

DISTRICT PRIDE

Serving Fairfield and New Haven Counties

CONNECTICUT LIONS DISTRICT 23 A

Volume 2, Issue 4

Lion Joan Bennett
District Governor 2008 - 2009

November 2008



An Open Letter to the Lions of Multiple District 23

Lion Mark Lyon, Vice District Governor, MD 23A

Fellow Lions:

As dedicated Lions, we continually challenge ourselves to raise awareness and monies in the fight against blindness, and to help those who are vision impaired. I believe it is imperative that we actively seek out those in need of the tremendous services and energy Lions can and do provide, and it is for that reason that I am writing to you.

I would like to introduce you to the Braille Class at Brookfield High School. As you will learn from the following letter written by the students, this is believed to be the only class of its kind in a public school in Connecticut, and perhaps the United States. My home club has supported the efforts of this class for the past couple of years with our Lions time, talent and monies. However, the class needs now exceed our club's financial capabilities, and they are looking to broaden awareness of their program by trying to solicit donations from a broader base towards the purchase of equipment. The leaders of the class are investigating all avenues to fund their program, but still require a helping hand.

Due to the uniqueness of the program offered at Brookfield High School, I have a special request of the Lions of Multiple District 23. I would like you to consider some amount of financial support for the Braille Class. This may come from individual donations, or perhaps a Club, Zone or even a Region project. If you agree with me that this is truly a worthwhile endeavor for Lions in Connecticut, then please communicate directly with the class as requested in the letter, and make a contribution towards the purchase of equipment. Thanks very much for your consideration.

Yours in Lionism,

Mark S. Lyon
Vice District Governor, MD 23A

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October 17, 2008

To whom it may concern:

We are sighted students at Brookfield High School who are involved in the only Braille class in Connecticut and possibly the United States. In addition to learning to read and write Braille, we are learning to interact with students who are visually impaired. As part of the class, we learned about mobility such as sighted guide, cooking and eating blindfolded and the different ways to cope with blindness; we have learned to have more empathy for people with disabilities and handicaps. It has also given us a new prospective on life. For example, watching blind students learn to button a shirt, or put on a belt, makes us appreciate the little things in life. That really makes us want to help those with disabilities overcome the smallest obstacles that we normally take for granted.

Our problem is that the economy in Connecticut has caused many budget cuts for schools. Since the visually impaired students are graduating soon, the equipment that we use to learn and practice Braille is leaving with them. Some of the students that are in their second year of Braille will not be able to continue on to the third level of Braille. Some of the students have chosen this as a career pathway and without a Braille class they will not be able to pursue their career.

We are asking for your consideration to assist us with purchasing the following equipment: 10 braillewriters, an embosser, and the Duxbury Braille Translator software. A braillewriter is the equivalent to an old fashion typewriter without ink. It raises the stiff paper to make the Braille cells so blind students can read what is written. The reason we need so many is because all of the students use them. Next is the embosser; this is basically a printer but it raises the words in Braille once it is translated on the Duxbury Braille Translator software. Duxbury is a program that translates documents to Braille. This is used to produce worksheets and other documents.

With all this equipment we will be able to continue the Braille class at Brookfield High School. For further information, please contact us at Brookfield High School, 45 Longmeadow Hill Road, Brookfield, CT 06804 (203) 775-7725 ext. 4225 or e-mail us at hugsnkisesxox333@aol.com. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hamit Campos, Krista Consalvo, Sarah Freitag, Vanessa Fusek, Justin Gotthardt,
Brian Horberg, Heather Librizzi, Erika McKeon, Albert Rippel

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Dear Mr. Lyon,

Here is the pricelist you asked for:

10 Braille Writers: \$650 each

1 Embosser: \$2,995 and \$95 Shipping and Handling

1 Duxbury Braille Translator for Windows: \$595

Thank you very much for your interest and support!

Erika McKeon
Braille 3 Student

Save the Dates
Lions Low Vision Center Meetings
2008-2009

Wednesday	November 12, 2008	7:30 PM
Wednesday	January 14, 2009	7:30 PM
Wednesday	March 11, 2009	7:30 PM
Wednesday	May 13, 2009	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at Connie's Restaurant, Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT.

