

DISTRICT PRIDE

Serving Fairfield and New Haven Counties

CONNECTICUT LIONS DISTRICT 23 A

Volume 1, Issue 1

Lion Linda Maggs
District Governor 2012- 2013

March 2013



Greetings Fellow Lions....

I will keep these remarks brief as I want this District Pride issue to be a vehicle for cabinet chairs etc., to update us on their particular projects.

During the last eight months, many events have taken place in our district.... some good, some horrible.

To date, I have visited 39 clubs, all unique but all very welcoming and hospitable. And all with their own successes and challenges. Several of my goals have come to fruition, including training sessions on mini extensions., Club Excellence Process. And new member orientation.

We have one new Leo club, (Waterbury) and three more in the offing.

Club membership is still an issue, and I understand the difficulty in attracting new and particularly younger members. If we ask potential members to help us with our service projects before coming to a club meeting , we might just achieve member growth. They will see first hand “what we Lions do”.

We continue to support the Newtown club in it's effort to help those impacted by December 14th 2012, and all other projects in our District.

Again, thank you for being Lions.

“In A World of Service”,
DG Linda

Connecticut Lions receive \$850,000 from LCIF

Lion David Yadach, Past District Governor, 23B, MD23 LCIF Coordinator

Well, not this year. And not all at once. But over a 30-year period, Multiple District 23 has received \$850,000 back from our International Foundation in the form of grants and emergency assistance.

Our Low Vision Centers were equipped with a matching grant from LCIF.

The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation has been able to secure grants for projects at Yale and the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

Field of Vision screening machines were provided to all 3 Districts.

More recently, Connecticut has received LCIF funding to implement the Lions Quest curriculum in local schools.

And in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, Lions clubs in shoreline communities were able to provide needed supplies to their neighbors with the help of LCIF emergency grants.

We hear so much of what LCIF accomplishes worldwide – through the One Shot, One Life Measles Initiative, ongoing relief efforts in Japan or Haiti, or Campaign SightFirst projects in areas where basic eye care doesn't exist. But please be aware that your dollars support projects right here in Connecticut as well. Thank you for your continued support of our International Foundation. For more information, please visit www.lcif.org.

See Our District 23A Calendar of Events and Club Flyers

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

Updates from Lions Low Vision Centers of Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Inc.

Lion Richard Groski, President

Fellow Lions, I am happy to report that we've been approached by St. Mary's Hospital of Waterbury about the prospect of opening a new Low Vision Center in conjunction with their rehabilitation clinic.

While the preliminary discussions have been promising, an undertaking of this kind will require strong sponsorship and on-going involvement by one or more of the Waterbury area clubs. In upcoming weeks we will be reaching out to the clubs in the zones serviced by St. Mary's to identify a lead-club committed to taking on this exciting new project. It is an opportunity to further expand our services to a population that benefits greatly from our services.

Testimony as to how our services favorably impact people's lives is found in a substantial bequest left to us by a former Bridgeport Hospital nurse. While the details about exactly how we helped her or a loved one are not known, we are grateful for the concrete acknowledgment and expression of appreciation for a job well done by past Low Vision Center staff.

We are also grateful to all the clubs who have made contributions to the Low Vision Center this year. To-date, about 80% of District 23A clubs have made contributions, with the final tally from the Mid-Winter Conference still being counted. We would like to especially thank the Southbury Club for its substantial contribution. Southbury is home to a Danbury Hospital-affiliated LVC.

For those of you who attended the Mid-Winter Conference, you may have picked up copies of our new brochure, referral form, and informational letter written by Meriden Lion, David Parke, MD of the Lions Low Vision Center at the Yale Eye Clinic. We all owe Dr. Parke a deep debt of gratitude as the guiding force from the inception of District 23A's Low Vision Program.

Special thanks are also owed to Lion Howard Blaney of the Danbury Club, who over two years ago spearheaded a project to establish our own administrative support capabilities separate from 23B. Those new capabilities allow me to report that since then we have distributed 1,002 devices and aids to 627 clients from 44 District 23A towns, through referrals from 77 eye care professionals from 19 towns.

