

# DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

## Spirit

*March 2017*

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## Where Is This Box?



The winner of last issue's "Where Is This Box?" contest was Lion Bob Christensen of the First Flight Lions Club, in Kill Devil Hills, NC. He is also an associate member of the Berlin Lions Club, and is on the Board of Directors for the NC VIP Fishing Tournament. Congratulations, Lion Bob!

We local Lions have to step up our game! This month's collection box also seems to be a repurposed mailbox (we see a trend here), but this time, it's purple, not yellow. Where could it be? Send your guess to [District23BSpirit@gmail.com](mailto:District23BSpirit@gmail.com). The first correct guess wins fame and fortune, although, not necessarily from the staff of the District 23B Spirit.

# Greetings from East Hartford

*District Governor, Kathy Randall*

In the event you were not able to attend the Business meeting at Mid-Winter Conference, I am sharing a summary of my report to the Council. This report summarizes the first half of this Lions year. In September, I was pleased to join our District leaders when IP Bob Corlew came on his bus to visit Connecticut. It was a great day for all in our State.

I tried something new in September, and held our first District Assembly. More than half the clubs were represented, and the approval rating was very high. Attendees learned about Social Media and are working on updating their skills within their clubs. District Directories were distributed, and Club Officers appreciated not having to wait for the first Zone meeting to have the books. Breakouts to Mini Zone meetings offered the opportunity to meet the rest of the clubs and officers in Zones, prior to the October Zone meeting. Zone chairs were delighted to get to know some of the officers and begin to build a relationship and outline their goals for the year. This will help to make their Zone meetings more effective.

In October, we held all Zone meetings, and as I needed to miss 2, I was in communication with each Zone Chair. I shared documents related to developing our clubs, and how to attract new members. The second round of Zone meetings were in January, and clubs came back with at least one idea they are trying with their clubs for membership growth. Great ideas are being shared, and I sense clubs interested in growing membership to do more for their communities.

The District's new club, the Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club, hereinafter known as the Everest Lions, had their Charter night in November. They eagerly participated in an Orientation session. They are actively participating in District activities, and understand the importance of



member involvement. Thank you to all that attended the Charter Night – a wonderful display of Nepalese culture.

The American School for the Deaf Appreciation Dinner was a great success. This annual event is a great way for Clubs to present their donation directly to the School. An overflow crowd this year and \$7,800 was donated to the School. Our Holiday parties were all great – each different in their own right, but lots of celebration and merriment! As usual, I enjoy all the club fundraisers and events throughout the district. Had a hole-in-one on the mini-golf course, but I will not tell my final score! Lots of Pancake Breakfasts and Pasta Dinners. For the District, our Official Visits are about 75% complete. With the assistance of VDGs Bobby and Harry, clubs are getting the latest information from LCI as well as the District – 75% of 23B Clubs report participating in the LCI Centennial Service Challenge.

The bad news – the membership numbers are down 55 members from July 1 count. GMT Jim Trompeter is doing a great job presenting information and options to clubs to assist them. I am still optimistic, and are reminding clubs they have paid for their members through June – no need to drop

them at this point.

This has been a great year for me, personally. I continue to learn from other Lions, and I hope they have learned something from me.

Respectfully Submitted,  
DG Kathy, 23B

## Schedule for 2017-2018 Officers

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

According to the Lions Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws, an officer nominating committee will be established by **March**. The Club votes on the proposed slate of officers at an **April** meeting, and the Secretary can report new officers to Lions Club International by **May 1, 2016**.

Completing the Club Officer Report (formerly known as the PU 101) is an important step as the District prepares for the next Lions year. Completing this schedule will help the incoming Governor, VDG Bob Clark, to adequately prepare the annual District Directory.

And Secretaries, do not forget to check the "Club Information" section on MyLCI. This section houses when and where your club meets; updating this info is also crucial to producing the District Directory.

DG Kathy





## Hartland Lions Club

WINTER BLAHS—what an apt name for this time of year. I think we have all had enough of cold, wet, sleet, and yes, snow. Even though it has not been a bad winter, we are ready for SPRING, the birds, first buds, and garden prep. So as you look forward to rebirth, and your Lions events to come, take a moment to reflect on the good you have done over this past winter and be thankful, if even in a small way, for the care and help you have given. For it is through compassion and service that we are unique in this world.

Hartland celebrated Peace by participating in the Peace Poster art project, encouraging students to celebrate peace and remember that peace has a cost. Posters were displayed at the annual Christmas Concert and Senior Dinner to be enjoyed by all the students and the community. Young people's pictorial interpretations of Peace encourage us with the hope that they will promote peace as they take their place in society.

Through the full cooperation of the school administration and nurse were able to screen all the students at the school and all the town preschools for sight defects. We believe this is one of the Lion's best programs. Finding defects early when they can, for the most part be, easily corrected leading to a better more successful life for our children. Though we have not had issues with parents denying their child this easy and successful test we are saddened to hear others do.

Our annual Soup and Sandwich day again brought together another segment of the community for ten unbelievable homemade soups, including the very popular venison stew, sandwiches, and desserts. Thanks also to those Lions from other clubs who participated and enjoyed, not only the drive up the hill, but good food and fellowship.

So on to SPRING, Arbor Day tree planting, and all else that comes with this welcome change of season. ENJOY!