EAST HAVEN LIONS CLUB

Presents

COMEDY NIGHT
WPLR BILL WINN
And two other comics

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2008

6:30 pm
\$20/person

IRISH AMERICAN CLUB
VENICE PLACE
EAST HAVEN

Includes coffee and dessert
CASH BAR
BYO snacks & finger food

Newtown Lions Celebrate 60 Years of Service

Lion Tom Evagash, President, Lions Club of Newtown

On November 15, 2008, The Newtown Lions Club celebrated 60 years of service to the town, state, national, and international communities. The event was held at Three Oaks at Capellaro's Grove. Present at the Gala were Newtown selectman Herb Rosenthal, the Vice District Governor of Lions District 23A, Mark Lyon, Past District 23A Governor Kris Nanavagty, Zone 5 Chairperson Bob Rascona, Brookfield Lions Club President Susan Gabriele, Danbury Lions Club President Jerry Hofmann, 11 past Newtown Lions Club presidents and present Lions Club President, Tom Evagash, who acted as MC. All were accompanied by their spouses. Ninety people enjoyed an evening of reminiscing about bygone years of service, especially to the town of Newtown.

The Lions Club of Newtown was established on October 30, 1948 and was sponsored by the Lions Club of Danbury, Connecticut. One of its founding members, William Honan, along with Gordon Williams, spoke of the many service which the Lions Club has provided over the years. Included was the George Trull Award, which honored the first Lions Club president, provided \$25.00 to an outstanding boy and girl from the Junior Class at Newtown High School. This award exists today as the Trull Award, which goes to the Leo of the Year at Newtown High. The Lions Club purchased portable bleachers for Hawley School in 1949. In 1951 Lions members repaired and repainted the "Welcome to Newtown" signs at six main entrance roads to Newtown. The first Drivers Education classes came to Newtown High School when the Lions Club underwrote the cost of gas and maintenance for a dual control car that was donated to the High School by Liberty Garage and the Lions Club of Newtown in 1954/1955. In June of 1955 a 6 night carnival was sponsored by the Lions Club to raise money for charitable donations. In 1956 the Lions donated, not only time, but the finances to provide a 16' X 32' bath house at Dickenson Park. In 1963 a refreshment stand was also donated and set up at the park. In 1969 the first Lions Club Car Raffle was initiated. A new Oldsmobile Cutlass was raffled. A total of 1,250 tickets were sold and again the money was donated to Newtown, to support Pop Warner football. In 1979 a hut was built and paid for by the Lions to provide warmth for ice skaters at Dickenson Park. The Lions also sponsored the "Miss Newtown Pageant" in that same year. A Personal Computer Fair raffle was held in 1983 – proceeds of which went to CLERF, the Connecticut Eye Research Foundation and Camp Hemlock for disabled youngsters. Town Hall Mural funds were raised by the Lions Club in 1984. In 1985, another car raffle was held. The proceeds of \$6,000 from a 1986 Pontiac Fiero raffle went to national and local projects. Light bulb sales in 1989 benefited eye research, diabetes research, Meals on Wheels, The Booth Library and the Cullen Memorial. In June of 1990 a seven day Caribbean Cruise was raffled and in November a trip for two to Disneyworld was raffled. The beneficiary of both raffles was the Town of Newtown. In 1992 the Lions Club started its annual Mustang Raffle. It has proven very successful and continues until today. A 1966 Mustang was the first to be raffled. 3,500 tickets were sold and \$16,000 went to local, national and international charities. Since 1993, a Ford Mustang convertible, between the years 1964 ½ and 1968, has been the main fundraising attraction of the Newtown Lions Club. In 1996 a Gazebo, valued at \$5,500 was donated to Nunnawauk Meadows. In 1997, the "Lose The Litter" annual clean-up day was initiated and continues to this day. Lions pledged \$4,300 to the Booth Library for the purchase of a puppet theater, puppets, and a projector in 1998. In 1999 The Lions Club took over sponsorship of "Pizza and Politics", a forum which allowed local candidates to debate and be questioned by Newtowners. In the year 2000, the Lions co-sponsored a fundraising effort to build a playground at Treadwell Park. The cost was approximately \$80,000. In 2004, a major

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undertaking by the Lions Club saw the replacement of 411 theater seats at Edmund Town Hall replaced at a cost of \$300.00 per seat. Approximately \$150,000.00 was raised to complete this project. This project was completed in December of 2007. Also, in 2004, \$4,000.00 was pledged by the Lions Club to save our annual Labor Day Parade, and the Orchard Hill Nature Center was rededicated, with the Lions providing both money and labor for this project. In the fall of that same year the Lions Club began an on-going project to send care packages to service members in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. In 2005 we donated \$1000.00 to the tsunami relief fund. In 2007 we sponsored Karen King on a trip to Ghana for Unite For Sight, an agency that provides assistance a eye clinics in Buduburam.