As members of our Board of Trustees reach out to you, I hope you will give them time on your busy meeting agendas to further explain the good work being done at our Low Vision Centers.

Thank you for being Lions.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS "OPENING EYES"



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CONNECTICUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS
OPENING EYES TO BE HELD JUNE 8TH AND 9TH 2013
AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SATURDAY FROM 8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM AND 12:00 TO 4:00 PM
AND**

**SUNDAY FROM 8:30 AM TO 12:00 AND/OR CLOSING*
A MINIMUM OF 20 VOLUNTEERS PER SHIFT IS NEEDED**

***(ASSIST WITH TEAR DOWN)**

**LEOS ARE WELCOMED AND WILL BE TRAINED AND PAIRED WITH AN
ADULT DURING THEIR SHIFT**

GOALS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS **LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL OPENING EYES**

Increase access to eye care for Special Olympics athletes, as well as all people with intellectual disabilities.

Raise eye care professionals' awareness of vision and eye health concerns of people with special needs, including difficulties involved in accessing treatment.

Provide a list of regional eye care providers who care for people with special needs to all athletes who participate in the program.

Develop a body of knowledge about vision and eye health of children and adults with special needs.

In Connecticut each year we average:

254 Athletes completing the screening
19 Athletes are referred for additional care
173 Pairs of Rx glasses and sports goggles
80 Pairs of Plano sunglasses

In Connecticut each year we average:

34 Lions Club volunteers
18 Optometrist volunteers
9 Optician volunteers
15 Other volunteers

In Connecticut last year we had one of our best years yet with:

313 Athletes completing the screening
13 Athletes referred for additional care
223 Pairs of Rx glasses and sports goggles
113 Pairs of Plano sunglasses

In Connecticut last year we had one of our best years yet with:

56 Lions Club volunteers
20 Optometrist volunteers
13 Optician volunteers
20 Other volunteers

**WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP US THIS YEAR IN 2013 WITH MORE
VOLUNTEERS SO WE CAN SCREEN MORE ATHLETES**

TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
PDG JOAN BENNETT (lionjoanbennett@snet.net) 203-234-8531

Or

PDG ROSE MARIE SPATAFORE (rmspatafore@yahoo.com) 203-446-9150

Speech and Hearing Updates

Lion Meryl Aronin, Co-Chair, Speech and Hearing, 23A

Michael Granutuk Speech And Hearing Fund

Last year the Speech and Hearing Committee renamed our yearly contribution to the Hearing and Balance Program at Yale New Haven Hospital. In a special ceremony, the memory of PCC, PDG Michael Granutuk was honored by naming our yearly contribution in his name. When you write your check this year, make it out the Michael Granutuk Speech and Hearing Fund, District 23A. Join with other Lions in making a personal contribution honoring Lion Mike Granutuk for his dedicated service to LIONS.

Collect hearing aids for District 23A Hearing Aid Bank

Found a hearing aid or two in your eye glass collection? We need behind the ear and in the ear hearing aids for recycling. Some behind the ear hearing aids can be reused with adults. Other hearing aids provide the Hearing Aid Bank with credit to offset the cost of reconditioning used hearing aids. The credit will eventually enable the Hearing Aid Bank to purchase new hearing aids. Bring hearing aids to Zone meetings so they can be brought to Cabinet meetings for pick-up. They can also be mailed to:

Lion Meryl Aronin
Co-Chair Speech and Hearing, 23A
1747 Summer Street Ste. 7
Stamford, Connecticut 06905

Multiple District 23 launches Hearing preservation awareness and action program

The Speech and Hearing Chairs from each district have formed a statewide committee with a number of charges. One charge is to involve all Lions and all Lions Clubs in increasing public awareness of hearing loss and the impact of hearing loss on the quality of life. Prevention of hearing loss will be the focus of a Lions public education program for children and adults. A LIONS Hearing Aid Bank will be accessible to the public in all three districts. The Multiple District 23 will work together in fund raising to support the programs and the Hearing Aid Banks. The goal is provide affordable new hearing aids to children and adults who present a financial need. This effort will be supported in part by the BUCK AN EAR PROGRAM. All Lions in District 23A and the other Districts are being approach to Contribute \$1.00 per ear to the Hearing Preservation Awareness and Action Program. A committee member will be coming to your Club or Zone meeting for a Buck An Ear.



