

DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

Spirit

December 2019

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CLUBS

Berlin
Harwinton
Litchfield
West Hartford Lumbini
Windsor
Woodbury

Where Is This Box?



Last issue's box was East Hartford. No one guessed the correct location, so we roll the prize (the recognition and admiration of all the Lions in the district) over to this issue. If you think you know where this box is, send your guesses to District23BSpirit@gmail.com, and, remember that if it's your club's box, you're ineligible to win.

Two more issues, one more collection box in the file. We need you to send us pictures of your eyeglass boxes to use in our contest. We've barely gone through a quarter of the clubs in the district, so there are a lot more out there we need to see. Send them to District23BSpirit@gmail.com with the location, to use in a future Spirit.

Roar, Lions!

DG Ev Lyons

We are now in the midst of the holiday season and district Lions are busy with their holiday spirit-building activities within their communities in Litchfield and Hartford counties.

Thanks to Lions, hundreds of families will share in the holiday dinners and gift-giving activities that mark the holiday season in most of our own homes. For the homebound this holiday season, Lions will be on the road delivering holiday meals and a heartfelt holiday greeting while our fellow homeless citizens will greet Lions at work providing festive meals in local soup kitchens. This is what being a Lion is all about—making sure that everyone feels a part of this special time of the year.

Our Lion leaders in the Cabinet are hard at work beyond the holiday service projects. GMT Frank Longo led an informative training session for membership chairs and Lions from all three state districts attended. PCC Alan Daninhirsch did his usual informative and interesting orientation seminar for over 30 Lions in the first of four district orientation sessions scheduled this Lions Year. GLT Jim Trompeter led a presentation group (IPDG Harry Schuh, 1VDG Heidi Zacchera and myself) at our Certified Guiding Lion training, and we now have 12 newly certified Guiding Lions on board. Chair Raj Shrestha and PDG Dave Roberts helped our newest district club, the West Hartford Lumbini Lions, get off to a great start with preparing for their Charter Night. At our first round of zone meetings, several cabinet chairs informed clubs of service opportunities and needs (Julie Vecchitto-blood drives, Peter Nevers-low vision, Nancy Lyons-QUEST, PDG Dave Roberts-LDUN, Meredith Spector-childhood cancer and Cathy Paskus-LEOS)

I have been privileged to visit a number of club projects since becoming your governor, and I continue to marvel at the interest and dedication I see as our 23B Lions remain steadfast in their



commitment to our international motto, "We Serve!" I recently finished reading *The Pioneers*, an account of those early settlers of the Ohio Valley. The author, David McCullough, concluded his historical work with a sentence that range true to me as I think of Lions: *"They accomplished what they set out to do not for money, not for possessions or fame, but to advance the quality and opportunity of life..."* It sounds to me as if he were speaking about the work and attitudes of Lions.

Keep-up your efforts to make a difference for others.

ROAR LIONS!

Leadership

By GLT Jim Trompeter

During September and November the District conducted 4 training seminars Zone Chair Training, Club Secretary Training, Guiding Lion and Membership.

I want to thank Pat Daigle, Lizette Pelletier, Dave Roberts and Harry Schuh for taking the lead and putting together the Secretaries Webinar, which had good participation, and Frank Longo, for taking the lead on the Membership training. In addition, a New Member Orientation program was conducted by Alan Daninhirsch. The webinar format is being for this is being developed, so look for Alan coming soon to your computer screen

As you can see we had very busy 3 months. We will be leading off 2020 with a slate of seminars at the Mid – Winter Conference, followed by a couple of development seminars (webinar) in April and May, and Officer training in June.

May you all have a Joyful Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year.



Lions Clubs International

Cyber Club Opportunities

Do you know a youth aged 12 - 18 years old who wants to be a LEO but cannot join because there is no LEOs club at their school or in their community? Well, ask them to join the newly chartering Northwestern Connecticut Cyber LEOs Club! This club will meet monthly via GoToMeeting with speakers and suggested service projects that the LEOs can perform with their parents or guardians in their home communities and send a picture in to receive community service credit. For more information or to join, please contact Cyber LEO Club co-advisors Cindy Daniels (cldressage959@gmail.com) or Dave Roberts (dave@daveroberts.org).

Do you know someone that can no longer drive, is too busy, or left Lions because their club didn't fit their personality? Well, ask them to join the newly chartering Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions Club! This club will meet monthly via GoToMeeting with speakers and suggested service projects that the Lions can perform in their home communities. Dues are only \$60 per Lion per year and if more than one person joins from the same household, dues are only \$50 per person per year for up to 5 members per household. For more information, or to join, please contact Cyber Lion Club advisor Dave Roberts (dave@daveroberts.org).

CLERF

The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF) has awarded \$37,311.58 to expand eye screenings for diabetic patients and to support genetic research into glaucoma.

All monies awarded were raised by individual Lions Clubs in Connecticut, either through club donations or through donations by individuals. A "Knight of the Blind" award is given to any Lion who donates more than \$1000 to CLERF.

Much of the work funded by CLERF occurs at the University of Connecticut and at Yale University. Under the direction of Dr. Mansoor Sarfarazi, UConn researchers have been doing research into post-exome sequencing of inherited forms of glaucoma. At Yale, work continues into research aimed at preventing dry and wet forms of macular degeneration – two of the most prevalent causes of blindness among senior citizens.

Since 1956, CLERF has awarded more than \$7,000,000 in grants for research into the treatment of glaucoma, macular degeneration and retinal blindness. CLERF also provides supplies used in the **KidSight** program – which has attracted the attention to communities throughout our state. CLERF regularly receives requests for funding from eye research organizations. This past year's requests totaled more than \$185,000. With only \$37,311 on hand, the CLERF board decided to give \$11,100 to expand screenings for 2100 diabetic patients and \$26,211.58 for glaucoma research this year.

