

# Lions Roar!

January 2025 - Volume 6 - Issue 5

---

## District Governor's Corner

By District Governor Raj Shrestha

### **Dear Lions and Leos of Lions District 23B, Connecticut,**

We are halfway through the 2024-2025 Lions year, and I deeply appreciate your tremendous efforts in making it a great success. Your commitment to serving our communities is truly commendable, and the results of your hard work are evident. During our club visits, the Vice District Governors and I witnessed firsthand the incredible work you have been doing.

So far, we have successfully concluded two cabinet meetings, and the first round of zone meetings went wonderfully. Club visits by the Vice District Governors and myself are ongoing, with only a few clubs remaining. We have all put tremendous effort into steering everything in the right direction. Thanks to your positive and supportive roles, our district continues to uphold the legacy of successful service, membership, and leadership. I sincerely thank each one of you for your support.

Looking ahead, our district has several exciting projects, meetings, and the Multiple District Conference in the works. I am optimistic that clubs are preparing to organize the first Student Voices Public Speaking Contest, selecting one winner to advance to the zone-level contest. Zones will soon hold their contests and send two winners to the district-level competition, which will take place during the Midwinter Conference on February 8, 2025.

The second round of zone meetings will be held in January 2025. Please check the District Directory and watch for emails from your Zone Chairs regarding the date, time, and location of your Zone's meeting.

---

The third District Cabinet meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) for the meeting link on January 6th. Cabinet Secretary PDG Ed Fenton has already sent the meeting notice to club officers, PDGs, and PCCs. Please save the date and time. I look forward to seeing you all at the third Cabinet meeting.

The Lions International Convention will take place in Orlando, Florida, from July 13-17, 2025. I encourage you to register and get ready to enjoy some fun in the sun in Orlando!

Thank you for your dedication and service!

Together, we will "Make our Mark!"

Lion Raj Shrestha

District Governor (2024-2025)



By Conference Chair IPCC Dave Roberts

We are excited to announce the opening of registration for the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference in Southbury, Connecticut, which will take place from February 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wyndham Southbury Hotel.

Our dedicated planning committee has crafted an outstanding agenda that promises an unforgettable experience for all attendees! Here's what you can look forward to:

- Friday Night: Kick off the weekend by networking and having fun at our Fun Friday Night event. International 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mark Lyon will provide the music!
- Saturday: A day dedicated to learning, serving, and recharging your batteries, with opportunities to connect with fellow Lions and Leos.

- 
- Special Guests: We are honored to welcome Past International Director Justin K. Faber, International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mark, and Lion Lyn Lyon, who will join us all three days.

Over the weekend, Leos and Lions will have plenty of opportunities to learn and serve together.

Don't miss out on this incredible event!

Please register early by clicking [THIS LINK](#) to secure your spot and prepare for some "Fun in the Sun" as we prepare for the next International Convention in Orlando, Florida, this coming July.

## Lions Clubs International Foundation

By MD23 LCIF Coordinator PDG Ed Fenton

### **Melvin Jones**

When Melvin Jones joined a networking luncheon club for businessmen in Chicago called the Business Circle, He quickly took the lead in recruiting new members. But something about the club's business-only focus didn't square with Jones' different, larger vision. "What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Jones asked. He saw a new kind of club with the desire to help others, and Lions Clubs were born!

### **President Jimmy Carter**

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was a dedicated member of Lions Clubs International. He joined the Plains Lions Club in Georgia in 1953, shortly after resigning from the Navy. Carter's involvement with the organization was profound; he served as a District Governor and remained an active Lion throughout his life. His commitment to the Lions' mission of community service and humanitarian efforts was evident in his collaboration with the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Together, they worked on initiatives to combat preventable blindness and alleviate suffering in

---

impoverished communities. Carter once expressed his gratitude, stating, "I have a feeling of gratitude for what Lions do throughout the world. Lions have changed my life."

### **Honoring Both**

As we celebrate Melvin Jones' birthday, January 13, 1879, and honor the life of President Carter, a donation to support Lions Clubs International Foundation would be a great tribute to both.

Please consider a small donation in their memory to Lions Clubs International Foundation by clicking [THIS LINK](#) or using the QR code below.



