

The Lions' Roar



The Monthly District 23B Governor's Update

November 2020



District Governor's Corner **DG Heidi Zacchera**

Very sad news for the district: PDG Ron Storms passed away recently.

Lori-Ann Bennison 1st VDG 23 A had offered to present safety/CPR, etc. and she did, at our October Cabinet meeting.

This has been a busy year so far! I've been attending to all aspects of the district to make sure everything is being done properly. I take this job very seriously and I have high morals and ethics that I follow. I will do everything within my power to make sure the district is operating the way it should be, and will continue to focus on the entire district.

Striker Corbin was the motivational speaker for the USA Canada Forum. He told us to lead by example. Do things because it is the right thing to do. And he kept stressing—We're in this together...The power of WE!

We have accomplished so much this year! I'm just going to list off some of the many facets of our work, as I don't want to steal any thunder from the chairpeople.

- Childhood Cancer – Great Cycle Challenge – \$23,692.39 Bonnie Jo - Kent was number one for our District!
- We've been promoting donations to Camp Rising Sun
- LEO's – have been meeting virtually. An Omega club was formed within Hartford County Everest Centennial!
- Hunger – Food Drives, Farmers to Families Produce give aways - Oct. 31. The good thing is, we have almost saturated our communities with food at the moment.
- Environmental - clean ups within the different communities
- Veteran's Stand Down – great participation from the district!
- Vision – Blind Equality Day & some vision screening
- Bringing in new members – we've had an influx of new members. YAY US!
- Working on starting New Clubs – three new clubs. Our most important focus is providing the clubs with lower membership assistance in building their membership.
- Our Clubs are fundraising and performing service projects – pierogis sale, and other food. Volunteer at drive up concerts, Mum sales, Drive up Breakfasts, 5k's, golf tournament, blood drives, Halloween events
- Our Clubs have made donations—for instance: Unionville \$50,000.
- Club visits—over eighteen so far, plus attending club events. (Do not sing at meetings!)

All of this happening during the pandemic! We are rockin' it! WE are making our mark!

I'm happy to let you know Dave Boilard has agreed to step into the GMT role! Dave has an interest in continuing to climb our District ladder, and this will be a great experience for him. We are united in our plans and goals for the

district regarding membership, and are looking forward to helping clubs with lower membership numbers to build their membership. Any membership questions contact Dave Boilard!

Speaking of membership. Please take into consideration we are within this nasty pandemic and some of your members may not be comfortable meeting in person. Think about providing Zoom access at the same time, and also think about lowering their dues to help them endure these trying times.

Input new members into My LCI and get them inducted as soon as you can so they feel the connection. Ed and I are willing to do these inductions during our regular visits, or at another time.

If your club has an upcoming event, you need to use your social media, the ROAR, and district Facebook page to get the information out. Cabinet Secretary Pat will not be sending out event info to clubs. (She is busy as it is). The West Hartford Lumbini Club is offering meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 8:00. It is awesome! Come try it out through Zoom...soooooo relaxing!

Keep your members engaged. Think about what fundraisers you can hold, and what service projects you can do. The zone chairs will be sharing what they have learned at the zone meetings with us through the District Spirit!

Stay healthyStay safe!

A TRIBUTE TO LION RONALD F. STORMS

Members of the Windsor Locks Lions Club and the Simsbury Lions Club (Associate Member), as well as Lions from throughout the State of Connecticut paid a special tribute to Past District Governor Ron Storms, who passed on September 26 at the age of 88.

While COVID-19 restrictions prevented the holding of Lions Memorial Service, some 80 Lions wearing Lions apparel formed an Honor Guard on both sides of the entrance road to the Grove Cemetery as his funeral procession took Lion Storms to his final resting place.

Lion Ron was a member of the Windsor Locks Lions for over 58 years with perfect attendance, and served as their President in 1973. He also held Associate Membership with the Simsbury Lions Club and the Meredith (New Hampshire) Lions Club. He was the proud recipient of many International and Multiple District 23 Awards, including the International Ambassador Membership Key Award for sponsoring more than 150 members into the Association. Lion Ron commitment to Lionism was evident with his long time efforts as Chairman of the Special Education Children's Christmas Party

A scholarship is being established in Lion Ron's name. Donations can be made to the Windsor Locks Lions Charities Inc., P.O. Box 312, Windsor Locks CT 06096.

OCTOBER IS MEET THE BLIND MONTH

Lion Maryanne Melley reminded us that it's "Meet the Blind Month." She shared some information that would be beneficial to all of us.

Courtesy Rules of Blindness

I am a blind person. Please say hello and get to know me! I want people to feel comfortable around me. Here are some simple tips.