"Club donations are crucial to continuing the mission of CLERF," said Lion Wayne Frombach. "Many clubs have been very generous in this regard and we thank each of you for that support. For those who have not supported this cause, I ask that you consider CLERF. The more donations we receive, the more good we can do."

CT Veterans Stand Down 2019

By Lion Jim Boulais

Veterans Stand Down Chair

The 2019 Veteran's Stand Down took place on Friday, Sept 20, 2019 in Rocky Hill. Thirty Lions and ten student nurses from Yale and CCSU helped with eye and hearing screenings, as well as handing out over 100 pairs of reading glasses and other "goodies" for our veterans.

This year the attendance of Veterans seemed "lower" than in previous years, and we ended up registering ninety-three veterans, with eighty-five completing the entire process. Hearing screens were also conducted for over thirty veterans.

Overall, up to 1,000 Veterans were provided access to over 100 service providers from Federal, State, Local, Veterans and Social Services organizations.

A special shout out for 23B and the Glastonbury Centennial Lions, who handed out seventy-five knitted hats, and Lion Sue Gabrielle, with the South Windsor Lions, who made/handed out 105 scarves (with the camouflage design being the most popular). Also, many Hospitality Bags (personal care items) that were put together as part of a Multiple District Homeless Initiative service project were also handed out.

I would like to thank all Lions (including many from 23B) that volunteered their time and energy in assisting during the event. As usual, it was "organized chaos" at times, but everything worked out well.

The event symbolizes our motto of "We Serve". Again, GREAT JOB Lions!

WE ARE...
Local. Global.
Lions. 
BeALion.org

Connecticut Lions Day at the Capitol

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Connecticut Lions Day at the State Capitol with Governor Ned Lamont and Legislative Leaders

Be part of the 1st Connecticut Lions Day at the State Capitol

Meet your elected leaders in their Hartford Capitol Offices and share with them what your club is doing back home!

Bring your new members and have them inducted on the grounds of the State Capitol!

See our Lions flag fly for the first time over the Connecticut State Capitol!

More details will be available soon!

West Hartford Lumbini Lions Charter Night

PLEASE JOIN US: West Hartford Lumbini Lions Club Charter Night Celebration

Please join ID Mark and Lyn Lyon, Council Chair Jim and PDG Joan Bennett, District Governor Ev and Nancy Lyons, and the 22 charter members of the West Hartford Lumbini Lions Club as they charter to become our newest District 23B Lions Club on Friday, December 6, at 6:00 PM. The Charter Night celebration buffet dinner and entertainment will be held at Vallabhdham Temple, 26 Church St, Newington, CT 06111. Cost is only \$20 per person and checks should be made payable to "Krishna Kandel", West Hartford Lumbini Lions Club President and mailed to Guiding Lion PDG Dave Roberts at P.O. Box 155, Riverton, CT 06065. Club gifts are welcomed for this new Lions Club of Nepalese-Americans who are adding their New Voices to Lions Clubs International.

Service Suggestions for Childhood Cancer Research Projects

Meredith Spector, Childhood Cancer Co-Chair

Because it is relatively rare, childhood cancer gets short shrift in funding for critical research and treatment. Inspired by Lions International, Connecticut Lions listened to state researchers dedicated to aiding the children. They deserve a spotlight, and Lions are promoting their work. Xiaomei Ma, PhD, of Yale, said that while cancer incidence has decreased, childhood cancer in America has increased since 1992. "Given the continuously increasing incidence of childhood cancer ... the suboptimal survival, and ... long-term effects faced by survivors, it is critical to (research) childhood cancer and develop preventive strategies."

Also searching for answers, be it through genetics, applied analytics, or research applications, is Andrew DeWan, PhD, Yale School of Public Health, who specializes in researching genomic risk factors. "Inherited genetic factors clearly play an important role in ... childhood cancers, and there have been many successes identify(ing) specific ... (genetic) variants, (but) more effort is needed," DeWan said.

The pace of research is slow, added Ching Lau, MD, PhD, of Children's Hospital Medical Center of Hartford, because of limited funding for data collection. To hasten research, his association with The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington uses mice 'patients' to study targeted treatments that could be 'translated' to similar cancers in humans.

Another Yale researcher, Nicole Deziel, PhD, noted, "There is growing evidence that environmental hazards (like) radiation, pesticides, air pollution, are risk factors for childhood cancers. It is critical (to) continue (studying) emerging (dangers) ... to provide sound information to policy makers, clinicians, and the public."

From a different perspective, Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, PhD, studies survivorship and established the Yale HEROS clinic (Health Education Research Oncology Survivors) and said her work, "... helped document the high rates of chronic medical and psychosocial conditions caused by previous cancer therapy."

Listen to the researchers, and then contact me at innspect2@gmail.com for suggestions or resources on how you or your club can serve children with cancer. More researcher promotions are in the works!

ROAR LIONS!

Partner with the Red Cross

The Red Cross is reaching out to local Lions clubs for assistance with their Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. **At no cost to Lions**, the three-part program is designed to save lives in the event of a home fire. **The Red Cross will provide up to three smoke detectors** and install them in home **without cost to the residents**. Follow-up preparedness plans are discussed and a home safety check is included. All installers have undergone background checks and are licensed and insured by the Red Cross.