**WE CARE. WE SERVE. WE ACCOMPLISH.**

## **Knights of the Blind**

By GST Chair Lion Judy Doyle

Every Lion has heard the story about Helen Keller challenging us to serve as Knights of the Blind. But did you know that Lions were already serving the blind when Ms. Keller addressed our 1925 convention?

Lions had already begun a Braille newsletter in 1922 and were actively working with employers to find meaningful jobs for the blind. This work, prior to the 1925 convention in Sandusky, Ohio, inspired Helen Keller's challenge for Lions to do more.

Ms. Keller's speech opened the floodgates for Lions service to the blind. Many of these projects continue to this day: Sight screenings Boy Scout Troops for the blind, white

---

canes and guide dogs - all of these programs started with the Lions after Ms. Keller's speech in 1925. But that's not all.

Lions set up eye research foundations in state after state. Lions set up eye banks to provide corneal implants nationwide. Sight First takes this program global, providing eye care clinics anywhere they're needed world wide. Our eyeglass collections and recycling centers supply the glasses given out by Sight First clinicians, giving people with limited vision their first clear view of the world.

Kidsight is the latest program in this long history of service - all encouraged by Helen Keller who stayed by our side for the rest of her life. The story of Helen Keller's work with Lions will be a major feature of this year's Mid-Winter Conference, February 7-9 in Southbury. We hope you can join us!

For a glimpse of Helen Keller work with the Lions, visit this video, produced by the Lions and available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gN8kr8y7dHs>

## District 23B Lions Store!

By LCIF District Coordinators - PCC Ev Lyons & PCC Kathy Randall

### **DISTRICT 23B LIONS CAN NOW PURCHASE LIONS APPAREL IN SUPPORT OF LCIF**

An online store now offers district 23B Lions the opportunity to purchase shirts, vests, sweatshirts and jackets with the Lions logo embossed on the apparel. Your name and club name can also be added for a minimal charge. The best part is that 20% of your purchase payment will be donated to LCIF in your name for Melvin Jones credit. By taking advantage of this opportunity, you not only will have trendy Lions attire, but also will be helping those in need throughout the Lions world.

**START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT WITH A DONATION TO LCIF AND LOOKING GOOD IN YOUR LIONS "DUDS"!!**

---

**Here is the link to access our online catalogue.**

[https://signsandshirts.com/lions\\_club\\_23B](https://signsandshirts.com/lions_club_23B)

**Be the first in your club to model our great assortment of Lions clothing.**

**Better yet, does your club have its own shirt or jacket?? Why not take advantage of our fantastic prices!!**

## **Lions Portal - Service Reporting**

By GST Chair Lion Judy Doyle

Let's show the world the amazing impact we're making! Currently, only 59% of our clubs and 5% of our Leo clubs are reporting service, but we can do better! Reporting your service hours in the Lions portal is a fantastic way to share the incredible work your club is doing with new and longtime members, as well as the broader community. Together, we can outshine the other districts and highlight the difference we're making. If you're having trouble navigating the new portal, I'll be available on January 14 at 10 AM, 3 PM, and 7 PM to answer questions and help you get started. Let's aim high and make our district shine!



Lions Portal  
Workshop

# PORTAL TALKS

Join us for Portal Talks with GST Judy Doyle, where you can ask questions, learn how to input service, navigate the Lions portal, and find essential information—all in a relaxed and friendly setting! Let's make it easy together.



Jan. 14,  
2025



At 10:00 AM -  
3:00 & 7:00 pm



Zoom

[Register Now](#)



[msjudysemporium@yahoo.com](mailto:msjudysemporium@yahoo.com)

Once registered you will receive a zoom link for the time requested

LionsUSA LUV (Lions United Vision) Days 2025

---

By GST Chair Lion Judy Doyle

Dear Lions and Leos,

We're excited to announce LionsUSA LUV Days 2025, taking place January 12–19, 2025! This nationwide service initiative is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our commitment to improving vision health through KidSight screenings and to raise awareness of Lions service in our communities.

