

The Lions' Roar



The Monthly District 23B Governor's Update

August 2020



District Governor's Corner DG Heidi Zacchera

I am so excited to begin this Lions year!

Thank you to past District Governor Ev and his cabinet for leaving the District in such shape.

This year my theme is "Make Your Mark". Make your mark within your club, within the district, within your life. We all have the capabilities to make a difference in some manner. This year WE are going to work as a team. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much". Imagine the impact 1700+ of us can have!

I am going to bullet different points for this year:

Membership - My priority is to add members to all the clubs especially those under 20. I have buddies for the clubs that are below 20 to help them build up their core. Imagine having every one of your members bringing in ONE new member this year! You would double the size of your club. More hands make light work. GMT Dave Roberts will be giving clubs the tools/resources to make this happen this year. START NOW! No initial fee. We also will be cognizant of membership retention, and will provide exit surveys for any Lions leaving membership this year. Any questions pertaining to increasing your membership...contact Dave!

NAMI - North American Membership Initiative - We signed up for NAMI, so we could institute LCI's plan to help us with membership. Our districts NAMI group met this summer to lay out plans for this year. We went through a SWOT, Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats, pertaining to our District, as one of the first steps in the NAMI process. One of our goals is to start a minimum of two new clubs this year. This group is headed up by 1st DVG Ed Fenton and Raj Shrestha. (Committee members: Akella Sarma, Krishna Kandel, Julie Vecchitto). GMT Dave Roberts and his team: (Maria Cornicello, Madhav Atreya, Jim Daniels) will focus on bringing in new members. GST Dave Yadach and his team: (Harry Schuh, Brian Lavigne, Susan Gabriele) will focus on service projects, which is the thing that keeps our Lions engaged in Lionism. PCC and MD GLT Kathy Randall chaired the Leadership committee: Jim Trompeter, Pat Daigle, Lilly Ruiz, Kevin McNally). This NAMI process has what I call, "front loaded" the year with a set direction for us to start with immediately. Dave Roberts is our "NAMI champion", so you will hear more from him in the future.

Be Kind Signs - Thank you to the Terryville Club for having the signs available for the district clubs to purchase! Such an easy way to get our Lions name "out there" and send a great message as well! Judge Haynes Townsend was supposed to be our International President. Prior to his passing, he declared that his theme was "Kindness Matters". President Choy has taken on this theme for his year. Let us all be aware of this theme, and spread kindness throughout and outside of our district.

Service projects - GST Dave Yadach has put together a calendar for us to use to serve our communities this year. I would love for all of us to work together to be involved in a particular service area each month.

District Marketing and Communications - Kevin McNally and Anthony Cornicello are going to work on getting our Lions name out more! Send them what your club is doing.

Tools / resources - I provided all the presidents with a packet of tools / resources to use this year. These can also be found on the District website. The LCI website has a lot of helpful information available as well. If you can't find something that you need, let us know!

Freeman Selfless Service Award - Someone in another district, (who would like to stay anonymous) came up with the idea of having an award in honor of Amanda Rose Freeman, Melvin Jones wife. She was instrumental in inviting people to join Lions back in 1917. So we developed a service award pin. The club president will nominate a member, or friend, or community member who has gone above and beyond in the service area. The award will be presented at the District Breakfast in March.

Clubs - "Your Club, Your Way" - Every club can operate as the club sees fit. I ask that you take a step back and think outside the box. Brainstorm about new fundraisers or service projects. Be accepting of new ideas. If you have always read through the secretary minutes at board meetings, STOP, people can read them within an email and then vote on them. We all have busy lives, so we need to make our time together more efficient.

Succession planning for club officers - There needs to be a plan in place to line up people to fill our shoes. LCI doesn't want the same people in the same position year after year. LCI wants us to "build new leaders". So our job is to be looking for potential new leaders and mentor them to develop their skills.

LCIF donations - A perfect example is what happens to our LCIF donations! All of the CT Districts applied for LCIF grants to help with the Covid pandemic, and we received the funds to provide assistance during these trying times. This is one donation area we need to keep supporting.

I think that's enough for now!

We are all here to be of assistance, just let us know!

Take on the year!

Heidi

From 1st VDG Ed Fenton

Lions in the United States and Canada are being challenged to participate in a new program from Lions Clubs International called the North American Membership Initiative (NAMI). NAMI is a process to get districts thinking about how they approach membership and energize them to start new clubs and increase members in existing clubs. DG Heidi has embraced this program and has her team ready to move forward with membership this year! As one of the first steps we are talking with the Town of Newington about restarting a community club. If you happen to know anyone who lives in the Newington area who might want to serve as a Lion, please forward their name and contact information to me at edehlions@aol.com. I will be happy to reach out to them with an invitation to learn about Lionism!

