good work.

### NEW CLUB NEWS

By the time you read this, District 23-B will have had the Charter Night for our newest Lions Club – the **Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club**. Their Charter Night will be Sunday, November 20, and as of this writing, they have 31 members on the books, and could have 34 or 35 by their Charter Night. Congratulations to the Club President Raj Shrestha and his membership for all their recruiting efforts. We will extend a warm Connecticut Lions welcome to their guests for Charter Night, ID Sanjay Khetan, Nepal, and Lion Mangal Das Shrestha, Queens, NY, who helped organize this new club. And a special thank you to our 23-B Guiding Lions, GLT Coordinator Ev Lyons and Lion Bob Casey, for all their work with these newest Lions.

Regarding the Charter Celebration for the **Rocky Hill Veterans Lions Club**, we are in the planning stage for this event. Determining the best location and date to accommodate this new club is the biggest factor. We anticipate inviting some guests from the State Veterans Affairs Commission as well as from the Veterans Home. You will be notified, so you can join in the celebration. Thanks to Certified Guiding Lions Jackie Fischer and VDG Bob Clark, and IPDG Steven Daigle, for all their efforts to organize this club.

### DISTRICT-WIDE COMMITTEES

You are all aware we have Cabinet Chair positions for various activities. Sometimes these positions need some extra help, only because raising the awareness of these

committees and the work they do is so important. This year, I am requesting a Lion from each Zone to step forward to help these 5 Chairs. If each of these Chairs had a committee of 7 to discuss within their Zone, the awareness will increase, not only within our clubs, but within our communities. Consider helping on one committee.

The 5 committees and Cabinet Chairs are:

**CLERF** – Phyllis Sandshaw (have a volunteer from Zone 2)

**Hearing Preservation** – Pat Daigle  
**Leo Clubs** – Cathy Paskus

**Lions Quest** – Heidi Zacchera

**Women's & Families** – Nora Clark (have a volunteer from Zone 4)

### ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

Please see another article in this issue of the District Spirit regarding rules for the LCI Environmental Photo Contest. District 23-B will vote on any submitted environmental photos at the January 9, 2017 Cabinet meeting. Mail your entries to me by January 1, 2017.

### MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

At each club visit and at each Zone meeting, I have been talking about the 2017 Mid-Winter conference. Mark your calendars for February 3, 4 and 5 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell. This year, our International Guest is International Director Alan Lundgren from Arizona. We are also pleased to welcome Past International Director Dr. Ed Cordes, from New York, to speak on Kid Sight. As usual, informative seminars will also be presented.

### REVISED DISTRICT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Also at the Mid-Winter Conference, District 23-B will hold a Special Convention to adopt revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws. The Cabinet voted to hold the Special Convention and appointed a



committee to review and update our current set of Constitution and Bylaws. Letters to each club will be sent via regular mail. As with any voting option, each club will designate the prescribed number of delegates, based on the membership. Club Presidents, watch your mail for more information.

## Certified Guiding Lion Training January 17, 2017

*By GLT Ev Lyons*

Save the date of January 14, 2017 for Certified Guiding Lion training in District 23B! This morning-long program will provide you with all the information and skills needed to be a Certified Guiding Lion (CGL).

CGLs assist new clubs for the first two years of their formation as well as work with existing clubs who may desire additional district support. Save this date and stay tuned for additional details. A reminder to previously trained CGLs: Your certification is good only for three years, so you may need to be retrained!

## DISTRICT 23B LIONS UNIVERSITY CONTINUES

Again this year, any Lion in District 23B who completes the following sequence of five online courses offered through Lions Clubs International (Member Center: Click on Leadership Development: Click on Lions Learning Center) will be recognized by the district governor as graduates of the District 23B Lions University.

Last year, Lions were recognized at the annual District Governor's Breakfasts and received their "diploma" as testimony of their leadership accomplishment. All it takes to register is your membership number which your club secretary or president can provide you through their MYLCI contact.

Why not take advantage of these well-designed leadership courses offered free of charge to all Lions? Not only are they valuable in your Lions work, but can improve your capacity on the job or in any other group setting!!

### REQUIRED COURSES

- **Introduction to Lions Leadership**
- **Setting Goals**
- **Public Speaking**
- **Conflict Resolution**
- **Member Motivation**

Each course is approximately 60 minutes in length. You will develop your Lions profile and build a transcript through LCI as you register for each of the above courses in Lions leadership. Transcripts must be received by April 1, 2015 to allow for processing prior to the May breakfasts.

**Interested Lions can contact GLT Ev Lyons for additional information.**

*Be part of our  
CELEBRATION!*

## Lions Clubs Continue Support of CRIS Radio

*By Diane Weaver Dunne, Executive Director, CRIS Radio*

Imagine ... not being able to read the words in this newsletter, or being unable to read your local newspaper, a grocery store sales circular, or the same educational materials read by your classmates.

The Connecticut Lions Clubs, known as "Knights of the Blind," have been helping people who are visually impaired "read" printed words through nearly four decades of support of CRIS Radio (Connecticut Radio Information System).

We are a nonprofit and Connecticut's only radio-reading service for people unable to read due to blindness or other disability.

This past year, the Connecticut Lions Clubs donated \$42,000 to CRIS, a very important donation considering the significant state budget cuts to CRIS Radio.

The Lions Clubs' support has been essential as CRIS has expanded its service over the past 38 years when CRIS first broadcast a two-hour program that could only be heard in Hartford. Today, CRIS broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week and its broadcasts can be heard statewide, made available to more than 54,000 people who are unable to read due to blindness or other disability.

New initiatives, new technology and new programming have helped CRIS expand its service by more than 1,000 percent in recent years. Consider our CRISKids for Schools program. Students who are blind or unable to read due to a learning or other disability now have instant,

on-demand access to more than 600 titles of educational materials.

No longer does a listener need to be near a radio to hear CRIS broadcasts. CRIS broadcasts and on-demand recordings are now available with mobile apps.

Internet radios allow CRIS to make its service available in assisted living facilities and nursing homes, locations where CRIS previously was unable to serve with traditional broadcast radios.

Another new technology – smartphones integrated with a Quick Response Code reader apps – is allowing CRIS to provide audio versions of museum exhibits for people who are unable to read, vastly improving their experience that many find enriching. Called CRISAccess, there are installations of this new service in limited locations at the Mystic Aquarium, Old Sturbridge Village, New England Air Museum, and soon, at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Through the magic of Internet and Connecticut Children's Medical Center's in-house TV system, CRIS also streams children's magazines to each patient room. In addition, for Spanish speakers with a print disability residing in a group home, CRIS now streams Spanish-language newspapers and magazines to their facility.

With the continued help of the Lions Clubs in Connecticut, CRIS makes a difference in the lives of children and adults who are blind or disabled, providing them with access to the same print information most of us take for granted.

District 23B 2nd VP Harry Schuh presenting a check from the Lions Club to *Diane Weaver Dunne* at CRIS Radio's Dining & Dancing in the Dark fundraiser.





# VIP FISHING TOURNAMENT

*By Zone Chair Lion Pat Daigle*

On Sunday, October 16, a group of Lions from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island ventured off by coach bus, along with our VIP fishermen representing the three states, for a five-day trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to participate in North Carolina's National VIP Fishing Tournament.

"VIP" is short for "Visually Impaired Persons", as all fishing tournament participants are either partially sighted or blind. Connecticut was represented on the trip by VIPs Encole Stewart, Curtis Fogel, and Beth Rival. Berlin Lions Charley Satkowski and Andy Blasco were the Group Leaders, and Terryville Lions Marty and Phyllis Sandshaw and IPDG Steven and Pat Daigle attended as well, serving as tournament volunteers in several capacities.

Up until Wednesday, October 12, we were not sure the tournament would be held, due to the damage and flooding from Hurricane Matthew. Major routes leading to the Outer Banks were cut off due to flooding, forcing some participants to miss this year's event.