If you attended the Dec. 4 LionsUSA LUV informational Zoom or expressed interest in LUV Days, we hope you're ready to take action! If you missed it, no worries—the meeting is now available on YouTube: [Watch the Dec. 4 LUV Week Informational Meeting](#)

How to Participate in LUV Days:

1. Sign Up: Complete the [#LUVSight Event Notification](#) to register your club's participation and share your event details.
2. Download Resources: Access all the screening information, logos, and customizable templates attached to this newsletter.

Promote Your Event: Use the customizable press release and social media template (Pages 1 & 2 of the LUV PR Template) to bring public attention to your event and the impact of Lions service. Even if you're not hosting an event, help raise awareness by creating a custom Facebook Profile Frame to show your support!

Helpful Links in the LUV PR Template:

- Create your own media posts via Lions Virtual.
- Join the LionsUSA Facebook page.
- Learn how to make your custom profile frame, just like VP Mark Lyon's.

This first-ever LionsUSA nationwide service event is a chance for us to unite, share our passion for service, and make a difference in vision health. Let's spread the word and shine a light on all the incredible work Lions and Leos do!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at [service@lionsusa.org](mailto:service@lionsusa.org).

Thank you for your commitment and participation!



---

## Upcoming Events in District 23B

---

### **East Granby Lions Corned Beef Dinner – March 8, 2025**

The Corned Beef Dinner will take place at the East Granby Community/Senior Center located at 7 Memorial Drive in East Granby. Time of the event is 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Cost is \$18.00 for Adults; \$10.00 ages 5 to 16; free for children under 5-years-old.

For more information contact Leona Bevins: [lbevins@granbyambulance.org](mailto:lbevins@granbyambulance.org)

---

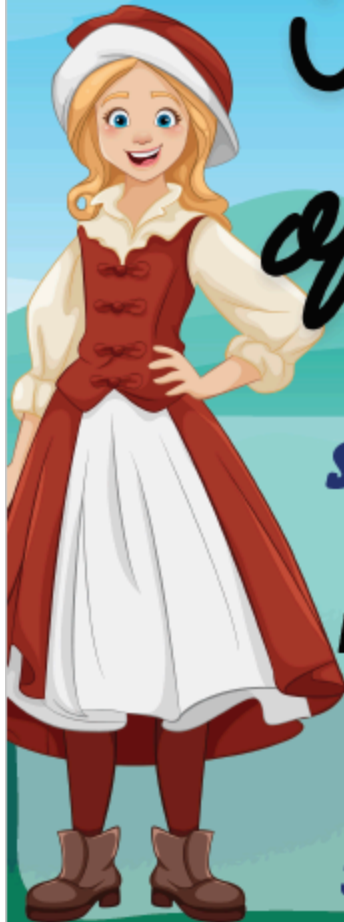
### **Glastonbury Lions Murder Mystery Dinner – March 8, 2025**



GLASTONBURY CENTENNIAL LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

# The Sound of Murder

**MURDER MYSTERY DINNER**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 22  
6:00PM**

**MANCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB  
305 S. MAIN ST MANCHESTER**

**TICKETS: \$100**

**INCLUDES: INTERACTIVE SHOW,  
3-COURSE MEAL, SILENT AUCTION**

Reserve your seats before 3/12/25 by purchasing tickets from any Glastonbury Lion or by using this QR code. Call 860.430.1852 for more information



**SHOW!  FOOD!  PRIZES!  FUN!**

---

## Special Olympics Opening Eyes - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! – June 7 & 8, 2025

The MD23 Opening Eyes program is a fantastic service project that allows all of Connecticut's Special Olympic athletes the opportunity for many different types of eye and vision screenings.

Volunteers are needed for tasks including registration, guiding participants, and manning test stations both days. Help also needed for setup on June 6th and clearing the room on June 8th.

The event is held at Southern Connecticut State University from 8:00am until 4:00pm both days. If you can volunteer some time, or for more information, please contact Lion Brian Lavigne: [brian.lavigne@snet.net](mailto:brian.lavigne@snet.net)

---

## Publicize Your Club Events!

The next issue of the Lions Roar will be published on February 1st. If you have an event you would like to announce, please click [HERE](#) for the submittal page. Deadline to submit information for the next issue is January 27th.