

DISTRICT PRIDE

Serving Fairfield and New Haven Counties

CONNECTICUT LIONS DISTRICT 23 A

Volume 1, Issue 1

Lion Lyn R. Meyers
District Governor 2011- 2012

July, August,
September 2011



Greetings District 23A Lions! Summer is over and Fall is upon us. The shortening days mean less lawn mowing and more leaf raking for all of us. It's also the time of year when Lions Clubs start their service activities and are preparing for the District Governor's visits.

In late June my partner Ernie Harrington and I went to Seattle to District Governors School for four days prior to the International Convention. I joined my two other MD23 District

Governors Ken Tucker from 23C and Bob Cormier from 23B in the multiday training sessions. We were joined by our life partners for the many interesting and inspiring presentations on Dr. Wing-Kun Tam's theme "I Believe." Dr. Tam chose to plant 1,000,000 trees by Lions around the world in 2011-12. As a part of that commitment the District Governors Elect participated in a planting of 800 Red Cedar trees that will be transplanted in the spring in two locations in the Seattle area. You can see a picture of us in plastic aprons and gloves and our plants on the home page of the District website at www.district23A.org.

The International Convention took place the first week in July and was in the rarely sunny Seattle, Washington, without a drop of rain. The Lions parade was the largest the city had seen in its history and the convention was reported to have provided more than \$40,000,000 to the area's economy. The programs were spectacular and entertaining. In addition we were able to elect Carolyn Messier from District 23B as New England's International Director.

August 1st saw our first Cabinet meeting of the new year. The meeting started with thunder, lightning and torrential rains. Before the evening was over the power failed, lights dimmed and died. Our guest speakers didn't get to do their presentations and we never did get our coffee and dessert.

Many District 23A Clubs that did not meet in July and August held their first meetings in September; and I began my visits the first week of the month. The first Zone meetings also took place in September.

On September 10th Vice District Governors Linda Maggs and Ed Hablerli and the GLT and GMT Chair persons Mark Lyon and Helen Belluschi and I attended the New England Lions Council meeting. Training sessions for the Global Membership Team and the Global Leadership Team were scheduled. From these meetings we brought back information to start the new programs in the District.

For the first time the 23A District Directory is available on line at the District website, as well as in print. To access go to www.district23A.org and click on CABINET. Page down to the bottom, and click on DIRECTORY. In the ID screen type "imctlion"; in password "lionsroar".

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In the Directory you will find the District Governors Goals for 2011-2012 repeated here:

“ I BELIEVE” that successful long term growth of Lions Clubs, as the world’s largest service organization, is dependent on keeping members involved, instilling pride, and treating all Lions as family; the philosophy “My Club, My Family.”

“I BELIEVE” we will strengthen membership and achieve a net increase of 100 members, with the assistance of our new Global Membership Team (GMT)

“I BELIEVE” we will add two new Lions Clubs. The clubs can be built around, occupations, social activities or new “family clubs.”

“I BELIEVE” we will build future Lions leaders through our Global Membership Teams. (GLT)

“I BELIEVE” we will be involved in more environmental preservation and restoration by planting 1,500 trees in our District with the help of our Leos Clubs.

“ I BELIEVE” we will find more new and interesting service opportunities and increase our visibility in the community through new and better public relations.

And most importantly;

“I BELIEVE” the future starts today. I am asking all District 23A Lions to join me in making this year a “year to remember.

Welcome to the 21st Century

Lion Lyn R. Meyers, District Governor, 23A

As a part of International President Wing-Kun Tam’s goals for 2010 he included protecting the environment and planting 1,000,000 trees. In that spirit LCI has cut paper consumption by providing all of the International Directors with iPads. Dr Tam, all the International Directors and staff have cut the amount of printed matter being distributed to lions by using email and posting more items on the web. LCI has also requested that all reporting from clubs and districts be done electronically.