*Soups on! Members of the Hartland Lions Club ready to ladle out their offerings at the club's annual Soup and Sandwich event.*

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

– John Quincy Adams



*"I can join any  
charity organization  
and I chose  
**LIONS.**"*

**SIA  
DOWLATSHAH**  
FOR THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

VOTE SIA JUNE 5TH, 2017

## Lions Measles Initiative

By District 23B LCIF Coordinator Martin Sandshaw

### DID YOU KNOW THAT

- 335 children die each day from Measles or 14 deaths every hour
- Most measles deaths occur in unvaccinated children under the age of five
- 30 percent of survivors experience complications
- When one person has measles, 90 percent of those they come into contact with will become infected, if they have not been vaccinated or have not previously contracted the disease
- For less than US\$1, a child can be vaccinated against Measles

As you may already know, Lions and LCIF have mobilized more than US\$50 million over the past few years for measles-related activities; and tens of thousands of deaths have been averted - most of them children. However, our work is not done. The foundation has committed to providing Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance US\$30 million by December 2017. LCIF has raised US\$20 million toward that commitment – so significant support is required over the final year. Please keep in mind that our \$30 million commitment to Gavi is being matched dollar for dollar by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Every dollar raised, the impact of donations from Lions is automatically doubled.

### OUR PARTNERS

Lions are proud to partner with organizations that are leading the effort to end measles.

### GAVI Partnership

*"This new partnership will bring us another step closer to effectively tackling measles. Teaming up with the vast network of Lions Clubs worldwide will allow GAVI to immunize more children with the measles-rubella vaccine, ultimately reducing the number of measles*

*deaths and cases of Congenital Rubella Syndrome."*

Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO, GAVI Alliance

### Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

*"One of the challenges of the fight against measles, and of immunization in general, is that you've got to keep at it. You've got to be relentless, tireless... You don't vaccinate once. You do it year, after year, after year. As long as you do, children are safe. But when you stop, children die."*

William H. Gates Sr., Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, speaking to Lions at the 2011 Lions Clubs International Convention:

### UK AID

*"The funds raised by Lions and matched by the UK will mean that millions of children will lead healthier and happier lives, able to better contribute to their communities."*

Justine Greening, UK Secretary of State for International Development

To all District 23B Clubs please consider making this an initiative as we enter into our 100th year of serving.

Thank you in advance.

## Next Spirit Deadlines

The deadline for the June 2017 *District 23B Spirit* is May 10. All ads and articles MUST be received by then. Please do not send your materials to the editor's personal emails as that's how things get lost.

We suggest you send ads and information about your upcoming events through mid-September.

## What Lions Low Vision Means to Our Clients

In the midst of the past holiday season, our 23B LLVC Business Manager, Tom DePalo, received the following short email from one of our centers' therapists.

*Good Morning Tom, I just wanted to share a Lion's Low Vision patient story - by Mrs. M. She wanted to thank all of us for our help, including the floor lamp you delivered, and the magnifiers she received here at her last visit with FCHC. She reports that because of us, she was able to write out and send her Christmas cards this year by herself at the age of 91. She states the magnifier was a God send and thank you. I wanted to share this with you. Happy Holidays - Sue*

If you are wondering as a Lion if there is any impact on those we serve, the above communication should end any doubt. Through the years, this is one of many expressions of appreciation we have received at the holiday time of year regarding a client's ability to write or even view holiday cards. Having access to family and friends is something we take for granted during the holidays, but low vision can rob any of us of this vital human dimension in our lives. Lions Low Vision Services provides vital assistance that helps maintain this connection.

While we have partnered with area hospitals to provide therapeutic services, our clients still need our help in securing the equipment needed to allow them to maintain their quality of life. Please be sure to include LLVC in your club budget and any assistance is appreciated by our 23B Board of Directors as well as our clients whom we serve.

Where There's a Need, There's a Lion







East Hartford Lions  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Quest Brunch



Sunday April 23, 2017  
11:00am – Cost is \$25.00

Tastebuds Banquet Facility  
1450 Main Street, East Hartford

For tickets please contact John Reilly ([reilly571@att.net](mailto:reilly571@att.net) 860-569-8683) or Ed Fenton ([edehlions@aol.com](mailto:edehlions@aol.com) 860-306-4931).

Please come help DG Kathy Randall and her home Club celebrate 30 years of Lions Quest sponsorship!

## Let's Finish the Year Strong!

*By DG Kathy Randall*

By the time you read this, the District Governor's Awards Breakfast will either be history, or will be happening on Sunday. Sunday March 5 for Zones 1-4, and Sunday March 12 for Zones 5-7.

The last round of Zone meetings will be in late March early April. Zone 1 on March 28, Zone 2 on April 6, Zone 3 on March 29, Zone 4 on April 13, Zone 5 on March 30, Zone 6 on March 22, and Zone 7 on March 23. Zone meetings are a great way to learn from other clubs, and maybe pick up a new idea for a service project or fundraiser.

State Convention is May 6 at the ITBD, 185 Main Street, New Britain. Time to elect a new District Governor!

**ATTENTION: Special Notice** – The Testimonial Dinner for District Governor Kathy Randall will be Sunday, June 4, 2017. The date is a revision to the directory. The location is the Gallery, Glastonbury, CT. Be sure to watch your mail for invitations and more information. The invitation for Club Presidents and Secretaries is open to all Lions in their clubs. Cabinet members, Past District Governors and special guests will receive individual invitations.

This is a good time to recruit new members. Help to make your club stronger, so you can do more for your community.



**SOUTH WINDSOR LIONS CLUB  
STANDS BEHIND SIA FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR.**

**S I A D O W L A T S H A H I**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR  
V O T E S I A J U N E 5 T H , 2 0 1 7



## Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

"Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry" is thrilled to be seen in all three districts. Our show is aired 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).

