

**CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES** 

June 2017

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## Where Is This Box?



We received more guesses for last month's box than we have for any other of our "Guess the Box" contests—three! The winner is Lion President Donna Severson, of the Torrington Club, who sent in her guess minutes after the last Spirit was published. Unfortunately, while the other two guesses were correct, they came from members of the club to which the box belongs, which is against the rules.

So, here we have something different. I'm not sure whether this eyeglass collection box was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright or I.M. Pei, but it's unlike the ones we've featured in the past few issues. **District23BSpirit@gmail.com** is where you should send your guesses, and, remember, if it's your club's box, you're ineligible to win.

We need more pictures of collection boxes for future issues. Let's see some from the club's in Hartford County.

## **Greetings from East Hartford**

District Governor, Kathy Randall

This is my last article for the District Spirit for my year as Governor. I have been extremely proud to serve you as your District Governor. It has been fabulous to visit each and every club in the District. You all have a special gift - the gift of service, and I hope you will continue to be Lions for Life. I learned so much from all clubs, and I hope you have learned from me as well. You have taught me how to balance schedules and make multiple meetings in one night. I also learned how to attend many Pancake Breakfasts in one day, and not overeat! I appreciate everybody's accommodations to make my visits interesting and valuable. Even though the District is down in the member count from a year ago, I think we are in a good place. I believe we have a strong demographic of younger Lions and re-dedicated Lions, energized to move the District forward. Clubs understand the value of serving their communities (no matter how that "community" is defined), and I request you all continue the good service for others. Sadly, the District lost 21 Lions to death during this Lions year. Another 174 were dropped, many for moving, others may have lost their jobs and could not pay their dues, and yet others resigned in good standing, perhaps family or work obligations exceeded their available time. But the good news - clubs in the District added 129 new members. It is with these new members and you, we will continue to grow and serve. Our newest Club, the Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club is growing and sharing their service with various communities. Don't be surprised if they reach out to help in your community.

I am extremely proud we were able to adopt a new 23B Constitution and Bylaws. This was a long over-due process, and with your support at the Special Convention held at Mid-Winter Conference, we made it happen. Additionally, at the recent State Convention, The Multiple



District adopted a Multiple District 23 Constitution and Bylaws. The Council of Governors is in the process of reviewing the Multiple District Policy and Protocol Manual that has been edited to comply with the newest Constitution and Bylaws. I expect we will adopt that Manual at the June 12 Council meeting. All of these documents are available, or will be shortly, for clubs to view. I am moving on to be the Council Chair for the Multiple District. But, I will continue to serve our District, and my home club in **East Hartford**.

A big thank you to my club for all their support over the past 3 years. When they endorsed me almost 4 years ago, I did tell them I could not be as active in my club for a period of time. They have been 100% supportive and understanding. Actually, I am amazed how many things I was able to participate in – I guess we made it work. Thank you, East Hartford Lions.

As a reminder, I offer these upcoming events still left in this Lions year.

June 3 – 2017-2018 Officer Leadership Training, American School for the Deaf, West Hartford. Please contact GLT Ev Lyons for more information. June 4 – District Governor Kathy Randall Testimonial Dinner, held at the Gallery, Glastonbury. All Lions have been invited through Club Presidents and Secretaries. Please contact Cabinet Secretary Ed Fenton for more information.

June 5 - Cabinet Meeting and District Special Convention, Unionville Lions Camp Happy Hill, Unionville. Please contact Ed Fenton for more information. Delegate forms have been mailed to each Club for the Special Convention. Connecticut has an opportunity to elect a Lion to serve on the International Board of Directors. District 23-B will be electing one Lion, either PCC Dan Divirgilio or PCC Sia Dowlatshahi, to move forward to a statewide Special Convention on November 4, 2017. The elected winner from the statewide Special Convention will secure the endorsement from the other New England States, and will participate at an International Convention, probably 2018 in Las Vegas. This is an important election, and it all starts with your vote on June 5.

June 10 and 11 – Special Olympics Opening Eyes, held on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University. For more information and to volunteer, please contact 23B Chairman Jim Boulais.