This tournament is hosted by several area Lions Clubs, including the First Flight, Nags Head, Manteo, Columbia, Currituck, Lower Currituck, and Plymouth clubs, and each breakfast and dinner meal is sponsored, prepared, and served by a different club. This year 950 people attended, including the VIP anglers, their sighted guides, social workers, medical personnel, and volunteers including Lions, Leos and other individuals. Thirty-nine people came from other states, including four from Canada.

Upon arriving in Kill Devil Hills, NC, our New England delegation, along with our bus driver, Hector Medina of Dattco, were treated to a delicious buffet dinner and dessert at the home of Lions Bob and Dee Christensen, formerly of Berlin,

Connecticut. Then, we checked into our hotel to rest up.

On Monday, we traveled to the Lions Club Center of Dare County in Manteo, the host site for all breakfasts and dinners during the tournament. There we attended the National Tournament reception and BBQ luncheon. Some of our VIPs and Lions then went to the Wright Brothers Museum that afternoon, and on Monday evening we had our first group dinner with all tournament participants, where we served over 500 meals to the attendees. Dancing to music by vintage rock band "The Rhondels" followed dinner.

Following an early breakfast Tuesday morning, our New England group boarded the Crystal Dawn head boat, and set out for a day of fishing in Oregon Inlet. This was where we held the New England Fishing Tournament while the others on the board participated in the National tournament. Due to the hurricane, the fishing was very slow. Only a few anglers on the boat caught fish that day, including Jeremy Hurlburt of Stanley County, NC. Jeremy caught two sea mullets, one of which was 12.5 inches long. Lion Steve had volunteered to work with Jeremy that day, as he had no sighted guide with him.

Although few fish were caught, all participants enjoyed the beautiful warm sunny day and the camaraderie of their fellow anglers. Tuesday evening found us back in Manteo for another night of dinner and dancing, this time to the music of "Out in the Cold."

Wednesday we were up bright and early for a delicious breakfast at Sam & Ollie's, a local restaurant directly across the street from Jenette's Pier, home of the National VIP Fishing Tournament. All our New England anglers participated in the National Tournament that day,

from 9:00 to 1:00, and all our Connecticut VIPs caught at least one fish from the pier.

Wednesday evening's banquet revealed a few surprises. Remember Jeremy, who Lion Steve worked with on the Crystal Dawn? We learned that Jeremy tied for first place for the tournament held on the Crystal Dawn with that 12.5-inch sea mullet, earning him a trophy plaque! Also, we learned that, for the first time, Massachusetts won the New England Tournament (Connecticut had been reigning champion from 2015). Don't worry, there's always next year!

We were on the road heading for home early Thursday morning, and our Connecticut delegation arrived in Stratford a little after 7:00 pm.

This trip is an incredibly memorable experience for our VIPs and the volunteers alike. Volunteers pay their own way to attend, and we raise money year-round to provide this trip for the VIPs.

If your club is able to donate to the VIP program, it would be greatly appreciated. Please forward your donations to the Berlin Lions Club, Attention Charley Satkowski. Thank you!



*Lion Andy Blasco with VIP angler Curtis Fogel during the VIP National Tournament on Jennette's Pier*

## More VIP Fishing Photos



*Lion Charley Satkowsky with VIP angler Beth Rival during the VIP National Tournament on Jennette's Pier*



*Connecticut VIP anglers, with Lion Guides/Volunteers, after a day of fishing about the Crystal Dawn*



*New England VIP anglers, with Lion Guides/Volunteers at Jennette's Pier*



*VIP Jeremy with his prize-winning mullet*



*Lions Marty and Phyllis Sandshaw with CT VIP Curtis*

*(right) Dinner at the Lions Club Center at Manteo*







## Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

**BREAKING NEWS** - "Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry" can now be seen in all 3 Districts in CT! Our show debuted on Wednesday, November 9th in District 23C on Charter Northeast CT Community Television which can be seen in 16 communities from Lebanon to Thompson. The home studio is located in "Romantic" Willimantic. Our show is now aired in 58 communities on 6 cable access TV stations: Charter Communications (Winsted), Cablevision (Litchfield), Charter Communications (Newtown), Charter Communications (Willimantic), Nutmeg (Farmington), and Skye XIII (Waterbury).

We had a great time video recording shows at numerous Lions events during August, September, and early October, especially during the Country Fair season. We interviewed and recorded at the following fairs: Wolcott, Terryville, Goshen, Hebron, Harwinton, and Berlin.

We were delighted to interview Senator Richard Blumenthal, Governor Dannel Malloy, and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman at the Veteran Stand Down in Rocky Hill. Senator Blumenthal also appeared on our shows at the Fidelco Ride for Independence in East Hartford and at the Grand Opening of the Lions Low Vision Center in East Hartford.

Below are the titles for our latest shows 153 - 171:

172	Terryville Lions 75th Anniversary Celebration
173	Moose Riders Southington Harwinton Senior Center
174	Chicken Barbecue Part 1 Harwinton Senior Center
175	Chicken Barbecue Part 2 Lions Reception at
176	Fidelco Wilton Part 1 Lions Reception at
177	Fidelco Wilton Part 2
178	Wolcott Lions Fair Part 1
179	Wolcott Lions Fair Part 2

## UPDATE on Project Help the Homeless

Project Help the Homeless is 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 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.

If you have not already done so, please discuss this matter as a club. This is meant to be an ongoing commitment within the District, and not a one-time-only project. 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 are your town hall, local library, or your town schools (especially those with a Leo club). 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 to local communities that have identified needs.

The goals of this project are multi-faceted. 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.

For those clubs that have already collected supplies, please contact IPDG Steven Daigle at [steven.daigle@snet.net](mailto:steven.daigle@snet.net). Where and when kit assembly takes place will be announced.

180	Terryville Lions Country Fair Part 1
181	Terryville Lions Country Fair Demolition Derby Part 2
182	VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) CT – Nicaragua
183	Torrington Lions at the Goshen Fair
184	Hebron Lions Fair Veteran Stand Down
185	Rocky Hill

To view our last 10 shows on the Internet:

- Go to [www.ctv191.com](http://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!

Contact us:  
[carolkearns@charter.net](mailto:carolkearns@charter.net) or  
[hschuh@charter.net](mailto:hschuh@charter.net)  
(860) 485-9018.

# *Mark your Calendar!*

## Governor's Awards Breakfast for Zones 1-4



Sunday - March 5, 2017

8 am. to 11 am

Chatterley's Banquet Facility ( formerly Cornucopia)

371 Pinewoods Road

Torrington, Ct.

\$20 per person

Select your "Outstanding Lion of the Year"

100% Secretaries Awards

Bring your glasses and hearing aids

*Invite family and friends - all are welcome*

Please donate a door prize or raffle prize

Questions call or email Lion Blanche Sewell

**blanchs@zoho.com** or call **860-489-8656**



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



### District Governor's Award Breakfast

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Zones 5, 6, & 7

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

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

Cost: \$20.00 (Children under 12 - \$12.00)

Time for each club to honor its **Outstanding Lion!**

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

Lion Eileen Driscoll

Home 860-568-7305

672 Forest Street

Cell 860-978-6033

East Hartford, CT 06118

Work 860-291-7404

Email: [Epda23@aol.com](mailto:Epda23@aol.com)

## Leader Dogs for the Blind

*By PDG Dick Foote*

At the October Cabinet meeting, I was given a full-color packet of material from Leader Dogs For the Blind; a guide dog training facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan. It is well-done, showing pictures of recipients with their Leader Dogs, along with their comments about their happy experiences, such as: "I am much more self-confident in my ability to travel and stay safe. Getting a Leader Dog was life-changing—like regaining my sight." Leader Dogs for the Blind offers programs similar to other guide dog schools, including volunteer hosts who keep breeder dogs at home, awaiting the call to bring them to the LDB campus for breeding. Also, there are puppy raisers who house and socialize puppies and provide basic obedience training for 52 weeks.