We had a great fall and early winter season. We videorecorded the New England Lions Council (NELC) Fall Conference in Nashua, NH. The motivational keynote speaker was Lion Randy Pierce, Founder and President of 2020 Vision Quest. Another highlight of the conference was an emotional Annual Lions Memorial Service at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH. Our shows also featured Lions celebrating Halloween with such fundraisers as the Winsted Halloween Dance and the Woodbury Haunted Barn and Hayride. At the American School for the Deaf (ASD) Annual Lions Club Dinner we videorecorded the celebration of the 200th anniversary of ASD. We were delighted to be invited to videorecord the Lions 40th Annual Special Ed Christmas Party at Maneeley's in South Windsor.

Below are the titles of our latest shows 186 - 197:

186	East Hartford Lions Low Vision Center Grand Opening
187	Berlin Lions Fair and Harry's Harwinton Hoedown
188	Winsted Lions 2nd Annual Halloween Dance
189	Canton Lions Mini-Golf at Matterhorn
190	Woodbury Lions Haunted Barn and Hayride
191	Harwinton Lions Scholarship Pancake Breakfast
192	LARC 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees
193	American School for the Deaf Annual Lions Dinner
194	Lions 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Special Ed Christmas Party
195	Harwinton Senior Center Christmas Party

## East Hartford Lions Club

The East Hartford Lions are pleased to recognize Bob Howes as our Outstanding Lion for 2017! Bob has been a member of the Lions since May 2013 and has been highly involved since day one.

Bob is the Editor of our Club Newsletter which goes out twice per month. He is the Chair of our dinner meeting committee, which involves planning menu choices twice each month and coordinating the calling tree. He has served on our Audit committee for multiple years and is the Chair this year. Bob involves himself in all of our fundraisers including almost every week at Rentschler Field during the UConn football season and he works all day during our two White Cane events each year. He is currently serving as Club 2nd Vice-President and on the Board of Directors.

Bob is the type of Lion who you call

196	New England Lions Council Necrology Service, Rindge, NH
197	New England Lions Council Fall Conference, Nashua, NH

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!



with a need, and he always asks how he can help. We lost our meeting facility a few weeks before the start of the year when the restaurant closed down. Bob made countless phone calls researching other locations for the Club.

In addition to everything Bob does for the Lions, he also volunteers with the East Hartford School system. Bob has been a mentor for an elementary school student for the past three years. They meet once per week to review the student's school work. Congratulations to Bob for all his outstanding volunteerism!

East Hartford has two upcoming fundraisers. There is a Pasta Dinner planned for Saturday March 4th from 5:00pm until 7:00pm at the First Congregational Church located at 837 Main Street in East Hartford. The cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please see our website at [www.easthartfordlions.org](http://www.easthartfordlions.org) for more information.

The 30th Annual East Hartford Lions Quest Brunch will be held on Sunday April 23, 2017 at the Tastebuds Banquet Facility located at 1450 Main Street, East Hartford. The Brunch begins at 11:00am and the cost is \$25.00 per person. The guest speaker is East Hartford School Superintendent Nathan Quesnel.

Tickets for the Quest Brunch must be purchased in advance by contacting John Reilly ([reilly571@att.net](mailto:reilly571@att.net) 860-569-8683) or Ed Fenton ([edehlions@aol.com](mailto:edehlions@aol.com) 860-306-4931). Tickets may also be purchased through our website at [www.easthartfordlions.org](http://www.easthartfordlions.org).

Please come help DG Kathy Randall and her home Club celebrate 30 years of Lions Quest sponsorship!

*East Hartford 2017 Outstanding Lion Bob Howes and Lion Pam Howes volunteering at a church sponsored Trunk or Treat event.*

## GREATER HARTFORD HOST LIONS CLUB



# 53rd Annual PANCAKE & BUFFET BREAKFAST



Sunday, April 30, 2017  
8:00AM-12NOON

American School for the Deaf  
139 No. Main St., West Hartford  
\$8.00 per adult & \$5.00 per child (under 12)

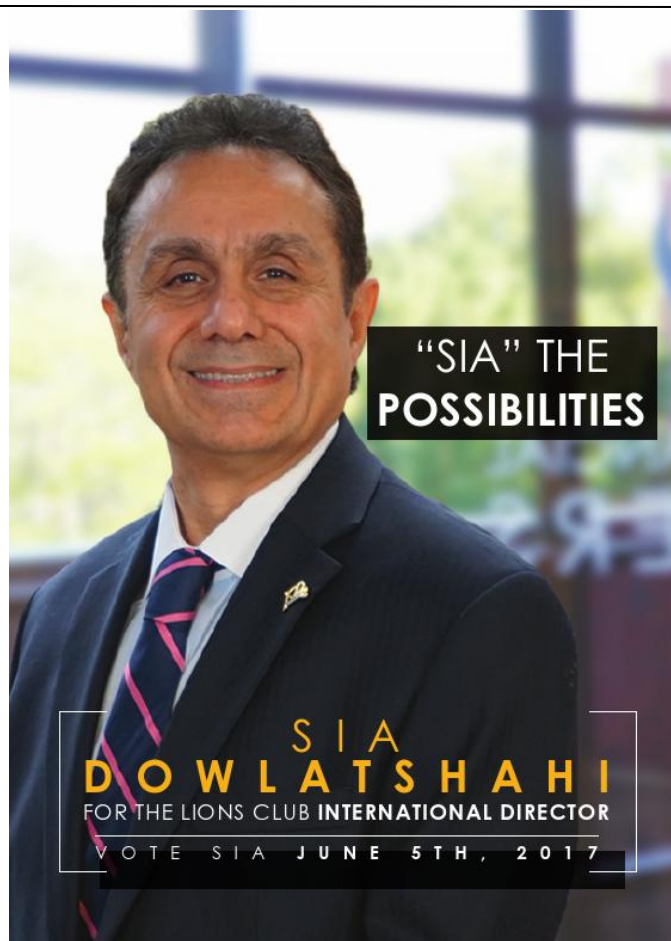
## Zone 2

*By Zone Chair Frank Longo*

There was a great turnout for the combined Zone 1-2 meeting on January 11 at Chatterley's in Winsted.

