

The Lions' Roar



The Monthly District 23B Governor's Update

May 2020

District Governor's Corner

DG Ev Lyons

Do You Have "Members in Waiting"?

Several clubs have inquired regarding what to do about new members who were ready to be inducted just before the COVID-19 hit. My reply has been that inductions can occur at any time in the future and that while the induction ceremony really "seals the deal" for membership, it is not required that a club wait. If the prospective member has paid the entrance fee and has been approved by the club's board of directors and club membership, consider that individual as a regular member and add them to your membership roster. Eventually, our need to "social distance" will pass and we can resume normal club activities. At that point, club inductions can occur, and we may even consider a group induction with ID Mark if the numbers warrant. Speaking of membership, this may be a good time to chat via telephone or other media with someone whom you feel might be interested in becoming a Lion. We are all looking for activities to remain in contact with others and with which to keep busy. A friendly phone call might be just what your candidate would appreciate!

More from Governor Ev:

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Current club presidents are reminded that nominations and elections for club officer positions should be completed in the near future. Our district's Go-to-Meeting platform is an excellent means of holding your committee or club meeting to accomplish these tasks. In fact, several clubs have informed me that they are doing just that. Please contact PDG Dave Roberts, dave@daveroberts.org to arrange a meeting time and to receive access codes that you can distribute to meeting participants.

CLUB EVENTS

This is another reminder that if you were planning late-Spring events and now have decided to cancel, please inform Patty Daigle (Club officer notification) and Frank Longo (ROAR and District Spirit) so that other Lions who may be planning to attend may be informed your decision.

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Clubs will be receiving information if they have not already regarding this year's district elections. Ballots equal to the number of assigned delegates will be mailed to each club. These ballots will cover not only the three district leadership positions, but will also include a separate ballot for approval of the multiple district budget. Club presidents will internally assign delegates as they have in the past. The ballots will be returned via US Mail and need to be postmarked by May 16. The official count of ballots for each district will occur on May 23. Further details will be released closer to the election date. Clubs in financial arrears to either LCI or the district will not be eligible to vote, so treasurers are urged to "square away" your club accounts.

As part of the District 23B election process, the Candidates' Forum 2020 was conducted in early April and now is posted on Facebook. The link to the forum is <https://youtu.be/K49vhk6PTiM>. Please take the time to watch.

CLUB SECRETARIES—BE SURE TO REPORT MEMBERSHIP

Club secretaries are reminded that even though we are inactive for the moment, monthly membership reports should be filed with LCI as you would during the summer when many clubs do not meet. Even though you may not have a change in membership, your monthly report needs to be filed. At this point, I would imagine any changes that you do have will be in the loss column as recruitment is impossible with our club inactivity. Nevertheless, please maintain your membership reports.

MAY 17 DISTRICT ORIENTATION FORMAT CHANGED!

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a change in program structure for our scheduled May 17th district orientation program as it did with many traditions in our lives. In lieu of the face-to-face meeting with PCC Alan Daninhirsch, we created a district webinar that can be viewed at your leisure by both new and experienced Lions. Alan has done a superb job of discussing the important aspects of Lions and you can see him at action by clicking on <https://youtu.be/MDh5O5eYwbs>

LOOKING FOR SERVICE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING?

We have a great family or individual project that can help our environment while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Grab a set of appropriate gloves, bring a trash bag and give yourself some great Spring exercise while collecting litter along a local road or street. This is a service which any Lion can do which does not require a group effort--just be mindful that you have a set of appropriate gloves and wash those hands well after your project is completed. Not only will you benefit from the walk but also from the experience of providing safe service in the midst of our social isolation. And after all—it is time for Spring cleaning, isn't it? Send us your photos (elyonsev50@gmail.com) and will we select a few to post on our district website and Facebook page.