In total, the Lions Club of Newtown will donate more than \$42,000.00 to 40 local agencies and more than \$25,000.00 to state, national, and international agencies, this year alone.



Celebrating the Lions Club of Newtown's 60 Years of Service

L to R: Mark Lyon, Vice District Governor 23A, Tom Evagash, President, Lions Club of Newtown, Susan Gabriele, President, Lions Club of Brookfield, Jerry Hofmann, President, Lions Club of Danbury, and Herb Rosenthal, Selectman, and Former 1st Selectman of Newtown

Lions helping Lions

Lion Joan Bennett, District Governor

Not only do the Lions Clubs in 23A help those in need in their community, but also many of our Lions help other Lions when a need arises that often go unnoticed. I'd like to cite 2 recent examples.

The first, the North Bridgeport Lions Club held a wine tasting and raffle in order to raise funds to purchase a much needed refrigerator for The Thomas Merton Center (the center is much more than a soup kitchen to so many. It is a house of hospitality, day shelter, sanctuary, and welcoming place of hope and care to the hundreds of people it provides with food, love, and a helping hand each day.) They were successful, but the new refrigerator also needed new updated circuitry that had to be installed by an electrician. Lion Ed Haberli, a Meriden Lion and owner of Haberli Electric, generously donated his time to install the new circuit and the refrigerator in now in full use.

The second example, IPDG Rose Marie Spatafore of the Seymour Lions Club sent out a request to Lions in 23A asking for a wheelchair that was desperately needed for a woman in Seymour who could not afford one. The responses were immediate...in fact IPDG Rose received not one but three replies for a free wheelchair from the Lions in 23A.

The above are examples of "Everyday Heroes" International President Al Brandel speaks about when talking about Lions.

Photo Gallery

MD 23A 100% Awards Brunch



Mike Del Re, Jr. accepts a Knight of the Blind designation awarded posthumously to his father, Michael Del Re, Sr., by IPDG Rose Marie Spatifore



George Howard was named a Knight of the Blind by "Uncle Mike" and IPDG Rose Marie



Treas. Lyn Meyers, 2nd VP Joan Bielizna, Membership Chair Frank Molinaro, and IPP Keith Beaver showed up to collect Sec. Bob Lovell's 100% Certificate. IPDG Rose Marie and "Uncle Mike" surprised Joan by naming her a Knight of the Blind. Way to go Danbury!

Pre and Post Convention Tour Bids Now Being Accepted

Lion Stephen Polezonis, Council chair

The MD 23 Council of Governors is now accepting bids from certified travel agents for pre and post convention tours for the 2009 and 2010 Lions International Conventions.

The 2009 Lions International Convention will be held in Minneapolis , MN July 6-10, 2009. The 2010 Lions International Convention will be held in Sydney, Australia June 28-July 2, 2010.

No tours can be offered during the convention. Tours must be held before the start or after the end of the convention. The bid should include all tour related transportation, lodging, transfers, etc.

Bids will be accepted through February 28, 2009. Please forward bids to:

Council Chair Stephen Polezonis
12 Botelle Manor
Cromwell, CT 06416

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

proudly sponsored by New Fairfield Lions Club



Saturday, February 7, 2009, 7 p.m.

At

The Portuguese Cultural Center

65 Sand Pit Road

Danbury, CT

Get your dancing shoes ready for an evening of dancing!!



- * *Live music provided by Dance to the Music Entertainment*
- * *Silent Auction*
- * *Tickets \$65/per person includes buffet dinner, cash bar*

To purchase tickets, please send your check payable to :

New Fairfield Lions Club Foundation

P.O. Box 8106 New Fairfield, CT 06812

Please include address, telephone number and email address

For more information visit our website!

@ www.newfairfieldlions.org

Or contact Lion Krystyna Kappes @ (860) 355-2665

Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated!