The time was well-spent by all with presentations by many cabinet members, as well as DG Kathy, 1st VDG Bobby Clark, 2nd VDG Harry Schuh, and 2nd VDG candidate Ev Lyons. Our special guests for the evening were from Connecticut Eversight, the eye bank, who talked about how Lions assist their effort in spreading the word about how cornea donations help them in their mission of sight restoration.

The next Zone 2 meeting is on April 6 at the Historic Curtis House in Woodbury. Menu and cost is to be determined. The agenda, however, is continuing our brainstorming session on membership. Bring your success (and failure) stories.



**"SIA" THE  
POSSIBILITIES**

**SIA  
DOWLATSHAH I**  
FOR THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR  
VOTE SIA JUNE 5TH, 2017



## Vision Not Required

### Windsor Lions Club Project

The Windsor Lions Club is currently working on a centennial project, to install and maintain several narrated tours at Northwest Park. Each tour, comprising of numerous stations, will allow users to access relevant information by using a smartphone to read QR codes.

In the first phase of this exciting project, The Windsor Lions and CRIS radio, will provide a tour of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum with 16 adult stations, and 6 stations especially for children. Subsequent phases will address the Park's Nature Center and its Sensory Trail. This project provides a special opportunity for the more than 60,000 low vision individuals in Connecticut and about 6,000 legally blind individuals in Hartford county. This "Vision not required" project will allow all low vision and vision impaired visitors at the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum to become fully involved in the learning. CRIS radio has already successfully installed similar narrated trails at Mystic Seaport, Sturbridge Village

and The Connecticut Air Museum.. "Vision Not Required" will add a new dimension to the CVTM which has undergone many positive changes in the past year.

As the Windsor Lions continue to serve, they are now focused on this resource at Northwest Park, making a significant portion of Connecticut history available to all. Each station will have one sponsor along with The Windsor Lion's Club and CRIS radio. This is a perfect opportunity to show the community your support. For a one time contribution of \$300.00, your name or logo will be mounted on the sign with the QR code located inside the museum. These signs will be in place for many years.

Please contact James Daniels at 860-219-9489 [jamesadanielsCPA@gmail.com](mailto:jamesadanielsCPA@gmail.com) or Margaret Boisture at 860-707-9666 [margaretbouisture@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbouisture@gmail.com) for further information on this project or to become a sponsor.

## Woodbury Lions Club

Giving to the community is what the Woodbury Lions do. At their Annual Thanksgiving Feast at the historic Curtis House Inn on November 15, the club presented a check for \$1000 to the Woodbury Community Services Council, as well as several bins of food collected from members. The WCSC also received the fruits of the club's Giving Tree—gift cards collected from members. This year, it was over \$1000.

District Governor Kathy Randall also paid the club a visit that night, and assisted in the induction of a new member.

Once the dregs of our annual Luminara Display are cleaned up, the Woodbury Lions shift gears and start the planning for the annual Car Show. This year, the dates are June 11, with a rain date of June 18. With new members at the helm, we expect a lot of new ideas and surprises for the show.

But, it's not all work for the Lions of Woodbury. On December 17, the club held their annual Holiday Party at the Painted Pony in Bethlehem. Forty-four member and spouses attended, eating, drinking, and dancing the night away. A surprise visit by Santa and one of his elves made the evening complete.

At the 2017 MD23 MidWinter Conference, the Woodbury Lions saw the Fidelco vans that their \$10,000 contribution helped to purchase. Along with members from the New Haven and Killingworth Lions Clubs, the Lions in attendance posed with the vans and mugged for the camera.

The Woodbury Lions Club looks forward to another productive year, serving the community, and is continuing to attract new members to the group—so far in the 2016-2017 year, we've brought in six new members and there are more coming.



*One of the existing tobacco curing barns at Northwest Park was remodeled to accommodate exhibits of early and modern equipment used to grow the crop.*



## 2017 VIP Fishing Tournaments

2017 marks the NINTH year that the Berlin Lions are proud to announce they will sponsor the annual Connecticut Junior, and Senior, Visually Impaired Person's (VIP) Fishing Tournaments. Due to generous monetary donations in the past from the Berlin, Terryville, Plainville and Plainfield Lions Clubs, along with private and corporate donations, there is no charge to register or attend either of the tournaments. Everything needed for an exciting day of fishing...a light breakfast, the Black Hawk Fishing Charter for the adults, fishing poles, bait, lunch, and awards are all provided. The three top anglers in both tournaments also receive trophies.

The Connecticut VIP Tournament Committee works closely with BESB, the Blind Veterans Association, the Federation of the Blind, Berlin Lions, and Lions Clubs from across the state. With their continue help and tremendous group of volunteers, tournament participation has grown every year since its beginning.

**NO FISHING SKILL NEEDED!** If you don't know how to fish, don't let that keep you from joining the fun! We have plenty of experienced and enthusiastic anglers to assist in your fishing experience! These tournaments are only possible with the support and dedication of our incredible volunteers! There are too many to list individually, but we are grateful for every one! These volunteers see that every detail is covered, organizing breakfast and lunch, making sure there is enough bait, trophies, providing transportation for those in need, lending their sight to help rig a pole or describe the fish caught...how big, what color...everything and anything needed to ensure a memorable day.