June 30 - July 4 -- International Convention, Chicago IL. Celebrating 100 years of Lionism, it is expected 55,000 Lions from around the world will gather to exchange stories, rekindle friendships, and share the joy of being a Lion. Remember the big banner I have been asking each of you to sign? Know that when I carry the banner in the International Parade on Saturday morning that I will be thinking of you. Finally, please continue to share your club events with the District leadership. I hope to visit club events often, and continue the friendships we have developed over the past 3 years. But I cannot attend if I do not know about them. Please share!

## **Hartland Lions Club**

**We Serve** - the mantra of the Lions International.

Responding to the International Week of Service the Hartland Lions partnered with First Church and Abby Ward Quilt Guild to support the First Church Sunday School in the Heifer Project as part of the International Week of Service.

Through the efforts of the partnership the Sunday School was able to sponsor a small herd of farm animals for this very effective outreach project to struggling small villages overseas. The youngers were very excited to see their initial efforts grow exponentially. The Heifer project brings hope to struggling families around the world. Not only in the form of animals that can provide eggs, milk, wool but also clean water, shelter and medical care. Truly, a world reaching service project in line with Lions International service.

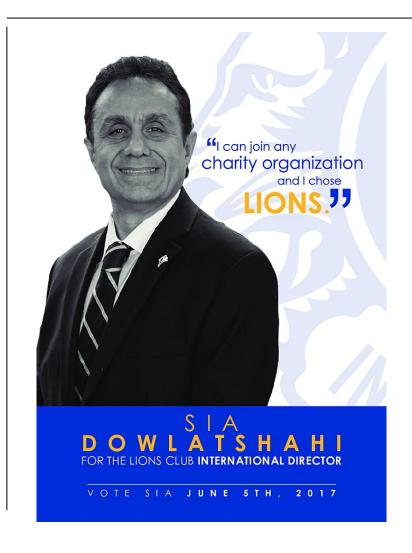
Locally, we once again we partnered with the 4th grade students by providing them with sapling as part of the Arbor Day lesson and lesson on the needs for continued conservation. Each student received a tree to plant at their home. It may seem unnecessary for a town that has one of the highest numbers of trees per capita in the state, however, learning good stewardship or our resources and natural world is always very important. Seeing something "I" planted grow is exciting and as each student was told - "Plan for the future - your grandchild may one day be climbing that tree and you will have a story to tell".

Calling all Moms - By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have had another successful Mother's Day Breakfast. Eggs, pancakes with Hartland's own maple syrup, fresh fruit, pastries and most of all -good fellowship and a big THANK YOU MOM for all you do. We send our best to all the local LIONS Clubs - keep SERVING.



Approximately 20 Lions braved the cold frigid 20 degree weather to March in the Hartford Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Left to right. Lions Nora Clark, Sue Boilard and Pat Daigle.



## Opening Eyes June 10th – 11th, 2017 SCSU – New Haven

By Lion Jim Boulais, Opening Eyes Chair

Calling all Lions! Special
Olympics/Opening Eyes needs your
help. Each year we need
approximately 75 volunteers to run
this event from all three districts in
CT. My goal is to have at least 25
from our district this year.

Since 2000, LCIF has awarded over \$19 million dollars in support of this program. Over 400,000 assessments have been performed in over 85 countries. Over 150,000 prescription eyewear have been distributed to Special Olympics athletes.

At last year's event:

- 355 athletes were screened (one of our largest ever)
- 10 athletes were referred for additional care
- 226 pairs of prescription glasses and sports goggles were given out (glasses made on site!)
- 63 Lions/Leos volunteered
- 20 Optometrists, 10
   Opticians and 24 Optometry students volunteered

There is a total of 9 stations covered by volunteers like you. We need you to register so that we have an idea of how many volunteers we will have. All volunteers get a T-shirt too. The following shifts are available:

- Fri afternoon, June 9<sup>th</sup> –
  help setup for the weekend
  (time to be determined)
- Sat 8:00 12:30
- Sat 12:00 4:00
- Sun 8:30 12:00
- Sun afternoon help "tear down" and bring equipment down to vehicles

This is an event that all Lions should participate in at least once! It is wonderful to see all the smiles on the Special Olympian faces as they go thru the different stations and

interact with all the volunteers. It's a great way to show our Lions spirit and fulfill our goal of "We Serve".