During our officers' training on July 6th, Lion Dennis Sweeney spoke about how his club uses PayPal to accept donations on their website and take credit card payments at events. His club saw an increase in sales at an annual silent auction when participants could use a credit card. Other Lions then mentioned using Venmo and Square to take payments. Just another idea that you may find useful for your club!

From 2nd VDG Dave Roberts

Adding new members to our Lions Clubs

Recently, District Governor Heidi Zacchera hosted a Questions and Answers session with Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Treasurers and Club Membership Chairs. DG Heidi mentioned that Lions Clubs International focuses around our local clubs and our District leadership wants to provide tools and services to help our 53 clubs attract and retain members. One membership chair mentioned that they did not have any membership applications. Lions Clubs International has the application available on their website here:

<https://temp.lionsclubs.org/EN/pdfs/me6b.pdf> . I print and keep copies of this application handy when I ask a community member to join Lions and many times I even help them fill it out on the spot. And most importantly remember that THERE ARE NO ENTRANCE FEES TO JOIN LIONS between now and December 31st. Just place a ZERO on the entrance fee line on the completed application. So now is the time to ask your family, neighbors and friends to join Lions. All you have to do is ask. Or contact Lion Dave Roberts, 2VDG, at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241 and let him know about a potential member and he will ask on your behalf.

Multi-Club Project supports Hunger Global Cause

Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions and Leos and Barkhamsted Lions Club joined together to support the recent hunger service project spearheaded by Valley Brook Community Church in Granby to support The Citadel of Love which serves youth and young struggling families in the Greater Hartford region. The three clubs partnered to coordinate the collection of non-perishable food, diapers and feminine products to help fill 75 bags for youth and young families.

District 23-B Four Town Fair Hunger Service Project Postponed Until 2021

District 23-B Hunger Service Chair Madhav Atreya announced that our hunger project with Four Town Fair, the oldest operating fair in Connecticut, has been postponed until 2021 due to the cancellation of the 2020 Four Town Fair. Lions Clubs International was selected as the non-profit partner for the 2020 Four Town Fair to collect non-perishable food items at the entrances to the fair on all four days in September. This initiative was a joint-Districts, joint-Lions clubs involving many Lions. Enfield and Suffield Lions Clubs were the two principal clubs for this project from our District supported by other clubs including West Hartford Lumbini Lions Club and Hartford County Everest Centennial Lions Club as well as our Leos. Collected food items were going to be donated after each fair day to a Lions-selected non-profit in one of the four towns comprising the Four Towns Fair region. We are pleased that the Four Town Fair Board of Directors has selected Lions Clubs International to be their non-profit partner for the 2021 Fair. If you would like to help on this service project in September 2021 (and gain free admission to the Four Town Fair for volunteering), please contact Hunger Service Chair Madhav Atreya.

Promote your Lions Club with a personalized trifold brochure

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Free Teleconference Service Available for All Connecticut Lions

As the pandemic continues to force changes in our daily lives, thanks to PDG Harry Schuh and his Council back in 2018-2019, Connecticut Lions invested in a teleconference service known as GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar to improve communications among Lions. GoToMeeting is available 24 hours per day/7 days per week and all you

have to do is contact either VDG Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or PDG Harry Schuh at hschuh@charter.net to schedule your meeting. Only one meeting can occur at the same time, so we encourage club leaders to book your appointment as early as possible. Currently, over one dozen of our 53 clubs, as well as Lions Low Vision and other Lions non-profits, are meeting by GoToMeeting and some others are using their own Zoom accounts. Many clubs have noticed an increase in attendance with virtual meetings. It is critical that we continue to serve during the pandemic, and this tool is just another way your District is supporting our clubs. In addition to GoToMeeting, we also have GoToWebinar to host virtual training sessions for any Lions. Need more details, just contact either VDG Dave or PDG Harry.

Certificate of Insurance for your Lions Event

One of the many benefits of being a member of Lions Clubs International is the opportunity to receive a free certificate of insurance for your local event. Prior to your event, all you need to do is to have a Lion in your club click on this link: <https://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/resources/certificate-of-insurance-18-19.php> and fill out the form. In order to expedite the certificate issuance process, you now have the ability to create certificates of insurance on your own. Lions Clubs members can fill out and print one of three options depending on which certificate type they want for your event. The three types of certificates are:

Option 1: This form is used to show proof of insurance. No additional insured is needed.

Option 2: This form is used to show proof of insurance and to add additional insured's for use of their premises.

