

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



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

March 2010
Issue No. 9

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! In the past few months, I've learned a lot. I don't mean to sound too boastful, but I think what I've learned is pretty darned impressive. And I want to share this with all of you, if I may. So here goes, and pay attention now:

“Knowledge is good.”

Like I said, impressive, right? But I'm not talking about “knowledge” like I'm sitting around reading encyclopedias or something. No, I'm talking about the knowledge I've gained from all of my club visitations since last fall. If I can list just a few, I think you'll see what I mean:

- Lions love to have fun
 - Lions love to share
 - Lions love to learn
 - Lions love to teach
 - Lions love to SERVE

I've always believed these characteristics to be true, but I could never really learn it (and feel it) until I was given the opportunity to visit our awesome clubs, share a meal, and talk about what works for them (or doesn't). I have also learned that our Lions are tremendously talented individuals who accomplish great things. I've learned that our Lions can start a new club from scratch, and turn it into a well-oiled machine ready to take on the needs of their community. And I've learned that seemingly “little” actions can make a “BIG” impact.

There is still so much to do in our Lions Year 2009-1010, and therefore so much to learn. I plan to keep expanding my own knowledge in the months ahead. How about you?

Thank you for being Lions.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE EFFORT – “50 IN 50”

Through the end of March, District 23A has gained 1 new club with 29 charter members and has an additional 69 new members, but has dropped 126 members, for a net loss of 28 members. Sadly, we have also lost 19 Lions due to death. I remain hopeful that we can stem the tide of lost members and recoup them through at least one more new club and a steady upswing of new members. We're starting to see this happen. It is my task, and that of our District Lions leaders, to work even harder in the

remaining months of this 2009-2010 Lions Year. I take the “Move to Grow” mantra very seriously, and try every day to pay that concept forward to those I meet. And it’s your time to try to do the same.

To that end, I am proposing a new “**50 in 50**” membership effort. What we need to do is get 50 new members in 50 days. Sound like a difficult task? Awww, come on, it’s like every club inducting 1 new member. Your efforts will help us to close the gap as we strive to end the 2009-2010 Lions Year on a positive membership note. I know you can do this...in fact I believe you can do much better! So I’ll sweeten the pot a little bit. For every club in our District that adds a new member **between April 1st and May 20th** (according to LCI’s membership records) I will:

- Give the Club a “Pass” on one of their “4 out of 10” 100% Club requirements listed in the District Directory (page 49 only).
- Give the Club President a “Pass” on one of their 100% President attendance requirements listed in the Directory under Item 3 (page 50).
- Award the Top 3 Clubs and their President for the largest number of new Lions during the membership drive period with a special recognition for membership growth.

It’s time to get started. Bring in those new Lions now! MOVE TO GROW!!

UPDATE ON EXTENSION PROJECTS

Charter Night for the Shelton Community Lions Club was held on March 25th at John J. Sullivan’s in Ansonia. Over 100 Lions and guests attended this very special evening. Thanks go out to MD23 Council Chair Armand LaFleur and Council Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Messier for attending and representing the Multiple District Council with the presentation of an international flag set to our newest club. Many other gifts were presented (and none were stolen, as far as I know!), congratulatory speeches were made, and everyone had an awesome time. I know I’ve said it before, but I am so proud of the efforts put forth by our Lions to charter this club. Thank you so much!

The efforts to charter a new Westport Lions Club are still moving along. Two sessions were held during the month of March, and a few new charter members (and lots of great leads!) were picked up. We’ll continue to follow-up with these service-minded folks as we strive to reach our membership goals.

As of today, we have plans for a presentation to be held at Naugatuck Valley Community College on Thursday, April 15, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We hope to be able to announce our guest speaker for this event in a few days. We will be making every effort to bring together a group of community service minded women and men from both the college and the local Dominican community to talk about their needs and what we believe a Lions Club can do to assist in their efforts.

REMINDER – 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). You will also be receiving copies by mail in the District Pride. Please be sure to sign up as soon as possible. The pricing has been modified in order to allow our Lions greater flexibility for attending all or a part this great annual event. Please join us!

The State Convention puts the spotlight on several activities that are so important for Lions. On Saturday afternoon, a special memorial service will be conducted honoring and remembering those Lions from across the Multiple District who have passed over the last year. Those clubs who have lost a

member to death will receive a note shortly asking that they extend an invitation to the family members to attend this very moving ceremony.

The State Convention is also our time to elect our Lions leadership for the 2010-2011 Lions Year. We are proud to have such strong leadership moving up next year, and I wish to encourage all Lions from District 23A to attend the State Convention in support of your team. The nominating speeches will take place during the afternoon on Saturday, and the election will take place on Sunday morning. The clubs need to be sure to get their delegate forms back to Cabinet Secretary Tom as soon as possible.

Register for State Convention, and join in the celebration of Lionism!

REMINDER – 4th District 23A Cabinet Meeting

All Cabinet members and Club Presidents and Secretaries will be receiving notice via e-mail that our 4th District 23A Cabinet Meeting will be held on at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12th at J. J. Sullivan's** in Ansonia. Please make sure you respond immediately regarding your attendance and meal choice to Cabinet Secretary Tom Sullivan at lion-tom@att.net or at (203) 740-7708 in order for an accurate count to be given to the restaurant. Cabinet meetings are **open to all Lions**, so please plan to join us.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- April 13 Derby/Shelton
- April 14 Newtown
- April 28 Wolcott

District 23A Events:

- April 7 Region 4 (Zones 7 and 8) Meeting (location/time TBD)
- April 12 District 23A Cabinet Meeting (J. J. Sullivan's; Ansonia; 7:00 p.m.)
- April 21 Lions Low Vision Center Meeting (Connie's; Derby; 6:30 p.m.)

Multiple District 23 Events

- April 17 Fidelco Open House (Bloomfield; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
- April 17 Sight Saver Day
- April 19 CLERF Board Meeting (Manor Inn; Southington; 7:00 p.m.)
- April 24-25 MD23 State Convention (Groton Inn & Suites; see item above)

Next Month

My next newsletter will attempt to adequately cover the activities conducted at our State Convention, explain a little more about the upcoming District Special Convention for International Director candidates, continue to update everyone on our Extension efforts, and, I'm sure, lots of other good stuff. Until then, please extend an invitation to someone today to be a Lion. You never know until you ask!

Let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

Mark

DG Mark