

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

2009



2010

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

April 2010
Issue No. 10

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A!

For those lucky Lions who were able to attend the State Convention in Groton this past weekend, I apologize for any redundancy here, but I'm going to "borrow" parts of my District Governor's remarks made during the Sunday business meeting as my monthly message. OK, I admit it. I'm just a little tired these days. But I'm trying to preserve my energy for a huge blast of membership growth during the last couple of months of my term. So here goes!

"The Agenda claims that this is to be a "year end" report for Lions Year 2009-2010, and I've got a bit of a problem with that. Now maybe I'm wrong, but the last time I looked at the calendar it wasn't even May. I know this because my lawn hasn't been mowed, my golf clubs are still in the basement, and my allergies are acting up. But I've got to tell you, there's no end in sight for the projects and efforts being made to grow Lionism in District 23A. Incoming District Governor Walter, 1st VDG Lyn, 2nd VDG Linda and their leadership team are going to have to drag me out of here kicking and screaming, because there is so much more to do! I may be down in numbers now, but I am not slowing down. In the words of philosopher/coach John Wooden, "(t)hose of us that say it can't be done, should not interrupt those of us getting it done."

Last year about this time, I had the honor of accepting my District's nomination to serve as District Governor for the 2009-2010 Lions Year. I started off by saying that "(y)ou can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else." That quote from founding father Melvin Jones has stayed with me this past year, as I have strived to do my best to lead our incredible group of Lions from 23A. I have relied on my mentors from the past, and looked to those I see as future leaders, for their insights and aspirations for how to make this Lions thing we do thrive. We have an excellent team. We value our commitment to Lionism and to each other. WE SERVE.

So what happens now? I'm still on the hook for 60 more days! I guess it's back to work time."

Thank you for being Lions.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE EFFORT – "50 IN 50"

The challenge to not only retain our members through the end of the Lions Year (June 30th), but to grow has become even more daunting, fellow Lions. Through the end of April, District 23A has gained 113 new members, but has lost 154 members due to drops and deaths, for a net loss of 41 Lions. Ever the

optimist, I am confident that through all of our continued efforts, we can turn this into a year of positive growth.

The **“50 in 50”** membership effort is starting to pay off, as I am starting to hear from clubs that are actively recruiting new members and planning induction nights. Please focus on this membership drive today! What we need to do is get 50 new members in 50 days. Help our District to close the gap as we strive to end the 2009-2010 Lions Year on a positive membership note. As a reminder, 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.

Bring in those new Lions now! MOVE TO GROW!!

MD23 STATE CONVENTION WRAP-UP

The 89th Annual MD23 Connecticut Lions State Convention was held on April 24-25, 2010 at the Groton Inn & Suites, Groton, CT. Nearly 200 Lions and guests attended a variety of activities throughout the weekend. After a last minute change in International guest speakers (again!!), our Multiple District was very pleased to have Immediate Past International President Al Brandel and his wife, Lion Dr. Maureen Murphy, share their time with us. While a lot of the time was spent in business meetings, there was still great fun and camaraderie. The annual Necrology Service was a wonderful opportunity to honor our fallen Lions. And of course the hospitality room was the place to be after hours. Thanks go out to PDG Julie Shilosky (23C) and her entire Convention Committee for their efforts.

The election for incoming District Governor Walter Sherman (Wolcott Lions Club), 1st Vice District Governor Lyn Meyers (Danbury Lions Club), and 2nd Vice District Governor Linda Maggs (Ridgefield Lions Club) is now complete. Let’s all give a rousing cheer for our leadership team for Lions Year 2010-2011. We all look forward to hearing what great ideas this group will be promoting to keep Lionism moving and growing in District 23A.

I greatly encourage all Lions to try to attend this statewide gathering next year (hint, hint, it will be in-State). Information as to when and where will be available as soon as contracts are signed, so stay tuned!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR AWARDS NIGHT

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the District Governor’s Awards Night celebration on Monday, June 14th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at John J. Sullivan’s in Ansonia. This event will be a very casual affair (no jackets and ties, please) honoring our 100% Clubs, Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers based on information submitted no later than June 1st. I am also asking all Club Presidents to nominate a deserving Lion from their club to receive a special recognition award for demonstrating the “Move to Grow” spirit of Lionism over the past year.

A flyer will be mailed out to all clubs and Cabinet members in the coming days with all the details. We hope you make a special effort to attend.

SPECIAL CONVENTION FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Please be advised that the location and timing for the District 23A Special Convention have been firmed up. While we had hoped to be able to offer two separate voting times for the convenience of our delegates, it now looks like we will only be able to do this in the evening, as it will be necessary to have nominating and seconding speeches by our four candidates in advance of the voting. The details are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Place: Trumbull Town Hall, Nichols Room, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Times: 6:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m.

Delegate forms will be mailed out to all clubs on or about June 1st by Cabinet Secretary Tom Sullivan, as the cutoff date for determining the number of members in each club (and therefore the number of delegates) is May 31st.

In the meantime, please act now to select delegates who are in good standing and will be available to vote on July 14th. It is extremely important that all of eligible Lions Clubs are fully represented at this very important election. I would also ask each club to give any candidate who so requests an opportunity to speak to your club. Time is very limited for them to make the rounds, so please be as accommodating as possible.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- NONE LEFT!! YEAH!!

District 23A Events:

- May 14 Zone 6 Meeting (location/time TBD)
- May 18 Zone 5 Meeting (location/time TBD)
- May 24 Zone 4 Meeting (location/time TBD)

Multiple District 23 Events

- May 2 District Officer Training Session (American School for the Deaf, West Hartford)
- May 8 MD23 Leo Leadership Conference (East Lyme HS)
- May 10 CLERF Golf Tournament (Oronoque CC, Stratford)
- May 16 MD23 Council Meeting (location/time TBD)

Next Month

My next (and penultimate!) newsletter will update everyone on our continuing Extension efforts, the results of the "50 in 50" membership drive, and lots of other good things. 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