These year-old dogs are then returned to the LDB kennel for orientation and evaluation for a period of 2 to 5 weeks, after which they are coupled with a client for on-campus training for 26 days. LDB also offers O&M (Orientation and Mobility) training, including skills needed to travel safely using a white cane.

Their facilities are beautiful and clean, showing a professional canine development center. No doubt, this is all very expensive, but LDB has a massive fund raising effort going on in hopes of raising one million dollars more.

Apparently, Lions International itself is a big part of this project, with one multiple district having raised \$1,147,725.62 over a three-year period. This is from MD 11, LDB's home district. With as little as \$300 from Massachusetts (MD 33), being the only other multiple district from New England, they still are asking for more. Indeed, several recent past issues of the Lion magazine seem to be promoting this and possibly other similar guide dog programs.

My point in writing this article is to

offer a Connecticut Lion's view from "our side". Although all of the foregoing information is true, and there is no question that Leader Dogs for the Blind is doing an excellent job in their part of the country, we too, have an equally competitive program right here in Connecticut. Located in our own District 23-B in Bloomfield, the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation has, for over 50 years been providing guide dogs and K-9 search and rescue dogs to individuals and agencies throughout the nation. Fidelco is the only guide dog school in New England, and is one of 16 such programs in America.

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation has the best breeding and training program of them all, utilizing a line of German Shepherds which, unlike American-bred dogs which are prone to hip displasia, are more likely to have a longer, healthier life. Another big difference between LDB and Fidelco is that Fidelco practices In-Community training, where guide dogs are brought to the client's home city, where they train alongside the client in the town or city in which they will live.

My co-chair Bud Johnson and I both believe that the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation offers the very best in breeding, health care, training and longevity of any such program, and furthermore that it is our own; a Connecticut treasure in the aid and care of the blind. Lions International can do whatever it likes in the area of guide dog schools. We here in Connecticut should and will support Fidelco.



## Woodbury Lions Club

When we last left the Woodbury Lions, they were preparing for two of their major annual fundraisers.

Their Duck Race took place September 12, and, with the aid of the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, was one of the fastest races ever. The firefighters supplemented the river with water from their pumper truck, helping the ducks downstream. The big winners of the day were the various sight and hearing causes the Woodbury Lions support.

The last two weekends before Halloween transformed part of Woodbury into a ghost town—literally! The Woodbury Lions' Haunted Hayride brought over 2100 ghoulish seekers to Mitchell School where they boarded hay wagons to view the supernatural sights around town. This year's 3D Haunted Barn theme was "Horror Factory" and visitors were not disappointed. The unofficial count showed about 10% of the riders refused to enter the barn, which many consider to be the scariest haunt in the area. Funds raised from this event goes towards scholarships for local graduating high school seniors.

The flags along Main Street were on display once again for Veteran's Day. They will remain flying until the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Woodbury Lions also hang the flags from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Next up for Woodbury is the annual Bandstand Decoration on Woodbury's North Green and the Christmas Eve Luminaria display along Main Street. Both of these events are the club's gifts to the Town of Woodbury for all the support throughout the year.

And, Woodbury is proud to announce the addition of five new members so far this year to its roster.



## PDG David Yadich Goes “Over the Edge”



On the left, PDG David as he passes the 27th floor. The photographer was safely inside; David was hanging around outside.

Below: Another angle of PDG David Yadich's historic descent down the 34-story Mohegan Sun Tower. This time, the photographer was on the ground.



Living it up while he's going down, on September 9, PDG David Yadich rappelled from the top of the 34-story Mohegan Sun tower as part of the “Over the Edge” program to raise money for the Special Olympics Connecticut's year-round programs of sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

This is not the first time we've seen PDG David scale unimaginable heights. If you remember, in the September 2016 Spirit, we showed PDG David, with a few of his friends, on top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge in Sydney, Australia, the tallest steel arch bridge, and the

sixth longest spanning arch bridge in the world.

This will probably not be the last time PDG David will put his life on the line (literally) for Over the Edge. We can't wait to see what his next conquest will be. The one place we'd like to see PDG David rappel from is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai—2,717 feet tall!

It's not too late to help: Make a check out to Special Olympics CT and send it to Dave Yadach at 119 Fox Hollow, Avon, CT 06001. Please mark on the check that your contribution is for his rappels at Over the Edge.



Published four times a year  
*“All the news that fits, we print!”*

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## Next Spirit Deadlines

The next deadlines for the District 23B Spirit are coming up sooner than you think. The next issue is March 2017, with a February 10, 2017 deadline. All ads and articles must be received by then.

After that, for the June 2017 issue, ads and articles must be received by May 10, 2017.

Speaking of ads, is there a reason clubs aren't advertising their events in the Spirit? It can't be because our rates are too high—\$30 for a 1/4 page ad to reach 2000 dedicated Lions in District 23B is a bargain!

Please help support the District 23B Spirit with your event advertising!

## Thomaston Lions Club



Thomaston Tail Twister Barb took former DG Steve Daigles' homeless initiative to heart.

Lion Barb said:

"Elizabeth of Thomaston social services couldn't be more grateful. The blessing bags will be distributed to homeless in Thomaston as well as our surrounding towns. We delivered eleven adult bags and nine children bags, complete with toiletries, snacks, warm socks and blankets, each kids bag also had books and a stuffed animal and a toy. The items were collected over the past four months from our local community. Thank you all who contributed time and items. What a humbling experience."

Pictured are Lions Eileen and Ed Mone, Elizabeth Dobos Thomaston Social Services Director, Lion Barbara Cowan, Lion Michele Giroux, and Lion Frank Gangloff.

Thanks to the LCIF foundation and Thomaston Savings Bank foundation for the grants that allow us to expand our services to include pre-K to the 9th grade. The 2 day screening pictured here at Black Rock School yielded 115 tests and 14 referrals.

Pictured Lion Micele Volovski, Lion Jim Harrison, Lion Donna Severson, Lion Frank Gangloff and Lion Tony Troccoli.



Finishing touches were added to the Welcome to Thomaston Sign.

Here you see one of the 8th Grade students who designed the mural for the back of the sign along with the lovely fall flowers planted by Lions Carol and Dave Hoebel.



# Connecticut Lions

66th Annual Mid-Winter Conference

## *Celebrating a Century of Service*

**FRIDAY— SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 3-5, 2017**  
**RADISSON HOTEL**  
**CROMWELL, CT**

100 Berlin Road,  
Cromwell, CT 06416



### *Friday Evening Entertainment*

Chicago Themed Skits  
DJ Oscar  
Fun Photo Booth

### *Saturday Activities*

Seminars  
Luncheon  
Banquet

### *Sunday Morning*

All American Breakfast  
“Ask the ID” Session

## INTERNATIONAL GUESTS:

ID, Alan Lundgren  
PID, Dr. Ed Cordes, Chair KidSight USA

See Registration form for details





### 66th ANNUAL MD23 LIONS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017  
THE RADISSON CROMWELL, 100 BERLIN ROAD, CROMWELL, CT 06416

*Celebrating "A Century of Service"*

INTERNATIONAL GUEST: International Director N. Alan Lundgren - Arizona



#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS

(Registration Forms must be received no later than January 29th. **NO REFUNDS after January 31, 2017**)

Make check payable to "2017 MD23 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

#### REGISTRATION AND MEAL PLANS

*Please indicate your preference for yourself and your guests*

Plan	# of Persons	Cost	Total
A. Required Registration <i>Registration includes Friday Night Entertainment, Hospitality, Saturday Seminars and Business Meetings. Meals listed below are not included.</i>		@ \$20 each	\$
B. Saturday Lunch Garden Salad, Chicken Marsala, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans and Dessert		@ \$30 each	\$
C. Saturday Cocktail Reception and Banquet Field Green Salad, Entrée and Dessert	Prime Rib # _____ Salmon in Puff Pastry # _____ Harvest Pasta # _____	@ \$45 each	\$
D. Sunday All American Breakfast Buffet		@ \$25 each	\$

Please remember to include registration fees for ALL attendees.

