

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

October, November,
December 2011



Seaon's Greetings District 23A Lions. As we come to the end of 2011 it is time to reflect on what has been happening around the District and what I have been doing since my installation as District Governor in Seattle in July.

It's been my pleasure to meet, talk and celebrate with twenty Lions Clubs, two Leos Clubs, a couple Zone meetings, two New England Council meetings, two 23A Cabinet meetings, several Mid Winter Convention planning meetings, a couple MD23 Council meetings, two

Vision Screenings, some pre-council meetings, three MD23 Christmas parties, a Leos Charter Night, and the 35th Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Anchorage Alaska.

Since the beginning of the year the LEHP program, guided by Joyce Wruck, has coordinated several vision screenings to communities in the District, CLERF Chair Kathy Patterson has visited several Zone meetings and clubs bringing everyone up to date on happenings at Yale Pediatric Center and the UCONN Medical Center, Meryl Aronin has brought the news of the District's Hearing Aid program to the Zones and clubs, VDG Linda Maggs has visited Clubs with information about Lions Project- Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI) , and VDG Ed Haberli has brought 23A Lions news of the current works of LCIF . A new Leo Club was formed in Danbury and two additional clubs will be chartered within the next couple months.

At my visits with Clubs around the District I've brought the message that service is the first order of business for Connecticut Lions. Service, first, to the people in need in your community and then to those throughout Connecticut and the rest of the world. Secondly, get as much publicity as you can get, though newspapers, the Club website, Facebook, the local cable service, or any other media. When doing a service project ask a friend, a neighbor, a social acquaintance or someone from your workplace to join you. When people see Lions in action or have an opportunity to serve along with you in the community they want to get involved. When you see the enthusiasm, don't forget to ask them to become a Lion.

Looking back over the past six months with all the service work that the clubs in 23A have provided in their communities and with more than 50 new Lions and many more new Leos I congratulate you all for the fine work you have done. I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and may your dreams of growing Club membership come true.

**61ST ANNUAL MD23
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**



**A WEEKEND TO HONOR
OUR VETERANS**

**JOIN HAWKEYE,
TRAPPER,
RADAR, AND THE
REST, AS WE
HEAD TO KOREA!**

- ★ SATURDAY SEMINARS ★
- ★ INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ★
- ★ BANQUETS ★
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

**FARMINGTON MARRIOTT
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2012**





**JOIN US AS WE "HONOR OUR VETERANS" AT THE
61st ANNUAL MD23 LIONS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

February 3 – 5, 2012
Hartford Marriott Farmington
15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT 06032

With Lions Clubs International Guest: International Director Douglas X. Alexander (New York)

REGISTRATION FORM

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

- Registration is required for all attendees and guests.
- Registration forms must be received no later than January 27, 2012. No refunds after January 31, 2012.
- Make checks payable to: "2012 MD23 Mid-Winter Conference"
- 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

	Meal and Registration Plans	# Of Persons	Cost
A.	Saturday "Early Riser" Breakfast		@ \$18.00
B.	Saturday Lunch (Plated; Chicken Entrée)		@ \$32.00
C.	Saturday Cocktail Reception and Banquet (Plated; Beef Entrée)		@ \$55.00
D.	Sunday Continental Breakfast		@ \$20.00
E.	Children 10 and Under – incl. Saturday Lunch (children's menu) (no registration)		@ \$17.00
G.	Registration (No meals; includes Friday night entertainment and Saturday seminars)		@ \$10.00

Please note any special dietary needs (i.e. Vegetarian, Kosher) : _____

Total Due	\$ _____
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Hotel Reservations are to be made directly through the Hartford Marriott Farmington. The Lions room rates are: \$105.00 Standard and \$205.00 Suite (per room /per night). To make on-line reservations, go to: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bdct?groupCode=LMWLMWA&app=resvlink&fromDate=2/3/12&toDate=2/4/12>; or call 1-800-228-9290 or 1-860-678-1000. Be certain to indicate that you are with the Connecticut Lions Mid-Winter Conference. Room rate prices are good through January 10, 2012, so reserve yours today!

