

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

2009



2010

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 8

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! As I mentioned last month, the Lions of Connecticut have been given an opportunity to run a candidate for election as International Director in Seattle, WA in 2011. I am very proud to announce that District 23A has four official candidates for the position of International Director, and they are as follows:

- Lion Philip G. Flaker, PDG, PCC (Bridgeport Host Lions Club)
- Lion Robert B. Gyle III, PDG, PCC (New Fairfield Candlewood Lions Club)
- Lion Donald J. Miloscia, PDG (Norwalk Lions Club)
- Lion Rose Marie Spatafore, PDG (Seymour Lions Club)

Each of the three Districts in Connecticut will hold a special convention to elect a single candidate. District 23A will conduct its special convention on Monday, June 14, 2010 at our previously scheduled District Awards Night (time and place to be announced later). Thereafter, a special Multiple District Convention will be held on November 13, 2010 to select a single candidate from the three endorsed District candidates. That name will then be placed in nomination for the position of International Director in Seattle.

What an exciting time this is! In the coming months, the four candidates from our District will be campaigning for your support. It goes without saying that, as Lions, we will give each of these Lions leaders an open door and an open ear. I encourage you invite them into your club, Zone and region meetings, to listen to their ideas and plans, to ask them questions, and to offer your support. This is an exciting time for them, and for us.

Ultimately, we all want to make the most of this opportunity by putting forth **the best Lion** to represent our District in November. Let's do our District proud. Be a part of the process.

Thank you for being Lions.

UPDATE ON EXTENSION PROJECTS

On January 20th, Lions Clubs International issued a Charter for the Shelton Community Lions Club, our District's first new club of Lions Year 2009-2010. We are so proud of the efforts of so many Lions to make this club a reality, and we know it will be a strong contributor to Lionism in the years ahead. The Charter Night celebration is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th at John J.

Sullivan's in Ansonia. Invitations will be sent out to club Presidents, Cabinet members and other special invitees shortly. Please plan to attend this event celebrating our newest Lions!

Our extension efforts in Westport continue to move along, albeit at a slower pace. As previously reported, this group of about a dozen charter members does not wish to become a branch club, preferring instead to nurture the building process along. I have agreed to proceed in this manner with the intention and hope that it will reach its numbers and be chartered in the coming months.

Extension efforts are continuing for a non-traditional club with a dual concentration: local community college and local ethnic population. A meeting with leaders of Naugatuck Valley Community College was held on February 2nd, with very positive input from all involved. We have been asked to take this to the next step, which will be an evening presentation to all interested members of the student body, faculty and leaders of the local Dominican community. Lot's more information to come soon!

RECAP – MD23 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The 59th Annual MD23 Mid-Winter Conference is now in the history books. Thanks to all of our District 23A Lions who attended all or part of the weekend. Friday night started off in its typical festive nature as the incoming 1st Vice District Governors sponsored their Hospitality Rooms with food, adult beverages and lots of raffle ticket sales. Congratulations and thanks go to current 2nd Vice District Governor Lyn Meyers and the Danbury Lions Club for an outstanding job. You did the District proud with your efforts.

The Saturday seminars were well presented by our Lions leaders, and over 180 Leos from across the State were on hand for their own annual program. Over 300 Lions squeezed into the ballroom for the luncheon, where our Governor M. Jodi Rell shared stories, gave us a brief "State of the State" address, and presented awards to our Peace Poster contest winners. The afternoon business meetings went smoothly, highlighted by nominating and seconding speeches for Lion Lyn Meyers (Danbury), our incoming 1st Vice District Governor, and Lion Linda Maggs (Ridgefield), our incoming 2nd Vice District Governor. Thanks to all the Lions who attended and supported our candidates.

The Saturday evening banquet was a festive affair highlighted by Connecticut's own Past International Director Scott Storms, who filled in at the last minute due to our International guest getting stuck in a Maryland blizzard. We greatly appreciate PID Scott's contributions to the weekend. As is tradition, special awards were presented during the banquet to Lions from each District who have performed outstanding service to the organization. I was proud to present International President's Certificates of Appreciation to Lion Rich Krodel, President of the Bridgeport/North Bridgeport Club, and to Lion Tom Sullivan, Cabinet Secretary and a Brookfield Lion, for their efforts this year in building new clubs and keeping the District moving forward.

Again, thanks to all of you who attended. And that leads me into the...

MD23 STATE CONVENTION

The 89th Annual MD23 Connecticut Lions State Convention will be held on April 24-25, 2010 at the Groton Inn & Suites, Groton, CT. Registration forms are posted on our District website (www.lions23a.org) and the MD23 website (www.ctlions.org). Please be sure to sign up before April 1st to avoid a late fee. Pricing has been established as a full package to include meals, so

please plan to arrive early and stay through lunch on Sunday afternoon. Lots of activities for Saturday are in the planning stages, and a great time is anticipated. Please join us!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- March 2 Ansonia
- March 9 Derby/Shelton
- March 10 Seymour
- March 23 Naugatuck
- March 24 Stamford/North Stamford

District 23A Events:

- March 1 Zone 4 Meeting (location/time TBD)
- March 3 Lions Low Vision Center Meeting (Connie's; Derby; 7:00 p.m.)
- March 4 PDG Association Meeting (The Smithy, Monroe; 6:30 p.m.)
- March 22 Region 1 (Zones 1 and 2) Meeting (Norwalk Inn, Norwalk; 7:00 p.m.)

Multiple District 23 Events

- March 15 MD 23 Council Meeting (Marco Polo, East Hartford; 7:00 p.m.)

Next Month

In the March issue, I'll provide an update on the activities planned for State Convention, as well as membership, extension, retention and leadership efforts. Until then, enjoy the remainder of the winter (?), stay involved in your community, and bring in new members!

Let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

Mark

DG Mark