TOTAL DUE

\$

#### HOTEL REGISTRATION

Hotel Reservations are to be made directly through the Radisson at 1-860-635-2000. The Lions room rate is \$98 for a standard room, plus tax.  
Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter Conference.  
Room rate prices are good through January 22, 2017, so reserve yours today!



# Lions Environmental

## PHOTO CONTEST

The Lions Environmental Photo Contest provides a way for Lions and Leos to portray, through an original photo, their pride and commitment to improving, protecting and preserving the environment. The contest begins at the club level where every Lion and Leo can enter a photograph of his or her immediate surroundings into the Lions Environmental Photo Contest. Winning photographs advance to the district, multiple district and international competitions.

Those photographs that advance to the international competition will be displayed at Lions International Convention where registered attendees will vote for their favorite photograph. The three photos with the most votes at the International level will be declared winners.

### 2016-2017 Contest Rules

- The 2016-2017 Environmental Photo Contest is open to LIONS and LEOS.
- All photos depicting a nature theme (such as plants, animals, weather phenomenon, etc.) are welcome.
- Photos should be original and unaltered.
- Photos should depict the local environment of the community the Lions or Leo club serves.
- Photos that include people will be disqualified.
- Photos should be printed on high-quality photo paper and measure 8" x 10" (20.3 x 25.4 cm.)
- All photographers accept responsibility for the cost of taking and processing all photos.
- LIONS CLUBS and LEO CLUBS are invited to submit **one** photo each to the DISTRICT, by January 1, 2017. Send entries to DG Kathy Randall, 14 Julia Court, Broad Brook, CT 06016. Voting on entered photographs will be at the January Cabinet meeting.
- LIONS DISTRICTS select and submit one winning photo to the MULTIPLE DISTRICT by January 15, 2017. Multiple District voting will be at Mid-Winter Conference.
- LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICTS select and submit one winning photo to LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL by March 1, 2017. Photos must be submitted to LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL with a complete and signed official entry form (available on the LCI website). Multiple entries will not be accepted.
- Contest photos become the property of LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL. LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not meet contest criteria or that may be viewed as inappropriate or objectionable.
- LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL will display MULTIPLE DISTRICT-level entries at the International Convention in Chicago. Registered convention attendees will vote for their favorite photos.
- The three photos receiving the most votes at the International level will win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize. An award will be presented to the winning photographers and the photos will be featured on the LCI website.
- At all levels of the competition, photos will be judged impartially based on originality, artistic merit, and technical quality.

## Why the Big Secret?

By Lion Bob Bessel

True confessions: I belong to a secret society. We're in nearly every town, but members in one town rarely know the members in any other town. Every month or so, we put on bright yellow vests and cook pancakes. At Halloween we scare people. At Thanksgiving we collect turkeys and give them to needy citizens. At Christmas we donate gifts. Once a year, we screen preschoolers for eye problems. The rest of the time, we're invisible.

We go to work, to lunch, to the store and back home. There's no way anyone would know that we belong, that we do very nice things for our community.

We have pins and badges, but we don't wear them. We don't have a club phone number or email address so non-members can contact us. We don't call the press to tell them what we're doing.

We wonder why no one wants to become a member, why no one seems to be interested in our club or the organization as a whole. Every year, we seem to collect fewer dollars for our activities. Our members are growing old, getting sick, and dying out.

We weren't always this way. About thirty years ago, before email and Facebook took hold, we were the most recognizable organization in town.

Is there a way to recapture the public's attention?

Of course there is. Start by setting up a table in front of your town's most popular grocery store and staff it with club members who can talk about the needs in your community and what your club is doing. You can ask for donations, but you may not need to; most will donate on their own. A few will ask about your club. Invite them to coffee and talk about your club activities. If they're interested, invite them to help out. If they like that, invite them to a dinner

meeting.

Every member should wear his or her pin. Every member should have a club flyer that describes what their club does in the community. Get a club phone number and email address.

We need to roar louder! Why keep Lions a secret?

## Centennial Legacy Projects

During the Lions 100th year, clubs are asked to work on a legacy project in their community. These are visible gifts that commemorate our Centennial, and creates a lasting memorial of our service contributions.

When completed, your legacy project is a constant reminder to your area that the Lions are an important part of the community through our service.

There are three levels of suggested projects:

Level 1: Increase your Visibility

- Post new Lions Signs
- Donate park benches
- Adopt a road in your town

Level 2: Provide a community gift

- Refurbish a playground
- Build a trail through a
- Donate a vehicle to the community

Level 3: Make a community impact

- Build a clinic
- Expand a library or school
- Equip an area hospital

You can always choose a different project that addresses specific community needs.

Make sure you promote your project, with signs stating it was a Lions donation to your community.

## Club Booster Contest

Every club has one. The member who is the first to volunteer to wear the Lions costume at every one of your events. The member whose entire wardrobe consists of Lions logo golf shirts. The member who leads the club in patriotic songs, whether it's at a meeting or an event—or just on the street.

Some clubs consider that member to be like that uncle they never talk about and try not to invite to family events.

We call them "Club Boosters", and every club needs one!

Imagine how dull your meetings and service events would be without that one member who takes everything in stride and keeps a smile on their face, even after serving pancakes for five hours without a break. Their dedication to Lionism is infectious, and having them around raises everyone's spirit.

It's time to give them their due!

The District 23B Spirit is asking each club to nominate that one member for whom their club would be a less fun place without them around. We will select from submissions who we feel are the best examples of a club booster, and highlight them in a forthcoming issue.

To nominate your booster, email us their name, club, and why you feel this member is your club's booster. Of course, you need to include a picture showing them at their booster best (or worse).

Your club doesn't have a booster? Why not be the one? It doesn't take much. Half of the reason we're Lions is the opportunity for fellowship and fun. Make that leap and be the person that your other club members look to when things are going rough and they need a lift.

After all, every club needs a booster!



## Fidelco Stories

### The Power of Partnership: Kirsten and “Carley”

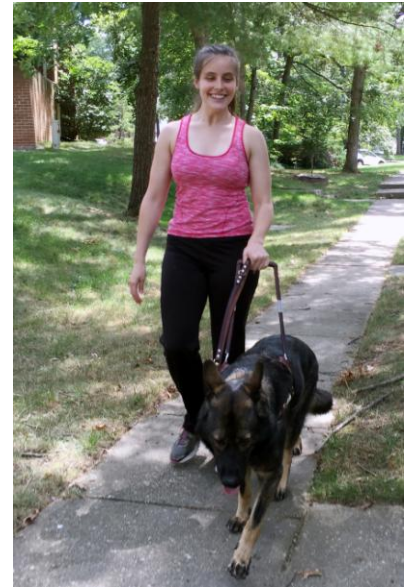
When Kirsten B. moved to In Carley, Kirsten has found the perfect complement to the life she has been working so hard to build. Washington, D.C. to pursue her degree at American University School of Law, her greatest fear was not how she'd handle a heavy course load or even passing the bar exam. Instead, it was simply how she would safely travel from point A to point B. Before receiving her Fidelco guide dog, Carley, Kirsten was a lifelong white cane user and had always been mobile and independent. But her new city posed many unforeseen challenges; ubiquitous construction, snow-covered sidewalks and high traffic routes. She shares, “I had the drive and ambition to go to law school and take the bar exam, but the thing that caused me the most amount of stress hands-down was going to class. Even though I had been an independent cane traveler my whole life, my perception of travel began to cause a large amount of fear.”