What can Lions do? The easiest way to get involved is to promote this as a joint Red Cross-Lions project in your community and get the word out to your fellow citizens. In addition, installers are always welcomed (Can you handle a screwdriver?) and CO2 detectors can be donated to augment the smoke detectors. For further information from our area Red Cross project manager, call Nastia Karoukhina at 860-480-9448. Nastia understands the power of Lions-she was a LEO in high school!

On-line Teleconference and Webinar Tools Now Available

Under the 2018-2019 MD23 leadership of Immediate Past Council Chair Hilary Kumnick and Immediate Past District Governor Harry Schuh, Connecticut Lions now have a new electronic tool called GoToMeeting/ GoToWebinar to ease communications for all Connecticut Lions/LEOs. Each Connecticut District is funding 1/3 of the cost of this new tool. In our District, IPDG Harry Schuh and PDG Dave Roberts are the Points of Contact.

This new tool is available for any Lion, LEO, Lions or LEOs club, or any Lions-related event for a teleconference or webinar. All you need to do is contact PDG Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241 and he will set it up for you on a one-time or recurring basis.

Since the start of this Lions Year, this tool has been used for such meetings/webinars as:

- Lions Day with the United Nations preparation session
- Club Secretaries training
- Mid-Winter Conference Planning
- Emerging Lions Leadership Institute Planning
- USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Exploration Committee
- Annual Conference Planning
- Policy & Protocol Committee
- Fidelco Northeast Leadership Advisory Board

This new tool allows recording, video teleconferencing, muting and many other features. There is no cost for you to use this tool. Come on, try it, you'll like it!

MyLion 

Mark your Calendar!

Governor's Awards Breakfast for Zones 1-4



Sunday - March 1, 2020

8 am to 11 am

Chatterley's Banquet Facility (formerly Cornucopia)

371 Pinewoods Road

Torrington, Ct.

\$21 per person

Select your "Outstanding Lion of the Year"

100% Secretaries Awards

Bring your glasses and hearing aids

Invite family and friends - all are welcome

Please donate a door prize or raffle prize

For reservations or questions, email

Lion Nancy Lyons nschnyer0035@charter.net

or Lion Carol Kearns carolkearns@charter.net



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



District Governor's Award Breakfast

Zones 5, 6 & 7

Sunday, March 8, 2020

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

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

Cost: \$21.00 per person

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

See you there!

Checks Payable to District 23B Governor's Breakfast

Mail to:

Lion Eileen Driscoll

672 Forest Street

East Hartford, CT 06118

860-568-7305

epda23@aol.com

Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN) 2020

By PDG Dave Roberts

When: Saturday, March 7, 2020

Where: United Nations

Headquarters in New York City

Why: Join LCI President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, LCI Officers and Board Members, Ambassadors, and Lions and LEOs from around the world to see and hear how Lions are transforming service opportunities and making our world a better place.

How: Take a District 23B luxury bus from Connecticut to New York City (LDUN 2020) and back for just \$25.00. Your \$25.00 includes transportation, snacks and a beverage on board the bus!

Send your check for \$25.00 per person made payable to "District 23B" to PDG Dave Roberts, P.O. Box 155, Riverton, CT 06065

LDUN Registration: Watch for when LCI LDUN registration opens soon! This event will again sell out once the General Assembly Hall capacity is reached.

Questions: PDG Dave Roberts, dave@daveroberts.org, 858-775-9241

Special thanks to the following LIONS who generously donated to purchase bus seats for FIFTY LEOs to attend LDUN 2020 with NO

TRANSPORTATION cost:

PCC Sia Dowlathshahi (10 seats), Cathy Paskus (5 seats), PDG Dave Roberts (5 seats), Jamie Laforge and Tracy Dubois (4 seats), Dave and Sue Boilard (2 seats), PDG Bobby and Nora Clark (2 seats), PDG Steve and Pat Daigle (2 seats), VDG Ed Fenton (2 seats), DG Ev Lyons (2 seats), Jim Boulais (1 seat), Cindy Cooper (1 seat), PCC Alan Daninhirsch (1 seat), PDG Len Johnson (1 seat), Christine Kurtz (1 seat), Francis Lattazori (1 seat), Frank Longo (1 seat), Sonny Olomi (1 seat), Lizette Pelletier (1 seat), PCC Kathy Randall (1 seat), Debbie Roberts (1 seat), Akella Sharma (1 seat), Alba Soto (1 seat), Meredith Spector (1 seat), PDG Dan Uitti (1 seat) and VDG Heidi Zacchera (1 seat).

Finally, I am pleased to announce that District 23B was awarded a \$1,000.00 grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation (through Terryville Lions Charities) to fund the registration cost for LEOs to attend LDUN 2020. If you know of a deserving LEO who should receive a complimentary registration to attend LDUN 2020, please contact either PDG Dave Roberts or Cabinet Secretary Pat Daigle for details.



Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation President/CEO Stephen L. Lewis presents \$1,000 grant check to Cabinet Secretary Pat Daigle and PDG Dave Roberts on October 1 at the Thomaston Opera House grants awardees reception.

MD 23 Midwinter Conference

The Midwinter Conference for Multiple District 23 has returned this year, planned for February 21-23, 2020 at the Red Lion Inn, 100 Berlin Road, in Cromwell (where we held the past few conferences).

Keeping with tradition, the tentative theme for this year's Midwinter ties in the location for the 2020 International Convention in Singapore—"Red Lions" (the national symbol of Singapore). As of right now, attendees at the Friday night party will be asked to wear red. The band for the evening will be the popular "Night Shift", which some may remember played at last year's State Convention.

