

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTICUT LIONS
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 23A**

2009



2010

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Issue No. 6

DG Mark's Monthly Message

Greetings to the Lions of District 23A! In these last few days of 2009, most of us are wondering where the heck the past year went. If you've given yourself the "gift" of some time off over the holidays...good for you! If not, I can only hope that the pace has slowed enough for you to catch your breath. Personally, I've enjoyed some nights at home these last two weeks while our clubs go into holiday mode and (hopefully) start to recharge their batteries for the remainder of the 2009-2010 Lions Year.

With that in mind, I have a confession to make. Here it goes – I really hate performance goals. It's not that I don't think they're important for personal and professional growth...they most certainly are. It's just that "Life" always seems to get in the way of attaining these goals. I suppose there's no way to stop this from happening. None of us can operate in a bubble, unaffected by outside forces and influences. I honestly believe that each one of us wants to exceed expectations when it comes to goals we've set for ourselves. And so we push ahead.

So as we head into Part 2 of this Lions Year, I think it's time to ponder the "Is your glass half full or half empty" conundrum. And in order to do this, we have to look back at my primary District Governor goals for the year, and see where we stand.

- "MOVE TO GROW" Membership – encourage the recruitment of no less than 25 new members per quarter across the District.

Results: As of December 28th, we have **41 new Lions** officially recorded with Lions Clubs International. That's worth celebrating! We're just a little bit behind our goal. I'm positive that this will improve in the New Year, because through November, only 10 of our 51 clubs show a plus membership. This has to improve, fellow Lions. Extend those invitations today and get lots of new members on board and engaged in your club activities. We want every club to show a +1 (or better) in the membership growth column soon.

- "MOVE TO GROW" Extension – conduct an LCI-supported Extension Workshop early in the 2009-2010 Lions Year with the intention of chartering 2 new clubs in the District, each with a minimum of 25 Charter Members.

Results: The workshop was held in September. One of the 2 new charter clubs is ready to go (see below), and the other is coming along nicely. We also have the planning in place

for another 1-2 charter clubs. Our team has no intention of losing its momentum. I'm going to say we've done an excellent job on this goal.

- “MOVE TO GROW” Retention – enhance existing retention programs in an effort to continue to reduce the number of dropped members, particularly those who are considered to be in “good standing” with their club.

Results: This is always the tough one. As of December 28th, the District has dropped 78 Lions from the club rosters. Of course, there are many reasons for this. But out of this total, over 1/3 of them were listed as being in “good standing.” We need to try to move these Lions into other clubs, if possible. Remember, these are community service-minded people. If we can get them to transfer to another club nearby, we have a chance to foster their growth as Lions and keep them in our ranks. I will be making an extra effort to talk with the clubs about these drops, and hopefully salvage some members. It's all of our responsibility to retain our Lions.

- “MOVE TO GROW” Leadership – empower our Lions in an effort to develop a new stable of leaders, leveraging our experience and focusing on best practices.

Results: I believe we're doing an excellent job in getting our Lions leaders trained and out speaking to clubs. Our Cabinet members are active, engaged and talking up Lionism. You are sure to see more of this in the coming months. Want to be a part of it? Then talk to me about how you can best communicate your Lions talents to the District.

So how are we doing overall? Well, as a “glass half full” kind of guy, I'm very encouraged by our progress so far. The Lions of District 23A are doing a great job in living our motto WE SERVE! But there is still a lot work to be done, and it's time to hunker down and strive to exceed these goals. I know you can do it. You've told me this over the last six months, so now it's time to put words into action. Please give that extra Lions effort in the months ahead to make our District stronger, supporting our communities in new and more visible ways, and honoring each other as fellow Lions for the outstanding effort we make as a part of the greatest service organization in the world!

Thank you for being Lions.

UPDATE ON EXTENSION PROJECTS

Here's some terrific news to get our New Year off to a fantastic start!

