

**District 23A Cabinet Meeting**  
**Monday, August 6, 2007 7:00 P.M.**  
**John J. Sullivan's, Ansonia, CT**

District Governor Rose Marie Spatafore called the first District Cabinet meeting to order on Monday, August 6, 2007 at 7:15 pm. She called upon CC-IPDG Joseph Poirier to lead the Cabinet in the salute to the flag. One verse of America was lead by CST Kathy Poirier. Lion District Chaplain Joe Farrell gave the invocation and VDG Joan Bennett gave the Lions Toast.

**The following Cabinet Members were in attendance:**

Andrew Anderson	Helen Risom Belluschi, ZC	Rose Marie Spatafore, DG
Mark Lyon	James B. Bennett, PDG-PCST	Joseph A. Poirier, CC-IPDG
John Gagain, PDG	Louise Smith	Joan Bennett, VDG
Rick Brooks	Jerry Osochowsky, PDG	Meryl W. Aronin
Ted Bresky	Joan J. Hunt	Lida Pelletier
Toni Cartisano	Richard Dowin	Joyce Wruck
Rick Zappone	Joseph Elmo	Joseph Farrell
Nicholas Framularo, RC	Rocco Cingari, PCC-PDG	Robert Fries
Beverly Fries	Mike Granatuck, PCC-PDG	Linda Maggs, RC
Edward Haberli, RC	Colette Anderson, ZC	Kathleen M. Poirier, CST
Ernest Harrington	Anna Valerio	Richard Krodel
Lyn Meyers, ZC	Mike Del Re, Jr., PCC-PDG	Frank Molinaro
David Noble	Frank Phillips	Joseph Persico, ZC
Barbara Bucci, ZC	Kenneth Sachs	Ellie Sessa
Raymond Shea, PDG	Richard Spatafore	Roberta Weise, RC
Joan Bielizna	Al Stoccatore, ZC	

Others in attendance were Susan Vigorito, President East Haven Lions, Robert Rascona, President Brookfield Lions, and Thomas Veneruso, President Bridgeport North Lions.

**Opening Remarks:** District Governor Rose Marie had each Cabinet member introduce him/herself as there were many new faces this year. Following this, DG Rose gave her opening remarks where she explained to the Cabinet that we are the 23A Team and “We Are Family” will be the theme this year. She wants the Lions of 23A to stay joined and to have a great time. She explained that the packets that were given to each Cabinet member contained a great deal of information for the team. She said it’s going to be a good year but there’s a lot of work to do. She also spoke about International President Mahendra Amasuriya’s theme of “Challenge to Change.” She explained that the Cabinet meetings this year will not be like they have been in the past. DG Rose explained that there will be speakers this year at the Cabinet meetings (CLERF, the doctors from Speech & Hearing, plus a third speaker to be determined). Her goal is to have the Cabinet members educated as to what is going on in the District. Having speakers will allow the opportunity to have question and answer sessions. In addition, all club presidents with their officers (and/or members) will be invited to attend the Cabinet meetings.

This year the District Pride will be provided in two formats – three printed copies will be mailed to all members in the District and an electronic version will be done twelve times this year. Positive comments were given regarding the first electronic version sent. The hope is to obtain email addresses from all Lions in the District who have email accounts. Addresses from the clubs should be sent to Lion Ernie Harrington ([ech105@snet.net](mailto:ech105@snet.net)).

The District’s web site is up and running ([www.District23a.org](http://www.District23a.org)). Regions and Zones will have their own web pages. Reports from the Regions and Zones will be posted on the web site and

will not be read at the Cabinet meetings. The only reports to be given at the meetings will be updates on those clubs needing help.

DG Rose reiterated that Campaign Sight First II (CSF II) needs to end this year. She will be giving a gift to every club this year. The clubs will receive "Rosie the Giraffe." "Rosie" will have a CSF II pin on her apron. Clubs will be asked to raise money for CSF II by raffling or auctioning "Rosie" because "Rosie sticks her neck out for CSF II!"

Clubs that need help will not be left alone this year. Even if the entire Cabinet needs to work with these clubs, this is what DG Rose wants to happen. There are several powerful clubs that can help clubs that are struggling.

DG Rose also spoke about the International President's award program for the club presidents who bring in members this year. However, the problem is that although members are brought in, many leave. DG Rose has asked VDG Joan to encourage all clubs to have a retention chair who would work in conjunction with the membership chair to help strengthen the club.

**Secretary's Report:** IPCST-VDG Joan Bennett gave the secretary's report. At the last cabinet meeting under IPDG Joe Poirier, there were brief reports given following the four point opening. The rest of the evening was dedicated to IPDG Joe thanking his Cabinet for all their hard work during the year. He presented awards and gifts to those present. The evening concluded with a surprise birthday cake for IPDG Joe. A motion to accept the minutes was made by RC Ed Haberli, seconded by ZC Al Stoccatore, so voted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** IPCST-VDG Joan Bennett spoke about the summary of accounts provided in the packets. The ending balance for the Administrative Fund shows \$17,462.92 and the Project Fund shows \$41,014.60. She stated that some checks from the Project Account still have not been returned so the account cannot be reconciled yet. She did indicate that there was a carryover on many of the projects.