Saturday brings many seminars and presentations (the full agenda is still being worked on). This is one of the main reasons why Lions throughout the state should attend the Midwinter conference. In addition, our International guest and keynote speaker at the Saturday luncheon this year is International 2nd Vice President Brian Sheehan, along with his wife, Lion Lori Sheehan.

And Saturday is also the day where LEOs from around the state convene and share their stories, service, and friendship. Expect a larger crowd than last year (with a lot of excitement and noise!). Saturday's events conclude with a cocktail reception and banquet.

Sunday's schedule has not been revealed yet.

The Red Lion Inn (pure coincidence) is offering a special rate of \$101/night (plus taxes and fees) for the conference. Reserve before February 10, 2020

It's not too early to register (the form is on page 14). Questions about Midwinter 2020 should be directed to convention chair PCC Hilary Kumnick, hkumnic@aol.com.



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 airs in fifty-eight 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 8 shows. We begin with Part 2 of an informative CRIS Radio presentation organized by CRIS Radio Executive Director Diane Weaver-Dunne and Windsor Lion Lou Morando. We then dug into our archives for the Torrington Lions Car Show 2018, PDG Bobby Clark's Holiday Party, and long-time Harwinton Lions Club member Andy Kasznay's Farewell Celebration. We then celebrated our Lions continued involvement in the Fall Fair season. The Torrington Lions always do a great job at the Goshen Fair. We showcased the first annual Lumberjack competition this year. We also visited the Berlin Fair this year. DG Ev did a great job judging the Frog Jumping Contest this year. We also recorded the Rodeo, District 23C PDG Mary and Lion Ted Krogh's Circle K Ranch, and a great interview with Chairman Dan Daigle. We ended the program with a montage of photos from the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Spokane. The Windsor Locks Lions sponsored a comedy night featuring 3 very funny comedians. Finally, we began the Halloween season by attending the Winsted Lions Halloween Costume Dance Party. We came dressed as cowboy and cowgirl, but the best costume was Winsted President Joe Zibell in his cage as Tweetie Bird!

Below are the titles for our latest shows 321 - 333:

321	CRIS Radio Presentation Part 2
322	Torrington Lions Car Show 2018

The Lions' Roar

The next two deadlines for The Lions' Roar are December 10, 2019 and January 10, 2020. Please send your event notices in a text format (we do not publish flyers) to D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com.

You should submit all events your club has planned through at least the end of that issue's month (for the January issue, we want everything from December 15 through the end of January 2020).

323	DG Bobby Clark Holiday Party 2017 and Kasznay Farewell 5-17-17
324	Goshen Fair Part 1 featuring the Lumberjack Competition
325	Goshen Fair Part 2 featuring the Lumberjack Competition
326	Berlin Fair Part 1
327	Berlin Fair Part 2
328	Berlin Fair Part 3 and USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Spokane
329	Windsor Locks Lions Comedy Night Part 1
330	Windsor Locks Lions Comedy Night Part 2
331	Windsor Locks Lions Comedy Night Part 3
332	Windsor Locks Lions Comedy Night Part 4
333	Winsted Lions Halloween Costume Dance Party 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!



**LIONS
LOW
VISION
SERVICES**



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Editor

Frank Longo

Advertising Editor

Robert Bessel

District IT Chair

Linda Russell

Website Guy

Dan Uitti

Layout

Lauren Ipsum

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The District 23B Spirit

Our next issue of the District 23B Spirit is March 1, 2020. The deadline for all ads and articles is February 10, 2020.

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.

Windsor Lions Club



The Windsor Lions Club has two new signs and they look spectacular! Check them out on Pallisado near the bridge and in Poquonock, across from Best Cleaners. Thank you to Lion Veikko, Lion Jim Daniels, State Representative Jane Garibay, the State of Connecticut, and the Town of Windsor for getting this job done!

(Left) Lion Veikko Laakso, Windsor Mayor, Don Trinks, and Lion Jim Daniels

(Right) Lion Veikko Laakso, Windsor Mayor, Don Trinks, and Lion Jim Daniels



Windsor Leos at Sage Park and Windsor Lions Work Together

Leo Bria, Leo Vinny and Leo Elijah demonstrate their "can do" attitude as they join members of Team Paragon to set up crafters for Lions Fall Craft Fair. Leos and Lions worked together to make this event a success.

Windsor Leos at Sage Park Have Special Visitors

(Right) Andrea Guidice and her guide dog visited our recent Leo meeting at Sage Park Middle School. In her upbeat and humorous style, Andrea shared facts from her childhood, attending and graduating from the University of Connecticut, and her new job. She also told the Leos and advisors how technology helps her in her daily life. Those at the meeting came away with a much better understanding of what low vision individuals **can do**!



Membership

By GMT Coordinator Frank Longo

So far, in the 2019-2020 Lions year, we're showing slow progress in membership.

On December 6, the West Hartford Lumbini Lions Club will hold their charter night. This new club, primarily made up from the Nepali community around West Hartford, has twenty-two members and is already looking to expand their membership. Thanks to LCI Specialty Club coordinator Raj Shrethra and CGL PGD Dave Roberts for making this club a reality. The event will be held Friday, December 6, at 6:00 PM. at Vallabhdham Temple, 26 Church St, Newington, CT 06111. The cost is \$20 per person, and checks should be made payable to "Krishna Kandel", and mailed to Guiding Lion PDG Dave Roberts at P.O. Box 155, Riverton, CT 06065.

We're also on the verge of forming a cyber branch club in the district. PDG Dave Roberts is at the vanguard on this effort, and his efforts on this will benefit not just this parent club, but also any club interested in reducing meeting expenses by doing business electronically. Contact PDG Dave, dave@daveroberts.org, for information on how to form a cyber club or branch, or to integrate the technology available to us in your club.