In District 23A we have taken steps to achieve the same goal by producing our first on line Directory (password protected) available to all Lions in MD23. I have also requested that all reporting by Clubs and cabinet members be made to me electronically. In addition most of the district business is being done via email and our website. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Lions23a.

The future is here and there will continue to be more emphasis on the use of the internet and less on paper.

Here are some of the things that can be done to take advantage of the internet:

Access resources on the LCI at www.lionsclubs.org. Under “Member Center” you will find information on Planning Projects, Membership and New Clubs, Leadership Development, and other Resources; such as Publications, Forms, and Lions Logos.

View IP Wing-Kun Tam’s “I Believe” brochure, his plan for 2011 and beyond.

View my District Governor goals for 2011-12 by accessing the District website and in the District Directory.

Keep abreast of what other Lions around the District and the world are doing.

Prepare WMMRs and PU101s on line.

Share information on fund raising and service projects with other Lions Clubs.

Attract new younger members to your club.

Promote your Club’s projects and fund raisers

Access our District website www.district23A.org. There you can see the Governor’s newsletters, view the District calendar, find a Lion in the Directory, share ideas and add your special events to the Calendar.

Create your own Club’s website and Facebook page.

For more information and assistance in accessing the information on the web and creating your club’s website contact the webmaster, Ernie Harrington at webmaster@district23A.org.

In upcoming District Governor’s newsletters and issues of the District Pride there will be additional information on how to get the most out of your computer and the internet and how to add new members, promote your club, and access leadership training courses for your Club members.

***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***



From the Desk of Lion Linda Maggs 1st Vice District Governor 23A

DEAR LIONS CLUBS MEMBERS:

In keeping with our International President's goal of planting trees all over the world, we in District 23A have a goal of planting 1,500 trees here in our district. The trees selected are some of those found in Connecticut and will do well in our environment. **THIS IS AN OPTION FOR YOUR CLUB IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PLAN OF YOUR OWN!** We are looking forward to an EARLY SPRING planting because it is nearly too late in this season to get them in the ground and have them take hold before our winter begins. Our plan is to distribute them in April as bare root 3 year old seedlings, treated and wrapped. However they must be placed in the ground within a week to ensure their survival. So, we will need to have planting places and plans in order, knowing we only have a week to plant.

Some suggestions that we have received is to get the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts involved as a tree planting service project because they have environmental patches that may be earned for this service. Our Leo's are another great resource. Contacting our town services and looking for open spaces that we may be able to do a Lions Memorial Tree Park are just a few of the quality suggestions. By planting in the Spring, it will give our clubs time to make these inquiries and arrangements.

Below is an order form for the trees for each club. Please take a look and send in YOUR tree order to help us calculate how many trees to order. In addition, any tree that is planted from July 1, 2011 will count if you send me an e-mail and let me know you have planted a tree or trees.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Linda Maggs, 1st VDG

CLUB NAME _____ PRESIDENT: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DOUGLAS FIR	QTY _____	\$2.00 EA \$ _____	Bare root 3 year seedlings
EASTERN RED CEDAR	QTY _____	\$2.00 EA \$ _____	Bare root 3 year seedlings
EAST WHITE PINE	QTY _____	\$2.00 EA \$ _____	Bare root 3 year seedlings
WHITE SPRUCE	QTY _____	\$2.00 EA \$ _____	Bare root 3 year seedlings
TOTAL	QTY _____	\$2.00 EA \$ _____	Bare root 3 year seedlings

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: District 23A

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Call with questions or inquiries to: 203-438-4192 or lionlinda@earthlink.net

SEND CHECKS TO: LINDA MAGGS, 1st VDG
TREE PLANTING CHAIRMAN
118 Ramapoo Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Please be sure to mark your checks for "TREE PLANTING" in the memo line.

Report to the New England Lions Council Connecticut District 23A September 10, 2011

Lion Lyn Meyers, District Governor, 23A

International Director(s) , Past International Directors, New England Council Chair, Council Secretary, District Governors, Past District Governors, Lions and guests.