On Monday evening, December 28th, club officers were selected, the paperwork was completed, and so the Shelton Community Lions Club is ready to be chartered!! Thanks to a strong December push and some great networking by the charter members, we hit that magic number of 20 (and then some) to be able to get the new club formally established. I can't tell you how proud I am of this group. They have developed a solid bond over the last three months of information meetings, and are looking forward to serving their community and the District in the months and years ahead. There will be a separate announcement soon regarding Charter Night, so please stayed tuned to your In Box.

I must recognize Lion Rich Krodel and Lion Lyn Meyers for their efforts in making the Shelton Community Lions Club happen. Apart from their many other Lions duties, these two gentlemen

have both been instrumental in getting the word out, recruiting charter members and participating in the information meetings. Well done!!

We continue to work hard in recruiting charter members for the new club in Westport. Those who have already signed up are solidly behind the effort, and have been tasked with reaching out to their friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members who they believe would be strong additions to the new club. We are confident that the Westport club will become a reality in the coming months. And after that...you'll just have to keep your eyes and ears open!

REMINDER – MD23 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Don't forget to mark you calendars for the 59th Annual MD23 Mid-Winter Conference to be held on February 5-7, 2010. Once again, this event is being held in our District at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Southbury. Friday night will feature hospitality with an Australian theme, hosted by 2nd VDG Lyn Meyers and the Danbury Lions Club. Saturday will be filled with seminars and informational exhibits, capped off by a banquet featuring First International Vice President Sid Scruggs. Sunday morning will feature a roundtable discussion with our International guest and the MD Council.

Please make sure you get your registration forms in soon. The Mid-Winter Conference is a terrific opportunity for all of us to participate in the excitement, camaraderie and fun that is Lionism! For registration forms, please go to the MD23 website (www.ctlions.org).

REMINDER – 3rd DISTRICT 23A Cabinet Meeting

All Cabinet members and Club Presidents and Secretaries have received notice via e-mail that our 3rd District 23A Cabinet Meeting will be held on at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4th at J. J. Sullivan's** in Ansonia. Please make sure you respond immediately regarding your attendance and meal choice to Cabinet Secretary Tom Sullivan at thomas.r.sullivan@charter.net or at (203) 740-7708 (if you have not already done so) in order for an accurate count to be given to the restaurant. Cabinet meetings are **open to all Lions**, so please plan to join us.

PEACE POSTER UPDATE

Congratulations to 12-year old Choiwing Yeung, a 7th grader from Walter P. Polson Middle School in Madison for being selected not only as the District 23A Peace Poster Contest winner, but for being unanimously selected as the winner for Multiple District 23. Ms. Yeung's original artwork incorporating the "Power of Peace" theme has been sent on to Lions Clubs International to compete against local winners from around the world. By the way, this is the second year in a row that the Madison Lions Club has submitted the eventual MD23 winner. Thanks to President Barry Miller and the entire club for keeping the Peace Poster initiative alive and well.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

District Governor Visitations:

- January 5 Hamden
- January 6 Bethel
- January 7 Waterbury (Lunch); Yalesville/Wallingford
- January 12 Ridgefield
- January 13 Middlebury

- January 14 Brookfield
- January 19 East Haven
- January 26 Stratford
- January 27 Madison

District 23A Events:

- January 4 District 23A Cabinet Meeting (J. J. Sullivan's, Ansonia, CT)
- January 25 Region 1 (Zones 1 and 2) Meeting (time and location TBA)

Multiple District 23 Events

- January 11 MD 23 Council Meeting (time and location TBA)

MD23A District Directory – Errata

Would you believe that I have no corrections this month?? Amazing!! But remember, if you do see something that needs to be fixed, just let me know and we'll get it corrected and out there for all to have!

Next Month

In the January issue, I'll get you caught up on the current topics discussed at the Cabinet and Council meetings, give the final push for Mid-Winter, and lots of other good stuff. Until then, enjoy the New Year's holiday, stay safe, and get ready for a fantastic 2010!

And here's your New Year's Resolution:

"I promise to invite my friends, family members, co-workers, and anyone else I can think of, to become a Lion in the coming weeks!"

Let's "MOVE TO GROW."

In Lionism,

Mark

DG Mark