

The Lions' Roar



The Monthly District 23B Governor's Update

July 2020

District Governor's Corner

DG Heidi Zacchera



July 25 will be our "District 23B Kickoff Gathering!" to be held at the Terryville Fairgrounds, 171 Town Hill Rd. Terryville, from 1:00-4:00 pm (1-1:30 social time).

This is a time for the Cabinet, Club officers, and club members to meet. Club presidents will receive a packet of information for the year, as well as the District Directory. Bottled water will be available, and dress code is cabinet casual.

There will be a limit to the number attending, so please RSVP promptly to Cabinet Secretary Pat Daigle, padaigle@yahoo.com, and cc: me, hzacchera@aol.com.

I am really looking forward to an awesome year for District 23B!

From IPDG (and CC) Ev Lyons

This will be my final report to you, the Lions of District 23B, as your immediate past district governor. We have much of which we can be proud as the cabinet leaders for 2019-2020 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each Cabinet member publicly and to highlight the work of this outstanding group of leaders. What follows is the result of their hard work, innovation and passion for "WE SERVE!" in light of the unique second half of our service year with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- District 23B will be recognized as a 100% LCIF district for 2019-2020 with all clubs credited with contributions to our foundation.
- Our district now can boast of 12 model clubs under the LCIF banner—a high percentage for a district within our international foundation.
- We created the first cyber LEO club in New England and one of few within international Lionism.
- We chartered the first cyber Lions club in our multiple district. It currently is the only one; however, Districts "A" and "C" are following our example and may soon join us in this innovative approach.
- A new communications format, THE LIONS ROAR, was inaugurated with direct emailing to all 23B Lions for whom we have an active email address.
- THE DISTRICT SPIRIT transferred to a 100% electronic format with direct mailing to all 23B Lions for whom we have an active email address.
- We brought two new branch clubs (Barkhamsted/Watertown) into our district.
- A second Nepalese Lions Club, the West Hartford Lumbini Lions, were chartered and are going strong.
- We developed an orientation webinar that can be used by all clubs as part of their new member induction process.
- We took on childhood cancer with an informative webinar, a project to provide supplies for the CCMC's "Heroes Closet" and an upcoming bike fundraiser.
- Strong attendance at the ASD Lions Dinner in November and the two Governor's Award Breakfasts gave evidence to the interest and commitment of Lions.

- Our first district “2019-2020 Service Report” was compiled to give evidence to the multitude of service projects underway in 23B and this was distributed to all club presidents at the Governor’s Breakfasts.
- Our Facebook page and district website were strengthened and maintained to make timely information available to Lions and the general public.
- Two LCIF grants dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Totaling \$16,700) supported 24 food banks and nearly 30 first responders and area hospitals in both Litchfield and Hartford Counties.
- 23B Lions helped to plan and implement a New Voices seminar at our Mid-Winter Conference.
- We added a new low vision center in our north-central region of the district to better serve those with chronic sight issues.

As a direct result of the pandemic, our district leaders had to develop innovative approaches to traditional activities. In all cases, your cabinet leaders stepped-up to the mark and carried the day.

- We hosted a candidates’ forum electronically to better inform our Lions of the three candidates running for 2VDG. It received nearly 300 “hits” before voting day. Voting and ballot counting also took on a new approach under the circumstances.
- An electronic new member induction ceremony, conducted by ID Mark Lyon, welcomed new Lions into the district.
- The Cabinet approved a new member initiative for the spring in which the \$35 entry fee would be returned to the clubs for each member joining under the initiative and remaining a Lion for a year and a day. We exceeded our 35 new member maximum.

Did we accomplish all our goals? Unfortunately, the COVID-19 need to socially isolate ourselves prevented a number of scheduled and new activities from moving forward. However, in each case the cabinet chair assigned to the activity had already developed goals and was implementing procedures when the pandemic struck. Their efforts, while not visible, need to be recognized by our district Lions as well.

The 2019-2020 District 23B Cabinet will be seen as one of our most productive and creative leadership groups. Their legacy leaves our district in an outstanding position to grow even more and to excel in the years ahead. To my fellow cabinet members and 23B Lions: ROAR LIONS!

Leadership Training

This year due to the Covid Virus you will be facing unique opportunities and situations in the management of your Lions Club. Normally we would hold a 4-hour training seminar to help you kick-off your Lions year. Due to the Covid virus we are unable to do an in-person seminar at this time.

To help you get off to a good start we have put together a training video presented by in coming 2nd VDG Dave Roberts. You should receive this Video by Sunday June 14th. DG Heidi is also planning a question and answer gathering after everyone has watched the video. This will occur July 6th, Presidents 6-6:30, Secretaries 6:30-7:00, Treasurers 7-7:30, Membership 7:30- 8:00. We will send out a link as it gets closer. Anyone can go through this “training” so feel free to share any of the “tapes” with members of your club.

I ask that you please send VDG Dave acknowledgment of completing this training along with any questions you may have. We would like you to view this video before June 30th.