From DGE Heidi:

If you have interest in Communications/Marketing, Photography, Homeless, Vision Education, or Reading Programs, contact me, hzacchera@aol.com

***** IMPORTANT***** To All Clubs! I'd like to get the district directory out before our first meeting, so PLEASE get your club officer names into LCI by May. The process: nominating committee gets together to form a slate of officers, March - A slate of officers is brought forward, April - the club votes, By May - names go into LCI.

From PDG Dave Roberts:

Don't Stop Meeting or Training Due to the Pandemic

One year ago, Connecticut Lions purchased a seat for GoToMeeting/GoToWebinar for all clubs to use technology to meet remotely. Little did we know how important this decision was then, now that we are in the midst of the pandemic. Our District has a tool to allow your club to meet remotely or to host a training webinar. Meetings and webinars can be recorded too. You can participate via a landline, cellphone, laptop or other piece of technology. It is very easy to use to keep in touch during this challenging time. We are pleased that to date Avon, Barkhamsted, Bristol, East Hartford, Greater Hartford Host, Norfolk, West Hartford Lumbini, and Windsor Lions Clubs; Northwest CT Cyber and Windsor Sage Park Leo Clubs; and Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF), District 23B Lions Low Vision Center (LLVC), North American Membership Initiative (NAMI), and New Voices are all using GoToMeeting to stay connected and many folks are promoting training on GoToWebinar (Childhood Cancer, Club Secretaries, Emerging Lions Leadership Institute, Lions Day with the United Nations, New Member Orientation and New Voices). Lion Dave Roberts and IPDG Harry Schuh are POCs for our District. You can contact Lion Dave at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241 to sign up to use either service free of charge.

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.

Bristol

The Bristol Lions Club made an emergency donation of \$2,000 to the local Salvation Army unit to support food pantry and soup kitchen efforts.

Glastonbury Centennial

During the current Covid-19 pandemic the Glastonbury Centennial Lions have continued to extend a helping hand (from a safe distance). We were fortunate to have received a donation of 500 medical masks and our fellow Lions have distributed them to previous sponsors and others in need. In addition our Lions have supplied juice boxes and drinks to Jersey Mikes and Night Angels for their efforts in providing lunches and meals to students and the less fortunate.

Recipients include:

Night Angels
Jersey Mike's
Highland Park Market
Middlesex Oncology
Oakwood Golf
Stop & Shop
UPS
Atwater Martial Arts
Homewood Suites

New Britain

Our Board of Directors will have its regular monthly meeting via zoom this coming Tuesday to plan for when we all get out of this.

We have made a club pledge to, are currently making individual pledges for, and will walk in the area's food banks Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger. The walk is scheduled for May 28th at Dunkin' Donuts Park. PP Ken Kollmeyer leads this effort.

Our joint YMCA/Rotary/Lions kitchen renovation project has just been completed and will serve hundreds of Y Day care children and other community groups, as soon as the crisis passes, under the leadership of Lion Marci Moskal. Our club's annual eyeglass packing event, scheduled for late April, has been postponed. But, as soon as this crisis lifts, we will be at New Britain's Siracusa Moving to sort and pack those eyeglasses under the able leadership of PDG/PCC Alan Daninhirsch.

And our current club President Nick Augustino and his family, despite having to close his two local restaurants (the East Side and the Clam Box), have been preparing and delivering hundreds of meals to the Salvation Army, Friendship Service Center, our local hospitals, and other human service organizations.

Windsor Locks

Homemade Greeting Cards and Flowers – Members of our Windsor Locks Leo Club designed handmade "Thinking of You" greeting cards and distributed them to the residents of the Bickford Convalescent Home. In addition, each resident was given a carnation with fern.

Chocolate Easter Bunnies – The Windsor Locks Lions Club used alternate means to sell their chocolate Easter Bunnies. Usually sold at our annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, this year's sale was conducted via our Facebook page and sold out within an hour.

Social Distancing Easter Egg Hunt - The Windsor Locks Lions Club painted 33 Easter Eggs on 2x3 foot plywood sheets. The Eggs were placed at 20 different sites around town (parks, schools, businesses, and private homes).

Residents were given a registration sheet giving clues where the eggs could be found. All signs were easily visible from the street, so no one had to leave their vehicles. Residents finding all of the eggs were entered into a random drawing for several prizes.

“Thinking of You Rocks” – The Windsor Locks Lions Club hand painted rocks with floral designs and inspirational words. The rocks were given to residents of the Bickford Convalescent Home.

Food Transfer – The Windsor Locks Lions Club assisted a local hotel that was closing their restaurant in transporting food from the Hotel to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

“Takeout – Eat at Home” Club Meeting – On April 2nd, the Windsor Locks Lions Club conducted a “Take Out – Eat at Home” Club Meeting. Members were encouraged to order takeout meals from the Skyline Restaurant, our normal meeting site. The takeout meetings will continue until the Restaurant can again offer dine-in services.

Virtual Ambulance Executive Board and Board of Directors Meetings – The Windsor Locks Lions Club conducted virtual Ambulance Executive Board and Board of Directors Meetings via Zoom on April 8th

Nightly Bell Ringing – Joining many residents of Windsor Locks, members of the Club stand on their front porches and ring bells from 8:00 until 8:02 every evening. The idea is show that while respecting being social distancing, we can still show we are all in this together regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Woodbury

The Woodbury Lions have been assisting at the local food bank, and are continuously running collections of non-perishable items and cash (or gift card) donations to keep the service running.

Joint Lions Club Projects

Helen Keller said “alone we can accomplish so little, but together we can accomplish so much”, so the Barkhamsted and Northwestern Connecticut Cyber Lions Clubs, and Windsor Sage Park and Northwest CT Cyber Leo Clubs are serving their communities virtually with three creative projects suggested by their LEOs: first, they are making cards for shut-ins at local nursing homes; second, they are making telephone calls to elderly shut-ins at home; and third they are picking up litter along roads and waterways for Earth Month (April). In addition, Barkhamsted Lions are helping match shut-in seniors’ needs with volunteers working with the Town of Barkhamsted. All four clubs have continued to meet via GoToMeeting or Zoom teleconferences to remain as active as possible in a safe and responsible manner. We Serve!

Club Notices:

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

LAST DAY TO ENTER NEW CLUB OFFICERS INTO MyLCI, April 30

Bloomfield Lions Club Mother’s Day Plant Sale, May 2, 9am-4pm

Location: Bloomfield Town Hall parking lot

Marlborough Lions Club, 2nd Annual Assistive Device Drive, May 2

Collecting commodes, walkers, crutches, canes, scooters, wheelchairs, beds (with prior knowledge), etc. in partnership with Orphan Grain Train

Deadline for the June District 23B Spirit, May 10

Send all articles, pictures, and ads to District23BSpirit@gmail.com

Torrington Lions Club 2020 Car Show, May 29, 5-9pm

Location: Main Street, Torrington

Cost: \$10

Muscle cars, vintage cars, imports, food, music, 50/50 raffle. No cutoff date. Rain date June 5.

D23B Lions Learning Day, 8am-Noon, June 8, 8am-noon

Location: Connecticut Association of Schools, 10 Reality Drive, Cheshire

Important training session for all club officers, new and old

NOTE this may switch to online sessions – we will update you as necessary

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

Location: Fairfield University and Fairfield Warde High School, Fairfield, CT

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

Bloomfield Lions Club Member's Tag Sale, June 13

Location: Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield

Woodbury Lions Club 42nd Annual Car Show and Food Festival, June 14, 9am-5pm

Location: Hollow Park, Woodbury CT

Admission: \$15 for show cars, \$7 general admission, \$3 children under 10

Food trucks, craft beer, live bands, games and raffles, and lots of cars.

Contact: woodburyclions@gmail.com

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 Cookout, July 25, 11am-2pm

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 Zacchera, 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 April 10 for the May 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.