Cane – My cane (or guide dog) is my independent travel aid. If you think I might need help, please just ask me.

Ordinary – Blind people are ordinary. It feels awkward if you think I am amazing when I accomplish ordinary tasks

like walking or tying my shoes. I also like ordinary things and have ordinary hobbies. It is okay to be amazed if I do something really exceptional.

Understand – I may not recognize your voice if I don't know you well. Please say, "Hi, it is Sue." Remember – I may have some sight, but use nonvisual techniques and tools like a cane because it works best for me. Sometimes people think I am "faking" because I see a little, but I am just picking techniques that are most efficient and safe in light of my vision.

Talk – Please talk to me rather than a companion, and there is no need to speak up so just use your normal speaking voice and talk with me like you would with other people.

Experience – I probably have years of experience using nonvisual techniques to live my life. Feel free to ask me how I do something, or how best you can assist me, if help is needed.

See – It's ok to still use words such as see and look. I will talk with you like everyone else, although I may not be able to make direct eye contact.

Yield – In all 50 states, the law requires drivers to yield the right of way when they see my extended white cane or guide dog. Only the blind may legally carry white canes. I listen to traffic patterns to know when to cross streets and to keep a straight line when moving around. Thanks for reading about me. I look forward to getting to know you!

For more information about the courtesy rules of blindness, gifts, bequests, programs for the blind or other matters concerning blindness or the blind, contact the local chapter in your area or contact nfbct.org or 860-289-1971.

When You Meet a Working Guide Dog Team

- As tempting as it may be to pet a guide dog, remember that this dog is responsible for leading someone who cannot see. The dog should never be distracted from that duty.
- A person's safety may depend on their dog's alertness and concentration. It is okay to ask someone if you may pet their guide. Many people enjoy introducing their dogs when they have the time. The dog's primary responsibility is to its blind partner and it is important that the dog not become solicitous.
- A guide dog should never be offered food or other distracting treats. Food rewards are used as a motivational and training tool both in our dog training and by our alumni with their working guide dogs, but those rewards are only given to the dogs by their handlers.
- Although guide dogs cannot read traffic signals, they are responsible for helping their handlers safely cross a street. Calling out to a guide dog or intentionally obstructing its path can be dangerous for the team as it could break the dog's concentration on its work. Listening for traffic flow has become harder for guide dog handlers due to quieter car engines and the increasing number of cars on the road. Please don't honk your horn or call out from your car to signal when it is safe to cross, which can be distracting and confusing. Be especially careful of pedestrians in crosswalks when turning right on red.
- It's not all work and no play for a guide dog. When they are not in harness, they are treated in much the same way as pets. However, for their safety they are only allowed to play with specific toys. Please don't offer them toys without first asking their handler's permission.
- In some situations, working with a guide dog may not be appropriate. Instead, the handler may prefer to take your arm just above the elbow and allow their dog to heel. Others will prefer to have their dog follow you. In this case, be sure to talk to the handler and not the dog when giving directions for turns.
- You may encounter a guide dog wearing a head collar, which is a humane training tool that helps a dog become calm and focused when distracted. The head collar is not a muzzle, and is designed to permit the dog to fully open its mouth, and can even be worn when the dog is eating, drinking, or playing.
- Access laws in the U.S. and Canada, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, permit guide dogs to accompany their handlers anywhere the general public is allowed, including taxis and buses, restaurants, theaters, stores, schools, hotels, apartment and office buildings. Guide dogs are trained to stand, sit, or lie quietly in public places when not leading.

District Notices:

Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships

Melvin Jones Progressives are attained when an individual or a club has donated \$1000 to LCIF. If an individual donates \$1000 a year to LCIF, they would receive a MJP each year. (Each progressive is another "level" and has a different stone.) If they donate \$500 a year, the second year they would receive a MJP.

ASD Dinner

According to our ASD Chair, Maria Cornicello, the ASD dinner, which usually occurs in November, has been postponed to a date in the Spring, to be determined.

Club Notices:

From the editors: Because social distancing rules are still in effect, please check that events have not been cancelled or relocated due to restrictions.

Canton

Canton Lions will be serving an Oktoberfest lunch for our amazing seniors on October 23 at the Canton Community Center. Lunch will be Bratwurst or hot dogs, potato salad, pretzels, beverages and German chocolate cake for dessert. The event is outdoors with plenty of music and social distancing across the rear parking lot. It is an annual event.

East Hartford

The East Hartford Lions will be having our first ever Blood Drive on November 21, 2020, from 9am-2pm at the East Hartford YMCA located at 770 Main Street, East Hartford. Lion Danielle Shapiro is chairing the event. We hope that Lions who are able, will consider donating the most precious of gifts. And feel free to tell your Lion friends. If you have questions, please call Lion Danielle at 860-485-3599.