For additional training information log into www.lionsclubs.org

Go to membership resources, log into officer training , click on your position

I look forward to working with you during this upcoming year. Contact me with any questions.

GLT Jim Trompetor, jim@retailrecruitersusa.com

Blood Drives

We owe District Blood Drives Chairperson Julie Vecchitto a deep apology—this article missed the last two Spirits (entirely our fault for misfiling it). Since there is still an immediate need for blood, we wanted to make sure that her effort did not go unrecognized.

Hosting Blood Drives: We Can All Help Save Lives!

Last spring, District Governor Everett Lyons reached out to me to help with a new initiative he's had on his mind for a long time. As a high school principal, DG Ev hosted many blood drives throughout his long tenure in Bristol, and he contacted me because of my involvement as both a Red Cross Donor Ambassador and Blood Drive Coordinator for the Harwinton Lions. So, I have joined the 23B cabinet to promote club-level blood drive hosting in our district, and spoken at a number of Zone Meetings about how to host a blood drive in your club.

If you're wondering why this is an important initiative, consider these facts:

- Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. and sickle cell patients can require blood transfusions throughout their lives.
- About 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer in every year, and many of them need blood, because of compromised bone marrow or chemotherapy treatment.

And yet, only 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Every new donor helps the Red Cross meet patient needs. We can help increase this number and serve the people in our state by hosting a blood drive and helping to ensure a stable blood supply.

As I spoke at Zone meetings, I had two goals:

- to identify which clubs are already hosting blood drives; and
- to offer any assistance I can to clubs that aren't currently hosting drives, but want to add this project to their service activities.

Zone Chairs are currently reaching out to each of their clubs to determine who is already hosting blood drives, and to identify clubs that want to host a blood drive. We are working together on a shared spreadsheet that includes each of the seven zones in our district, including each club and who in the Red Cross represents each one; their email addresses are linked directly from the spreadsheet. We need your clubs' help with filling in the Lions side of the spreadsheet, including each club's designated blood drive coordinator and that person's contact information. So when your Zone Chair visits, please share that information with them!

I can also reach out to any club that would like more information, and have two more zone meetings to attend. But the best source of info for anyone who's thinking about hosting a blood drive is the Red Cross representative who serves your town. When I first took over as blood drive coordinator, Lou Cassano was our rep. He sat down with me, provided a packet of really great information, and gave me access to the Red Cross back end where I could see the goal of our drive, and who was already signed up for our blood drives, which really helped with recruiting.

Please talk about hosting a blood drive within your own club meetings, and get in touch with any questions you might have (email address below). It's not difficult to host a blood drive: a few hours of preparation and five hours at the blood drive. But the reward surely exceeds the work entailed in doing so—what could be better than saving lives?

Lion Julie Vecchitto, 23B Blood Drives Chair, jvecchit@gmail.com

“BE KIND” Effort

There isn't much time to get you order in for “Be Kind” signs. Originally created by the Terryville Lions Club, and displayed around their town, other clubs (most notably, Meriden, in District 23A), thought it was a great idea and made their own. Now, all clubs in District 23B have the opportunity to share in this effort.

PDG Steve Daigle is coordinating an order for these signs for all clubs in the district. They cost about \$4 each, and clubs can either distribute them throughout their town, or use them as a fundraiser, selling them at a profit.

The deadline for the order is June 19, and PDG Steve needs a minimum of 100 signs to place the order. Of course, the price may go down depending on how many signs he orders. Please email PDG Steve, steven.daigle@snet.net, by that date with the number of signs your club wants.



District 23B Coronavirus Response

Governor Ev asked clubs to submit how they're serving in their communities in this time of social distancing. We received a few responses, and we would like to share with the rest of the District how clubs are stepping up in this unique time.



A team of District 23B Lions served over 1,400 clients on June 8 at the Rentschler Field food distribution. Serving were (L-R): Roger Pelletier (Bristol), Anthony and Maria Cornicello (Greater Hartford Host), Ed Fenton (East Hartford), Dave Roberts (Barkhamsted), Ev Lyons (Bristol), Roland Perreault (Harwinton), Jim Daniels (Windsor). 23C PDG Mary Krough and Jim Pfeiffer (Windsor). The team distributed fresh produce, dairy products, bread and fruit to clients from 8-noon.

Barkhamsted

In honor of flag day, Barkhamsted Lions Club members are partnering with Riverton Grange #169 to collect used/torn/ripped/faded American flags as a community service project during the month of June to retire the flags with honor at a ceremony on July 4th. If you have an American flag that you would like retired, please contact Club President Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241 or drop off in the bag on the front porch of the Grange Hall on Main Street in Riverton.