Please email me at boulaisj@cox.net if you have not yet volunteered, and you would like to join other Lions at this great event. Just let me know your name, club, phone, email and what shifts you would be available to help. Also, let me know if you have any questions.

I hope to see you there!

Jim Boulais Opening Eyes Chair – 2016/2017

## The Bloomfield Lions Club Needs your Heln!

The Bloomfield Lions is undertaking a huge service project but cannot do it without everyone's help! We are taking hard covered eye glass cases and turning them into personal hygiene kits, also known as "Caring Cases". These "Caring Cases" will contain: travel size toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, ointment and combs. Please help us by saving your cases and/or purchasing some of the items listed. Our goal is the distribution of the "Caring Cases" to shelters in the Greater Hartford area and beyond, if possible.

If your club would like to assist us in this endeavor, please contact Lion Mary Murray at marymurray14@comcast.net. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



## **Thomaston Lions**

It's been a busy new year for Thomaston Lions and Leos.

Members dug deep to raise funds for the measles initiative, raising \$130.00 for the crusade in Jan. In Feb the Leos went to the MWMD 23 conference with Terryville Leos and had a great time. March brought the annual corn beef scholarship dinner and the revitalization of an old Thomaston tradition, Think Pink Day. Both events were very successful.

Thomaston also held an emergency food drive, collecting many non-perishables, \$230 in cash, and \$45.00 in gift cards for the town food pantry. In April, our Lion mascot, members of the Lions, and our youngest Leo, Sydney, handed out trees to the Center school 4th graders for Earth Day in conjunction with the 4th Grade Foresters program. The very next day, "Shake the Can on Sight Saver Day" netted over \$1500.00 in just under 3 hours. T

The clubs tried out something new in April by hosting a health and vendor fair and the Leos hosted Qatie (pronounced kay-tee), a Fidelco Ambassador service dog, and her handler in a meet and greet with the Lions.

Finally the April elections were held. Im very pleased with the clubs new leadership and cant wait to see what the next chapter in our Lions story will bring.

Donna Severson, proud President THOMASTON LIONS CLUB



The Bloomfield Lions Club cardially invites you to allend our

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet

St. Thomas Seminary Conference Center 467 Bloomfield Ave. Bloomfield, CT

Saturday, October 7, 2017 6:30-10:30pm \$65 per person

Dinner, Dancing, Awards and Recognition, Entertainment



Berlin Lions Janice Ayotte and Devon Austin prepare food for young fishermen and their families at the clubs annual V.I.P. Fishing Tournament. The tournament was held at Sage Park in Berlin on April 30th. A great time was had by all.



SOUTH WINDSOR LIONS CLUB STANDS BEHIND SIA FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR.

FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

SIA JUNE 5TH

## **Lion Leaders Testify at State Capitol**

On March 20, 2017, three Lion leaders testified before the CT state senate on Senate bill 1014, "An Act Concerning Various Revisions And Additions To The Education Statutes."

Lions PDG Dan Uitti, Martin Sandshaw, and Paul Armor spoke on behalf of Section 9 of the bill, allowing the use of automated screening devices in public schools:

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening, using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening device, including, but not limited to, an automated vision screening device. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such vision screening. (Underlined text denotes the change to the law).

This is an important piece of legislation for Lions—it will make it easier for clubs to perform screenings at public schools in the state using our vision screeners. The bill passed on 5/24, with this section taking effect on 7/1/2017.

We received a note from Phyllis Sandshaw on this:

I would like to publicly applaud Paul Armor, Dan Uitti, and Marty Sandshaw for the effort put forth before the Education Committee at the State Capitol on 3/20/17.

The reason for the visit was to address Senate Bill 1014 Sec. 9, a request a change in legislation to use automated screening equipment at the discretion of Superintendents and Boards of Education.









## Wolcott Resident Dan DiVirgilio Opens Farmers Insurance Agency in Southington, Offering Special Discounts to Veterans, Military, Fire and Police Personnel, Medical Professionals, Teachers and Business Owners

Wolcott/Southington, Conn., April 3, 2017 – Dan DiVirgilio of Wolcott has opened the new Farmers Insurance Dan DiVirgilio Agency LLC at 1460 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike in Southington. Working with DiVirgilio is licensed producer Janice Mitchell-Smith of Bridgeport, licensed producer/marketing Kathy Reynolds of Goshen, social media consultant Derek Clark of Bristol, and DiVirgilio's granddaughter, Lauren Rose of Wolcott, office assistant.