- **SUNDAY, April 30, 2017 – Junior VIP Fishing Tournament (Registration deadline: Saturday, April 15, 2017)**

- **MONDAY, June 5, 2017 – Senior VIP Fishing Tournament (Registration deadline: Saturday, May 20, 2017)**

### Junior VIP Fishing Tournament

The JUNIOR event is open to all visually impaired children 3 to 15 years of age. Every child that registers for the event will receive a participatory trophy and if registered before April 15th they will also receive a tournament shirt. BESB is a strong supporter of this event and with their encouragement, participation has increased every year. It has become an experience for the entire family to share with moms, dads, siblings, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends all coming together! The event is to be held at Sage Park Pond, 1591 Berlin Turnpike in Berlin.

### Senior VIP Fishing Tournament

The SENIOR tournament, open to those blind or visually impaired age 16 years and older, is a full day of fishing aboard the Black Hawk Fishing Charter out of Niantic, CT. Experienced fishing guides, and transportation for our VIP'S is also provided if needed. In addition to competing for trophies, three of the top anglers (if they have not attended in the past two years) are eligible to represent Connecticut at the 2017 NEW ENGLAND and NATIONAL VIP Fishing Tournaments held this year from October 16-18, 2017 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina! Our adult VIP's range in age from 16 to 93! Many of our adult VIP's are Veterans, and many are Lions from New Milford, Wethersfield, Middletown, Plainville to name a few. In 2016, we had our biggest jump in registration so far. We had 18 registered in 2015 and 33 VIP's in 2016! We have all learned so much from our VIP's...the biggest lesson being...there are no limitations. There is plenty of friendly competition among our VIP's...all vying to be one of the top three anglers for the chance to compete in the New England and



Published four times a year

*"All the news that fits, we print!"*

### Editors-in-Chief

Robert Bessel  
Frank Longo

### District IT Chair

Sonny Olomi

### Website Guy

Dan Uitti

### Layout

Lauren Ipsum

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**District23BSpirit@gmail.com**

National VIP tournaments! The location is Black Hawk Fishing Charter, 11 East Main Street, Niantic, CT

We have had Junior and Senior VIP's participate in the tournaments from every Lions District throughout Connecticut! If you know of a visually impaired child or adult from your community who would benefit by participating in this event, please contact us. If you need more information, would like to become a volunteer, or are able to make a donation, please contact Lion Charley, or Lori Satkowski at 860-828-1427 or email [satkowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:satkowski@sbcglobal.net).

It's not often that you have the opportunity to walk next to those you serve...VIP fishing allows you the opportunity to do just that. It's a rewarding experience to say the very least!

## South Windsor Lions Club

The South Windsor Lions Club has expressed their support for one of the candidates for International Director.

*Dear District Governor Randall;*

*At a South Windsor Lions Club Board of Director meeting on January 4, 2017, a resolution was unanimously approved to support the candidacy of Siamak (Sia) Dowlatshahi for International Director of The Lions International Association of Lions Clubs for the term 2018 – 2020.*

*We are all very excited about Sia becoming an International Director, and believe that he is completely qualified to take on this role. Sia has been a Lion since 1992, with all of his time in membership being with the South Windsor Lions. Within a year after he started, he accepted the role of President, and he has continually served as a Board member. Sia has chaired several committees, including our Golf Tournament, which has been our most significant fundraiser. He has also been the most effective membership chair we have ever had, and has far and away recruited more members than anyone in our club history. He is constantly talking about the Lions with whomever he*

*meets. Sia is our one and only member who has risen to the position of District 23B District Governor, never mind that he also served as Council Chair for Connecticut Lions.*

*His passion for the mission of Lions is strong and unwavering. Sia consistently strives to be a better Lion through continuous training. He also maintains a constant role in leadership and has served in every position of leadership within the District. It is only natural that he would now want to extend his leadership to have a global impact. At the December 28, 2016 information session for International Director held in East Hartford, you may have noticed the number of Lions from South Windsor that attended. Please take that as a clear indication of the level of respect we have for Sia as well as the desire to support him in his candidacy. Several of our members will be participating in a team effort to provide direct support, and the club is already thinking of activities to promote his candidacy and raise the necessary funds.*

*Sincerely,*

*Susan Gabriele  
President  
South Windsor Lions Club*



*The Windsor Locks Lions Club is proud to present Bailey, sporting a pair of eyeglasses. He is actively promoting eyeglass donations in our town. The club has collected over 500 pair since March of 2016!*

## Connecticut Lions Donate \$90,000 to UCONN Eye Research

At the Lions Mid-Winter Conference, Dr. Keith Lemire, president of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF), presented a check for \$90,000 to UCONN researcher Dr. Mansoor Sarfarazi for his work to eradicate blindness.

Dr. Sarfarazi's laboratory is identifying genes associated with glaucoma in families with a history of the disease. By identifying the genes that cause glaucoma, Dr. Sarfarazi will be able to help identify people at higher risk for glaucoma, lead to new treatments and possibly a cure.

CLERF has supported Dr. Sarfarazi's research for the past three years.



## Eye Screenings

The numbers are in!

So far this year, the Lions have performed over 15,000 screenings in District 23B. For the entire state of Connecticut, the number is over 39,000. Of course, this number rises every day that school is open.

Congratulations, Lions, and keep up the good work! Every child we screen is given the opportunity to have clear vision and succeed in life.



# **HARWINTON LIONS ENDORSE LION HARRY SCHUH**



**FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
2017 - 2018**



## Club Booster Contest

In the last issue of The Spirit, we asked the Lions of District 23B to recognize the one person in their club who embodies the spirit of Lionism by leading the songs, wearing the costumes, and telling the jokes.