After an accelerating District Governor's Elect School and an exciting International Convention in Seattle I met with the Vice District Governors, Region and Zone Chairs to review goals set by International President Wing-Kun Tam and my "I Believe Goals" for the District.

At our first District meeting in August, marked by a violent thunder storm, lightening and failing lights, those goals were presented to the Cabinet along with presentations and reports from the various Cabinet committees. Our first MD Council meeting was also in August.

Many District 23A Clubs are having their first meetings for the new year in September and I have begun my visits. I will be seeing a total of twenty clubs in September and October and a couple of Zone meetings. On the visits I've made so far I have found that my goal of planting 1,500 trees is the item that has caught the most attention of the Club members. Because of this I am seeking a person in the district to coordinate that effort and do the reporting. From what I am hearing I expect that we will exceed the goal. The next major concern of the Clubs is membership. They all await the initiatives that the GMTs will provide.

In my common goal with Dr. Tam to help protect our environment we have taken the follow steps in District 23A. We created the first on line Directory in Connecticut, pass word protected, available to all Lions at www.district23A.org our District website. This being the first year to do so, we also created a printed version. I'm hoping my VDGs will consider eliminating printing in future years. Additionally, as a part of the District Governor's Newsletter, I have started a series of articles on how to utilize email, Facebook, and Twitter to get information out to the Lions in the district without using paper, postage, and the pollution of making delivery the old fashion way.

The District Pride, our District newsletter, will be back not in print, this month. It will have articles from the various Cabinet committees as well as tips on how to get the most out of the resources available at lionsclubs.org and how to do reporting on the web.

The District Hearing Aid Program for those of limited income is finally fully functional and underway. The program, in conjunction with Yale New Haven Hospital, makes available for Clubs a way to provide hearing aids to qualified applicants for \$250.00. The cabinet committee on hearing and speech will start making presentations at Zone meetings and Clubs this month.

One new Leos Club is currently underway and the District Leos Liaison has set a goal of two new clubs. We are also looking to the Leos to take to tree planting as a project.

I'm pleased to report that hurricane Irene, in spite the effects of the power outage which had me without power for nine days, did limited damage in Connecticut. We canvased the Clubs to determine if their communities were in need of LCIF emergency grant funding and none were found.

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And finally, the district had a 127 loss in membership last year. My goal is to have a net increase of 100 new members this year and add two new Lions Clubs. So far we have a net loss of 12 members for the current year. Several clubs have stepped up their efforts and reports indicate we should start to see the increases this month.

Respectfully submitted in Lionism,
Lyn Meyers, District Governor 23A

**And now for a few words from Lions Clubs International
According to the Lions Clubs International *Newswire***

In the wake of Hurricane Irene, as always, Lions are bringing aid to the people affected by this disaster. LCIF has awarded \$110,000 in emergency grants to districts in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Vermont and Puerto Rico for disaster relief. Our members are using these funds to provide immediate assistance to people in the hardest hit areas.

The Lions Club International is urging Congress to pass a commemorative coin bill honoring our centennial in 2017. Getting Congressional approval is not automatic. Congress passes only two commemorative coin bills per year. Many Lions - including past international presidents, past international directors and other members - are lobbying their congressional representatives to pass the legislation.

Every five seconds, someone in our world goes blind - and a child goes blind every minute. Lions have an opportunity to show the strength of our worldwide network during a special service action campaign, "Sharing the Vision." During October, LCI invites us to join Lions around the world as we lead the fight against blindness.



Diabetes Awareness

Lion Berni Kallas, Diabetes Awareness Chairperson, 23A

So, your primary doctor or endocrinologist has told you that you have TYPE 2 Diabetes. Scary isn't it? The horror stories you've heard regarding this disease have merit, yet it can be monitored and controlled. First, listen to your doctor and dietician regarding your course of action. In many cases it can be controlled with diet and exercise. If medication is required, it is necessary to follow your regimen exactly.