DiVirgilio, president of the Farmers Insurance Dan DiVirgilio Agency LLC, stated that he opened the agency because as a family man in Connecticut he wants to help ensure the safety of families and individuals throughout the Southington region. Dan has been a member of the Torrington Lions Club for over 20 years and is very much involved in the community where he lives and works. "My goal when I review each client's coverages is to be sure there are no gaps in their insurance portfolio. The proper coverages on each policy will ensure that with any loss our client's assets, which include their home, auto, retirement funds, and their families' futures, are all protected.

A resident of Wolcott, DiVirgilio commented that Farmers Insurance is one of the most prolific providers of auto, homeowners, life, business, personal umbrella, flood, and specialty insurance coverages in the United States. "In life insurance alone," stated DiVirgilio, "Farmers Insurance offers permanent, term, universal and whole life insurance policies. This award-winning company also offers financial services including mutual funds, variable annuities, and variable universal life policies."

U.S. Veterans receive special discounts on auto and homeowners policies from Farmers Insurance. "The company offers special discounts for all U.S. military personnel nationwide. These discounts include alternative fuel vehicle discounts, auto glass replacement and towing and roadside assistance discounts plus home insurance discounts for condominiums or townhouses, mobile homes, renters insurance, replacement cost on contents coverage," explained DiVirgilio.

"Farmers Insurance wants to do all they can to ensure that our nation's service men and women receive all the coverage they need or want for day-to-day living and emergency situations. The company also offers a Mentorship and Intern Program to help all veterans work as independent Farmers Insurance agents.

"As a veteran and an owner of my own independent Farmers Insurance agency," he continued, "I eagerly go to the U.S. Veterans Administration medical locations in West Haven, Rocky Hill and Newington to actively recruit veterans to start their own Farmers Insurance agencies and educate them on all the special discounts the company offers."

Police officers and firefighters are also rewarded by Farmers Insurance with special discounts "Because," DiVirgilio explained, "they are courageous individuals for whom our company wants to provide money-saving products. As with military personnel, these individuals work in high-risk jobs and are innately a better risk to insure. They too are entitled to receive alternative fuel vehicle discounts, auto glass replacement and towing and roadside assistance discounts, plus home insurance discounts for condominiums or townhouses, mobile homes, renters insurance, replacement cost on contents coverage."

Teachers, doctors, and nurses also receive special discounts from Farmers Insurance. "The company very much wants to reward these hard-working, highly dedicated individuals with special discounts for their auto, home and life insurance policies."

For business owners, Farmers Insurance offers business life insurance, permanent and term life insurance, universal and whole life policies. "We also offer," stated DiVirgilio, "business package policies, worker's compensation, personal umbrella and flood insurances personal umbrella and flood insurances, plus a variety of investment products from mutual funds, variable annuities, and variable universal life policies."

DiVirgilio commented that he opened the Farmers Insurance agency in Southington, "Because this company offers much more than the standard life, home, auto policies, coverage for motorcycles, mobile homes, personal watercraft, rental and seasonal homes. Our agents offer truly customer-focused services, products at a fair value, and we meet with each customer to review their existing policies, how their lives may have changed, and what current products may meet their current lifestyles and future ambitions. Our goal with every client is to help them build strong financial strength for their lifetimes."

To contact Dan DiVirgilio, call 860-426-3760 or email him at ddivirgilio@farmersagent.com.

\*\*This is a paid advertisement\*\*



## **LCIF Club Coordinator**

If you haven't already heard, there's a new club board position announced by LCI: the LCIF Club Coordinator. There are lots of questions, and, hopefully, this article will answer them.