We received two letters from clubs about their boosters. The first came from Lion Blanche Sewell of the Winsted Lions Club:

*The Winsted Lions Club is proud to nominate Lion Joseph Zebell as our Club Booster for the year.*

*Lion Joe has been a Lion for three years, and from the start, he has been an "UPSTART"— fun, fun, fun from his first days as a Lion.*

*We think that is his middle name ... He has the spirit of Lionism in his heart.*

*Joe wears costumes for every holiday and event we have, His jokes and quick wit is great to make us all laugh and smile at meetings and fund raisers. He has driven miles to get sponsors and donations for our events.*

*Rain, Shine, Snow, Joe is helping out. (He is a retired Waterbury mailman, could that be it?) No, it's just Lion Joe.*

*It would be a dull meeting with our Joe. Sometimes we have to "cut him off" because he wants to share so much with all of us.*

*He greets everyone, even when we go to Zone meetings, which he attends, ASD, which he attends, and now I think many in other clubs will know that "That guy" is "OUR JOE."*

*Hip Hip Hurray for Club Booster Lion Joe Zebell*

The second letter, from Lion Ed Grudzien of the Woodbury Lions Club, has a different take on what club boosterism is about:

*When I was asked to do a write up for the "Club Booster" Contest and the name of a particular member who recently passed was mentioned, I began to think of what I remembered about him as a Lion.*

*So as I thought about it, a flood of memories came back about so many other Lions of a generation before me who certainly were "Boosters".*

*These Lions always showed at every fundraiser, meeting, and function of our club, proudly wearing their Lions vest and getting to work. When any member needed help with a new project they were right there with support and encouragement.*

*One of the "Old Timers" once told me after a (new) crew of 30-40 something-year-old members joined the club and began to take over existing projects and start new projects, that he was pleased and knew the Club was in "good hands".*

*I find it difficult to pick a single "booster" from all the great Woodbury Lions I know and have known, but I will mention some of the departed Lions who were instrumental in promoting and making our Club what it is today: Rolly Manzi, Don Heavens, Frank Shepard, John Deschino, Bob Keating, Charlie Rehkamp, Bob Cowles, just to name a few that I knew well. They not only were Club Boosters but also helped many of us younger members on a personal level.*

*Now it is time for us "younger" members (who now are the older members) to step up and do what they did by providing the encouragement and help to the next generation of Lions to take over and keep the Club in "good hands".*

Unfortunately, neither Lions Blanche nor Ed provided pictures of their nominees, not that we would have had room for everyone Lion Ed mentioned.

We still want to hear about your club boosters! There must be more than two clubs in District 23B that have someone (or a number of someones) who exemplify the meaning of Lionism on a daily basis. And remember, while your club booster may also be your Tail Twister, your Tail Twister is not necessarily your club booster.

Half of being a Lion is to share in the fun and fellowship with like-minded people. Some people take it to extremes, and they are the ones who make it fun for the rest of us.

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).

Our email address is  
District23BSpirit@gmail.com

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## Centennial Challenge

Lions Centennial billboards have been spotted in Berlin, Bristol, Meriden, North Haven, and Winsted. We were excited to take the Winsted billboard picture that was published in the last District Spirit.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Bobby Clark and Lion Nora Clark have made arrangements for the CT Lions to march in the Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage all Lions to march with us!

As Centennial Co-Coordination, we continue to emphasize the Centennial Service Challenge, Inviting for Impact (Membership), and Centennial Legacy Projects.

The Centennial Service Challenge was for Lions to serve 100 million people by the end of June, 2018. As of February 10, 2017, Lions have served 138,766,434 people. Congratulations!

## Fidelco Stories

### Donald Overton, U.S. Army (Retired) – first-time guide dog handler

Don was born in Norwalk, CT, and served with the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division during the first Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm). While serving, he sustained a blinding blast injury in Kamisiyah region of Iraq.

Don navigated through life with his white cane, along with the support of his wife, Peggy, and twelve-year-old son, Jordan. It was on an educational trip that Don realized his son Jordan was serving as his sighted guide... and he knew it was time to apply for a Fidelco guide dog.

In 2016, Don received his Fidelco guide dog, Pierce, and the change was dramatic. "I've used a cane for the past 25 years, and when I first took hold of my Fidelco guide dog's harness, I felt free."

Peggy adds, "I have seen a new confidence in Don and I can't thank Fidelco enough for their part in it. Pierce is a very loving companion and dedicated to his work. We all have fallen in love."

### MD23 Helps Fund Fidelco Vans

The Woodbury Lions partnered with the New Haven (23A) and Killingworth (23C) Lions to match a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Grant. This was truly a multiple district effort, coordinated by the New England Lions Advisory Board (NELAB) to Fidelco and led by NELAB chair VDG Hilary Kumnick. This was a \$60K Charitable Project that will benefit many blind and visually impaired clients. Fidelco is grateful for the partnership and support of the Lions of New England.