Fifth annual Visually Impaired persons

Fishing Tournament

Lion Charley Satkowski, State VIP Chair, Lions Club of Berlin

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Fishing Tournament is all about people. Their enthusiasm and courage is rewarding. Here are some of the comments from our 2013 VIPs:

- Does someone have a towel for my hands? I know my Dad is looking down at me and shaking his head. Dad could fish and eat all day, and never once wipe his hands.
- I can't believe I won the tournament. I had hoped I might catch one of two fish. This is just so exciting! I'm going to go home and try to sleep tonight, before committing to the National Tournament in North Carolina. This is unbelievable.
- A nice lady Lion gave three of us a ride to the tournament. To my surprise, one of our passengers was a coworker I haven't seen in over twenty years, and, just think, we now live in the same town, only three miles apart. It is a small world.
- A visitor to the park said he liked our event, made a personal donation, and asked how to become a Lion.
- Can blind people become Lions?
- We are very thankful that our daughter had an opportunity to share in this unique fishing experience. She asked us to share pictures with her teachers and friends because this is first trophy she has ever won in her entire life.
- I always release the fish I catch, because I want them to grow so I can catch them next year.
- My fish was very pretty.
- Dave caught bigger fishes than Charlie. I want to fish with Dave next year!

Threats of heavy rain and damaging wind did not dampen the spirits of those attending Connecticut's 4th annual Senior VIP Fishing Tournament. We had record 27 adults registered, representing Ansonia, Berlin, Bethel, Bridgeport, Bristol, Clinton, Danbury, East Hartford, Moosup, New Britain, New Fairfield, New Milford, Plainville, Waterbury, and Wethersfield. The weather did discourage three participants. Four sent their respects for other reasons. Brian and Terry (Wethersfield) and Alexi (Bristol) will represent Connecticut in the New England and National VIP Fishing Tournament held on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in October.

Chilly, but sunny skies welcomed the Junior VIPs. Despite schedule conflicts with other agencies, we had a record of 18 children register, representing Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Colchester, East Granby, Farmington, Hamden, Newington, Ridgefield, South Windsor, Unionville, and Vernon.

The VIP Fishing Tournaments are more than half day fishing. It is about independence, self-esteem, and self-confidence. The Junior Tournament has become another networking source for parents. The Senior Tournament is an opportunity to renew friendships. Visual impairment is celebrated and not treated as a condition.

The events are financed by the Berlin Lions Club, and donations from the Plainville Lions Club, Larry and Jackie Fischer, VDG Timothy Hilliker, and Debra Letizio. We are grateful for the continued support we receive from BESB, the Blind Veterans Association (BVA), the Berlin Lions Club, CRIS radio, Danbury Lions Low Vision Support Group, the Martin Kellogg Middle School Leo Club (Newington), the Rocky Hill Lions

Continued on page 8

Club, the Torrington Lions Club, the Unionville Lions Club, the Federation of the Blind, VA Hospital of West Haven, Berlin Park and Recreation, and the State Department of Inland Fisheries. Fishing poles and tackle were loaned by Connecticut's DEP CARE Program. This program promotes fishing as wholesome family fun in the outdoors.

