

# DISTRICT



CHANGING PEOPLES LIVES

## Spirit

September 2019

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Harwinton  
Glastonbury Centennial  
Marlborough  
Plainville  
South Windsor  
Terryville  
Torrington  
Windsor Locks  
Woodbury

## Where Is This Box?



Not only did we receive an eyeglass box photo for this issue of the District Spirit, we also received one for the next issue, as well. We had to paint out the club's name from this photo, otherwise, where's the challenge, but can you tell us where this box is? Send your guesses to [District23BSpirit@gmail.com](mailto:District23BSpirit@gmail.com), and, remember that if it's your club's box, you're ineligible to win.

But, we have three more issues of The Spirit in the 2019-2020 Lions year, which means we're still two boxes short. Even if it's a cardboard container sitting on the desk at the local optometrist's office, we want to see it. Vision has been a primary cause that Lions support since 1925, when Helen Keller charged us with being "Knights of the Blind", and our eyeglass boxes are a silent reminder to all of what we do. Let's see how your club involves the public with this important cause.

## DG Ev Lyons

### A NEW YEAR BEGINS

#### "THE POWER OF THE PRIDE"

The term "pride" for Lions can be defined two ways: i.e., numbers as in a group of Lions and attitudes as in how we feel about our work as Lions. Certainly, our numbers in District 23B, nearly 1800 Lions in 53 clubs, provide us the means to serve others in significant ways. Following our international president's lead, our district will hopefully grow through the chartering of at least two new specialty clubs. To assist in this effort, a new cabinet position has been added—Specialty Club Chairperson and Lion Raj Stretchesa, charter president of the Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club, will assume the lead in reaching out to special populations. His efforts will be part of an ongoing program under the leadership of GMT Frank Longo to help grow our district membership numbers.

But Lions is more than membership numbers—it is service. This year will be a continuation of the emphasis on service to others that marked the administration of PDG Harry Schuh. A new cabinet position, Red Cross Blood Drive Chairperson will be assumed by Lion Julie Vecchito of the Harwinton Lions Club. Lion Julie will help new clubs to sponsor blood drives and operate as a Red Cross resource contact for clubs already performing this valuable service. District 23B will join a new project spawned at the district governors' recent training—International Arbor Day as well as supporting a New England Lions cancer project involving donor identification. More details on all of these new efforts will come later.

However, we have a long legacy of service and past projects will not be forgotten as we attempt to provide our district Lions with new avenues of service. This past summer saw the successful pilot of a summer camp experience focused on children with diabetes, and Camp



Rising Sun has long been a similar experience for children with cancer. Both need our continued support. Our Leos are a source of pride for all Lions, and I look forward to supporting our youth as they gain the satisfaction of helping others in their schools and communities. I also am pleased to report that Lions Quest is again on the rebound in 23B with new possibilities in partnership with our school systems. Our low vision centers continue to provide vital service to those whose sight is severely impaired. As I visited clubs and attended zone meetings in the past as your vice-district governor, I have been grateful for the efforts of our Lions as they meet the challenges of service in their local communities and throughout the world as part of Lions Clubs International.

So that brings me to attitude—**your pride**. Are you proud to be a Lion? Have you stopped to reflect on the benefits you bring to others in making a difference in their lives and do you let others know of your pride? Celebrating the good that we do as Lions is truly THE POWER OF THE PRIDE! Our pride in serving others has always been the foundation of our efforts. If we demonstrate our immense pride, we will find new and exciting ways to serve, create more interesting club meetings, and find that others will want to join us.

**Show your Lions pride and feel the power!**

## Leadership

By GLT Jim Trompeter

### Leadership and Development the two words that are key to the future success of our Lions Clubs

If we don't have strong and effective leaders to guide our Clubs and Districts and if we don't have the tools in place to develop these leaders the likelihood of our success into the future is tenuous at best. This year our goal is to provide effective programs where needed and to make them accessible to all. Monthly Lions International has Webinar Training programs. I will, through the District Spirit, make you aware of the programs that would be applicable to our Clubs and/or District Cabinet Members. Through IPDG Harry Schuh, the multiple district has purchased a program that will enable us to do Webinar Training. We are in the planning stages for our first Webinar, which will be for Club Secretaries, and will take place in late September or early October. More information will follow.

We will be holding both a Meeting and Seminar for Zone Chairs on September 7th from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the Connecticut Association of Schools, 30 Realty Drive in Cheshire. Lions other than Zone Chairs are invited. Contact me at [m20t50@aol.com](mailto:m20t50@aol.com) if you are interested.

On Saturday, November 2nd, we will be holding training for Guiding Lions. This is an extremely important position, which assists new clubs and current clubs that could use help. Contact DG Ev Lyons if you are interested in becoming a Guiding Lion.

We have other programs slated as well. If your club is looking for training in any particular area let me know, and I will be happy to assist you.



**Lions Clubs International**

## Plainville Lions Club

The Plainville Lions Club has had many successful events in recent months.

Our Scholarship Dinner was held on May 1st at the Oasis Restaurant. We awarded scholarships, in the amount of \$1,500, to four Plainville High School Seniors. On the same evening, our new member, Dennis Plante, was inducted by District Governor Harry Schuh. We were also very honored to present a Knight of the Blind award to Lion Bruce Morris for his many year of dedication to Lion-ism.

The costumed Lion was a presence at Family Fest Day on May 11th at Linden School. In addition, our Club set up a booth with a game and prizes, which were enjoyed by many children.

Six Plainville Lions marched in the Memorial Day Parade, proudly representing our Club.

On June 8th, our club partnered with the Bristol Club to sell water and collect parking fees at Plainville Wings & Wheels event. We received remuneration and thanks from the town for our participation. We look forward to more partnering with local chapters in the future.

On June 27th, we held our annual Senior Picnic. Hamburgers and hot dogs were supplied and cooked by our Lions Club. The Senior Center supplied salads. This year nearly one-hundred seniors enjoyed the picnic. We received the comments that our food was delicious and plentiful!

On July 21st, our Club facilitated a booth at the 150th Plainville Birthday Celebration. Several town dignitaries visited to speak to us about Lion-ism. We also responded to numerous inquiries about eyeglass donations in town.

On July 21st our club also hosted its annual Low Vision Fund Raiser at the New Britain Bees. Approximately eighty-two tickets were sold, and

\$4.00 per ticket is earmarked for the Low Vision Fund. Our member, Bill Gaughan, was honored by singing the Star Spangled Banner at the opening of the game. For the second year in a row, Lion Bill's rendition was excellent! Although the temperature was in the low 90's, and the Bees lost to York by 7 to 6, a good time was had by all!

Our next fundraising pancake breakfast to benefit our community will be held on October 27th. Cost is \$8 per person, kids 6 and under eat free.

## CT Veterans Stand Down 2019

*By Lion Jim Boulais*  
Veterans Stand Down Chair

The 2019 Veterans Stand Down will take place on September 20 at the Veterans Campus at 287 West Street in Rocky Hill. Lions conduct eye screening as well as hearing testing during this event each year. Again, this year we need your help more than ever! Many CT Lions that usually volunteer will be attending the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, which is taking place at the same time in Spokane, WA.

Stand Downs (nationally) are typically one to three-day events, providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers.

Last year, more than 100 agencies and organizations participated in Stand Down with close to 230 volunteers spread throughout the

campus to assist over 1,000 veterans attending the day-long event. Stand Down is the DVA's signature event providing veterans with medical screenings, eye and hearing exams, and many other support services such as housing, employment, education and legal assistance; all at no cost. In addition, the CT DOT provides free bus transportation at designated areas for veterans that need rides.

These two links provide more information:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Veterans-Stand-Down>

<https://youtu.be/1psPwEM9aeA> - A YouTube video explaining the event

The event starts at 8:00 am and goes until 2:00 pm. Volunteers also get a free hot lunch! Just a warning: there are long traffic lines getting into the campus near the event start time, so if you want to arrive by 8:00 am, leave early

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at [boulaisj@cox.net](mailto:boulaisj@cox.net).

I hope to see you there!

## Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club

The Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club is hosting their First Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale on Saturday Sept 14, 2019 at St James Church 2584 Main St. Glastonbury, CT. Serving from 8:30am to 11:30am. \$10 Adults, \$8 Kids, Veterans and kids under 5 eat free!

As we are still in our first year of operation, we hope there will be a good turnout and expect to make this an annual event.

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



## Service Suggestions for Childhood Cancer Research Projects

*Meredith Spector, Childhood Cancer Co-Chair*

CHILDHOOD CANCER SERVICE SUGGESTIONS...REMEMBER TO POST!

We're dedicated to protecting our youth. Especially from the devastating effects of cancer. To help children all over (Connecticut) who've been diagnosed with cancer, we're supporting projects and initiatives aimed at improving their quality of life during and after treatment.

### SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**Here are some ideas your club can use to raise awareness in your community:**

Post pictures of your lions doing childhood cancer activities

Download a childhood cancer icon from LCI resource for your website or fb page:  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center>

Preorder childhood cancer stickers and have Lions/Leos give them at grocery stores when a donation is made (<\$20 for 250 stickers):  
<https://www.amazon.com/Childhood-Cancer-Awareness-Ribbon-Stickers/dp/B010R6FDMG>

Help the survivor clinic at Yale to improve relapse rates—post it!

Order and distribute brochures on healthy living to improve survivorship care by emailing: [jaime.rotatori@yale.edu](mailto:jaime.rotatori@yale.edu) (once treatment is over, only 20% of patients keep up good habits)

Pay for a gym membership for a teen with cancer (the challenge is to identify the teen)

This year we will try to get childhood cancer in the news with Lions. In part, some of these projects were suggested during an interview with

Nina Kadan-Lottick, M.D..M.S.P.H. of Yale University School of Medicine, who has a distinct focus on childhood cancer survivorship and quality of life: [nina.kadan-lottick@yale.edu](mailto:nina.kadan-lottick@yale.edu).

We have more suggestions for clubs. You only need to contact me for visits, consult, information:

Lion Meredith Spector  
 District 23B Cabinet Chair for Childhood Cancer  
[Innspect2@gmail.com](mailto:Innspect2@gmail.com)  
 203-297-4490



## Pin Traders

A message from your pin traders club president. My goal this year is to have more people join our pin trading club. This club is open to all lion members of the multiple district in the state of Connecticut. If you were ever interested to how to get those fancy pins everybody wears or would like to learn how to trade them this is the place for you.

Contact me with any questions you may have on other meetings we have throughout the year or general questions you might have on pin trading Thank you for reading this note. We're up to see some new lions this year.

PDG Steve Daigle  
[steven.daigle@snet.net](mailto:steven.daigle@snet.net)

## Lions Day at the UN 2020

*By PDG Dave Roberts*

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 7, 2020: Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN)

Lions Clubs International has confirmed that Lions Day with the United Nations 2020 will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the UN Headquarters in New York City. This will be the 42nd anniversary of this event at the United Nations.

Our District will again sponsor luxury buses to take Lions, Leos, and guests from two pickup locations in Connecticut to New York City for LDUN. We again plan to solicit donations for bus seat scholarships (let's surpass our 2019 record of 37 scholarships) for our LEOs. If you would like to help plan our District's involvement in LDUN 2020, please contact PDG Dave Roberts at [dave@daveroberts.org](mailto:dave@daveroberts.org) or 858-775-9241. And remember that there are many reasons to attend, but the top 3 are:

- 1: Connect with UN Representatives, Lions, Leos, and other Leaders in Service from around the world.**
- 2: Learn how Lions Clubs International and the United Nations are working together with shared goals.**
- 3: Discover new and innovative ways to serve and support future service leaders while visiting New York City.**

Let's make LDUN 2020 the best yet for our District's participation!

More information about LDUN 2020, and how to contribute to bus seat scholarships will be coming soon!

Yours in service,

PDG Dave Roberts  
[dave@daveroberts.org](mailto:dave@daveroberts.org)

# District Communications: What's new? What we need!

By District Spirit Editor Frank Longo

We've been hinting about changes in communications for a while, and finally, we're coming close to introducing new ways of distributing information with the Lions in District 23B.

Part of the feedback we've received from clubs and individual Lions, is that there are too many emails being sent to Lions. We, personally, receive several emails from LCI on a weekly basis. While they all contain important information, it's somewhat of an overload on our inbox and us. Add to this the emails from District Secretary Pat Daigle on club events that pop up too quickly to promote in the quarterly District Spirit, and it seems like there's always something arriving that's Lions related.

So, we feel your pain!

Starting in the October timeframe,

there will be a monthly one-page update from DG Ev Lyons, which will contain most of the information that had been sent out individually in many emails. Right now, we will send this to Club Presidents and Secretaries, since we don't have accurate email addresses for about two-thirds of the Lions in the district. We will need to rely upon your club officers to forward this information to you.

Of course, we can eliminate that step if Club Secretaries could update the club member's LCI records with accurate email information (believe it or not, there are also many clubs whose officers do not have emails, and are unable to receive and forward important Lions information to their members). It's a little bit of work, but it will go a long way to making sure the Lions in our district receive important news and information. If you'd

rather not share emails with International, then please send email information to us at the District Spirit. When we receive most of member's accurate emails, we will distribute both the Monthly Update and The District 23B Spirit directly to club members.

These are Phases One and Two of our communications plan. Phase Three will be a new District Calendar on the District website, which will allow clubs to enter their own events, saving District Secretary Pat a lot of work, and you many emails. We are working towards a January date for this rollout.

The District Spirit will continue in its present format for the time being.

PLEASE make it a point to update your email lists for us. It's the only way for this plan to succeed!



Sunday, October 27, 2019

8am to Noon

Come in and get warm at  
**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall**  
**19 South Canal St.**  
**Plainville, CT.**

Just \$8 per person, all you can eat.  
Kids under 6 eat free.

Door prizes, raffle prizes, and activities for the little ones.

Buy tickets from any Plainville  
Lion, or get 'em at the door.  
Be there!

**East Hartford Lions Club**



**Golf Tournament**

**East Hartford Golf Course**  
**Wednesday, September 25**  
**Registration at 10am**



*Foursomes: \$400 with cart, lunch and dinner*

*Singles can register and  
be placed in a foursome*

*For more information contact  
Lion Tracey D'Addario at  
tracey1312@aol.com*

**Craft Fair**

**Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Club**

**200 Clement Rd. East Hartford**

**Sunday, November 10 9am-2pm**

**Free admission! Free parking!**

*For more information contact  
Lion Ann Sweeney at  
Dxswee35@aol.com*



# LIONS CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES IS A HUGE SUCCESS

By PCC Alan Daninhirsch

At 3:30 PM on Friday, August 9, 2019 the first ever MD 23 Lions sponsored camp for children with Diabetes completed its one week run and all agreed that it was a **COMPLETE SUCCESS!**

For five days, 29 children ranging in age from 6 to 13 years, with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) enjoyed the full facilities of the Meriden YMCA's Camp Mountain Mist while under the constant medical supervision of Dr. Cem Demirci and his staff from the Connecticut Childrens Medical Center (CCMC) and the constant leadership of three very competent YMCA camp counselors and three additional counselors-in-training. It is an understatement to say that everything ran like a "Swiss watch."

About 15 months ago the Lions of Multiple District 23 decided to try to put together a summer day camp experience for children with T1D. An ad-hoc committee of about a dozen Lions from around the State was formed and it began to explore possible locations. In all, 10 existing camp sites were considered and 7 were actually visited. The YMCA of New Britain/Berlin/Meriden was particularly excited about the possibility of hosting this project and offered space at their Mountain Mist Day Camp in Meriden. Based on the central location, the excellence of the existing facilities, and the enthusiasm of the YMCA staff, the committee decided this would be the location for this project.

Meanwhile, discussions were under way with Dr. Cem Demirci, Head of Pediatric Endocrinology at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, on how we could provide necessary medical staffing for this camp. Dr. Demirci announced that the establishment of such a summer camp for his patients has been a lifelong dream of his and that if CCMC could be a part of this project, he would ensure that all medical staff would be provided at no cost to anyone. Thus, a partnership was formed between the YMCA, CCMC and the Lions of

MD-23.

With this partnership in place, a number of decisions were made. First, this project would be run as a "pilot" program for this first year. The number of camperships offered would be limited to 30 and the camp would run for one week. All children participating would be drawn from Dr. Demirci's patient list (which numbers over 1000) and would live within easy driving distance of the camp so that parents would be responsible for all transportation to and from camp each day. The children would be divided into three groups by age, 6 to 8 years, 8 to 10 years and 10 to 13 years. At all times, throughout each day, a medical team member and a qualified YMCA camp counselor would be with each group.

I cannot say enough about Dr. Demirci and his medical staff. His organizational skills, his rapport with the kids, and his constant determination to be everywhere all the time eliminated all concerns for the welfare of the children. In the weeks before camp started he had all the medical procedures in place for constant monitoring of the children, established procedures for check-in and check-out, organized his staff, which consisted of 5 to 7 qualified professionals every day, and met with the camp staff to set up procedures, schedules and details for each day of the week. All of this demonstrated to us how critical it is to have the right medical component to the team if we are to continue with this program.

Since this was to be run as a pilot program, it was decided that there would be no charge to the families participating other than a nominal \$20.00 registration fee for the week. The Lions purchased the 30 camperships from the YMCA at a cost of \$210 each, which included all food, access to all facilities and participation of the camp counselors. Thus, the entire project cost the Multiple District less than \$6,500 which was paid for by a

requested \$50 donation from each club in the State.

Feedback from the campers and the parents has been overwhelming. Most want to know about plans for next year and how they can insure their children can be included. All parents received surveys and most have already returned them.

Media coverage was outstanding thanks to the Public Relations Departments of the YMCA and CCMC. See the links below for how extensive the coverage was.

A meeting is planned for soon after Labor Day that will include members of the Ad Hoc Committee, the medical staff, the camp staff, the three District Diabetes Chairs and hopefully the members of the MD Council to analyze the results of the pilot program and come up with suggestions for how we want to move forward. There will be much to discuss.

Here are the links to some of the publicity and photographs for those who may not have seen them before:

## New Haven Record/Journal article

<http://www.myrecordjournal.com/News/Meriden/Meriden-News/Day-camp-in-Meriden-offers-wellness,-fun,-safety-for-kids-with-diabetes.html>

## WNBC 30 coverage

[https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Kids-With-Diabetes-Enjoy-Special-Summer-Camp-in-Meriden\\_Hartford-531031442.html?akmobile=o&appVideohub=y](https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Kids-With-Diabetes-Enjoy-Special-Summer-Camp-in-Meriden_Hartford-531031442.html?akmobile=o&appVideohub=y)

## Photos taken by YMCA public relations

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmFWCN15>





## Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

On March 4th, Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry celebrated its **6th Anniversary** of producing a weekly half-hour show celebrating Lions events and activities throughout our district! Our show airs in fifty-eight communities on six cable access TV stations: Charter Communications (Winsted), Cablevision (Litchfield), Charter Communications (Newtown), Charter Communications (Willimantic), Nutmeg (Farmington), and Skye XIII (Waterbury).

Listed below are our last thirteen shows. We begin with Parts 2 and 3 of the 9th annual CRIS Radio fundraiser "Dining and Dancing in the Dark" featuring Scot Haney as emcee and Joe Furey as celebrity judge. Next, we attended the Hartford Multinational Lions Club Service Awards Banquets in both 2018 and 2019. Congratulations to the club for hosting this outstanding annual event. DG Harry celebrated his District Governor year with eighty-four guests at his Testimonial at Chatterley's Banquet Facility in Torrington. Thanks to all who attended! We traveled once again to Southern CT State University to videorecord the Opening Eyes program for Special Olympics. A record number of MD23 Lions volunteered this year. We traveled to Rhode Island for the New England Lions Conference and heard an excellent presentation on the Ronald McDonald House in RI. In August 2018 we videorecorded our first program outside the United States at the Lions Northeast Pin Swap held near Montreal, Canada. Finally, we videorecorded a presentation featuring CRIS Radio's current status and future plans. Please consider club donations to CRIS Radio this year.