The Power of CRIS

Lion Keith Beaver, Cabinet Secretary District 23A

Imagine what it would be like if you could no longer read the newspaper or magazines. How disconnected would you start to feel from the everyday events of your community and the world? How difficult would it be to do your food shopping without knowing where the sales are? CRIS radio is there to help people facing these issues. CRIS stands for Connecticut Radio Information System and it is Connecticut's talking newsstand for the blind and print handicapped. CRIS is a private, nonprofit organization that provides information free of charge, from daily newspapers and current magazines to individuals who are unable to read printed material.

Created in 1978, CRIS first broadcast on November 26, 1979. That first broadcast lasted 2 hours and there were about 50 listeners. The first 24 hour broadcast occurred in February 1985 and has grown to serve about 4,000 listeners statewide. Over the past 31 years CRIS has proven to be a vital resource for individuals who, because of a visual, physical, mental, or learning disability, are unable to read printed material or turn the pages of a publication. This may be due to a vision impairment from diabetes, cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma or other disabilities, such as Arthritis, Dyslexia, Parkinson's, ALS or Cerebral Palsy. Approximately 80 percent of CRIS listeners are 50 years and older, most of whom are legally blind.

CRIS programs keep people informed on the news of the world, the state and their local community. The listeners enjoy access to news, supermarket and department store ads, area events, obituaries, sports, business news, accessible products catalogs, books and short stories and a variety of articles from daily newspapers and national magazines. CRIS also produces several talk and interview programs including "Focal Point", a broadcast which features issues concerning the blind, handicapped and elderly community; "For Your Protection" which is a program hosted by West Hartford Fire Chief William Austin, that provides important information to assist individuals with disabilities prepare for emergency situations; and "The Commissioner's Corner", hosted by Dr. Norma Gyle, the Deputy Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Public Health with broadcasts on a wide range of health information.

CRIS programs cannot be received on a regular radio as we broadcast on a sideband frequency, so our listeners typically receive the programs through pre-tuned radios which are provided free of charge. The broadcasts can also be received via cable TV systems, the telephone, or the internet at CRISradio.org. The programs originate from the main broadcast center in Windsor, Connecticut as well as regional satellite studios in Danbury, Norwich, Trumbull, and West Haven.

CRIS relies on over 400 volunteers statewide to help with the production, programming and the day-to-day operations of CRIS. Volunteers script, read, and operate the control board for daily broadcasts. The volunteers also help with office work, bookkeeping, marketing, radio distribution, serving on our Board of Directors, and representing CRIS as speakers at various civic organizations. Along with the many volunteers CRIS employs a staff of three full-time and two part-time people. The program receives financial support from a variety of resources including private foundations, businesses and corporations, Lions Clubs and other civic organizations, individual donations, the state Board of Education, Services for the Blind, and fundraising events. Approximately 90% of the income received goes directly to program services. For further information or to download Listener or Volunteer Applications please visit CRISradio.org.



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

To the Lions Clubs of 23A:

We, the President, Administrator, Area Representatives and Trustees of Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence wish to thank all the Lions Clubs in 23A for their pledges and donations this year.

We would especially like to thank the Wolcott Club for naming LPCCI as the beneficiary of it's golf tournament earlier this year.

If your Club needs a presentation to learn more about LPCCI, we are at your disposal. Using the current directory go to page 9.

In Lionism,
Linda Maggs, Trustee
Joseph Poirier, Trustee
Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence



Book Signing and Buffet Brunch

Lion Gregory Slomba is having a book signing in support of his new book at Two Steps Downtown Grille in Danbury on Sunday, January 29th. The signing will take place from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, during Two Steps' fabulous brunch. Every adult in your party will get \$3.00 off just for purchasing a copy of the book.

Slomba published his new book, *The Deliverers: Sharky and the Jewel*, at the end of 2011. It is a fantasy for children ages 9 to 13. A portion of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the New Fairfield Candlewood Lions Club. Slomba is currently serving as the club's president; and is the Zone 5 Chair for District 23A.