Please contact us if you would to help us or if you would like to sponsor a VIP from your committee who would like to participate in the 2013 Junior or Senior VIP Fishing Tournaments; contact CT VIP Fishing Tournament Co-Chairman Charlie Satkowski, 860-828-1427 or Satkowski@sbcglobal.net

Opportunities for Youth

Lion Jamene Farrell, Multidistrict Chair

As Lions, we all know that the future of our clubs lie with our youth and their families. We are not aware that it is perfectly 'legal', let alone encouraged, that we look to opportunities to partner with already existing groups or organizations. We need to be more physically visible, wearing out shirts, hanging our banners, where ever we can publicly be noticed as serving the needs of others.

Recently the Principal of the school where I work approached me about asking the Lions to come into the school and help teach the Junior Achievement curriculum for one morning. What better way to be seen then by parents, the Mayor, teachers, and other civic organizations, than in a public school classroom? (Rotary comes into the classes and gives out free dictionaries every year.) Here is a platform for us to tell others about all that we do, and no, it is NOT just about glasses! I was asked by the teacher organizing these classes if we could bring along information about our Lions Club!

I would encourage all of you to get in touch with your local Junior Achievement programs and see if there is a place where you can go in and volunteer for a few hours. I think the exposure is well worth the time.

Also, as Chairman of the Multidistrict Committee, Opportunities for Youth, we all have been charged by LCIF to think outside the box to promote our youth programs. There are scout troops in Connecticut that are already partnered with Lions Clubs. We promote Scouting. It does not mean we have to start our own scout troop, we can support others, even if they are affiliated with a church or school. And they might want to introduce our Lions Quest character education program and incorporate it into their Scouting routine.

If we want to grow, we have to think of new ways to be noticed and new platforms where we can be heard about all that we do.

Pediatric Vision Screening Takes a Giant Step Forward in Fairfield and New Haven Counties

Lion Reggie Lambrech

Ever since last April when the New Fairfield Lions Club held its first pediatric screening in the New Fairfield pre-schools, excitement about the difference Lions can make in children's lives has been building. Just knowing that our equipment can detect eye anomalies that pediatricians cannot detect in the course of their normal exams of pre-schoolers has enabled us to offer a service to children and their parents that can truly make a difference in the lives of the children we screen. An average of 11 % of children screened are referred to pediatric ophthalmologists – some simply because they need glasses to help them have normal vision and others for eye anomalies that, if addressed before the child is 7 years of age and corrected, will not be permanent. Some of these eye anomalies have been known to cause children to be mistakenly diagnosed as having learning disabilities.

That screening experience led former New Fairfield Lions Club President Régine (Reggie) Lambrech to be invited to speak at the Danbury Lions Club's May meeting where she and Danbury Club member and then District Governor Lyn Meyers made the decision to work together to increase the numbers of screenings in District 23A. They were determined to find a way to raise enough money to buy a pediatric vision screener since CLERF did not have a sufficient number of pediatric screeners to allow for an increased number of screenings in the State.

Lion Reggie has written several grants and she and PDG Lyn have made visits to area clubs speaking about the screenings in an attempt to raise enough money to buy \$32,000 worth of screening equipment for both Fairfield and New Haven counties.

If you are interested in having a presentation on pediatric screening at one of your club meetings or if your club would like to make a donation towards the acquisition of screening equipment, please contact PDG Lyn Meyers at govlynm@gmail.com or Lion Reggie Lambrech at reginelambrech@gmail.com.



Kathleen Togmagnano, President, Savings Bank of Danbury presenting a check from the SBD Foundation to PDG Lyn Meyers for the purchase for equipment for LEHP



**JOIN US IN A "PRELUDE TO GERMANY" AT THE
92nd ANNUAL MD23 LIONS STATE CONVENTION**

May 10-12, 2013
Sturbridge Host Hotel
366 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566

With Lions Clubs International Guest: International Director Robert "Bob" Corlew (Tennessee)

REGISTRATION FORM

LION/LIONESS _____ DISTRICT _____	
CLUB _____	CURRENT LION POSITION _____
HOME PHONE _____	BUSINESS PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
LION/LIONESS/GUEST _____ DISTRICT _____	
CLUB _____ CURRENT LION POSITION _____	
CHILDREN # _____ NAME (S) _____	
First Name Preference on Badge(s) (Please Print)	LION/LIONESS: _____ LION/LIONESS/GUEST _____