The club LCIF coordinator will serve as an ambassador for Lions Clubs International Foundation in your club. This individual share the stories of LCIF programs, motivate others to support LCIF, and enable the foundation to advance its humanitarian work in your community and around the world. Responsibilities will include:

- Educating Lions about the mission and success of LCIF and its importance to Lions Clubs International
- Implementing LCIF development strategies within your club
- Collaborating with LCIF DC to promote LCIF in your area

The club LCIF coordinator is nominated by the clubs nominating committee, elected as a member of the board and will serve a one-year term until re-elected the following year. The club LCIF coordinator works closely with local club leadership and communicates directly to LCIF DCs to ensure alignment with district goals.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Promotion and Education**

#### Training and Events

- Attend annual LCIF training provided by your district coordinator
- Give annual LCIF
   presentation at a club
   meeting to cover: LCIF
   programs and their impact,
   opportunities to apply for
   LCIF grants, and the
   benefits of supporting

#### **Public Relations**

 Promote LCIF program success stories through

- local media outlets, prepare and distribute press releases
- Work with club PR chairperson to promote LCIF
- Promote LCIF through your club's website and social media outlets

#### Work with leadership

- Provide regular updates and success stories to club leadership
- Provide LCIF grant and program updates to club leadership
- Provide regular updates to your district coordinator and club president

#### Grant opportunities

- Inform Lions in your club of LCIF grant opportunities at a local level
- Facilitate communicate with district and other clubs regarding active grants and grant applications

#### **Expanding LCIF**

Expanding LCIF programs in your club is a crucial responsibility. Be aware of your district's goal as established by club and district leadership.

#### Awareness and Recognition

- Conduct annual fundraising event to promote LCIF programs in your club
- Conduct annual recognition event to recognize donors in your club

#### **Identify Potential Partners**

- Identify Partners in your club with the capacity and interest to support LCIF
- Identify local businesses with the potential to partner with your club in the name of LCIF

#### Facilitate Support

 Assist partners with the submission of LCIF funds, MJF, and other recognition

- applications
- Serve as your clubs expert on available LCIF recognition programs
- Assist with the presentation and reception of recognition items

#### Keys to success

- Flexibility: As LCIF
   Development strategies
   evolve, be flexible in the
   implementation and
   modification of those
   strategies to suit your club.
   It is anticipated that this role
   will evolve over time and
   that specific tactics will vary
   in different geographical
   areas.
- Personal Support: All club LCIF coordinators are encouraged to personally support LCIF. Experience shows that volunteers are more motivated to a cause when personally and financially invested.
- Working with local leaders: Success in this position requires collaboration with other Lions leaders.
   Communicating and collaborating with club leadership, other clubs in your area, district leadership will help spread the LCIF message throughout your area.
- Communication: Successful implen
  - Successful implementation of development strategies will require the coordinated efforts of the entire LCIF volunteer team. It is crucial to building a stronger foundation that coordinators work closely together and communicate frequently.



## Zone 2



Zone 2 met for the final time this Lions year on April 6 at the Curtis House Inn in Woodbury. Every club in the zone was represented (all seven of them!) GMTL Jim Trompetor led the discussion on membership, and District Governor Kathy Randall used the opportunity to update the zone on district and international issues. As a way to help spread ideas between clubs, table assignments were assigned by lot, each attendee picking from a basket of Easter eggs containing the number of the table where they were to sit. Consider a variation of this for your next meeting to shake up the usual seating.



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

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District IT Chair Sonny Olomi

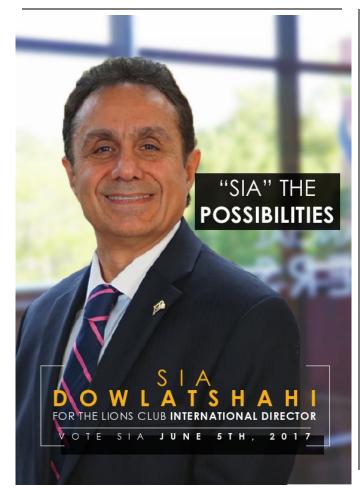
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The Thomaston Lion with club members handing out trees at Center School for Earth Day.

## **A Fidelco Story**

My guide dog, 'Legend,' is a godsend. He has changed my life in more ways than I ever thought he would. He's happy and he loves me and gives me something to care for. On top of all that, he helps me walk down the street," shares Retired Air Force TSgt and Fidelco client Matt Slaydon. This sense of joy – this hope for the future – that has been inspired by Legend is not something Matt takes for granted for a single moment.