Life was moving fast and Kirsten both wanted and needed to keep up. The cane could not perceive overhead obstacles or tell her where ice had formed. And just as importantly to Kirsten, it also didn't welcome people to start a conversation or engage with her in the way a guide dog could. An accomplished singer, Kirsten sang the national anthem at her law school graduation. Carley was right by her side as the Kirsten walked across the stage to receive her degree.

Kirsten is now a law clerk in the Superior Court of Washington, D.C. and Carley is a fixture in the courthouse, even understanding when she should approach the bench at Kirsten's command. She helps to make Kirsten more accessible for everyone she meets professionally, immediately serving as an ice-breaker. Kirsten says, “Carley looks every bit the part at

work as a regal German Shepherd. But her personality is expansive and she is also empathetic, patient and kind.”

Kirsten proudly served as Fidelco's Team Captain at the Eversource Hartford Marathon in October when staff, clients and volunteers participated to support Fidelco's life-changing guide dog mission. For Kirsten, leading Fidelco in this event is a way to express her gratitude for Carley who helps her “feel as independent as [she] is ambitious.”



*Team Fidelco Captain Kirsten B and Carley.*



## Torrington Lions Club

When Torrington Lions Club Past President Margaret (Kiki) Tucker read an article in Lions Magazine about vision magnifiers, she saw a need in her community for them.

People need temporary visual aids in many circumstances. After all folks do forget their glasses and in some situations it can be more than just an inconvenience. Such as in the case of emergency medical care that requires completing a written application. It can even be used to read those tiny letters/numbers on the back of a hearing aid battery.

With that concept in mind and the support of the Torrington Lions Club; Tucker set out to make her solution of having pocket size magnifiers available at local medical facilities a reality. After contacting several sources and customizing her card design including a QR Code that links to information on low vision services -- she was ready to put the credit card size magnifiers in the hands of those in need.

So far, she has supplied emergency visual aids to facilities such as; The Torrington Low Vision Center, The Visiting Nurse Association and the Sullivan Senior Center in Torrington. The presentation at Sullivan included a talk on senior eyecare by Richard Fichman M.D. --a pioneer of advanced laser cataract eyecare and the founder of The Fichman Eye Center.

All presentations of the magnifiers were met with enthusiasm as each facility understood the value of this community project to patients in their care. And, Tucker is not done yet -- she continues to find new locations where her vision of community service brings clarity of sight to those in an emergency situation.



Margaret "Kiki" Tucker (left) of the Torrington Lions Club presenting pocket size visual aids to Bridget Beauchaine of the Visiting Nurse Association Northwest.



Torrington Lions Club member Carmela Sanzo and Veteran John M. last year on Veteran's Day

For Veterans Day... the Torrington Lions club once again visited Veterans in convalescent homes to let them know they are not forgotten. Smiles, handshakes, hugs and tears flow from both sides as Lions club volunteers visit over sixty veterans in five convalescent homes presenting table top flags on poles and thanking them for their service.

Many of the veterans that might not otherwise receive a visitor that day are surprised with the respect and gratitude of being remembered. The encounters are all individual -- many veterans share stories and experiences with Lion club

members or just hold hands bedside if their health is failing. The humor, pride and respect for our country these veterans share is both inspiring and enjoyed by Lions Club members.

This will be Torrington Lions Club member, Carmela Sanzo's second year managing the project (see photo). Past Lions Club President, Margaret Tucker handcrafted the miniature flag pole presentations. Other members participate by making the presentations. The Club also presented a wreath at the Veteran's Day Observance at Cole Memorial Park in Torrington, CT.



## Windsor Locks Lions

The Windsor Locks Lions Club held their 14th Annual Wine Tasting on Friday, October 14 and the one hundred and fifty Lions and community members present enjoyed a fun-filled evening of camaraderie and spirit that filled St. Robert's Church Hall.

The addition of the Beer Tasting was well received by those in attendance, and the representatives from the two local Micro-Brews were kept busy pouring samples throughout the night

Alyssa Taglia, Miss Connecticut 2016 was our special guest, and Brian Minerly entertained throughout the evening with his awesome guitar playing and astounding voice.

The church hall was decorated both inside and out in an autumn motif, and there was an area for selfie photos that provided a great opportunity for all to remember the evening.

Club members, led by Lions Ovide Cadron, Ruth Cate and their committee prepared food for several days. All present commented on how delicious the food was and how classy it was that club members and family members passed hors d'hourves. A description of wine tasting and the various wine samples was provided by Jim Nussbaum. A Silent Auction with a variety of large items and theme baskets, provided by committee and club members, stimulated competitive bidding. A teacup raffle allowed most people present to walk away with a memento of the evening, and several door prizes were won by attendees.

Profit from the event will be used to fund the Club's various projects. In addition, a portion of the ticket sales will be donated to the Windsor Locks Food Pantry.



One Miss and Two Hits - 2016 Miss Connecticut, Alyssa Taglia spends time with Windsor Locks Lions Kathy and Karen Doody at the Club's Wine and Beer Tasting



Lion Around Connecticut Host Lion Carol Kearns sent us this picture:

"Yesterday afternoon we delivered our 182nd episode of Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry to our Charter studio in Winsted. We were driving home on Old Rte 8 South when we saw our first MD23 Lions Centennial Billboard. Looks great!"





# Zone 1 Report

*By Zone Chair Dave Boilard*

Zone 1 held its first meeting on October 12th at the Log House restaurant in Barkhamsted. Canaan Northwest, Colebrook, Norfolk, Sharon as well as the Winsted club were represented at that meeting. Special guests also present included DG Kathy Randall, IPDG Steve Daigle, PDG Dick Foote and GMT Jim Trompeter.

DG Randall shared her vision for membership growth as well as retention of members. Governor Randall also reminded members of important upcoming events in the district.

PDG Daigle spoke briefly about the Homeless Project he is in the process of getting off the ground. PDG Daigle suggests clubs get their local Human Service Department as well as local Police Department on board with this program. A list of items needed as well as where to deliver them will soon be available. PDG Dick Foote spoke about Fidelco Guide Dogs, a program he is both excited and proud to be affiliated with.

GMT Trompeter spoke of the importance of building our membership in our clubs. Lion Trompeter also gave a state of the State report. He stressed the importance of mentoring programs to keep members focused, interested and informed.

I addressed some of the programs that I am particularly interested in including, Low Vision, Pediatric Eye Screening and Hearing and Speech. I shared that these programs are a great way for members to get involved on a district level.

I have had the opportunity to visit two clubs, Torrington and Sharon. I am looking forward to visiting the remaining clubs in my zone in the near future. While visiting the Sharon club I had the pleasure of presenting a 50 year recognition certificate to Doctor Harvey Hayden, DMV. Congratulations and thank

you, Doctor Hayden, for your service to our country, your profession as well as the Lions Club.

Zone 1 clubs are having pancake breakfasts, golf tournaments, car shows, dresses for Africa, poinsettias sales, blood drives, sponsoring scholarships, serving coffee for voters on Election Day, and the list goes on, all clubs serving their communities. Canaan Northwest's President John Mahoney is interested in pediatric eye screenings and has been in touch with their school system as well as PDG Dan Uitti and Marty Sandshaw to get the program started. I am pleased to say that Lionism is alive and well in the northwest corner of District 23 B.

We Serve!

## A Letter to Club Presidents

*From Bloomberg View*

It's hard to learn your ABCs when all you can see on the page are blurry squiggles. That's the problem that hundreds of thousands of American children face as they start school with undiagnosed vision problems. Fortunately, helping them needn't be expensive or complicated. It's just a matter of getting parents, schools and vision professionals to work better together.

Most kids' vision checkups are the kind that involves reading pyramids of letters and numbers from twenty feet away. But these often fail to detect even basic nearsightedness, and they do nothing to investigate eye health or vision physiology. What are needed are proper examinations by ophthalmologists or optometrists.