Below are the titles for our latest shows 308 - 320:

308	CRIS Radio Dining and Dancing in the Dark Part 2
309	CRIS Radio Dining and Dancing in the Dark Part 3
310	Hartford Multinational Lions Awards Banquet 2018 Part 1

## A Thank You from PDG Dave Roberts

I want to thank all of you for joining my family and me to enjoy Suite 308 at this afternoon's New Britain Bees baseball game in 98+ degree heat. Thanks to Plainville Lions Club's silent auction raffle (who donated the suite) for all of us to support the Lions Low Vision Center of Hartford & Litchfield Counties.  
#WeServe

Yours in service,  
Lion Dave



311	Hartford Multinational Lions Awards Banquet 2018 Part 2
312	Hartford Multinational Lions Awards Banquet 2018 Part 3
313	DG Harry Schuh Testimonial Part 1
314	DG Harry Schuh Testimonial Part 2
315	Hartford Multinational Lions Service Awards Banquet 2019 Part 1
316	Hartford Multinational Lions Service Awards Banquet 2019 Part 2
317	Opening Eyes for Special Olympics at
318	New England Lions Conference (NELC) featuring RI Ronald McDonald House
319	Lions Northeast Pin Swap August 2018
320	CRIS Radio Presentation Part 1

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!



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"All the news that fits, we print!"

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## The District 23B Spirit

Our next issue of the District 23B Spirit is December 1, 2019. The deadline for all ads and articles is November 10, 2019.

Ad prices are \$30/quarter page (3.5" wide, 5" long), \$50 for a half-page (7" wide, 5" long), and \$100 for a full-page (7" wide, 10" long). Please provide ads in .BMP, .JPG or .GIF formats only—no .PDF or .PUB files, please. If you don't know how to create an ad, send us your information and we'll create one for you.

Any submitted pictures should be in .JPG or .GIF format, and should be clear (blurry pictures do not reproduce well). We need pictures of collection boxes! PLEASE!

Submit materials for publication to  
[District23BSpirit@gmail.com](mailto:District23BSpirit@gmail.com) only.

## Torrington Lions Club



Lion Phil Dzurnak presents Lion Maryann Ryan a Knight of the Blind award for her years of service.

(Below) Lion Phil Dzurnak presents President Donna Robideau with a Knight of the Blind award for all of her service as well.



(above) District 23B's leaders attended a June planning meeting hosted by CRIS Radio to discuss their access program for the sight-impaired. DG Harry Schuh and DGE Ev Lyons were on hand, along with others, to hear how CRIS Radio plans to expand this service. Three Lions Clubs (Bristol, Greater Hartford Host and Windsor) have already worked with CRIS to make local museums and playgrounds accessible to the sight-impaired. CRIS is looking for additional Lions clubs who would like to discuss this type of service project in which CRIS brings technical expertise to augment the financial support of Lions. Contact CRIS Radio to begin your club's project.

(right) The South Windsor Club took part in St Baldrick's Foundation "Rock the Bald" event in Manchester on June 23. Susan Gabriele raised over \$1500 for Childhood Cancer research by submitting to having her head buzzed. Donations came from family (in memory of husband Bill), friends, and Lions in the club and district. Susan named the club as her team.



(below) Fred Soliani golf tournament this year raised money for scholarships in Bristol and also money for Jim Sadecki a blind veteran who is participating in Paralympics as an air-rifle marksman. Co-Chairs of the tournament Bud Funk and Bill Wazelewski presented Jim Sadecki with a check for \$1,000.00 to help Jim with needed equipment and costs to continue competing for the USA Paralympics.



(left) As part of 2018-2019 Windsor Locks Lions Club President's project, Immediate Past President Kathy Doody rests on one of the four benches that were installed at the town's Southwest Park.





# Membership

*By GMT Coordinator Frank Longo*

When we talk about membership, we generally think this just means adding members to our clubs. The role of the GMT Coordinator includes helping clubs do that, but that's just a part of the picture.

There are three aspects of membership I plan to concentrate on this year. The first is to raise our total membership by helping clubs attract new members. The second is to help clubs keep the members they already have, and the third is to create new clubs in the district.

"Just Ask!" has been a successful program for many years. The problem with it is that we only tend to ask our friends and acquaintances—the people we know. There are probably many people outside of our circles who are looking for opportunities to perform service in our communities, but are outside our reach. To solve this, I am asking all clubs in District 23B to hold some sort of program, open to the general public, that will enable us to reach these people.

The most effective of these types of events is known as the "Ohio Plan", after the state the district that originated it is in. The premise is simple: target the members of your community who would be most likely to join your club if asked, and invite them to see what Lions Clubs are about. Start with a dinner, some explanation about the history of the Lions and your club, what you do in the community, and then pass out applications. When followed exactly, the Ohio Plan has yet to fail. When the Ohio Plan hasn't worked, it's because a club has taken a shortcut or tried to "personalize" it. I will be sending a copy of the Ohio Plan to all club membership chairpeople (and every club should have one!) soon.

There are other ways to reach these community members: consider every service project a recruiting drive; hold open houses at regular meetings; set up at table at local fairs and festivals. The more people

you can reach, the more potential new members you can find. Please contact me for information about the Ohio Plan (one club has already started planning their implantation) or other ideas on attracting new members.