Nearly 10 years ago, while serving as the point person for an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team (EOD) in Kirkuk, Iraq, Matt was severely injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) that detonated two feet away from his face, throwing him almost 30 feet from the blast site. His arm required immediate amputation, his face was shattered, and he was suddenly and completely blind.

The next chapter was exceedingly difficult. Completing three tours of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom and disarming over 100 IEDs paled in comparison to the physical and spiritual adversity Matt faced as he tried to cope with a new normal. With the support of his wife, Annette, Matt slowly began to reclaim what had been lost that fateful October day. Partnering with Legend was the next step in Matt's recovery and the team has been flourishing ever since. He reflects, "Legend was the magnificent tool in my tool box that helped me get where I needed to go."

Meet and thank Matt personally on Sunday, July 23rd at Fidelco's 7th Annual Ride for Independence motorcycle fundraiser where he will serve as a grand marshal.

More info can be found at Fidelco.org.





Fidelco client TSgt Matt Slaydon with Legend

## South Windsor Lions Club

Our club has been doing our usual fundraising, Pancake Breakfast and Golf Tournament.We've been doing pediatric vision screenings and doing a road cleanup. South Windsor has also been working on Sia Dowlatshahi 's campaign for International Director. We had a wine and appetizer event to raise funds.



## **Woodbury Leos**



The Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug HS Leo Clubs attended the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Cromwell in February. The Leos are advised by Kate Peterson, Sandy Snabaitis and Sheila Mahoney. They met with about 200 Leos from the state and got to share many great ideas. The Nonnewaug club also won the raffle for the stuffed Lion mascot. They will proudly display the Lion at the high school for the next year and then return him at next year's conference adorned with something unique to Region 14.

# DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

By Jim Trompeter, District Membership Coordinator

During the months of March and April I had the opportunity to attend all seven Zone Meetings within our District.

Through the course of these meetings I was able to meet with 38 of the clubs in our District and discuss the issues and opportunities each of them are encountering in their membership programs.

Not all the news was bad. We have twenty-five clubs within the District that are up in membership for the year. We also have several clubs who are taking a proactive approach to increasing their membership.

Here are some of the unique ideas: New Britain did a Happy Hour, Kent is doing a Picnic. Some Clubs are asking for Volunteers to help with projects to get them initially involved. We also have clubs that are recruiting by using Facebook and Twitter, with some success. We have 3 clubs within the district that did a self-assessment as a tool to help them bring in new members.

On June 3rd, I will be participating in the Officer Training Program. I am looking forward to meeting with the Membership Chairpersons throughout the District so we can start setting the ground work for what we want to accomplish next year and get an exchange of ideas as to what is working. We have made several inroads this year and now we are already to take it to the next level. I look forward to seeing you on June 3rd



# 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

#### **LCIF**

District Presidents and Zone Chairs:

Thank you for your support of LCIF during 2016/2017. We are on our way of achieving our goal of 100% participation, and \$41,000 in donations. As of 2/28/17 District B has 50% participation and donations over \$16,000. Dr Yamada has just shared with Coordinators an incredible milestone: since being formed in 1968 LCIF has now awarded more than US\$1Billion in grant funding.

I ask that you encourage your clubs to support LCIF. LCIF improves the lives of everyone it touches.

District 23B LCIF Coordinator, Marty Sandshaw

## **Suffield Lions Club**

The Suffield Lions Club partnered with the Emergency Aid Association staff and volunteers to conduct "KidSight USA" vision screening in Suffield's pre-schools, elementary school, middle school and intermediate school during the week of March 27.

A total of 617 students were screened using the Welch-Allyn SPOT Camera, designed to test for vision deficiencies that can occur in children aged 6 months to 7 years.

The vision program screens for: Hyperopia "Farsightedness", Myopia "Nearsightedness", Astigmatism, Antimetropia, and Strabismus. Unless vision problems are detected early and corrected, they risk becoming permanent.

# Next District Spirit Deadline

All articles, pictures, and ads must be received for the October issue of the District Spirit by September 10.

We suggest advertising your club events through December in this issue.

