

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

2009 2010

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

November 2009
Issue No. 5

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! Here's a quote for you:

"I try to learn one new thing a week to balance the one thing I forget a week, but lately I forget three things a week." (Joseph Gies)

When I read this, the word that I keep looking at is "balance." In my world, finding "balance" seems to be a struggle, especially with the added stresses of the holiday season upon us. I'm sure I'm not alone, right? We try to find that perfect sense of equilibrium every day between family, career, our faith, Lions and maybe a few others. Some days, we have no choice but to focus on doing nothing but one of these, and the next day we fear that we may not be able to catch up on the others that have been put on the back burner.

My District Governor activities and responsibilities with Lions this year are, at times, all-consuming. It's the greatest job in the world, but can also be the most frustrating. The trick, I find, is to use this perceived balance issue as motivation to dig deeper to make our District stronger, more energized, and more focused on SERVICE. Every day a new idea on how to make a particular club that I've visited grow in membership pops into my head, and I wonder how best to relay that idea. Every day I hear from a fellow Lion about a project that has either succeeded or failed, and I ponder how I would have handled it. Every day I get some type of communication from Lions Clubs International about a new initiative or program, and I think about whether our District could support more service projects. It boggles the mind.

But at the end of the day, I know where my "Lions balance" comes from. It's YOU, my fellow Lions!! You keep me focused on the tasks at hand. I draw upon your individual, club, Zone, Region and District service for energy, ideas and motivation. So thank you very much, but don't stop now. We have a lot of work left to do this Lions Year; many projects to wrap up and others to initiate. So with that in mind, and the holiday spirit all around us, I leave you with another quote.

“Be of good cheer. Do not think of today's failures, but of the success that may come tomorrow. You have set yourselves a difficult task, but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find a joy in overcoming obstacles. Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.” (Helen Keller)

Thank you for being Lions.

UPDATE ON EXTENSION PROJECTS

By the time of this writing, both the Shelton Community Lions Club and Westport Lions Club will have had their third information meetings and taken major steps towards their being chartered. While this process never moves fast enough for me, I remain encouraged that we are developing a solid core of new Lions in each community who will make these clubs stronger and more energized for service. As we were instructed by PID Bill Moody at our Extension Workshop way back on September 20th, newly chartered Lions Clubs need to grow at their own pace. Just loading the new club's roster with names won't help it to survive and thrive. You must nurture it and develop good Lions who can then go out and grow their clubs under the direction of our Guiding Lions.

The Lions of District 23A remain firmly behind the formation of new clubs. Shelton Community and Westport are just the first two in the current Lions Year. We have several more on the drafting board and, over time, these will happen. Our incoming District Governors and MERL Teams will continue to seek out those areas of our District that remain un-served (or under served), and which would benefit from a new Lions Club. Please contact Extension Chair Lion Don Cleary or me as soon as possible for information on how you can help us to develop new clubs.

DISTRICT 23A HOLIDAY PARTY EXTRAVAGANZA!!

Get ready Lions...it's only days away. The District 23A Holiday Party EXTRAVAGANZA!! is sure to delight and amaze all attendees. Many have already signed up to come, but there's always room for more. For the last time, here are the details:

Friday, December 4, 2009

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Wolcott Lions Den, 245 Wolcott Road, Wolcott, CT

Holiday Music, Peace Poster Viewing and Judging, Food and Beverages!!

Free Gift for All Attendees!!

I look forward to seeing you at the party!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- December 1 New Canaan
- December 7 South Meriden
- December 8 North Haven

- December 9 Multi-Club (Zone 3)
- December 10 Trumbull

District 23A Events:

- December 1 Zone 5 Meeting (time and location TBA)
- December 2 Information Meeting #3 – Shelton Community Lions Club (6:30 p.m.; Courtyard by Marriott, Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton)
- December 2 Region 4 (Zones 7 and 8) Meeting (time and location TBA)
- December 3 Zone 6 Meeting (time and location TBA)
- December 4 District 23A Holiday Party EXTRAVAGANZA!! (see article above for details)

Multiple District 23 Events

- December 6 District 23C Holiday Party
- December 12 District 23B Holiday Party

MD23 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Please be sure to put February 5-7, 2010 on your calendars for the 59th Annual MD23 Mid-Winter Conference. Once again, this event is being held in our District at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Southbury. Friday night will feature hospitality with an Australian theme, hosted by 2nd VDG Lyn Meyers and the Danbury Lions Club. Saturday will be filled with seminars, exhibits and camaraderie, capped off by a banquet featuring First International Vice President Sid Scruggs. Sunday morning will feature the MD23 business meeting and roundtable discussion with our International guest. For registration forms, please go to the MD23 website (www.ctlions.org).

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!

Page No. Addition/Correction

Omitted for privacy reasons.

Next Month

In the December issue, you will get another update on our new club extension projects, and more information on activities coming up through the remainder of the calendar year. Until next time, enjoy the holiday season, count your blessings (of which I'm sure there are many), register for Mid-Winter, and think about how great it would be to invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join Lions. Let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

Mark

DG Mark