When vision problems are diagnosed and corrected at an early age, children can avoid lifelong problems. Amblyopia, or "lazy eye",

for example, can often be reversed before age 7 with a temporary eye patch. Untreated, it can lead to permanent loss of sight.

This poses lasting challenges. Among the visually impaired, median household earnings is about 60 percent of the national average. Nearly a third lives in poverty.

Getting children the treatment they need takes determined effort. Many schools detect vision problems, but then merely send notes home, without checking to make sure parents follow up. One study found that half of parents whose children had failed a school vision test didn't even know about it.

On the other hand, when schools make sure proper testing and treatment is done, children thrive. In an experiment lasting several years in the Chicago Public Schools, thousands of children who were sent to a clinic and received eyeglasses or other treatment showed "small but significant" gains in grades and math-test scores. The very youngest — who took part at ages 3 to 4 — showed the greatest improvement in math.

The costs of the Chicago program were covered by philanthropies and the Illinois College of Optometry. But for most students, payment shouldn't be an obstacle: Most private insurance plans, Obamacare and Medicaid cover annual vision exams and, to varying degrees, pay for frames and lenses. A host of charities and volunteer vision specialists take care of those who slip between the cracks. And in many cities, optometry schools and professional associations send free mobile eye clinics to schools.

The key is to ensure that families know the importance of annual eye checkups and how to get them. As the academic year begins, all schools should make sure students can get a clear look at the lessons ahead.



# DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

By Jim Trompeter, District Membership Coordinator

It is hard to believe but just about the time you receive this article we will be halfway through our Lions year. Now is a good time to look at each of your clubs and see where you are at in terms of your membership. Are you up? Are you down? Are you holding even? As a District through the end of October we are down 45 members compared to last year, in August we were down 65, we are making progress. There seems to be a lot of activity in bringing in members but where possible we need to stem the tide of those who are leaving.

Quite often at District and Club Meetings the discussion of How can we Keep Members takes place. The next time put a little different twist to this ask, **Why are we losing Members and Why are we having a problem getting New Members.** If we don't know the Why's, we cannot come up with the solution.

I spoke with one club this past week, they have lost six members so far and a couple more are considering leaving. Each one who is leaving stated they don't have the time to commit to what is expected in this Lions Club. So we dug a little deeper. This is a very active club from May until August. They run some very serious fund raisers each of these months. The members who are leaving for the most part have kids who are active in school and sports, and May – September is the busiest time for these families plus vacations. On the other side of the coin this time period is when this club needs their support. **We now know the Why now comes the How do we fix it? The problem is not going to go away.**

Situations that worked ten years ago do not necessarily work now. Our lifestyles and our ability to make time commitments are rapidly changing. It may be time to look at some alternative ways in this club's case to do fund raisers. If we can spread out the time commitment and not cram into four months we

may be able to take some of the pressure off the members. If we can be creative there are many ways to run fund raisers besides May – September. There are always people looking for something fun to do in January – March in the Northeast. Ask the Washington Club, they run a highly successful Trivial Pursuit fundraiser during the late winter.

Just one closing thought. I was passing through a town in Maine

this summer and in a convenience store there was a poster listing what the Lions Club in that particular town does and the caption at the bottom of the poster read, **Why not join us and become part of the fun.** Novel Idea. Another club in lieu of a meeting held a cocktail party, members who brought guests came free, it was a very nice social affair, that worked for this club. They have nine new members this year.

Happy Holidays to all.

What are the things that you can't see that are important? I would say justice, truth, humility, service, compassion, love...They're the guiding lights of a life.

James E. Carter  
Former US President, Current Lion

Bloomfield Lions Club



presents

## Pancakes & Photos with Santa!



Saturday, December 17, 2016

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Adults \$5

Children \$3 (12 & Under) Babies Free (3 & Under)

Sacred Heart Church  
26 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Contact: Lion Toni at (860) 978-3832

# American School for the Deaf Annual Lions Dinner

On Monday night, November 14, the Lions of District 23B descended upon West Hartford for the annual American School for the Deaf Lions Dinner.

This year's attendance was far above that of past years, with every seat taken and an extra room opened for the Lions, for many of whom this was their first time at the new school building.

After a buffet dinner prepared and served by ASD students, Jeff Bravin, ADS's Executive Director, unveiled the school's new logo—only the sixth in the institution's two-hundred year history. He thanked the Lions for their continued support, and turned the podium over to Bloomfield Lions President Phyllis Perry, the chairperson for this year's dinner.

After a short address by District Governor Kathy Randall, the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation were presented to clubs, facilitated by Liz DeRosa, the Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement.

It's hard not to write about the ASD dinner without mentioning the beloved late Lion Cynthia Bercowetz. While she was not there in person, her spirit was felt throughout the evening. DG Kathy Randall made a personal donation to the school, following the tradition set by Lion Cynthia, and the Bloomfield Lions Club made their donation in her memory.

As an added bonus, all in attendance voted for the district's Peace Poster Contest winner. Each club's winner was on display, and at the end of the night, the overall winners were:

Third Place: Bloomfield  
Second Place: Windsor Locks  
First Place: Simsbury



The new ASD Logo

Right: Lions lining up to register for the ASD dinner. The buffet dinner, prepared by students at the school, was delicious!



Left: Bloomfield Lions President Phyllis Perry, this year's ASD dinner chairperson.



A quick glimpse of some of the District 23B Lions who turned out for the annual American School for the Deaf dinner. This is about half the room.





**WE WANT YOUR RECIPES!  
TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF  
LIONISM!  
THE FIRST 25 RECIPES  
SUBMITTED WILL WIN A FREE  
COOKBOOK!!!  
PLEASE HELP US TO PROMOTE  
100 YEARS OF LIONISM!**

## **RECIPES WANTED!**

THOMASTON LIONS AND THOMASTON LEOS CLUB IS LOOKING FOR RECIPES FOR A 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK TO CELEBRATE LIONS INTERNATIONAL 100TH BIRTHDAY!

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR RECIPE TO CAROL HOEBEL AT: [hoebes@optimum.net](mailto:hoebes@optimum.net). ALSO LIST YOUR NAME AND WHERE AND WHAT CLUB YOU BELONG TOO!

YOU CAN ALSO MAIL RECIPES TO:

CAROL HOEBEL

84 WOODRUFF AVE

THOMASTON, CT 06787

We would love to get recipes from every Club in 23B!

Deadline is December 31, 2016

For more information you can call Carol at 860-283-5577

## Zone 7 Report

The Zone 7 Lions Clubs met on October at Elaine's Restaurant in Wethersfield. Great discussion followed a very good meal; distributed materials from the GMT Coordinator Jim Trompeter and District Governor Kathy were well received, and expected to be helpful for supporting the clubs promotions and activities.

The original Zone Chair needed to resign his position due to work conflicts. The District Governor is looking to the larger clubs in the Zone (New Britain and Berlin) to find a Lion to fill this spot. GLT Coordinator Ev Lyons and the District Governor Kathy will provide training and support for this position. The Greater Hartford Host Lions Club is preparing for their annual nut sale. Contact any GHH Lion for more information. Their Annual Pancake Breakfast will be April 30 at the American School for the Deaf. The Wethersfield Lions Club is looking to do the Kid=Sight Vision Screening in the schools again. They are preparing their annual community support mailing for their Eye Seal program. The President volunteers for the Library for the Blind; they have a great connection and can continue their community service.

The Berlin Lions Club held their Fair the first weekend in October. Despite chilly weather on Saturday, the fair was well attended. The Club is working on a Homeless project with the Veteran's Hospital.

The Rocky Hill Lions Club had good attendance at their annual carnival in September. The community knows what the Lions do and support their activities. The club will be working on Kid Sight Eye Screening. They are looking to have the District Governor install a new member at her visit in November.

On behalf of the Rocky Hill Veterans Lions Club, Jackie Fischer reported they are working on a book drive for the Milner School.