For reservations call: (203) 794-0032 or send an email to: tom-twostepsrest@comcast.net.

Two Steps Downtown Grille is located at 5 Ives Street, Danbury, CT.



**THE DELIVERERS:
SHARKY & THE JEWEL**

Book Signing Buffet Brunch
Sunday January 29, 2012 - 11:00 to 2:00 pm -
with author Gregory Slomba of New Fairfield

The Deliverers: Sharky and the Jewel

"I've always felt there are stories inside me waiting to be told. I've told a lot of little ones over the years. This book is the first of the big ones. Writing takes me places that I can only imagine. I can do things through writing that I never could do in the real world."

- Brunch Buffet -

Bagels - Old-Fashioned Crumbcake - Muffins
Fresh Fruit - Pasta Salad - Yogurt - Caesar Salad - Salad Bar
Chocolate Chip Pancakes - "Nutty" French Toast - Breakfast Sausage
Scrambled Eggs with Cheddar - Roasted Red Potatoes
Fresh Maine Crabcakes - Country Fried Chicken
Our Famous BBQ Baby Back Ribs - Whole Baked New England Ham

Special Offer Only \$13.95 for Adults - \$6.95 Kids under 10
Get \$3.00 off every Adult in your Party
just for purchasing a copy of the book **Special Offer**

for reservations call - (203) 794-0032 or email tom-twostepsrest@comcast.net
Two Steps Downtown Grille - 5 Ives Street - Danbury, CT

A WORLD IS IN TROUBLE, WHO CAN SAVE IT?
Certainly not Eric Scott, a 12 year old boy coming to grips with his own personal tragedy. But that's exactly what Stig, an owl from another world, asks him to do. Together, they are sent to deliver Calondria, a small fishing village, from Sharky, an immortal pirate captain that has enslaved them. But defeating Sharky and his band of bloodthirsty pirates will be no easy task.

Club Reports and Updates at LCI Website

Lion Ernie Harrington, Webmaster District 23A

The Lions Clubs International (LCI) website contains a wealth of information for all members. Have you visited <http://www.lionsclubs.org/> recently? If not, I encourage you to do so soon. For club officers it is a must.

Club officers can report/edit membership records, report activities and fund raiser activities (with pictures) sharing these with other clubs, and set up next year's officers. There are limitations on manual reporting, online reporting is by far the more efficient way to go.

Only the **club secretary** and the **club president** have permissions to update their club records on line at LCI.

The three Major report forms are:

- **MMR or WMMR** = Monthly Membership Report.
- **Service Activity Report** = **Describe what your club is doing**; share with the world. See what others are doing. Even share pictures here.
- **PU101** - Club Officers for the next year are reported to international by May 15, 2012. [See Election Guide for advanced planning] Missing this deadline causes a lot of people a lot of extra work.

The district governor gets a Club Health Assessment each month. RED flag items (items needing attention) are: no MMR for over three months, low membership, failure to report any activities, and overdue fees. This Lion year 29 of 52 clubs (55.8%) have reported only 215 activities.. How many of these are from your club?

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

- Go to website: <http://www.lionsclubs.org>
- Click "Submit Reports" – third menu item under language choices.
- Click: [Lion Officers Login Here](#)

At the login screen there are Tutorials, and email and phone number for support. Alternatively you can call or email your region chair, your zone or me, the district23a.org webmaster for assistance in submitting reports. My email address is: webmaster@district23A.org

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[Club](#)

[Zone](#)

[Region](#)

[District](#)

[Multi-District](#)

[Activities](#)

[Logout](#)

Lions Eye Health Program

Update on Pediatric Eye Screening

Lion Alan Daninhirsch, PCC

It has been a little over one year since The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF), under its Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) conducted its first Pediatric Eye Screening in Connecticut. Since September, 2011, we have screened over 1000 children in the 2 to 5 year age group in over 20 towns across the State.