Overall, as of November 11, we added sixty-one new members and dropped fifty-six existing members, for a net gain of five members. Again, it shows our ability to recruit, but also that we're not working hard enough to keep the members we already have. Engagement is the key to retention, and the keys to engagement are service and leadership. Start new service projects and place members who have not led an effort in charge. Find projects that appeal to your members in addition to the traditional ones to keep the interest of your members. And, find out why your members are leaving. Use the Club Quality Initiative to find out

what your members feel about how your club is running, and exit interviews are an important way to find the problems that lead members to leave.

We covered member retention in the first of the Multiple District 23 Membership Chairperson Skill Development seminars, held on November 2, at the Connecticut Association of Schools. Twenty-five Lions from around the state gave up a Saturday morning to work on ways to recruit and retain members, and how to measure the success of their efforts. If you missed this session, there are more coming, I will send out notices as they're scheduled. From this first seminar, the suggestion that a roundtable session where clubs can work together to solve their problems was made. If there is enough interest, I will plan one.

While retention is an issue, we still need to expand our recruiting efforts. While we all still "Just Ask", we need to start looking outside our normal circles to recruit members. The **New Voices** initiative has two specific goals: make our clubs look more like our communities, and create gender parity in our clubs (right now, we're about 34%, but we could do better). Lion Nora Clark is the district chair for this initiative, and she has gathered a team of champions to assist in the effort. There's more about New Voices in this Spirit, so I won't go into details here. However, this is an important piece in our recruiting effort, and clubs should strive to become more diverse and inclusive.

And, there is another interesting program that looks promising. The **Join Together** initiative involves asking local 501(c)(3) groups in your community to become part of the Lions, either as its own club, or as a branch of yours. Some of the benefits include instant brand recognition as being part of the largest service organization in the world, training and leadership development in many areas that are

of interest to a non-profit, and liability insurance at no cost to them. While normally, a new club charges a minimum of \$700 to charter a club (twenty members at \$35 initiation fee, each), under Join Together, there's a flat fee of \$300 to charter, regardless of the number of members, and the minimum number of members is fifteen. As a branch, the \$35 membership fee is credited back, and you only need five members.

Branch clubs are also an important option to keep your members from leaving. Some clubs have reached the point where recruiting into the parent club is difficult, or members are becoming dissatisfied with the current club environment. Creating a branch where these members can continue their Lions service with their own agenda and service. Branch members are still counted as part of the parent club, and may participate with the parent club in service, but are not required to. Branches have their own president, set their own meetings and agenda, and perform their own service and fundraisers. And, as mentioned before, the branch (or the parent club, for that matter) may choose to become a cyber club, which may keep members who lack time to attend physical club meetings.

And, if you haven't done so yet, please consider holding an open house to attract members from your community to learn about Lions. You can either open a regular club meeting up to the public, or hold a formal "MD23 Plan" event. Both these recruiting techniques were covered at the Membership Skills seminar, but if you didn't attend that, please contact me to attend a club or board meeting to assist you in planning one for your club.

As always, I may be reached at FMLongoJr@gmail.com for any of your membership questions.

Lions ROAR!

Litchfield Lions Club

What a year we've had! As a highlight, at the time of this printing, we've inducted fifteen new members—fifteen new active members—and expect to have four more by the close of 2019, for a total of sixty-five.

January began at a dinner meeting with the induction of two of these new members by special honored guest District Governor Harry Schuh. A schedule for 2019 was also presented, as well as an update for our club becoming a 501c3 organization.

While February and March were informational and planning months, time was well spent to make our April through October events successful. In April, we held a vision screening at Litchfield Center School and tested 129 students with seven referrals for further testing. We also tested twelve adults with five referrals for further testing. In addition, we held a special meeting to induct new members.

May was quite busy. First, at a dinner meeting, our Lions Club awarded seven scholarships to deserving students from Litchfield

and Wamogo High Schools, inducted more new members, and awarded special Lion Awards, including a Melvin Jones award. Next, we co-sponsored an annual golf tournament at Fairview Golf Course in Harwinton, CT with our local Rotary club, some members participated in "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"—a men's march fund raiser for the Susan B. Anthony Project to end sexual and domestic violence, and finally, hosted our second annual "Biggest Little Car Show in Litchfield, Connecticut"—all successful events.

June brought our annual support for the Litchfield Hills Road Race weekend. The club placed an ad in the road race book and members manned our food booth on the center Litchfield Green Saturday evening during the block party and Sunday during the race with the help of local Boy Scouts. Donations from the Bantam Market and Saltwater Grille helped to make this weekend successful.

In August, we held our second annual Corn Hole Tournament at the Litchfield Inn and in September provided food at the annual White

Memorial Foundation Family Day event. October saw our participation during the second annual Black Bear Music Festival at the Goshen Fairgrounds.

The town of Litchfield is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year and Litchfield Lions have participated in many ways. For example, one of our members is chairperson of the Anniversary Committee. Also, as a club we donated money to the special July fireworks fund, and provided food at a special Revolutionary War reenactment on the center green for Patriots Day in September.

In addition to all the above, throughout the year our club has supported our local Boy Scouts and the Susan B. Anthony Project. We have also collected and distributed used eye glasses, donated hearing aids to a student in need, helped another student attend a field trip to Washington DC, purchased a defibrillator for Sandy Beach, joined the Litchfield Area Business Association (LABA), and sold tickets for the Woodbury Lions Club Duck Race.

NEW LION FRIENDS FROM NEW ZEALAND!

