

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

2009



2010

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

January 2010
Issue No. 7

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! Here's a little story for you about this month's newsletter theme – perseverance. By definition, it means “to persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly.”

I took the day off from work yesterday to do some important Lions business in the southern part of our District. My first stop was to be an Open House with our friends from the Western Greenwich Lions. This is a club that is working very hard to rebuild its membership. They decided that it might be advantageous to hold an informational meeting similar to what we do when trying to charter a new club. Calls were placed, and newspaper ads were run. We looked forward to a great turnout, and a chance to talk Lionism to a new group of people. My second stop of the day was to be at a “meet and greet” in the Westport area for our prospective charter members. The local Chamber of Commerce was gracious enough to allow us to partner on an event after work, so we sent out the word to our growing list of future Westport Lions, and looked forward to a fun evening with more opportunities to grow the roster. This was going to be a great day for “MOVE TO GROW.”

But then a snow storm showed up. Unexpected, particularly as to its severity, the storm closed roads and created hazardous driving conditions, especially in those places I needed to be. Now I hate to quit on something, especially when I've helped to put it together, but it looked like I was going to have to stay home. So I contacted the folks heading to Western Greenwich. To no surprise, these Lions held the Open House anyway, and were able to attract some new members despite the bad weather. The Westport event was completely cancelled, so we'll get another chance in February to gather the troops. But after e-mailing the prospective Lions that the event was off, I received many notes back saying that they were still very firmly behind the efforts to charter the club, and would be there next time. These messages made me feel great, knowing that we have already made a strong case for the Westport Lions becoming a reality soon.

Our Lions can be a persistent bunch. Anyone who has been involved in growing membership, forming new clubs, retaining members and teaching our Lions to lead know this to be true. In the face of unexpected obstacles (like a snowstorm?), we Lions persevere, knowing that our message needs to get out. Lionism would never be where it is today without this trait. We demonstrate it in our Haiti relief efforts and in our local community service. I encourage you to always maintain that purpose, and to never stop fighting through life's obstacles. WE SERVE.

Thank you for being Lions.

UPDATE FROM CABINET AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Lots of news from around the District and the Multiple District over the past month. Of course most of the talk has been about Mid-Winter (see more below). At the time of this “printing” nearly 400 Lions and guests were registered, so it promises to be another excellent event. At the January 11th Council Meeting, I delivered all the new Cabinet uniform items (ties, scarves and pocket squares). These items will be for sale on Saturday only at Mid-Winter. Contact 1st VDG Walter Sherman for more information.

The most important piece of information is that the Lions of Connecticut have been given an opportunity to run a candidate for election as International Director in Seattle, WA in 2011. What that means is that the three Districts will each be holding separate conventions to elect a single candidate, and then a special Multiple District Convention will be held in November to select one of the three candidates for run for International Director. I have appointed an Ad Hoc Convention Committee to help coordinate these activities, and to ensure that District 23A complies with all By-law requirements. Only Past District Governors are eligible to run for International Director, and all have been so notified in writing. Those Lions who wish to seek the District 23A endorsement will have an opportunity to campaign within the District, so please be sure to give them a forum. There will be more information coming out to the District soon, so stay tuned.

UPDATE ON EXTENSION PROJECTS

The Shelton Community Lions Club charter application was received at LCI in late December, and we are anxiously awaiting the formal Charter notification so that the Charter Night celebration plans can be finalized. I would like to congratulate Charter President Lion Frank Yaworowski, Charter Secretary Deidre Kennedy, Charter Treasurer Dave Haddad, Charter Membership Chair Tom Kennedy, and Charter Tail Twister Dave Zamba for stepping up to assume these important club leadership roles. The entire District looks forward to celebrating with you and you club members very soon.