Hartland

Virtual meetings will never replace the warmth and strength of face-to-face gatherings. Hope we can get back to being with each other soon.

Food2Families

Hartland is participating in the second Food2Families distribution but picking up and delivering 300 food boxes and gallons of milk to those in need. The food is not only a physical necessity for many but may allow some to move limited financial resources to rent, mortgage or other critical needs during this time of uncertainty.

Election Day Bake Sale

Sellout Election Day Bake Sale is on again. Homemade cakes, pies, breads, cookies will be available on Election Day. This event sells out quickly so VOTE and buy a treat. All proceeds to Lions Service projects.

Kent

The Kent Lions Club had their first outdoor meeting, using COVID protocol. Twenty-eight members attended. Joe Mylie, Zone Chair joined us for a successful gathering.

During the month of September, four Kent Lions participated on the CT LIONS ROAR TEAM, for the Great Cycle Challenge, the team of 20 raised \$23,692.39 and road 3,367.3 miles. The Kent Lions' four members alone contributed \$8,798.81 and road 1,227.3 miles to the final challenge results. Lion Bonnie Jo Cheron was 1st on the team for raising the most funds, 1st in the state and 195th in the country.

The Kent Lions Club volunteered during a free six-week (Aug.-Oct.) concert put on by the Kent Land Trust. A signup was necessary for entrance. COVID protocols were followed, and each car was assigned a parking place so the social distancing could be followed. Great music, weather, and fun were had by all.

Marlborough Lions

Oct 18th-Pancake Breakfast at the East Glastonbury Fish & Game Club 8-11am, take out only, but feel free to bring chairs/blankets and sit around the pond. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 kids.

Oct 25th-Marlborough Masquerade 5K at Blish Park 10am. Staggered starts, social distancing applies, no awards ceremony, but there will be medals for 1st place male/female, and prizes for best overall, best group, funniest, and scariest costumes. We are a certified race. Sign up online at www.plattsys.com. \$20 prior to 10/11 to guarantee t-shirt, \$25 after 10/11, \$50 families. There will be no day-of registration, per state regulations.

Nov 7th-Medical Device Drive in partnership with Orphan Grain Train at Marlborough Elementary School
Hygiene Drive for the Marlborough Food Bank in November-date TBD

We have been busy distributing Farm to Families food donation boxes to the Food Bank, and will be delivering to both the Florence Lord Senior Housing complex as well as the Senior Center.

Windsor Lions

Help the Windsor Lions Celebrate Blind Americans Equality Day

Join us as we celebrate "Blind Americans Equality Day." Hosted by the Windsor Lions Club, Sage Park, the NCCL Leo Clubs, and the Tobacco Museum (Northwest Park, 135 Lang Rd, Windsor, CT)

There will be a reception at the Tobacco Museum at Northwest Park on Saturday, October 17, from 2-4pm, to focus attention on the innovative work done by The Windsor Lions and CRIS Radio, to use QR Codes to bring history alive for blind, low vision, and print-disabled individuals. Blind and low-vision individuals will be given tours of the museum, enjoy a brief reception and we will celebrate accomplishments made to create equality. This event will follow rules of social distancing and the wearing of facemasks is required. RSVP to Lion Jim Daniels, jamesadanielscpa@gmail.com

Woodbury Lions Club Golf Tournament – October 20, 10:30am - ??

Location: Highfield Club, 256 White Deer Rocks Road, Middlebury, CT

Entry fee: \$150 per person includes green fees, cart, lunch, beer, refreshments on the course, and appetizers after the course. Free raffle tickets included, mulligans \$5 extra! Prizes for best ball gross and net, closest to the pin, and closest to the line.

Contact: Lion Ryan Maccione, 203-802-8388 or Ryan@americanpetcontainment.com

Woodbury Lions Club Haunted Walk – October 30, 31, 7pm-9pm

Location: Hollow Park, Woodbury, CT

Admission: \$15 adults, \$10 children under 12

In lieu of the usual Haunted Hayride, the Woodbury Lions Club will present a Haunted Walk at Hollow Park. The walk is about 45-minutes long along a moderately rough river trail, and is not handicapped accessible. Costumes are encouraged, hiking shoes are suggested, as is a flashlight, and facemasks are required. Groups are limited to 35 people, and will leave at fifteen-minute intervals. No pets are allowed.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from the club's website, www.WoodburyCTLions.org

Contact: WoodburyCTLions@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: December 10 for the January Lions' Roar to D23BLionsRoar@gmail.com November 10 for the December District Spirit – submit to District23BSpirit@gmail.com.

Notices should be short and include all relevant information. We do not print flyers 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.