By IPDG Harry Schuh and Lion Carol Kearns

We had a wonderful time in Milan, Italy at the LCI International Convention in July this past summer. One of the great things about the convention is meeting up with our Lion friends from around the world. We usually see these friends twice a year, at the International Convention and at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

Following the convention, we traveled to Nuremberg, Germany to begin a fabulous 8-day riverboat cruise on the Rhine, Main, and Mosel rivers. During the second night's dinner, we were approached by a couple who noticed our Lions shirts. They told us that they are Lions from New Zealand. Lion Maria

Goodhew is a current Region Chair. Her husband George is also a long-time Lion and past Zone Chair. The next evening, I was proud to present them each with my pin and friendship banner.

After we returned home, I sent them pictures of the four of us taken on the cruise. Lion Maria asked us for our home address so that she could send us banners and pins from New Zealand. We were happy to receive them a short time later.

So, remember to wear proudly your Lion shirts and pins around town and on vacation. You never know when you are going to meet fellow Lions and make new friends!



2019-2020 New Voices Initiative

In the 2018-2019 Lions year, then-president Gudrun Yngvadottir announced a new initiative to bring gender parity to all clubs in the world—New Voices. This Lions year, 2019-2020, International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, expanded the program to reaching out to younger adults and underrepresented cultures in our communities, either by inviting them into our clubs, creating branch clubs, or by creating specialty clubs centering around a cultural or other common trait.

Towards this end, District Governor Ev Lyons named Lion Nora DeLeon-Clark as the cabinet chair for New Voices in District 23B. She, in turn, has named four Champions, one in each of the four area of concentration: Membership, leadership, marketing and Service, who are profiled on this page.

Their task is to promote the Lions to women, younger adults, and our diverse community population to create stronger clubs and create inclusive leadership roles in them. They will use their positions to create projects that highlight that Lions Clubs are open to all people in the community, and will spread their message through social media, club, zone, district and international forums, and by creating and leading highly visible projects that show that diversity in our clubs work.

Congratulations to all of the District 23B Champions!

We are the Champions!

Leadership:

Dr. Akella Sarma—The Charter President of the Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club became a Lion to help people in need those who are less fortunate than he is in his community. He came to this country with a few dollars on his pocket with a good education. He feels strongly that this country gave him and his family a lot. Dr. Akella is thankful he has been blessed with wealth, health and knowledge. He was nominated Leadership for New Voices Initiative LCI Award, and also he is a recent graduate of the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute. Congratulations Dr Lion Akella on receiving this amazing Award.



Marketing:

Lion Elaine McDougal –The Secretary and Treasurer of Glastonbury Centennial Lions club, she feel blessed with friends, a good health and lovely family. She became a lion to give back helping her community and make a difference. She was nominated in Marketing for New Voices Initiative. Congratulations Lion Elaine on receiving this remarkable LCI Award.

Service:

Lion Cathy Paskus—From the Terryville Lions Club, Cathy is serving in her fourth year as District 23-B LEO Chairman, concentrating on maintaining existing Leo clubs and campaigning to seek new locations for additional one, has demanded for untold hours from Cathy's Schedule facing new challenges. Lion Cathy has strived to overcome each and every one, successfully instilling a desire to learn the power of a Lion and LEO partnership—mutual respect and successful service. She has proven to build a stronger and respected group of young people in Leos Cubs in District 23B. She is also is working on creating the first Cyber Leo's Club. Congratulations to Lion Cathy!



*Lion Nora De Leon Clark (center)
D23B Chairperson for New Voices
Congratulates The Champions
Awardees For the New Voices Initiative !
ROAR LIONS!*



Membership:

Lion Dr. Lillian Ruiz is the President of the Hartford Multi National Lions Club this year, as well as the club's membership chairperson. She is also the Zone 5 Chair. She is very proud to be able to keep the members engaged in community service activities, has conducted a club satisfaction survey and identified areas of interest that will empower, motivate and recognizes each of the club's members. She cares about membership retention, and makes sure that members receive awards due them, including the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, Congratulations to Dr. Lillian Ruiz for recently being nominated for The New Voices Champion Award from LCI.

Online Secretary Training

On October 5, Cabinet Secretary Pat Daigle and Lion Lizette Pelletier conducted on-line webinar training for over a dozen Lions using our new GoToWebinar tool.

If you would like to review a copy on this on-line Club Secretary Training, please go to:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5716947394496816908>

Woodbury Lions Club

When the leaves start to turn, it becomes time for the Woodbury Lions to turn up the steam on their fall and winter projects.

September means Duck Race, with thousands of little rubber ducks tossed into the Pomperaug River, with the first to cross the finish line winning one of the twelve prizes—all donated, including the top three prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$300 cash. September 7 was our 10th annual race, and a good crowd assembled to watch their duck paddle toward the end.

As soon as we scooped up the last of the straggling ducks from the river, we headed over to begin construction on our Haunted Barn, the centerpiece of our annual Haunted Hayride. Work continued until opening day, October 18, and with many thrills in the fields, including UFOs and a laser light show, thousands of guests, including DG Ev and Lion Nancy, lined up over four nights to let us scare them.

Coming up—November is our Community Thanksgiving Dinner, with three of the local churches, and bandstand decoration. December brings us to our annual Luminaria Display along two miles of Main Street on Christmas Eve!

Connecticut Lions Club Rise to the Challenge

Over the summer, the CRIS Radio chairpersons and the district governors from Districts A, B, and C met with CRIS Radio staff at their offices in Windsor. Executive Director Diane Weaver Dunne reported that state funding for CRIS programs have been drastically cut over the past decade while during the same period their audience number have increased exponentially. In FY 2019, CRIS provided services to 15,000 individuals and received \$83,000 in state funds. Ten years later, CRIS provided services to 85,000 individuals and received a little over \$21,000 in state funds. Furthermore, charitable giving dropped significantly for the year due to the recent changes in federal income tax deduction allowances for both individuals and corporations.