## Zone 2 Report

*By Zone Chair Frank Longo*

Zone 2 met on October 6 at Woodbury's Historic Curtis House Inn. Along with officers and members from four of the seven clubs in my zone, DG Kathy Randall, GMT Jim Trompeter, and CLERF and LCIF Chairs Phyllis and Martin Sandshaw were also in attendance.

After introductions from all attendees, and updates on CLERF and LCIF from the Lions Sandshaw, we turned to a discussion of membership. GMT Chair Jim Trompeter started things off, and each club talked about their efforts to recruit new members.

During dinner, I asked each table to discuss the things their clubs do that hinder their efforts to keep members—turning the question around from “what can we do” to “what shouldn't we do.” Other than death, family issues, and relocation, the problems highlighted during our post-dinner discussion included cliques in the club and not putting new members immediately in active roles. We all agreed that working on the issues that prevent members from wanting to remain with a club is easier than creating new ways to keep members interested.

Coming late to the party, I was not able to start club visits until late October. Right now, I have visited with five of my seven clubs, and have the other two tentatively scheduled for December. Highlights from visits include new Lions in two clubs (Bethlehem and Woodbury), drawing the winning ticket for New Milford's raffle, and reestablishing contact with a high school friend in Kent. All clubs seem to be doing well, but retention is an issue all around.

At all visits, I explained DG Kathy's request that clubs prepare written membership goals for expansion and retention, provided information about the LCI course on goal setting, and suggested that all Lions complete that, as well as the additional four courses for District 23B Lions University.

## LIONS LOW VISION CENTER GRAND OPENING!

*by LLVC President Harry Schuh*

The Lions Low Vision Centers of District 23B and First Choice Health Centers were very excited to celebrate the opening of our 3rd Lions Low Vision Center (LLVC) in District 23B on September 29th. The Grand Opening Ceremony featured an appearance by Senator Richard Blumenthal, a great supporter of our CT Lions.

The East Hartford LLVC joins our existing two LLVCs. The Torrington LLVC is operated by Charlotte Hungerford Hospital; the Bristol LLVC is operated by Bristol Hospital. All devices and aids given to patients are provided free of charge thanks to the donations from our Lions Clubs in District 23B. Our LLVCs enable low vision patients to lead more productive and active lives.

Know that each Lion in District 23B is also a member of the LLVC!



LLVC President Harry Schuh, LLVC Directors Peter Nevers and Carol Kearns.

# District 23B – Let's get really excited about this year! Take out an Ad, and possibly include a well deserving Lion from your Club in the AD

**2016/2017 23B, AD BOOK Representative**  
**Marty Sandshaw**

## **MD23 CONNECTICUT LIONS 2017 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE AD BOOK** **“100 Ads for 100 Years of Service!”**

Thank you for supporting the Connecticut Lions' annual Ad Book for the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference. With the support of our Lions Clubs, individual Lions, and their businesses, we will be able to reduce the costs for this great event. The Ad Book will be distributed to all attendees.

The deadline for Ad Book submissions is **January 5, 2017**. All ad copy must be in Word, Publisher or PDF Format. The editor has the right to adjust font size/style as necessary to fit the layout.

Be creative! Toot your own horn! Promote upcoming events! Support your current and future Lion leaders! Praise this great service organization! Highlight a special Lion in your club!

Please complete this order form and return it with your check and ad copy to:

**Lion Keith Lemire**  
**33 Shannon Lane**  
**Groton, CT 06340**

PLEASE email your ad copy to: [lionkeith23c@yahoo.com](mailto:lionkeith23c@yahoo.com)  
 PLEASE make all checks payable to "Multiple District 23 –CT Lions".

Please check ad size desired: The Add book is 8 ½ x 5 ½.

_____ Full Page Ad	\$100.00	_____ Inside Back Cover in color	\$200.00
_____ Half (1/2) Page Ad	\$75.00	(Inside Back Cover AD sold to first request)	
_____ Quarter (1/4) Page Ad	\$50.00		

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions? Contact Lion Keith Lemire [860-448-0201](tel:860-448-0201) or [lionkeith23c@yahoo.com](mailto:lionkeith23c@yahoo.com)



# Be A Hero For A Better World



**Melvin Jones - BetterWorldHeroes.com**

Who knew adult coloring books would be a thing? Apparently, it is, so we're jumping on the bandwagon and introducing our first coloring contest. Grab your colored pencils and fill in this picture of Lions Founder Melvin Jones. Send your entry to District Spirit, 125 Main Street North, Suite 9A, Woodbury, CT 06798. Entries must be received by January 15, 2017. Only one entry per Lion allowed. Entry must include name, address, and club on the back. The winners will be announced in the next District 23B Spirit.

The East Hartford Lions Club held their annual French Toast Breakfast on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the East Hartford Moose Lodge. Left to right, Lions Sally Benoit and Jill Gauthier, co-chairs of the event, are posing with East Hartford's newest Lion, Curt D'Addario, before they get ready to serve the breakfast.



LCIF Chair Marty Sandshaw and IPDG Steve Daigle receiving an award for outstanding LCIF donations. PDG Ed Haberli presented the award.

Andrea Cofrancesco of South Windsor Human Services spoke to the club about the many services for those in need, and where funds are needed.. The club is preparing for adopt - a - family for Christmas, Thanksgiving baskets, and pediatric vision screenings. Our golf tournament in May will again be at Mohegan Sun.

Left to right: Bill Gabriele IPP, Andrea, Susan Gabriele president



Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation granted several Lions clubs in the region, including Thomaston Lions Club, a grant to help buy new Spot Allyn Vision Screening equipment.

Pictured here is the Thomaston Lions Club at Play and Learn Child Development Center on Monday 11/14, with two of the new Screening units.

Pictured are Lion Meredith and Lion Bob of the New Milford Lions Club, who came to learn the equipment. Also pictured are Thomaston Lions Donna, Darlene, Missy, Frank, and Jim.

Thomaston Lions will be performing vision screening in all three Thomaston Schools this week thanks in part to the generosity of the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation.

## Single Donor Contribution Form



Individual Completing this Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Donor Details** (check one)☐ Member ☐ Non-Member ☐ Club☐ District/Multiple District ☐ Company/Foundation

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Member ID# (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Club of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Club # \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Donors making personal donations towards MJF also receive credit as a Contributing Member! The Contributing Membership program is an annual program that recognizes three levels of support: US\$20 (Bronze), US\$50 (Silver) and US\$100 or above (Gold).

☐ **Yes! In addition to receiving MJF credit, I would like to receive a Contributing Membership Pin for my donation.**

**2. Recipient of Recognition** (check one)☐ Same as Donor ☐ Member ☐ Non-Member☐ Other (details below)☐ Memorial Donation (details below)**Type of recognition requested** (check one)☐ None requested ☐ MJF/PMJF ☐ Honor Roll☐ Club Plaque ☐ Corporate Plaque ☐ Memorial Donation

Recipient Name (Individual person) \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Foundation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Club of Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Club # \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Individual to be honored (if memorial) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Contribution Details**

Amount of Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Donor would like MJF credit ☐ Yes ☐ No**Gift Type****Make donations via the web at [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)**☐ **U.S.-Dollar Check Enclosed** (Payable to LCIF, drawn on US bank)☐ **Wire/Bank Transfer** (Please attach bank transfer receipt)☐ **Local LCI Deposit** (Please attach bank deposit ticket)☐ **Cash** (Mail donations along with the Donor Contribution Form to address provided)**4. Shipping Information** (If requesting Recognition)

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**Special Instructions/Notes**

**Lions Clubs International Foundation**  
Department 4547  
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547  
USA

Tel: 630-203-3836 • Fax: 630-571-5735  
Web site: [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)  
E-mail: [Donorassistance@lionsclubs.org](mailto:Donorassistance@lionsclubs.org)