**Join us on Saturday, May 13 for  
Fidelco's Annual Open House  
and Lions Appreciation Day!  
Details at Fidelco.org.**



*Don O. with Fidelco guide dog, "Pierce"*



*Pointing to their club's name on the bumper of one of the new Fidelco vans are Woodbury Lions Club members Zone 2 Chair Frank Longo, and the club's LEO liaison Ken Deschino*



## Enfield Lions Club



*The Lions Club of Enfield sponsored their annual nursing home Christmas parties with the help of the Holy Family Folk Group and Friends. The events were held at Blair Manor, Parkway Pavilion, and St. Joes. The picture of the woman holding the American flag (Celia Saracco) was at the Christmas party held at Blair Manor held the same day as Pearl Harbor Day.*



## Woodbury LEOs Club



*There is nothing cuter than animals and children together: Sadie and trainer Chris were a huge hit when they visited the LEOs club at Woodbury Middle School. Led by advisor Kate Peterson, the Leos presented Chris with a \$500 donation from their fall fundraiser. The club sold little rubber ducks to classmates and teachers to raise the money.*





# **The Lions Club of Harwinton**

**2 Shows  
1 Night  
1 Ticket**

**Presents  
14TH ANNUAL  
CONCERT FOR SIGHT**

**Saturday, July 15th**

**Harwinton Fairgrounds  
Gates open at 2  
Concert starts at 5:30**

**Tickets  
\$25 in advance/\$30 at the gate**

**Call the Warner Theatre  
860-489-7180**

Rain or shine,  
Bring your chairs, blankets, picnic, family and friends  
for an evening of great music and  
good times.

**Children 11 and Under free  
(no Pets)**

**THE SAVAGE BROTHERS**



**A CHICAGO  
TRIBUTE BAND**



## Terryville Lions Club

The Plymouth Lions Club shares a letter to Barbara K. Trinks, the Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services for the Plymouth Public Schools, from the Nursing Coordinator for the Plymouth Public Schools regarding the club's vision screenings:

*Hi Barbara:*

*For the past 5 years, the nurses at the elementary schools in Plymouth have coordinated with the Lions Club to offer an enhanced vision screening for all students in Pre K and K. This program requires parental consent. A standard vision screening is offered by the school nurse to all K students, but the state of CT guidelines do not include the Pre K students in the vision screening guidelines for nurses, making the Lions club screening the only avenue for screening Pre K students in the school setting. This year the program was expanded to offer this screening to all students in grades PK-8.*

*The benefits of this enhanced screening cannot be overstated. The standard school screening checks each child's eye for distance vision only. It is a multistep process, and for young children who are unfamiliar with the process, a false first failure is common. For older students, who have learned to compensate for vision issues, a false pass is also*

*not uncommon. If a child fails the initial screening, they are retested after 2 weeks because of the likelihood of a false failure. If the child fails a second time, a referral is sent.*

*The Lions club screening is able to check for six separate vision issues all in a matter of seconds. Children do not need to do anything more than look into a device that looks like a camera. If a child fails the initial screening, they are immediately given a second test and then referred the same day. Parents receive a print out of the computerized results the same day, whether the child passes or fails.*

*Since 80% of learning is visual, the benefits of early, accurate screening are essential. By offering the program to grades 1-8 an additional 460 children were screened by the Lions club over a three-week period. We are hoping to continue to offer this program to grades 1-8 and that more parents will take advantage of this program in the future. The nurses strongly value this partnership and hope it continues for many years.*

*Carol Giannini BSN, RN  
Nursing Coordinator, Plymouth Public Schools  
School Nurse, Plymouth Center School*

## Dr. Keith Lemire's CLERF Speech at MidWinter

*(Editor's Note: This article has been edited for length)*

This is an exciting time for Connecticut Lions. We are celebrating 100 years of Lionism and 60 years of our foundation – dedicated to supporting eye research and the conservation of eye sight here in Connecticut. During our Foundation's 60 years of service, the Lions of Connecticut have raised over \$7.4 million and provided more than \$6.8 million dollars in grants to Yale, UCONN and 30 more organizations in Connecticut.

Our Foundation's first grant was \$19,990 to the Yale University to start a new eye research center in 1961 – a 100 square foot laboratory staffed with one technician. Today, the Yale facility is over 10,000 square feet with more than 24 laboratories and a staff of a hundred. The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation has donated over \$4 million to Yale, providing funds for eye research and to Yale's three centers of excellence in glaucoma, macular degeneration and pediatrics. Our support of Yale's eye center and research has saved the vision of thousands of people here in Connecticut.

CLERF began its relationship with  
*(Continued on next page)*



*At their annual Christmas party, the members of The Winsted Lions Club presented Immediate Past President Blanche Sewell with the prestigious Knight of the Blind award in recognition of her many years of service in promoting Lionism. Pictured are Lion Blanche and Zone 1 Chair David Boilard.*

# Friendship and Pin Trading Pins

By Lion Phil Dzurnak

Trading Pins were often referred to as Friendship Pins, as many friendships were made while trading items (now referred to as pins) with Lions from all over the world.

In the early 50's most Lion members were still in the United States and they saw a need to give away or trade to others something at the International Conventions that helped promote their home state. In a lot of cases these items were obtained from their State Chamber of Commerce and were little knick knacks that were give-away to help promote their home state. These items could be combs, knives, letter openers or most anything. New Mexico made a wooden Tomahawk and a pair of beaded slippers to celebrate their Indian Heritage. A shoehorn and wooden key chain were from North Carolina. A corncob pipe was from Missouri and the telephone dialer was from Kentucky. A bale of cotton came from Tennessee. It is easy to see that these items were bulky and had to be hard to carry in any kind of numbers. Most pin traders today usually have at least a hundred pins with them, and some with many, many more. You can see that it would be unwieldy to carry a hundred of the cotton bales or a hundred Tomahawks to Conventions.



Early Trading Items

These items were not issued by the Lions and did not have Lions emblems. They are, however, recognized as the first pins traded by lions and as such are highly collectible. In the late 50s and early 60s it seems that pins became the thing to trade or give away at conventions.