We learned at the meeting that earlier in the year, CRIS Radio had received a challenge grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) of up to \$40,000 towards the CRISAccess Start-Up Fund. The CRISAccess program provides audible exhibits at museums or other public spaces to provide accessibility for blind or print challenged people. In District 23B, the Windsor Lions Club and the Bristol Lions Club has supported a CRISAccess project for a museum in their towns.

Diane said that the grant deadline was a little over six weeks away and they still had a long way to go towards achieving the full match. The three district chairs told CRIS staff that the Lions in MD23 would mobilize to help CRISRadio meet its goal by the deadline. We send out emails to our respective districts informing them about the challenge grant and how any club could double its donations made to CRIS Radio between March 1st and September 11th.

If a club had already made a donation to CRIS during that time

and wanted the funds matched by HFPG, it simply needed to send an email to Diane stating that the donation be designated for the CRISAccess Start-up Fund. Clubs planning to make a donation in 2019-2020 needed to send a check designated for the CRISAccess Start-up Fund so that CRIS Radio received it no later than the grant deadline date.

At 5:04 pm on Wednesday, September 11, Diane sent out an email thanking the three of us for “spreading the word about HFPG’s challenge grant opportunity. Thanks to the wonderful Lions Clubs of Connecticut, CRIS Radio has met the entire \$40,000 challenge grant, with about half coming from Lions Clubs’ donations.” Enfield, Hartland, and Terryville contributed from 23B. A number of other clubs contacted Diane, but unfortunately their donations came in before the grant started and were too early to be eligible for a match.

Although we helped CRIS meet this challenge, funding for the organization’s other programs such as CRISKids™ and CRIS EN ESPANOL™, is still a struggle. State funding is only 4% of CRIS’s current budget. Last year, the Lions of MD23 provided 8% of the needed funds with most of that coming from District A. With individual and corporate donations dropping, our support is critical now more than ever. We recognize that many clubs hadn’t done any fundraising yet this fiscal year and weren’t able to contribute on such short notice to participate in the challenge grant, but the need continues. I hope that every club in the district will make donation for CRIS this year in whatever amount they are able. If your club would like to learn more about CRIS and the programs it supports, contact me through my Lions email lizettep58@gmail.com to arrange for a club visit by either Diane Weaver Dunne or myself or both of us.

World Diabetes Day

District 23B Diabetes Chair Wendella Battey-Benjamin

This year, in honor of world diabetes day on November 14, our goal is to test one million people (1,000,000) worldwide, for Type-2 diabetes; a largely preventable and treatable non-communicable disease that is rapidly increasing in numbers worldwide. While the campaign against diabetes last the whole year, the day itself marks the birthday of Frederick Banting who, along with Charles Best and John James Rickard Macleod, first conceived the idea which led to the discovery of insulin in 1922.

As of 2015 there were approximately 392 million people diagnosed with the disease compared to around 30 million in 1985. Typically, it begins in middle or older age, although rates of Type-2 diabetes are rapidly increasing in young people. Type-2 diabetes is associated with a ten-year shorter life expectancy, and makes up 90% of cases of diabetes, with the other 10% due primarily to Type-1 diabetes and gestational diabetes.

In a recent message from International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, it was reported that diabetes is now the 8th leading cause of death around the world, contributing to more than 5 million deaths per year. Each club can

make a difference and help us achieve this goal. We have already begun this work in Connecticut. Here is what you can do: Plan a Diabetes Screening Service Project. Service project planners are the perfect resource for your club's diabetes project and can help you organize a great project like a Type-2 diabetes screening or risk awareness event. Project planners can be downloaded from LCI.

As the 23B Diabetes Chair, I am available to be an additional resource for any club or to assist any club in getting started. This past June, we successfully organized and tested several middle school kids (grades 6, 7 & 8) in the Hartford area at our Healthy Kids Day event. Learning from that project, our goal this year is to make our diabetes testing and education a community event. We have several testing kits still available, and our physicians at CCMC have graciously agreed to participate in further testing events. I hope that all clubs will take this opportunity to help us reach the goal of testing one million people. What better time to start than November 14, and we can celebrate and share our service projects around the world by using #lionsfightdiabetes and make your mark.



(left) Third Vice International President Patti Hill is a great Supporter of New Voices! With DG Robert D. Clark "Bobby" and Nora De Leon Clark

(right) A sample of the diversity within MD23 at the Membership Chairperson Seminar, all interested in expanding the reach of Lions to all parts of their community.

Harwinton Lions Eye Screening

Harwinton and Burlington Lions teams, led by Harry Schuh and Wayne Frombach, conducted eye screening in Region 10 schools during two weeks in October. Between Lake Garda and Harwinton Consolidated elementary schools, HarBur Middle School, day care centers and Harwinton Library, 1034 children from age 6 months to 6th grade were screened, resulting in 59 referrals. The Harwinton Consolidated screeners included, from left to right, Lions Julie Vecchitto, Mike Criss, Carol Kearns, Harry Schuh and Monty Lyons, who took a photo break between classes.



Berlin Lions Eye Screening

Berlin Lions conduct pediatric eye screening in their local schools.



SINGAPORE



“RED LIONS (& SINGAPORE SLINGS?)”

February 21-23, 2020 | Registration Friday, 3:30-6:30PM & Saturday AM/PM

Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter Conference by Multiple District 23



Registration Form Use *Form* for each attendee. Registration and payment are required for all guests.