Once you've found new members, the trick is to keep them. While, as a district, we gained 131 members last year, we also lost 277 members, a net loss in membership of 146. While some of that number is due to death and relocation, a good number reflects members who just stopped participating in the club.

The reasons why this happens varies, but in many cases, it's because the member wasn't realizing their expectations of being a Lion. How do we keep our members interested and involved?

First, have something for members to do. If a person becomes a Lion to perform service in the community, make sure you have plenty of service projects they can participate in. If their Lion experience is mostly attending meetings, you're not fulfilling the reason they joined. Our District GST, Lion PCC Dr. Steve Polezonis, can help your club with new ideas on projects.

Some Lions want to be involved in the running of the club, either as an event chairperson, or as a club officer. We need to change our thinking in that just because a member is new, they don't have the ability to lead. And, if there are members that are unsure about their leadership abilities, there are many opportunities for members, new and old, to acquire those skills. GLT Jim Trompeter can provide resources, both LCI online courses and hands-on training sessions, to help develop those proficiencies.

And, some members just don't feel like they fit in. We need to work on our club cultures to mirror the acceptance of diversity that our International Organization

embraces, and to accept new members as Lions with all the same privileges that longer-term members have.

Finally, to grow as an organization, we need to create new clubs in communities that lack a Lions presence. I am fortunate that our District Membership Team has two other members who will be assisting me in this task.

Lion Raj Shrestha, the founding president of the Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club, is certified by LCI as a Specialty Clubs Coordinator, and he will take on the task of forming new clubs in our district around a special characteristic that binds its members together. For example, specialty clubs will target prospective members who are connected by a similar profession, cause, ethnicity, or life events, such as early retirees. His experience in forming the HCEC will be invaluable in his mission.

The other member of the membership team is PDG Dave Roberts, a member of the Barkhamsted Lions Club. PDG Dave will be concentrating on the formation of "cyber clubs"—clubs connected through the magic of the Internet. This concept has been successful in many districts for people who wish to become Lions, but are unable to attend physical meetings. All business is done electronically through emails, chats, and social media. The advantages are reduced meeting costs, a more flexible schedule for meetings, and a greater convenience for members, especially those who would need to travel a distance to meet.

To make this all work, the cooperation of club membership chairs is required. If your club doesn't have one yet, please make a point to elect/appoint one as soon as possible.

Here's to a year of growth in Lions District 23B!

## Marlborough Lions Club

In March, the Marlborough Lions held a durable medical equipment drive in conjunction with Orphan Grain Train. Items were dropped off at Marlborough Elementary School and loaded into a box truck to be taken to the headquarters before being distributed both locally and internationally.

In April, we held our annual Pancake Breakfast at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game club, with continued success.

May brought our 35th Annual Race Round the Lake 5K, with less numbers than last year but still a fantastic turn out.

In June, we had our 4th annual Beer and Wine Tasting at the Marlborough Arts Center, with local

Shebeen Brewing Company pouring their beers for us. We raised almost \$400 in revenue from our Silent Auction.

In awards, we have nominated Dr. Steven Rafalowsky, local ophthalmologist and Marlborough Lions member, for the Ambassador of Sight for his continued efforts with supporting both the club and any concerns that arise from our eye screenings done in town. We were able to fund our annual \$1000 scholarship in June.

We have also awarded Lion Glen Warstock with a Lifetime Membership, presented this past spring.

In club news, we have elected for the upcoming year-Membership

Chair-Bob Cindric, Treasurer-JeanPaul Boldoc, Secretary-Ken Hjulstrom, 2nd VP-Glen Warstock, 1st VP-Kevin McNally, and President-Megan Lloyd. Megan is the first female member elected into the club in early 2016 and now the first female President. The club continues to grow our membership yearly, installing one new member in June-Rob Gnocchi, and two other members added earlier in 2019.

Upcoming events include our 2nd annual Marlborough Masquerade 10/27 (same route as the Spring 5K), and Lion Kevin McNally continuing his talks around CT on Success with Vision Loss. He is available to speak to other clubs and groups-please contact him directly : [kevin@successwithvisionloss.com](mailto:kevin@successwithvisionloss.com)



(left) The winners of the 5K Race Around the Lake Jacob Dietz and Olivia Mondo



(above) The Annual Pancake breakfast at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club.

(below) Members of the Marlborough Lions Club with the donated medical equipment from their collection drive



(below) The officers of the Marlborough Lions Club for the 2019-20 Lions year.



*For more information,  
please contact:*

Maria Cornicello  
(Chairperson)  
Greater Hartford Host  
Lions Club  
860.236.3890

Liz DeRosa  
American School  
for the Deaf  
860.570.2212



# 2019 Annual LIONS CLUB DINNER

Monday, November 18, 2019

**6:00 PM**

## AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Gallaudet-Clerc Education Center Café  
139 North Main Street  
West Hartford, CT

You are cordially invited to join the American School for the Deaf as we honor the *Lions of District 23B* for your continued support of our students and programs!

**Due to limited seating, please RSVP *no later than*  
Monday, November 11, 2019**

Liz DeRosa  
860.570.2212 or [elizabeth.derosa@asd-1817.org](mailto:elizabeth.derosa@asd-1817.org)

Parking is available in the *visitor parking lot* directly in front of the main building, as well as in parking lots surrounding the building. Please enter through the main entrance.

## Directions to ASD

### FROM THE NORTH OR EAST:

Travel to the intersection of Interstates 91 and 84 in Hartford, proceed west on I-84 to Exit 41, South Main St., West Hartford. Turn right at the end of the ramp and go 2.6 miles on Main St., which becomes North Main St. after West Hartford Center. The American School for the Deaf is a large brick building set back from the road, on the left.

### FROM THE WEST:

Take I-84 to Exit 41, South Main St., West Hartford. Turn left at the end of the ramp and go 2.6 miles on Main St., which becomes North Main St. after West Hartford Center. The American School for the Deaf is a large brick building set back from the road, on the left.

### FROM THE NORTHWEST:

On Route 44, turn right on North Main St. at Bishops Corner, after the long hill from Avon. The school is on your right in about 1.4 miles.

### FROM THE SOUTH:

Travel to intersection of Interstate 91 and Route 9, proceed north on Rt. 9 to I-84 and head east to Exit 41 (second exit). Turn left at the end of the ramp and go 2.6 miles on Main St., which becomes North Main St. after West Hartford Center. The American School for the Deaf is a large brick building set back from the road, on the left.



## New Low Vision Center to Open in Hartford

Lion Pete Nevers, new president of the Lions Low Vision Centers 23B, has started his term with a bang—a new Low Vision Center in Hartford and a commitment to spreading the word that Lions are here to help people with vision problems.

The new Low Vision Center located at the Mount Sinai Rehabilitation facility is expected to increase the number of people served by 20%. Personnel are still in training, but once they're set, the doors will open and our Lions will do what they do best: serve!

The greatest challenge to our service is the lack of public awareness of the service and aids we offer. "As we move forward, we ask each Lion to lend their expertise to this effort," said Lion Pete.

Every Lion is welcome to meetings of the Lions Low Vision Center on the fourth Monday of each month. Contact Pete at 860-604-8538 or [grampy2010@hotmail.com](mailto:grampy2010@hotmail.com) to learn the location and time. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and there will be several subcommittees where Lions can serve this great effort.

"Most Lions don't realize that they are members of the Lions Low Vision Centers 23B," said Pete. "Every Lion in the district is. Now that you know, kindly consider supporting these vital centers. We look forward working together to further promote these valuable services to people who need them and appreciate them so much."

Again, contact Peter Nevers at 860-604-8538 or [grampy2010@hotmail.com](mailto:grampy2010@hotmail.com) to get involved. Like every Lions project, you'll be glad you did!

## Picture Your Service Project

*By Lion Bob Bessel*

We Lions are great at planning service projects. We know where and when, who's going to show up, what equipment to bring. Many times we send out flyers to the people we're trying to reach – like pre-schoolers when we do a Kidsight screening. Sometimes we send out press releases to alert the media. Sometimes they show up, most of the time they don't.

But almost never do we consider the pictures we are creating for the public when we plan a service project. Why are pictures important? I'll give you three reasons: TV, Facebook, Instagram. They're all visual media, which means they communicate with pictures.

Before a TV reporter puts your event onscreen they need to picture

it. If you're cooking pancakes, get a photo of a little kid digging into a stack of pancakes. In fact, consider an under-5 pancake eating contest in the middle of the pancake breakfast. Do you think you'll get more "likes" online? Do you think the TV cameras will show up? I do!

Suppose you are hosting a bike ride. Try mounting a cell phone on a bike and ask a rider to preview the course. Post a "fast motion" version on your Facebook feed and watch your "likes" rise.

When your club starts thinking pictures, your town will start paying attention, attending, supporting, volunteering and eventually joining. Why? Because they can see that your Lions club is the place to be. Picture it.



*PDG Bobby Clark prepares for his TV closeup on Telemundo during the Lions' 2017 Hurricane Maria relief effort.*

## Woodbury Lions Club



The Woodbury Lions Club hosted their 2019 scholarship recipients on August 6. The club gave a total of \$20,000 to graduating Nonnewaug seniors who are going on to college.

# 2019 International Lions Convention – Milan, Italy

*MD23 in Pictures*



*(top left) The Connecticut MD23 Delegation*

*(above) The 2019-20 District Governors of MD23*

*(immediate left) The MD23 delegation in the Parade of Nations*

*(below) D23B District Governor Ev Lyons, with Lion Nancy Schnyer, the future Mrs. District Governor*



*(right) A warm welcome for all attendees of the 2019 Lions International Convention*



*(left) Lions from MD23 enjoying their stay in Milan, Italy*





## Harwinton Lions Club

### Harwinton Lions Spring into Summer

As the “Taste of Summer in Harwinton” committee worked on planning the third annual food truck festival with new partner, the Harwinton Agricultural Society, plans and work were underway on other Lions projects and fundraisers, too. Our partnership provided a new location for the festival at the Harwinton Fairgrounds, where we were able to include antique tractor pulls and horse events, including barrel racing and gymkhana, in addition to food trucks, entertainment, and kids’ zone including pony rides.