The very earliest pins were mostly

plastic or tin and made by any company that the state office could get to make them. Both the Montana and Vermont pins were homemade. Some of these such as the New York Plastic, the Montana Plastic, The North Carolina, the Pennsylvania, the West Virginia coal and the Virginia tin are quite rare today and bring premium prices from collectors.



Early Lions Pins

Most Multiple Districts issued early pins with the outline of the state or country. These early pins were issued in limited quantities and now are very much sought after by pin traders and collectors. Collecting pins is similar in a lot of ways to collecting items such as stamps and coins.

Pin Trading continued pretty much the same up into the early 1970s, that is to say, there were not very many pin traders, but they were active. Their enthusiasm for the hobby was infectious, and the hobby was growing. At the International convention in Mexico City in 1972, a lion from Pennsylvania, Dutch Blair, contacted several of the pin traders in attendance and discussed forming an International Pin Trading Club. In 1973, at the International Convention in Miami, these pin traders from the US and Canada got together and formed the Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC).

The Pin Trading Club of Connecticut was founded in 2001 by PDG Curt Fitch. We are currently in charge of designing the State Pins for Connecticut and the Pin Trading Club.

If you want more information about LITPC and PTCCT, please email me at [pedzzz@yahoo.com](mailto:pedzzz@yahoo.com).

## CLERF

(Continued from page 16)

UCONN in 1974. With the leadership and vision of the late Dr. Jim O'Rourke, the Connecticut Lions Vision Immunology Center was established in 1981 and in 2002, our Foundation supported the establishment of the Connecticut Lions Vascular Eye Center at the UCONN Health center in Farmington.

Research of the eye's microvascular system has led to new treatments for diabetic eye disease, glaucoma and macular degeneration, all of which destroy the sight of thousands each year. Our Foundation's support of eye research has contributed to the discovery of several genes associated with both macular degeneration and glaucoma. Since 1974, the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation has provided more than \$1.6 million to UCONN. Currently, we are supporting Dr. Mansoor Sarfarazi's eye research of genetic exome sequencing in families with glaucoma. We have supported Dr. Sarfarazi's research for the past three years and his research continues to be successful in identifying genes associated with glaucoma.

Identification of new glaucoma causing genes will help provide better ways of detecting individuals at higher risk for glaucoma as well as lead to potential new treatments for the disease and possibly a cure. Last year, Dr. Sarfarazi requested an additional \$100,000 to support his expanding research project.

Dr. Sarfarazi's research embodies the core, founding mission of our Foundation which is support of eye research here in Connecticut with the purpose of saving vision. We needed to find a way to support his research and when there is a need, there is a Lion and our Connecticut Lions have found a way. On behalf of the great Lions of Connecticut I am pleased to present you today with a check for \$90,000 in support of your current research project. Lions, your Foundation's support of

(Continued on page 19)



# MD 23 2017 MidWinter Conference

As told in pictures by District 23C Lion Frank Rowe



## DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

*By Jim Trompeter, District  
Membership Coordinator*

In the last issue of the District Spirit I discussed some ideas on Membership Retention. I know this seems a little backwards but I would like to share some ideas on how to get new members in the age of Texting, Facebook, Twitter and others.

I recently attended a Multiple District Membership meeting, George and Marie Salpietro shared with me how they formed a new club in their District via Facebook.

Marie approached a potential Lion candidate about forming a new club in Lebanon CT. This person posted on Facebook that she was going to a meeting to learn more about Lions Clubs. Two of her friends said they would come, they in turn posted they were coming, and 2 of their contacts joined the group. End result they are chartering a club in Lebanon CT with twenty-six members.

Face-to-face contact is still necessary to recruit and properly inform prospective members.

Newspaper ads are becoming passé, more people look at their Facebook and Twitter accounts more than the newspaper or mailings, and Facebook messages have been shown to have a higher rate of call back than Voicemail.

We have talked about the millennials as a target group for our Clubs, this is their main form of communication; as a Baby Boomer I am still adjusting both Socially and Professionally. I am not saying this the only way to recruit members, but it is a mode of communication worth trying. It is inexpensive, it is quick, and it has a proven track record of success. By the way, this method was used to some degree in forming the Hartford Centennial Club within our District.

Let me know how this works for you, I am open to meet with you clubs to

**DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER  
IDEAS PERTAINING TO  
MEMBERSHIP—DISCUSSION, NO  
SPEECHES.**

## 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

## CLERF

*(Continued from page 17))*

eye research the past 60 years has made a difference in the lives of many and today's continued support of eye research will help to make a difference in the lives of many for years to come. But our Foundation's mission is not just eye research; it is also the conservation of eye sight.

Since then, Multiple District 23 Connecticut has become one of ten model districts recognized by Lions Club International. Our Lions Kidsight USA program has grown quickly with more than 20,000 children screened last year, done with only 6 SPOT vision screeners. To meet the growing demands of our program, we raised more than \$100,000 in one year. This \$100,000 was matched by a Lions Club International Foundation grant, the largest LCIF matching grant received in our State's history.

With the additional funds, we have purchased 25 additional SPOT vision screeners and we are now successfully meeting the demand for our Lions Kidsight USA program. Since July 1st, we have screened more than 36,000 children. More than 11% of those children screened were referred for further evaluation by an eye care professional. Lions, we have literally saved the vision of thousands of children.

We should be very proud of our Foundation's accomplishments and just as confident about its future. You have made a difference in the lives of many and you will continue to make a difference in the lives of many for years to come. I want to thank you for your service as Lions and as president of your Foundation, I want to thank you for your dedication and support of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. It is only with your support that our Foundation can continue to do great things.

Thank you!

Dr. Keith Lemire





**100TH LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**JOIN US IN CHICAGO JUNE 30 - JULY 4, 2017**