Marlborough

In light of cancellation of the Marlborough Lions Annual Pancake Breakfast due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 88 pounds of pancake mix (enough to make 2,200 pancakes) was recently donated to the MARLBOROUGH Food Bank. In addition, the Lions coordinated a \$1000 donation from Josh Lejeune Memorial Fund to assist the Food Bank along with four \$50 Stop & Shop gift cards received from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Community Impact Grant for Lions District 23B in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

In these challenging times many have stepped forward to provide needed materials and services including the recent donation of sanitizer, cleaner concentrate and gloves to Allison Schmauder, Director of Admissions & Marketing of the Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center (right)



New Britain

Saturday May, 30th: Lion Francine Austin (Walnut Hill Park) and Lion Danielle J Lutz (Stanley Quarter Park) out and about City-wide community parks clean-up effort. Walked over 2 miles picking up/ cleaning 2 of the 3 parks. Great way to support community during these times. Photos were shared on Mayor Erin Stewart's Facebook page and club Facebook page.



Simsbury

The Simsbury Lions Club presented Simsbury Voluntary Ambulance with Covid-19 protective materials including boxes of gloves, masks and disinfectants paid for by a generous grant from Lions Clubs International.

Pictured from L to R: Matt Nardoza SVA paramedic, Simsbury Lions President Sal DeDominicis, SVA Chief Karin Stewart, and Lions Robert Miles, Elaine Gianinni and Dennis Fallon who headed up this project.



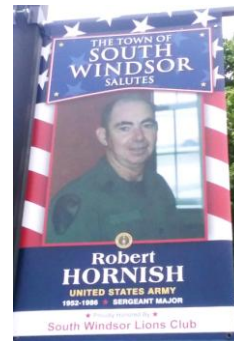
Like all the clubs, the Simsbury Lions had to cancel several funding raising functions over the past few months, including our Pancake Breakfast. Fortunately, the Pecan Sale and Chocolate Bunny Sales could be successfully completed by online advertising and personal delivery. Since it will be primarily an outdoor event, we are planning to go ahead with the Annual Mum Sale this September, and hope to make it bigger and better than ever. Look for more information on the Mum Sale in the next Roar.

Our twice monthly meetings have continued via Zoom, set up by Simsbury Lion PDG Marianne Bannan, who also led the group in Zoom inductions of two new members with the full beautiful ceremony and even candles. We take great pride in welcoming Lion Rick Santopietro and Lion Linda Bayne to our club.

The induction of the New Board of Directors and Officers was also held virtually on Zoom at our June 2 meeting, once again led by PDG Marianne Bannan. Thank you to outgoing President, Sal DeDominicis who has done an outstanding job for the past two years.

South Windsor

Our club took part in a student's project to honor living veterans with banners. These banners were put up in time for Memorial Day on lampposts in the parking area of the community center and playground.



Terryville

The Terryville Lions received a donation of N95 and disposable masks, gloves and liquid sanitizer thanks to a grant received by 23B District Governor Ev Lyons from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. The grant was for the purpose of procuring the PPE and distributing it to volunteers working the front lines during this pandemic in both Hartford and Litchfield counties. Terryville Lions President Jamie Laforge, President-Elect Tracy Dubois, Past District Governor Steven Daigle and I presented the PPE to Brandon Johndro of the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps with best wishes from the Terryville Lions and the Lions of District 23B. Stay safe out there, and thank you for your service to our community! (Photo credit: Tracy Dubois)



Woodbury

On Sunday, May 31, the Woodbury Lions held a town-wide food drive to help restock the Woodbury Community Services Food Bank, which had been hit very hard during the lockdown. The town was alerted through an article in the local newspaper and through social media, and came out heavily to support this effort.

Joint Lions Club Project

At the suggestion of District Governor Ev Lyons, Barkhamsted Lions, Northwestern CT Cyber Lions, Barkhamsted Senior Center Branch Lions and Northwest CT Cyber Leos partnered on a number of projects to serve their local communities to support our global environmental cause.

The first joint project was to continue litter pickup opportunities along Routes 20, 179 and 219 in Barkhamsted. The second project was to clean up debris, sticks and litter, and mow the 3+ feet tall grass at the Washington Hill United Methodist Church which was founded in 1834 in Barkhamsted. The property appeared to be abandoned so the minister on the church door was contacted and the clubs joined together for a cleanup day and went back a second day to continue picking up litter near the property. The final project was to work with the new Barkhamsted Senior Center Branch Lions Club to weed their above ground flower beds which had not been cared for in over two years. Over 12 volunteers showed up for this project and Club President Dave Roberts treated them to specialty pizzas from the newly reopened Old Riverton Inn Royal Coachman Tavern. All three projects brought the four clubs together and helped beautify the local community while all volunteers safely social distanced themselves during the pandemic.



Club Notices:

From the editors: Because social distancing rules are in effect through (at this time) June 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.

Opening Eyes Vision Program at the Special Olympics Summer Games, June 12-14

Location: Virtual Event

Contact: Brian Lavigne - brian.lavigne@snet.net

Bloomfield Lions Club Member's Tag Sale, June 13

Location: Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield

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

Location: New Britain 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

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.