58th ANNUAL MD23 LIONS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009
THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, SOUTHURY, CONNECTICUT**

"Come Celebrate Mardi Gras on the way to Minneapolis"

INTERNATIONAL GUEST: International Director Harold Ott

LION/LIONESS _____ DISTRICT _____	
CLUB _____	OFFICE _____
HOME TELEPHONE _____	BUSINESS TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____	E-MAIL _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
LION/LIONESS/GUEST _____ DISTRICT _____	
CLUB _____ OFFICE _____	
CHILDREN # _____ NAME(S) _____	
First Name preference on badge(s) (Please Print)	A. _____ B. _____

***** Registration (\$25.00) is included in all packages and required for any participation, including Friday night.**

	Meal and Registration Plans	# of Persons	Cost
A.	Saturday Lunch, Cocktail Party, Banquet, Sunday Breakfast, Registration		@ \$122.00
B.	Saturday Lunch, Cocktail Party, Banquet, Registration		@ \$100.00
C.	Saturday Cocktail Party, Banquet, Sunday Breakfast, Registration		@ \$97.00
D.	Saturday Cocktail Party, Banquet, Registration		@ \$75.00
E.	Saturday Lunch, Registration		@ \$50.00
F.	Children 10 & Under – includes Sat. Lunch & Dinner, Sunday Breakfast (registration not required)		@ \$40.00
G.	Registration only (includes Friday night and all seminars—no meals)		@ \$25.00

Please note any special dietary needs: _____

A \$10.00 late fee should be added to all registrations received after January 16, 2009 \$10.00 _____

Provide e-mail address for confirmation of your registration _____

Total Amount Due _____

Hotel Reservations: Lions Convention Room Rate - \$89.00 Per Room/Per Night. Call the Crowne Plaza for room reservations: 1-203-598-7600 Fax: 1-203-598-7541. Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter Conference. Conference room rate prices are good through January 16, 2009. Be prompt to assure obtaining the Conference rate! **The Crowne Plaza, 1284 Strongtown Road, Southbury, CT 06488, Exit 16 off I84**

2009 MD23 Mid-Winter Chairman Lion Joseph A. Poirier, PCC 8 Patricia Terrace Beacon Falls, CT 06403 203-723-417 jpcoice23a@sbcglobal.net	2009 MD23 Mid-Winter Registration Chairman Lion Joan Eaton 83 Providence Street Taftville, CT 06380 860-204-0194 jeaton04@snet.net
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Complete this registration form and enclose with a check to cover the cost of your selections. Make checks payable to the "2009 MD23 Mid-Winter Conference" **MAIL TO:** Registration Chairperson Joan Eaton

Club Happenings at a Glance District 23A

EAST HAVENS LIONS CLUB

**Comedy Night
WPLR Bill Winn
And two other comics**

Sunday, November 30, 2008
6:30 PM

Irish American Club
Venice Place
East Haven

\$20 per Person

See Flyer For More Information

DANBURY LIONS CLUB

**19th Annual
Peter Winter Memorial Charity Breakfast**
Wednesday, December 10, 2008
7:30 AM

The Amber Room Colonnade
Danbury, CT

For Information Please Call
Ken Saloom 203-426-5804
Kate Shea 203-743-4311
Berni Kallas 203-797-1727

NEW FAIRFIELD LIONS CLUB

Dancing Under The Stars

Saturday, February 7, 2009
7:00 PM

The Potuguese Cultural Center
65 Sand Pit Road
Danbury, CT

\$65 per Person

See Flyer For More Information

*See Club Flyers For
Additional Information
Posted On The Web At:
www.lions23a.org or www.district23a.org*

*See Club Flyers And Additional Information For
Club Happenings In Districts 23B & 23C
Posted On The Web At: www.ctlions.org*

District Governor 2008-2009
DG Joan Bennett
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Who's Who At The District Pride 2008-2009

Visit us online at: www.lions23a.org or www.district23a.org

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If you would like an event covered by an article in this publication, **please submit it as an attachment in WORD or PUBLISHER** to an e-mail addressed to **pdgjim98@snet.net**. Please make sure that you include DP 23A in the subject or reference area of the e-mail. All photos should be in jpg format and **submitted as individual attachments**. Please name or title the photos. If any text goes with the photos, please put it in Word format as stated above. Reference the photo name, title, number, etc. in the description/caption. Any questions, please contact the Editor of the District Pride for 2008-2009, PDG Jim Bennett.

NOTE: The Publisher has informed us that the absolute **DROP DEADLINE** for the December 2008 District Pride is her birthday, 13 December 2008! She will not accept any articles or photos after that date. All articles and photos must be submitted following the guidelines stated above. Please remember: *We really like to keep our Publisher happy!*