The efforts to charter a new club in Westport are still in full swing. A “meet and greet” in coordination with the Westport/Weston Chamber of Commerce on January 28th got postponed due to inclement weather, so a mid-day gathering will be scheduled in early February. As a reminder, please keep your eyes and ears open for potential charter members. We’re confident that this club will be chartered soon, and your collective assistance will go a long way to make that a reality.

LAST CHANCE REMINDER – MD23 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The 59th Annual MD23 Mid-Winter Conference to be held on February 5-7, 2010. 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, while Saturday will be filled with seminars and informational exhibits, a luncheon with guest speaker Gov. M. Jodi Rell, and an evening banquet featuring Immediate Past International Director Joe Gaffigan of Maryland. IPID Joe has been gracious enough to fill the shoes of our original guest, First International Vice President Sid Scruggs, who was asked by LCI to be a part of a huge gathering of Lions in Africa. While we will miss Lion Sid, we’re confident that our special guest will light up the room with his comments and enthusiasm for Lionism. Sunday morning will feature a roundtable discussion with our International guest and the MD Council.

AS OF THIS WRITING, THE SATURDAY LUNCHEON IS TOTALLY BOOKED, BUT THERE MAY STILL BE ROOM FOR THE SATURDAY BANQUET. CONTACT MID-WINTER REGISTRATION CHAIR LION JOAN EATON AT (860) 204-0194 FOR CURRENT INFORMATION. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 1ST!!

Please make sure you get your registration forms in immediately. The Mid-Winter Conference is a terrific opportunity for all of us to participate in the excitement, camaraderie and fun that is Lionism! For registration forms, please go to the MD23 website (www.ctlions.org). Remember to add \$10.00 to your registration fee for tardiness!

PEACE POSTER UPDATE

Last month, I announced that 12-year old Choiwing Yeung, a 7th grader from Walter P. Polson Middle School in Madison (and sponsored by the Madison Lions Club) had been selected as both the District 23A and Multiple District 23 Peace Poster Contest winner. Ms. Yeung's original artwork incorporating the "Power of Peace" theme was sent on to Lions Clubs International, and on January 26th, word came out from LCI that she had been selected as one of 23 International Merit Award winners!

According to LCI's e-mail to Madison Lions President Barry Miller, "approximately 350,000 children from 65 countries participated in this year's Peace Poster Contest. The posters were judged at club, district and multiple district levels before reaching the international level, at which point they had been narrowed down to 121 posters. Based on creativity, originality and portrayal of the theme, "The Power of Peace," your club's entry was chosen as one of 23 merit award winners. As such, your club's sponsored student will receive US\$500 and a certificate of merit."

This is incredible news; something all Lions can be proud of. Those of us who participated in the judging knew we had a very special piece of artwork, and it's wonderful to see that LCI agrees. Ms. Yeung and her family will be our guests at the luncheon during Mid-Winter, and a copy of the poster will be on display. As if you need another reason to go to Mid-Winter??

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- February 2 Beacon Falls
- February 9 East Haven
- February 10 Wolcott
- February 11 Devon
- February 16 Hamden
- February 24 Oxford

District 23A Events:

- February 3 Region 4 (Zones 7 and 8) Meeting (Tolli's; East Haven; 6:30 p.m.)
- February 10 Lions Low Vision Centers Meeting (Connie's; Derby; 7:00 p.m.)
- February 15 Zone 3 Meeting (location/time TBD)
- February 15 Zone 5 Meeting (location/time TBD)
- February 26 Zone 6 Meeting (location/time TBD)

Multiple District 23 Events

- February 5-7 MD 23 Mid-Winter Conference (see article above)

Other Events

- February 27-28 Annual New England Lions Melvin Jones Banquet/ Council Meeting (Doubletree Hotel; Milford, MA)

Next Month

In the February issue I'll provide a recap of the Mid-Winter Conference, and a preview of the State Convention to be held in late April in Groton, CT. Until then, stay happy, healthy and focused on service your community as Lions.

Let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

Mark

DG Mark