

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTICUT LIONS
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 23A**



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

October 2009
Issue No. 4

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A!

It is Halloween night, and I've just returned home from a little Trick or Treating adventure with the children. Now I must admit that this is not, and never has been, one of my favorite "holidays." I remember as a little boy how my older sister used to take great joy in dressing me up, usually as a robot or some other character. Those old Polaroid pictures don't lie...I never looked too happy, at least before the sugar rush kicked in! Halloween and Trick or Treating remain at the top of the list for many children and adults these days. After all, it's a chance to take on a new personality or attitude for an evening, unafraid of what others may say or think. But some people live behind masks more often than not. Is that really the best way to approach life? OK, so where am I going with this?

Lions have been, and continue to be, one of those "best kept secrets" in our communities. We too often perform our community service under cover of darkness, not taking the time to broadcast through public channels what we're doing to help our neighbors in need. We keep our masks on – not identifying ourselves as Lions when we're out and about in our daily lives. How many of you wear your Lions pin to work, church, shopping, or to social events? I would guess very few, and include myself in that group. But it is time to change that. If we are to reach our ambitious membership goals for the 2009-2010 Lions Year, we can all help by proudly displaying the Lions symbol as often as we can. Wear your pin, don a Lions t-shirt or hat ...whatever you have. We just can't hide behind our everyday masks, afraid or unwilling to talk to people about Lions and the tremendous things we do.

I'm working hard behind the scenes with a very dedicated group of Lions to enhance our public image in District 23A. The efforts being made to charter two new clubs this year (and maybe more!) is a fantastic way to rethink and re-market Lionism. We go out promoting our organization to prospective charter members, but are we making the same effort to grow our existing clubs? Do we share the same enthusiasm for chartering a new club as we do in talking up Lions and the benefits of membership to those communities we are already well-represented in? Please take some time to consider this challenge...it's another part of LCI's "MOVE TO GROW" theme. Take this one to heart. Help to make our clubs grow in membership, and also in their visibility to the communities WE SERVE.

Thank you for being Lions.

UPDATE ON “CONNECTICUT BLITZ”

The on-going efforts to charter new Lions clubs in Shelton and Westport continue to prove successful. We are gathering more names for each club each week, and certainly hope to hit that magic number 20 soon so that we can get our charter applications filed. As you can see from the November calendar items below, we have more information meetings scheduled in both communities, and would ask for your assistance in suggesting names of family, friends and co-workers who might be interested in getting in on the ground floor of a new club. This is such a great opportunity, one that our fellow Lions from South Meriden and Ansonia I'm sure would attest. Being a charter member is a great honor, and we want as many Lions as we can to share in this opportunity. Please contact Lion Don Cleary, Lion Rich Krodel, or me as soon as possible for information on how you can help.

CLUB REBUILDING AWARD

Lions Clubs International has introduced a newly designed recognition program called the “Club Rebuilding Award.” This award will recognize Lions who bring a club out of status quo, suspension, cancellation or rebuild a weak club that has fewer than 15 members to become active and viable with more than 20 members. District 23A currently has eight (8) clubs that have fewer than 15 members. I will be discussing this rebuilding effort with the Zone Chairs over the next few weeks in order to develop a working plan to recruit new members into these clubs. It is our duty and responsibility as Lions to work to grow our clubs, and we will do our best to make this happen in the current Lions Year. The MERL Team will also be playing a major role in this initiative.

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO 100% CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Voluntary Services for the Blind of Fairfield County (VSB) is an organization formed in 1993 under the leadership of Norwalk Lion Claudette Tallon and run by Lions since its inception. Over the last 16+ years, this group has provided volunteer drivers, shoppers, readers, clerical assistants and friendly visitors to visually impaired residents through the area. All services are delivered entirely free of charge to the end user. Due to recent economic downturn, VSB has been faced with increased expenses and a larger group of people in need of the services they provide. VSB is asking for the generous help of Lions throughout District 23A.

Therefore, I have decided to add VSB to the 100% Club requirements for the 2009-2010 year. If you refer to your District Directory at page 49, please add the following:

“11. Support, with either money or hands-on involvement, the efforts of Voluntary Services for the Blind of Fairfield County.”

While support of VSB will help your clubs to meet the 100% Club requirements, I would also ask the Lions of District 23A to consider making a personal donation. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- November 2 Branford

- November 3 Prospect
- November 4 Bethel
- November 5 Darien
- November 9 Orange
- November 10 New Fairfield
- November 11 Georgetown
- November 12 Greenwich (lunch); Woodbridge
- November 17 East Haven
- November 19 Norwalk

District 23A Events:

- November 9 Information Meeting #2 – Shelton Community Lions Club (6:30 p.m.; Holiday Inn Express, 695 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton)
- November 14 Peace Poster submission deadline
- November 18 Lions Low Vision Center Meeting (6:30 p.m.; Connie’s Restaurant, Derby)
- November 19 Information Meeting #3 – Westport Lions Club (12:00 Noon; Westport Public Library, Seminar Room; 20 Jesup Street, Westport)
- November 30 Zone 4 Meeting (time and location TBA)

Multiple District 23 Events

- November 21 New England Lions Council (Warwick, RI)
- November 30 CLERF Board of Director’s Meeting (Manor Inn, Southington)

MD23A District Directory – Errata

Please note the following additions/corrections in your Directory. And remember, if you see something that needs to be fixed, please let me know!

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Addition/Correction</u>
56	Correct e-mail address for Rod Farrell: rodfarrell00@yahoo.com
66	E-mail address for Louis Seidler: ljseidler@sbcglobal.net
68	E-mail address for Frank Salzano: franksalzano@sbcglobal.net

Next Month

In the November 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