

# LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTICUT LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 23A

2009 2010

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

September 2009  
Issue No. 3

### DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! What a crazy month this has been! Talk about jumping into things with both feet! Let's see...my club visitation schedule has started in earnest; I've been to New Hampshire for the New England Lions Council Meeting and Rindge Necrology Ceremony honoring those Lions who have passed in the previous year; the District has participated in the Veteran's Stand Down in Rocky Hill; Zone, Region and Lions Low Vision Center meetings have been held; our first District Pride of the new year was issued; we've conducted our Connecticut Blitz MD23 Extension Workshop and Canvassing (lots more below on that); I traveled to Memphis with many other Connecticut Lions for the 2009 USA/Canada Leadership Forum; and tomorrow will visit the Yale Eye Center for discussion and a tour. An amazing month to be sure! For those I've met with along the way this month, thank you for your friendship and hospitality. You all exemplify what I believe to be the true characteristics of good Lions, and I'm proud to serve with you.

This month, I want to let you know about an incredible speech given at the closing banquet in Memphis by Craig MacFarlane, a noted motivational and inspirational speaker. Craig was accidentally blinded in the left eye at age 2, and within six weeks his right eye went blind through a rare eye disease called Sympathetic Ophthalmia. As he grew up, Craig was fortunate to be able to attend a school for the blind, and eventually started participating, and excelling, in a variety of sports, including wrestling, skiing, hockey, running and golf. But he was also blessed with the ability to communicate a positive and straightforward message, explaining his blindness as "just a minor inconvenience" rather than a handicap. Craig's talents in this regard have allowed him to travel all over the world, and to share the stage with leaders of industry and non-profit organizations.

Craig's message to the Lions gathered in Memphis was simple. He used the word "PRIDE" to describe his philosophy. Taken separately, the letters stand for "**P**erseverance," "**R**espect," "**I**ndividuality," "**D**esire" and "**E**nthusiasm." When I heard this message, I instantly connected it with our Lions International Purposes and Code of Ethics. The words may differ slightly, but the meaning and intent is the same. Lions can and do take "PRIDE" in their works of community service. Sometimes it takes a little bit of motivation to keep ourselves on track. I thank Craig for his inspirational words, and will use them in the weeks and months ahead as I work with you to grow Lionism in the District.

Thank you for being Lions.

## **UPDATE ON “CONNECTICUT BLITZ” – MULTIPLE DISTRICT EXTENSION WORKSHOP AND CANVASSING**

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, approximately 50 Lions from MD23 participated in an Extension Workshop facilitated by Past International Director Bill Moody of Ontario, Canada. The purpose of the session was to provide the tools and knowledge necessary to go out into the community and start new Lions clubs. PID Bill also conducted Certified Guiding Lion training in the afternoon to about 25 Lions. This training will allow Lions to work directly with newly formed clubs, as well as with existing clubs who need a hand in growing and/or retaining members. I'm proud to report that District 23A will now have 5 new Certified Guiding Lions!! Please congratulate **Joan Bielizna, Don Cleary, Rich Krodel, Lyn Meyers and Gretchen Sherman** for their time and energy in participating in this class.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Lions canvassed in Huntington and Westport with very positive results. We are confident that we have the nucleus for two new clubs in the District, and will keep working in these communities to gather more momentum in the days and weeks ahead. General information meetings are being held on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> in Westport, and on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in Huntington. A second round of information meetings will be scheduled in the month of October. If you have connections with family, friends and co-workers in these areas who you believe would make great charter members for these new clubs, please contact Rich Krodel, Don Cleary or me as soon as possible.

### **OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP GROWTH MONTH**

If you've been a Lion for a while, you probably remember the October Growth Award Program and its emphasis on membership recruiting in the month of October. Well it's that time again! Every club's purpose during the coming month should be to attract, recruit and induct prospective members. By increasing your net membership growth now, you will begin a growth cycle that can be maintained throughout the Lions Year. And remember, any net membership growth your club achieves brings you closer to attaining a variety of awards, including 100% Club, 100% President, Membership Key Awards, and many others.

So let's "MOVE TO GROW" on this initiative by asking friends, family, co-workers and others to join the greatest service organization in the world, Lions Clubs International. If you need any help in getting this started, please speak with your club Membership Chair, your Zone and Region Chairs, or anyone on the District 23A MERL Team.

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

District Governor Visitations:

October 1	New Haven
October 6	North Bridgeport
October 7	Bridgeport Host
October 13	Easton
October 14	Meriden
October 15	Waterbury
October 20	Devon
October 21	Fairfield
October 22	Southbury
October 27	Hamden
October 28	Georgetown

District 23A Events:

October 3	PSTM/ Zone and Region Chair Training (Crowne Plaza, Southbury)
October 5	District 23A Cabinet Meeting (J. J. Sullivan's, Ansonia)

October 8                   Huntington Information Meeting (Courtyard by Marriott Shelton)  
October 25                  District 23A 100% Club Breakfast (Widdy's at the Yale Golf Course, New Haven)  
Multiple District 23 Events  
October 12                 MD23 Council Meeting (location TBA)  
October 19                 CLERF Board of Director's Meeting (location TBA)  
October 31                 MD23 Membership Rally (all information TBA)

### **REMINDER – PSTM/ZONE AND REGION CHAIR TRAINING**

On **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, District 23A will be hosting its annual PSTM training seminar (that's Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Membership), and adding a new segment for Zone and Region Chairs. We will also have selected speakers on hand (100% Club Requirement projects) to provide information on how your donations work to support their efforts. We will be meeting at the **Crowne Plaza Southbury** from **8:15 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**. A continental breakfast will be available. The cost for the seminar is **\$15.00 per person**. This seminar is **open to all Lions!**

Please contact Lion Frank Phillips at [customaffairsllc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:customaffairsllc@sbcglobal.net), or Lion Ed Haberli at [ed@ehaberlielectric.com](mailto:ed@ehaberlielectric.com) as soon as possible if you have not already pre-registered.

### **REMINDER –2<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT 23A Cabinet Meeting**

All Cabinet members and Club Presidents and Secretaries have received notice via e-mail that our 2<sup>nd</sup> District 23A Cabinet Meeting will be held on at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at J. J. Sullivan's** in Ansonia. Please make sure you respond immediately to Cabinet Secretary Tom Sullivan at [thomas.r.sullivan@charter.net](mailto:thomas.r.sullivan@charter.net) or at (203) 740-7708 (if you have not already done so) in order for an accurate count to be given to the restaurant. Cabinet meetings are **open to all Lions**.

### **100% CLUB AND 100% PRESIDENT'S REQUIREMENTS**

It was brought to my attention that there is a discrepancy in the requirements for 100% Club requirements and for 100% President's requirements in the directory (see pp. 48 and 50). For the 2009-2010 Lions Year, in order to qualify for the 100% Club Award I will interpret Item 6 (p. 48) to be an "increase of 1 or more members." This will then align with the 100% President's requirements for "a net gain in membership," also listed as Item 6 (p. 50). If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

### **Next Month**

In the October issue, you will get another update on our Connecticut Blitz efforts, and more information on activities coming up through the remainder of the calendar year. Until next time, invite a friend, family member or co-worker (better yet, invite all 3!) to join Lions, and let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

*Mark*

DG Mark