- **EVERYONE attending the convention must pay Registration Fee.**
- Registration forms must be received no later than April 18, 2013.
- Make checks payable to: "2013 MD23 State Convention"
- Mail completed Registration Form and a check to cover all selections below to:
Registration Chairperson Lion Joan Eaton, 83 Providence Street, Taftville, CT 06380
Additional contact: (860) 204-0194; seaton04@snet.net

	Registration and Meal Plans	# Of Persons	Cost
A.	REGISTRATION (REQUIRED; DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS)		@ \$10.00
B.	Friday Night "Oktoberfest" Theme		@ \$40.00
C.	Saturday Cocktail Reception and Banquet (Prime Rib or Fish entrée)	Fish _____ Rib _____	@ \$49.00
D.	Sunday District Governor-Elect Brunch		@ \$35.00
Please note any special dietary needs (i.e. Vegetarian, Kosher): _____			
			Total Due \$ _____

Hotel Reservations are to be made directly through the Sturbridge Host Hotel. The Lions room rates are: \$102.00 + TAX (per room /per night). To make reservations, please call 1-508-347-7393. Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions State Convention. Room rate prices are good through April 18, 2013.



STURBRIDGE HOST

on cedar lake

HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

366 MAIN STREET

STURBRIDGE, MA 01566

TEL: 508-347-7393 • FAX: 508-347-3824

800-582-3232

LOCATION

The Sturbridge Host Hotel is centrally located one hour from Boston, MA, 40 minutes from Springfield, MA and only 45 minutes from both Hartford, CT and Providence, RI. We are only three hours from New York City and three minutes off the MA Turnpike (I-90) at Exit 9 and I-84, exit 3B.

FACILITIES & SERVICES

- 232 guest rooms many with a lakeside view
- 24 mini suites
- 5 suites
- Non smoking & accessible rooms available
- Laundry/Valet Service
- Complimentary Parking
- Complimentary Guest WiFi in all guest rooms
- Safe deposit boxes

RECREATION

- Fitness Room
- Outdoor Recreational activities: Paddleboats, Beach Volleyball, Lake Swimming, and Horseshoes
- Indoor Heated Pool & Jacuzzi
- Game Room
- Boating & Golf nearby

MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

- Over 35,000 square feet of flexible meeting space
- 12,000 square foot Exhibition Hall
- 6,000 square foot Grand Ballroom
- 1,920 square foot Junior Ballroom
- Total of 22 meeting rooms
- Wireless Internet access available in all conference facilities
- Audiovisual equipment available
- Outdoor Function Tent available seasonally
- Lakeside Banquet dining options

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

- The Greenhouse Restaurant serves breakfast and weekend country breakfast buffet
- The Oxhead Tavern offers rustic lakeside dining for lunch and dinner. Outdoor dining in summer, Fireside dining in winter, all overlooking Cedar Lake
- VIP Lounge offers lighter fare, big screen TV's and weekend entertainment



AREA ATTRACTIONS

- Old Sturbridge Village directly across the street from the hotel
- Six Flags New England just a short ride
- DCU Center, Mass Mutual Center and Hartford Convention Center, all less than one hour away

AIRPORTS

- Logan International: 1 hour/62 miles
- Bradley International: 51 minutes/50 miles
- TF Green Airport: 1 hour/60 miles

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

I-90 (MA Turnpike) to Exit 9
Immediately after toll booth you are on I-84
Follow I-84 briefly to Exit 3B
Follow Rte 20 west for approx 1 mile
Entrance to hotel is on the right



www.SturbridgeHostHotel.com

Who's Who At The District Pride 2012-2013

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** in an e-mail addressed to joanrealtor@snet.net. Please make sure that you include **District Pride** 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 Publisher/Editor of the District Pride for 2012-2013, Joan Bielizna.

District Governor 2012-2013

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