How did you get to this point? What are the symptoms? Family history could be a factor or just the fact that you have reached a certain point in life that your body is producing too little insulin. The most common symptoms of Type 1 & 2 Diabetes are as follows.

Type 1 Diabetes

- Frequent urination
- Unusual Thirst
- Extreme Hunger
- Unusual weight loss
- Extreme fatigue and irritability

Type 2 Diabetes *

- Any of the Type 1 symptoms
- Frequent infections
- BLURRED VISION*
- Cuts/bruises that are slow to heal
- Tingling/numbness in hands;/feet
- Recurring skin, gum, or bladder infections

* Often people with Type 2 diabetes have **NO** symptoms

Diabetes is a disease that makes it hard for your muscles to use the *blood sugar* they need to stay active and keep your body going. Most foods you eat turn into sugar. Sugar goes into your *bloodstream* and your muscles then use it for fuel. ***Insulin*** is a hormone your body makes. It helps move the sugar into your body's muscle.

Testing your *blood sugar* level daily is extremely important to monitor how much sugar is in your bloodstream. I will address this disease in more detail in the months to follow.

Awareness is your best option to beat the odds and live a healthy and productive life with diabetes.

Lions Clubs join forces and skills to file for 501(C)(3) exemption

Lion Rich Krodel

The following article is the experiences of three District 23A Lions Clubs as they apply for 501(C)(3) exemption status.

Last March, the Milford, Monroe and Shelton Community Lion Clubs representatives met for the first time to discuss each club's 501(C)(3) tax exemption filing strategy with the State of Connecticut and the Internal Revenue Service. The team members are Joe and Lynn Elmo (Milford), Pete DeCarlo and Len Berger (Monroe), Deidre Kennedy and Frank Yaworowski (Shelton Community) and Zone Chairman Rich Krodel.

Zone Chairman Rich had previously met with PDG Rose Marie Spatafore (Seymour Lions) and Lion Joyce Wruck of the Yalesville Wallingford Lions Club to discuss the process they went through to obtain 501(C)(3) exemption. The detailed information provided by them was instrumental in giving the team a great jump-start. At the first meeting, they reviewed the process and prepared their own plan and strategy to approach this as a team to file consistently, expeditiously, and at minimal cost.

The team met three weeks later, and they were all successful in meeting the deliverables identified in their strategy and next steps which were: discuss the benefits and concerns for becoming a 501(C)(3), name of the new corporation, and secure budget approval from their Board of Directors and membership. Moving forward, the team then worked on creating the By-laws and Article of Incorporation of this new corporation with help from the Lions International legal department website. They also prepared other information to be filed with the State of Connecticut. They met four weeks later and had completed the next steps which were to obtain approval of By-laws and Articles of Incorporation from their respective BOD's. Now ready to file with the State of Connecticut for their Certificate of Incorporation, the team reviewed the State of Connecticut information with the objective of being as consistent as possible with each filing. The three filings were sent to the State in one mailing for approval.

While waiting for State approval the team met to review and complete the 25 page IRS 1023 application requesting 501(C)(3) tax exempt status. They received approval from the State within three weeks and met one more time to finalize the 1023 form. There were some outstanding questions on the IRS 1023, and the Orange Lions Club (who filed in 2010) was able to help them with these responses.

The team filed the State information and the 1023 form with the IRS on June 10, 2011 and received some additional questions from the IRS in the second week of September and responded within 10 days. They are now waiting for the final approval from the IRS.

Once the approvals are received, the team plans to meet to prepare a step-by-step strategy document that other clubs can use when filing for a 501(C)(3) tax exempt status.

Who's Who At The District Pride 2009-2010

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** or **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 Publisher/Editor of the District Pride for 2011-2012, Joan Bielizna.

District Governor 2011-2012

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