Option 3: This form is used to show proof of insurance and to add additional insured's - State or Political Subdivision - for issuance of permits.

If you need help or have any questions on certificates of insurance, please contact DSP Insurance Services at 800-316-6705.

Club Notices:

From the editors: Because social distancing rules are in effect through (at this time) July 20, we have removed many of the events scheduled through that date. There are still a few events that appear to be able to proceed as scheduled, but contact the club for confirmation before venturing out. If the rules are extended, please send cancellations and new dates to D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com to keep our calendar updated.

Barkhamsted

A Fourth of July Filled with Community Spirit!

Unfortunately, the town of Barkhamsted and the Barkhamsted Lions Club were forced to cancel our annual Fourth of July parade due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, about 10 days before July 4th, a number of citizens approached the town and the Lions to ask if a Fourth of July caravan could be held instead. The Town of Barkhamsted approved the caravan and Barkhamsted Lions (First Selectman) Don Stein, Debbie Brydon and Erica Dyndiuk planned out a 2-1/2 hour caravan through all the villages in the geographically large town of Barkhamsted. The caravan had over 25 fire trucks, military equipment, vintage automobiles, non-profit vehicles and an assortment of other decorated vehicles. Citizens lined many neighborhoods to greet the caravan. The Lions led the parade through town with Past Club President Francis Lattizori and Lion Debbie Roberts and a festive time was had by all.

East Hartford

A quick note from our club to congratulate PDG George Precourt for his FIFTY YEARS of Lionism! Thanks for all that you do!

Hartland

We, the Hartland Lions have been selling American flags at the transfer station on the weekend. We have sold close to 200 flags for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

We're looking for different ways to raise money. Please bring us all your suggestions!

Simsbury

The Simsbury Lions will be holding their annual MUM SALE in September. To place an order please contact Harolyn@att.net or by phone 860-965-0301.

There will be a MUM PICKUP on September 12th and 13th from 10 am until 2 pm behind the band shell at Simsbury Meadows. Please order and pre pay BEFORE pick-up. Individual Lions will be accepting orders and payment. More details and contacts will be available next month. Mums are \$7 EACH, 3 for \$18. There will be discounts for quantity purchases, and deliveries of larger orders can be arranged. Plants are locally grown , fully budded and come in all the usual fall mum colors. Buy early for best selection of colors!

Windsor Locks

Members of the Club's Ramp Committee installed a handicap ramp for a Windsor Locks resident on July 6th and 9th. The Ramp Committee has been building ramps for the past thirty years.

The Club purchased 75 "Be Kind" signs which will be distributed to Club members for display on their properties.

The Club is planning their 2nd "Drive Thru Food Drive" on Saturday, August 15th, from 9:00 am until Noon. Town Residents will be asked to bring non-perishable food items to the Town Hall parking lot where Lions will unload their donations from their vehicles. Collected food will be used to replenish the shelves of the Community Pantry. A similar drive in May collected over \$5,000 in food and cash donations.

CT LIONS ROAR TEAM for the Great Cycle Challenge – Now through Sept. 30th

This event raises money for the Childrens Cancer Research Fund

Accepting team or individual rider donations: <https://greatcyclechallenge.com/Teams/CTLIONSROAR>

Plainville Lions Club Annual New Britain Bees Game, July 18th, 6:30pm

Location: New Britian Stadium, 230 John Karbonic Way, New Britain, CT

Price: Tickets are \$10 with \$5 going to the Low Vision Centers.

Currently the game is still scheduled, but the situation with Coronavirus could change plans.

Contact: Craig Banks at craig.r.banks@my.ccsu.edu

D23B District-wide Kickoff Gathering, July 25, 1pm-4pm

Location: Terryville Fairgrounds, Town Hill Rd, Terryville, CT

An opportunity for all Lions in D23B to socialize and meet district officers and cabinet chairs

Contact: D23B VGE Heidi Zacchara, hzacchera@aol.com

Feed The Family & Furry Friends Food Drive, August (Date/Details Tbd)

Location: New Milford Animal Welfare Society, 8 Dodd Rd. New Milford

A safe driveby-drop off-food and care items for people and pets

Contact: newmilfordclionsclub@gmail.com

We have our own email address now: D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com. Please use this email address. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month prior to the issue date July 10 for the August Lions' Roar to D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com May 10 for the June District Spirit – submit to District23BSpirit@gmail.com.

Notices should be short and include all relevant information (see below for examples). We do not print flyers, club statuses or cabinet reports. The Lions' Roar is intended to keep our district informed of upcoming events. Anything that doesn't fit our format will either be condensed for The Roar, or held for the next District 23B Spirit.