First & Last Name	Badge Name	
Email	Phone	
Billing Street Address	Billing City, State and Zip	
Current Position	Your Club Name? / Lions District? / Veteran...Which Branch? / /	
Is this your 1st Lions Conference or Convention? (Circle One) YES NO		
Convention Ticket (Required) \$20 each		\$
Saturday Lunch Tickets 12pm (Optional) \$30 each	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Marsala, Caesar Salad, Garlic-Rosemary Breadsticks and Apple Pie	\$
Our “Not to Be Missed!” Keynote Speaker is: LCI’s 2nd Vice President, Brian Sheehan with Lion Lori Harr Sheehan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Eggplant “Alla Nonna” Layered w/ White Beans, Spinach, Roasted Red Peppers, Marinara & Fresh Mozzarella (Vegetarian, Vegan, & Gluten Free)	\$
Saturday Cocktail Reception & Banquet Tickets 5pm (Optional) \$42 each	<input type="checkbox"/> Pan-Seared Chicken Breast topped with Mozzarella, Basil, Tomato Cream Sauce & Balsamic Drizzle	\$
Field Green Salad w/ Candied Walnuts, Dried Cranberries, Carrots & Blue Cheese w/ Raspberry Vinaigrette.	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled 8 oz. Filet Mignon with Bordelaise Sauce	\$
Herbed Fingerling Potatoes, Steamed Asparagus Spears & Ultimate Chocolate Layer Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Salmon Fillet with Lemon Beurre Blanc Sauce	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Butternut Squash Ravioli w/ Sage Cream Sauce (Vegetarian)	\$
Total Due		\$

PAYMENT:

You may mail this *Form* with check by **Feb. 10th**. Check made out to **Multiple District 23 Lions** (or “MD23”) and send to:
Lion Teri Schlosser, RC 59 Colchester Avenue East Hampton CT 06424

QUESTIONS?:

Convention Chair – Hilary Kumnick, IPCC: hkumnick@aol.com
Registration Chair – Teri Schlosser, RC: schlossertk@gmail.com

RED LION HOTEL 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

Special Rate is \$101 for standard room plus tax. / Reserve room before Feb 10, 2020. May be accepted past this date.

Mention the “Connecticut Lions State Convention” | Call 1-860-288-4985 | Parking is Free

Put Your 2VDG to Work!

2nd VDG Ed Fenton

To all the Lions of District 23-B—thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2nd Vice District Governor this year! I look forward to meeting all our clubs and learning about the fantastic service Lions do throughout our District.

I chose to volunteer at the District level because I love to see all the wonderful things that our clubs do to support their communities. One of my goals throughout the next three years is to get out and support each club by volunteering at either a service project or fundraiser. I'd like to thank the five Lions Clubs who have allowed me to spend some time with them through the end of October.

During the summer, I started out by visiting the Canaan Northwest Lions on August 21st to participate in their Bonnie Boxes Project. The Lions put together 50 Bonnie Boxes each month to be delivered to cancer patients who are going through chemotherapy. The majority of boxes are delivered to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Each box contains comfort items for the patients to have during their treatment. A child's box could contain such things as a coloring book, crayons, toys, a personalized note, and always a Beanie Baby. This is a wonderful project that works towards our LCI Childhood Cancer Initiative. Please reach out to Helen or John Mahoney of the Canaan Northwest Lions if you would like more information on this wonderful program.

August 23rd was spent at Harrybrooke Park with the New Milford Lions for their annual Senior Citizen's Picnic. Over eighty seniors, including PDG Curt Fitch, enjoyed an afternoon of hamburgers, hot dogs, desserts, and door prizes. The highlight of the afternoon was a rousing game of

District Officers

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District Governor

Heidi Zacchera
First Vice District Governor

Ed Fenton
Second Vice District Governor

Pat Daigle
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Steven Daigle
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Zone 1 Chair

Sonni Olami
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Phyllis Perry
Zone 3 Chair

Tracy Dubois
Zone 4 Chair

Lilly Ruiz
Zone 5 Chair

John Habif
Zone 6 Chair

Jamie LaForge
Zone 7 Chair

bingo led by PDG Mike Wilcox. During September, the Glastonbury Centennial Lions conducted their first major fundraiser with a Pancake Breakfast. It was a very successful day with support from Lions throughout the District. The South Windsor Lions assisted with the cooking, and there was a bake sale, and raffle. This was a very successful event and I enjoyed the opportunity of helping the Glastonbury Centennial Lions with their first fundraiser.

On October 18th, the Greater Hartford Host Lions held their first "Lions, Libations, & Cheer!" event. It was a fun night of food, a wine pull, silent auction, and great music by Anthony Cornicello's jazz band. I had the pleasure of helping throughout the night with set-up, operation, and cleanup of the event.

The final Sunday of October, I worked with the Plainville Lions during their Pancake Breakfast. Having done this event for many years, the Lions are a well-oiled machine for cooking pancakes, French toast, and the other items on the menu. In addition to door prizes and a raffle, Lion Brian also arranged for PDG Dave Roberts to present information about our District 23-B Lions Low Vision Centers. I appreciate Lion Tad for teaching me how to mix better pancakes!

For me it's been a great start to this Lions year! I've enjoyed meeting all the Lions at these events as well as during my club visits. If you have an upcoming service project or fundraiser, please let me know if you would like some help. You can contact me at edehlions@aol.com, and my other contact information is on the District website. I look forward to continuing to work with all the Lions in District 23-B!



MD23 Mid-Winter/State Convention February 21-22-23, 2020



Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell, CT