In May, the scholarship committee, led by David French, reviewed applications, awarding \$2000 scholarships to Lewis Mills High School graduating seniors Carter

Viets, the Anthony G. George Scholarship recipient, and the Hurlbut G. Clark Scholarship awardee Coral Gorack. Both Carter and Coral volunteered at Taste of Summer in Harwinton. Scholarships are funded by the annual scholarship pancake breakfast held each November.

In other club projects, bakers and sandwich makers thanked donors with treats at the Red Cross Blood Drive on May 25, one of three drives we hosted in 2018-19. 55 pints of blood were collected, and we look forward to our September 7 drive at Harwinton Town Hall.

Eric Van Leer led a group of Harwinton Lions conducting eye screening at the Special Olympics on June 7 and 8. Athletes were tested using the sophisticated KidSight cameras funded by LCIF

grants. Ten other clubs also participated in the outreach. Just a week later, we hosted District Governor Harry Schuh’s testimonial at Chatterley’s Event Space in Torrington. More than 80 attendees honored Harry’s great work as DG.

And, on the hottest day in July, while most of Connecticut was trying to escape the heat, four Lions—including project lead Brian Dunbar, Fred Rondano, President Roland Perreault, and Bob Farber—worked on repairs to the roof of the gazebo that the club donated to the Town of Harwinton in 2010. The month ended with the 6th Annual Cars for Sight show, organized by Bruce Richard, which featured more than 100 show cars, muscle cars, and beautifully restored older models. The top 25 cars received awards.



(Left) “Taste of Summer in Harwinton” Festival Chair Amber Scouller tests the lemonade

(right) Departing District Governor Harry Schuh and wife Carol Kearns at his testimonial celebration



(Left) The work crew making repairs to the gazebo at Harwinton Town Hall

(right) A few of the show cars at “Cars for Sight”





## Lions Quest

*By Lion Nancy Schnyer  
District Lions Quest Chair*

The Lions Quest program, offered by Lions Club International Foundation, is among the most widely used positive youth development and prevention program in the world. The Lions Quest program has received the "SELECT" Program designation from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning for outstanding life skills education, rigorous evaluation and high-quality professional development.

In addition, the Skills for Adolescence curricula received the "Model" Program award from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Lions Quest is also endorsed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and has had positive results printed in the Journal of Prevention Science.

Serving youth has been a long-standing mission of LCIF, awarding more than 13 million dollars to expand or establish Lions Quest Programs in over 107 countries around the world, affecting more than 17 million youth.

The Connecticut Lions are partnering with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), one of the leading educational organizations in our state. CAS and our state Lions are bringing in a Quest-trained presenter to introduce Quest to school district leaders on October 3, 2019. Materials have been sent to each school district offering this free introduction to Quest.

Lions Clubs are encouraged to contact their local school district leaders. For further information about the Quest program or the workshop on October 3rd, you are welcome to contact me (nschnyer0035@charter.net).

## District Officers

**V. Everett Lyons**  
District Governor

**Heidi Zacchera**  
First Vice District Governor

**Ed Fenton**  
Second Vice District Governor

**Pat Daigle**  
Secretary

**Steven Daigle**  
Treasurer

**David Boilard**  
Zone 1 Chair

**Sonni Olami**  
Zone 2 Chair

**Phyllis Perry**  
Zone 3 Chair

**Tracy Dubois**  
Zone 4 Chair

**Lilly Ruiz**  
Zone 5 Chair

**John Habif**  
Zone 6 Chair

**Jamie LaForge**  
Zone 7 Chair

## Peace Poster Contest

*By Lion Amber Scouller  
District Peace Poster Chair*

Lions International created the Peace Poster contest in 1988 with the intention to give the world's youth a chance to share their vision of world peace. The annual contest gives Lions clubs the opportunity to connect with their communities, while highlighting the opportunities the organization brings to the world.

The 2019-2020 theme for the contest is "Journey of Peace". We ask Lions Clubs to sponsor the contest to school-aged children between the ages of 11 and 13. The deadline to purchase the kits from Lions Club International (LCI) in order to sponsor an entry is October 1, 2019. Posters are due by November 15, 2019, via United States postal mail to the district chairperson at 14 Pearl Street Terryville, CT 06786. You can also bring entries directly to the dinner on November 18.

A display of all entries, with voting, occurs during the American School for the Deaf Dinner on November 18, 2019. We will announce the poster receiving the most votes as the district winner, and it goes on for entry for voting at the multiple district level. We will recognize the winning poster at the Mid-Winter conference, and then sent it to LCI for international voting.

We caution Lions Clubs to purchase the peace poster kits directly from LCI, as there are specific rules and regulations for the contest that are outlined in the kit. You can find more information regarding the contest in the Peace Poster contest section of the LCI website. Please contact the district chairperson, Lion Amber Scouller, with any questions and submissions at (203)560-6872 or [alscouller@gmail.com](mailto:alscouller@gmail.com).



Creating  
BETTER  
Leaders

2019 | Spokane, WA  
September 19-21, 2019



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