The Plusoptix S08 screening machine we are using screens for seven different eye abnormalities including:

- Myopia (Near-sightedness)
- Hyperopia (Far-sightedness)
- Anisometropia (Unequal refractive power)
- Astigmatism (Blurred vision, eye structure problem)
- Anisocoria (Pupil size deviations)
- Strabismus (Misalignment of the eyes)
- Amblyopia (Lazy eye)

The last two of these abnormalities are the most serious because while the condition can be successfully corrected if treated while the child is of pre-school age, it is usually impossible to correct after the child reaches 6 or 7 years of age. We are currently finding that about 12 percent of the children we screen have one or more of these abnormalities and have been referred to eye care specialists for further examination and treatment.

The screening equipment is extremely simple to operate and proper procedures can be learned in just a few minutes. The equipment prints out complete data on each patient and provides a simple "PASS" or "REFER" statement on each printout. It is not necessary to have an eye doctor present at the screening. All analysis is done by the machine.

The procedures we have established for conducting these pediatric eye screenings requires bringing the screening to the children, rather than bringing the child to the screening. In a year of dealing with this program, we have found that screening young children in their own comfortable environment works far better than attempting to screen in a more public setting that is usually more distracting and intimidating to a 3 or 4 year old. Even though the screening process requires the child's attention for only a fraction of a second, it is amazing how easily a youngster can be distracted when outside his or her sphere of comfort. Thus, the requirement is placed upon the individual club wishing to screen children in its town, to seek out local nursery schools, Head Start programs and pre-school facilities and set up screenings at these facilities with the facility administrators. On the following page is an outline of the procedures to follow to arrange for a screening in your town.

HOW TO DO A PEDIATRIC EYE SCREENING IN YOUR TOWN

- Step 1: Select a screening team. Choose at least 3 members of your club who can be available for week-day daytime hours. At least one should have basic computer capability. All should be good with children. Have each fill out a background check form.**
- Step 2: Visit local Nursery Schools, Head Start Programs or Preschool Programs in your town and determine if there is a desire on their part to have such a screening performed. Use the sample letter as an introduction.**
- Step 3: Contact your District LEHP Chairperson to establish a date for the screening.**
- Step 4: Return to the preschool facility, establish the date for the screening, fill out and sign the memorandum of understanding and provide them with enough consent forms for all children.**
- Step 5: Check out the actual space in which the screening will be performed. Review furniture, lighting control and availability of electricity.**
- Step 6: Perform the screening and provide appropriate paperwork to the preschool administrator and the LEHP Chairperson.**

PDG Dan and Lion Sandy Uitti have been managing this program for the past year and are prepared to help you and your District LEHP Chairperson get a screening under way in your town. To understand how vital this program is, every Lions should know that with the exception of Federally Funded Head Start Programs there is no mandated eye screening program in the State of Connecticut for pre-school children. It is estimated that there are over 150,000 children in our State that will enter kindergarten without ever having had their eyes screened! Get a screening team together in your Club now. We have the ability to impact thousands of our young people, but you must take the first step.

Pajama Party — Seymour Lions Style

Lion Melisa A. Smith Poynton

On December 7th, Lion Tanya and Lion Carol went to the Salvation Army in Ansonia, CT to deliver \$150.00 worth of pajamas donated by the Seymour Lions Club. Sly posed in the pictures with Lion Carol and Lion Tanya.



*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*

Bridgeport Lions Club Celebrates our 90th Anniversary and Presents

“A Valentine Dinner Dance”

Saturday, February 11 2012

6:00 pm –Cocktails

7:00 pm—Dinner



Bridgeport Holiday Inn
1070 Main St. Bridgeport

Entertainment provided by Jack “Dino” Lynn

Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing and live music,
featuring Jack Lynn Crooning the songs of
Dean Martin and some of his good friends

Tickets \$50.00 per person
Choice of Stuffed Breast of Chicken, Roast Sirloin of Beef or
Broiled Tilapia and a Cash Bar

RSVP your reservations today– include meal choice
Contact Amy Lynn at amy@bridgeporthostlions.com

Or 203-767-4045

All Proceeds will benefit the charities of
The Bridgeport Lions Club

Snow Day—Sunday Feb 12 at 4:00 PM



Who's Who At The District Pride 2011-2012

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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