LCIF 010 01/2016

**LCIF Disaster Relief***By Lion Martin Sandshaw*

LCIF's commitment to disaster relief goes back to our beginnings, when we awarded our very first grant for flood relief in South Dakota, USA. Whenever and wherever disasters strike, Lions are often among the first to offer aid—and LCIF is right there with them, ready to support their efforts with funding assistance through Lions disaster relief programs. Working together, LCIF, local Lions and Lions leaders assess the urgent needs and quickly deliver the aid most required by victims. This grassroots model has proven effective in tragedies around the world, such as the Southeast Asia tsunami, September 11th and the Haiti earthquake, now once again, Hatti and our own state of North Carolina needs our assistance. Lions know that disaster can affect anyone's community, whether it's halfway around the world or right at home. That's why in the last 10 years, LCIF has provided more than US\$100 million for disaster relief programs worldwide. Please use the attached for your donation to the disaster relief fund

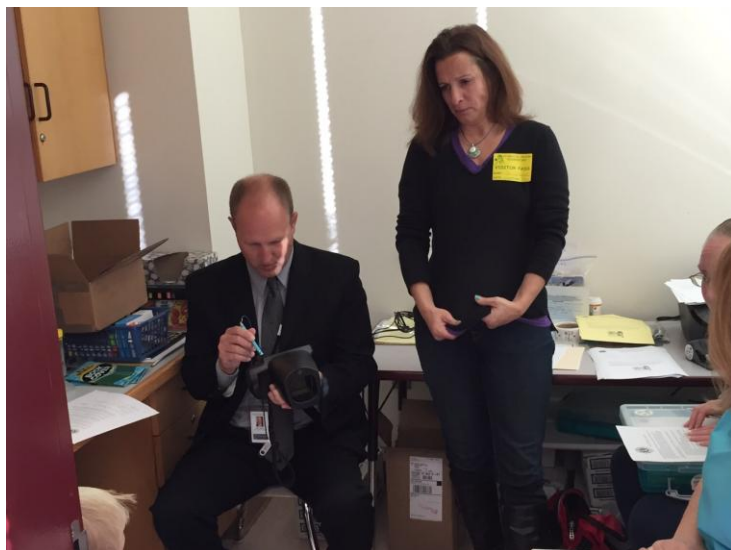
Thank you in advance!

**A Letter from Lion Phyllis Sandshaw**

Being elderly with visual problems, my Aunt mentioned to me that she was using a hand held magnifying glass to read. I told her that was totally unacceptable. The procedure outlined in the LOW VISION CENTER brochure provided the necessary information to provide an evaluation and improve her quality of life.

On a recent visit to her home, she told me how appreciative she was that the LIONS CLUBS of CT provides this service.

October 11, 2016 through October 29, 2016, Plymouth Schools will be conducting its annual Vision Screening sponsored by the Terryville Lions Club and Lions Kidsight USA. This year with a \$100,000 grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, Connecticut Lions Eye Foundation was able to expand the screenings to include students in grades Pre K through Grade 8 by matching the Lions Club International Foundation grant. Lions Kidsight USA is a new national program that brings Lions together to ensure that our children receive eye screenings and follow-up care when needed. According to educational experts, 80% of learning is visual. If children can't see well, they have more difficulty learning.



Pictured left is Plymouth School's Superintendent Dr. Martin Semmel, training on a Welch Allen Spot Screener with Terryville Lion Jennifer DeForrest



## Zone 3 Report

By Zone Chair Pat Daigle

We held our first Zone 3 meeting of this Lions year on Wednesday, October 12 at the Maple Tree Café in Simsbury. Four of the seven clubs in the zone were represented – Avon, Canton, New Hartford and Simsbury. Also in attendance were guest speakers, 2nd VDG Harry Schuh; Centennial Coordinator and Lions Around CT – TV co-host, Carol Kearns; LCIF Chair Marty Sandshaw; and CLERF Chair Phyllis Sandshaw. I distributed DG Kathy Randall's District directories, as well as a list of upcoming events I compiled with the help of the District calendar, to each Lion present at the meeting.

Following a delicious dinner, each of our Cabinet guests made a short presentation. We then held a lively roundtable discussion focusing on membership *retention* in addition to recruitment, looking at reasons we are losing members and what we can do to avoid losing more, what are we doing that makes prospective members reconsider, and ways to attract and keep new members.

It seemed like a good time to remind the clubs that their District Cabinet leaders are always a good resource to tap for any issues they may need help with, including membership. We discussed clubs working with other clubs on fundraisers and activities to help lessen the burden felt, especially by smaller clubs. We also spoke about the importance of attending LCI's Centennial Convention in Chicago from June 30 to July 4, 2017 to celebrate 100 years of Lionism.

Each club gave a report of their activities, both past and upcoming, and they all are *really* busy out in their communities! Here's just a snippet of what each club is doing for service projects: Avon delivers Meals on Wheels to McLean Home and serves coffee hour at the Avon Health Center each month; Canton holds food drives for its Canton Food Pantry outside their local Shop

## District Officers

**Kathy Randall**  
District Governor

**Robert Clark**  
First Vice District Governor

**Harry Schuh**  
Second Vice District Governor

**Ed Fenton**  
Secretary

**Jim Boulais**  
Treasurer

**David Boilard**  
Zone 1 Chair

**Frank Longo**  
Zone 2 Chair

**Pat Daigle**  
Zone 3 Chair

**Carol Hoebel**  
Zone 4 Chair

**George Cooper**  
Zone 5 Chair

**Ivonne Centeno**  
Zone 6 Chair

**TBA**  
Zone 7 Chair

## Zone 3 (continued)

Rite and publishes the "Little Red Phone Book"; New Hartford held its Giant Flea Market in September and a can and bottle drive at Marandino's in late October; and the Simsbury club supports and serves the "Souper Tuesday" luncheons at the senior center, and also help with a Special Education Christmas Party in December. Most clubs are already performing pediatric eye screenings, and are also holding fundraisers and hosting or assisting with other events and projects within their communities. As you can see, these clubs are shining examples of our Centennial motto, "Where There's a Need, There's a Lion."

I am grateful for the support and participation of the clubs at this first Zone meeting, and am looking forward to partnering with Zone Chair Carol Hoebel to host the Joint Zones 3 and 4 meeting on January 5, 2017. I will also be scheduling my Club visitations for early 2017.

Wishing everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

## Suffield Lions Club



Suffield Lions waved the community into their free eye screening on September 17.

## **Mid-Winter 2017:** Let's Celebrate A Century of Service

For 100 years, the world has relied on Lions to serve their communities.

**Mid-Winter 2017** will show our cities and towns how Connecticut Lions have served, how we serve today and how we expand our service with their help.

### **\$50,000 for CLERF**

We are asking every club to raise funds for the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Fund. Checks will be presented at the Mid-Winter Luncheon on February 3. This is a great way to remind the public about Kindsight, Low-Vision Centers, Eye Research and so much more. A great recruiting opportunity!

**Seminars** for every Lion in your club. Ask any Lion who attended Mid-Winter 2016 – we had outstanding seminars! 2017 will be every bit as good. Bring your newest members, your oldest members and everyone in between!

**FUN** for every Lion. From the skits and “photo booth” on Friday night to the hospitality suites and creative exhibits throughout the hotel. **Mid-Winter 2017** is for you!

WHERE THERE'S A NEED  
**THERE'S A LION**

SINCE 1917



## **Mid-Winter 2017** **February 2-4** **Cromwell, CT**

### **Special Guests:**

ID Alan Lundgren  
PID Dr. Ed Cordes  
PDG Dr. Keith Lemire

### **Special Presentations:**

Peace Poster Winners  
LEO of the Year  
Presidential Service Pins

Registration Forms available in October.  
Check your district web page or  
[www.facebook.com/ConnecticutLions](http://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutLions)  
for more details.

*Be part of our*  
**CELEBRATION!**