DG Rose Marie spoke about the proposed budget for the Lions' year 2007-08 which was in the packets. She indicated that the numbers were based on a membership count of 1785 members in the District although there may be more or less since several clubs have not submitted the MMR reports for a while. After giving the Cabinet some time to review the budget, a motion was made by RC Linda Maggs to accept the Treasurer's report and the proposed budget, seconded by ZC Barbara Bucci, so voted unanimously.

**Correspondence:** CST Kathy Poirier read a letter that was sent to Council Chair Joe Poirier. The letter was from the Danbury Lions Club. The Danbury Lions are formally committing their support of Past President Lyn Meyer's bid to run for the high office of District Governor in District 23A.

Lion Robert Rascona, President of the Brookfield Lions Club, read a letter of endorsement for Lion Mark S. Lyon for the high office of Vice District Governor in the Lions Year 2008-09.

### **Committee Reports:**

**LCIF:** Lion Andy Anderson gave an update on the latest status of installments that have been given to LCIF. This information may be given to the clubs to let them know, based on their donations, how many Melvin Jones Fellows they may name. He also provided a quarterly recap of all donations from 7/1/06 through 6/30/07 which was also in the packets.

**District Chaplains:** DG Rose explained that there are two District chaplains this year – Lion Joe Farrell (New Haven County) and Lion Bob Dortenzio (Fairfield County). It is important to notify the chaplains when a Lion passes away so that word can be sent out and arrangements made for a

memorial service (if the family so chooses). We've missed knowing about several Lions who have passed away until well after the fact.

**District Pride:** Lion Frank Molinaro is the editor and Lion Joyce Wruck is the publisher this year. Lion Frank asked that when articles are emailed to him, the sender needs to put in the subject line of the email "dp23a." This way Lion Frank will know that the information being sent is for the District Pride. He asked that articles are sent as a Word document attachment. Deadlines as to when articles should be submitted will be determined.

**Memorial Pledge Project:** CC-IPDG Joe Poirier spoke about his end of the year project to have clubs make a donation to CLERF in memory of PID Otto Strobino. A minimum donation of \$100 will meet any two of the requirements needed to be a 100% club for 2006-07. The money will be put towards the CLERF Endowment Fund. All donations must be submitted by September 1, 2007 to qualify. Money should now be sent to CST Kathy Poirier but PCST-VDG Joan Bennett should be cc'd as she is keeping track of which clubs are sending donations.

**USA/Canada Forum:** DG Rose spoke about the upcoming Forum. She explained how the Forum provides an excellent leadership program for those Lions attending.

**Ride for Sight:** RC Roberta Weise spoke about the upcoming Ride for Sight. It will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2007. It is again going to be a motorcycle poker run and money raised from the event is for the Low Vision Centers of New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Help will be needed at the event. There will be food, raffles and entertainment.

**PSTM:** Training will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza in Southbury. This training is being provided for all club officers as well as new and veteran members. DG Rose would like at least five members from each club to attend the training. The cost will be \$11 which covers a breakfast that morning. There will be rooms available at a special rate for those Lions who would prefer to come the night before. There will also be a hospitality room available on Friday night.

**Leos Jamboree:** DG Rose spoke about plans to hold a jamboree for the Leos in Connecticut. The Leo Coordinators in the three Districts will need help with the event. A date is still to be determined.

**Old Business:** PDG John Gagain asked about the request made by PDG Marinus de Jongh to use money that had been earmarked for the AMR Project (American Medical Response). AMR rejected the money being offered by the District. PDG Marinus would like to drop the AMR Project and utilize the money for the Dominican Republic Project started by PDG John. DG Rose stated that before any decision could be made regarding any monies in the Project Account for AMR, the books need to be closed. The discussion was tabled until the next Cabinet meeting.

**New Business:** DG Rose informed the Cabinet on the opportunity to purchase shirts and apparel with the Lions logo from local vendors. Merchandise may be purchased locally as long as it is not resold for profit. Bids are being put out to three vendors for pricing. Items will be available on-line on the District web site. A percentage of the sales will be used in a miscellaneous fund for any emergencies that may arise during the year.

PCC-PDG Mike Del Re spoke about an important upcoming event to be held on October 11 in Stamford at the Marriott. Yale will be honoring the Lions of Connecticut for all that they have done over the past 56 years. The cost of the event is \$250/pp. PCC-PDG Mike emphasized the importance of have a sufficient number of Lions attend this event. The intent is to have at least one representative from each club attend the gala.

The next Cabinet Meeting will be on **Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant, 557 Wakelee Ave., Ansonia, CT.**

**Benediction:** PCC-PDG Michael Del Re gave the benediction.

A motion to adjourn was made by ZC Al Stoccatore, seconded by RC Roberta Weise, so voted unanimously.

**Adjournment: 9:05 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Poirier  
Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer