

DISTRICT 23A CABINET MEETING
Norwalk Inn & Conference Center, 99 East Avenue, Norwalk
Monday, January 8, 2018
Minutes (Draft)

The third Cabinet Meeting of Lions year 2017-2018 was held at the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center, 99 East Avenue, in Norwalk on January 8, 2018. District Governor Shaukat Khan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. There were twenty-two (22) Lions present. (See attachment #1 for details.)

A four-point meeting opening was observed, followed by a moment silence offered in memory of Lion Jean Bennett, mother of Cabinet Secretary Jim, who passed away on Saturday morning.

DG Welcoming Remarks: Shaukat reminded everyone of the upcoming State Lions Convention, to be held from February 2nd-4th at the Radisson Cromwell, announced that another new Lions Club has come on board since the last Cabinet Meeting (New Haven Veterans Centennial Lions Club) as well as a new Leo Club (sponsored by Bridgeport), but he hasn't had any success to date starting up a Campus Club. Membership in the District is just slightly in the positive thru six months, but he would like to end the year with a plus 100, so we have much work to do here. Shaukat reported that he has visited twenty-eight (28) clubs to date and hopes to finish his visits by mid-March so that he can focus more attention on the clubs which really need help. He continues to publish a monthly newsletter. Shaukat concluded his remarks by reporting on the NELC Meeting he attended last weekend in Massachusetts, where the possibility of holding a New England Lions-sponsored Speaking Contest was discussed.

Remarks by PCC Mark Lyon: Mark, Connecticut's endorsed International Director Candidate, was invited to speak briefly to the group. He reported that his Committee recently got together to do a mass envelopes-stuffing (including an introductory letter, his campaign brochure, business card, and a pledge form) and mailing to Lions leaders throughout the state, New England, and the world. Mark has a busy visitation schedule planned for the next several months, as he will be making appearances (accompanied by a Committee member or two) to every Mid-Winter Conference and/or State Convention held in New England. His endorsement is good for three years, but Mark is hopeful, make that determined, that he can get the job done in Las Vegas in 2018. Toward that end, he encourages as many Connecticut Lions as possible to join him at the International Convention, where they can help him by distributing literature, interacting with other Lions, and just being a strong support presence for him. Mark handed out campaign pins to everyone present and also noted that his District 23A Committee members include PDG's Colette Anderson, Jim and Joan Bennett, and Ed Haberli.

After a **motion made by 2nd VDG Bill Manthey, seconded by 1st VDG Allen O'Farrell, the minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on October 9, 2017 were approved.**

Cabinet Secretary Bennett noted the several correspondences he sent out since the last Cabinet Meeting, some at the request of DG Khan, and others as requested by Cabinet Chairmen. (See attachment #2 for a complete list.)

Cabinet Treasurer Linda Maggs presented a Financial Report for the current Lions year as of this date (attachment #3), commented that all accounts are in balance, said she clears out the charity accounts that are just holding accounts for other entities on a regular basis, and reported that mailed out 2nd half dues bills to all District clubs today.

1st Vice-District Governor Allen O'Farrell reported that he has continued to be very busy since the last Cabinet Meeting, and he delineated some of the activities he has participated in as well as upcoming events he plans to be a part of (attachment #4). Allen also remarked that he is changing the name of the District's annual Officers Training from PSTM (Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Membership Chairs) to DLII (District Leadership Instruction Institute).

2nd Vice-District Governor Bill Manthey has likewise been busy attending meetings and club service and fundraising events while preparing for his hospitality responsibilities at the upcoming State Convention (attachment #5). Bill also mentioned that his club is having difficulty locating blind people to invite to its annual Dinner Dance for the Blind and asked for help. Anne Fortunato provided him with several very good suggestions.

Global Leadership Team: Lori-Ann Beninson reported (electronically) that a successful Regional Lions Leadership Institute was held in Bloomfield from October 20th-22nd and commended the instructors for the well-rounded program they presented. A successful Women and Children Symposium was held in Hamden on November 18th, and Lori-Ann thanked Chairperson Kathy Patterson and her team for putting on this very informative program. She also reported that she recently completed Guiding Lions Training and that she has tentatively scheduled a District Leadership Training session (to include a Guiding Lion component) for February 24th in Bethany. Lastly, Lori-Ann mentioned that she is working very hard to revitalize the Bethel Lions Club. That club's President attended the last Zone 5 Meeting, and the February 26th Zone 5 Meeting will be held in Bethel.

Global Membership Team: Melissa Smith reported that District membership is up by three (3) as of January 5th (from 1,422 to 1,425), summarized the December MD23 Membership Seminar held in Cheshire, reported on recent club visits she has made and club activities she has attended, and highlighted some of her future schedule for same. (See attachment #6 for her full report.)

Global Service Team: Chairperson Janet Brunwin commented that she thought the Membership Seminar conducted on December 2nd was superb! Her main focus so far has been to attend Zone Meetings to talk about the importance of clubs holding service activities, and, equally important, reporting those activities via MyLCI. Unfortunately, fifteen of the District's fifty clubs do not report any service activities whatever. From those who do, Janet announced that \$138,000 has been raised in the first six months.

Region I: Alan Sturtz remarked that membership is down by 18 year-to-date and summarized happenings at the two Region I Meetings held. (See attachment #7 for his full report.)

Zone 1: Chairperson Mundra was absent, and no report was received.

Zone 2: Kim Cunningham reported on the successful Zones 1 and 2 Meeting held on December 18th and reviewed the membership/health status of the clubs in her Zone. (See attachment #8 for her full report.)

Region II: Chairperson Gustafson absent, no report received.

Zone 3: Chairperson Stoccatore absent, no report received.

Zone 4: Anne Dembski reported (electronically) that she visited all six of her clubs in October and announced that the next Zone 4 Meeting is scheduled for January 11th, weather permitting. (See attachment #9 for her full report.)

Region III: Chairperson Groski absent, no report received.

Zone 5: Joan Bielizna absent, no report received.

Zone 6: Ken Post reported (electronically) that his goal this year is to visit each of his clubs twice; once for a meeting, and once for an activity. To date he has attended seven separate club activities and one meeting, and he has several other visits planned this month and next. The next Zone 6 Meeting will be held in Prospect on January 25th.

Region IV: Chairperson Fazzino absent, no report received.

Zone 7: Nick Bencivengo reported that a Region IV Meeting was held on January 3rd with three of his six clubs attending, and he announced the following upcoming events: the Milford Lions will hold a "Taste of Italy" fundraiser on February 17th; the West Haven Lions will sponsor a "Painting for the Cure" fundraiser on February 25th, the next Region IV Meeting is scheduled for March 14th in New Haven, and the Orange Lions Club will conduct a Wine/Beer Tasting on March 16th.

Zone 8: Letizia Morales announced three upcoming club fundraising events as follows: the North Haven Lions will hold a Comedy Night event on January 13th; the East Haven Lions Club will support a January 20th Gay Men's Chorus Bingo Night; and the Hamden Lions will sponsor a Zumba event at Healthtrax (North Haven) on January 23rd. (Please see attachment #10 for complete minutes of the January 3rd Region Meeting.)

Committee Reports:

Lions Alert/Emergency Response: Ted Bresky reported that eighty volunteers have responded to recent local emergency service needs caused by fires and cold weather, and he also mentioned that the Red Cross is still promoting its free smoke detectors program. (See attachment #11 for the flyer.)

Centennial Service Challenge: Linda Stephenson reported (electronically) that she is aware of three 23A Centennial Service Projects: Meriden is providing fencing for the new Meriden Dog Park (at a cost of \$12,000) and will also be replacing the wood decking at Lions Park (cost: \$6,000); while the Milford and Orange Lions Clubs, working together, upgraded landscaping and did some interior touch-ups to a local homeless shelter.

Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF): Alan Sturtz reported on the actions taken at the Board's December 11th Meeting and announced that CLERF's Endowment balance stood at 2.4M as of 31 October. (See attachment #12 for his full report.)

Conventions: Mark Lyon urged everyone to please make every effort to attend the MW/State Lions Convention scheduled for February 2nd-4th at the Radisson Cromwell Hotel, and he also encouraged Lions to consider attending this year's USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, to be held in Columbus, OH from September 20th-22nd. (DG Shaukat suggested that each District might want to contemplate holding its own Mid-Winter Conference going forward.)

Diabetes Awareness and Action: Jerry Dellert announced that Lions Appreciation Day at Camp Joslin will be held on July 21st, mentioned that he and Helene are working on a Strides Walk fundraiser, and thanked all the clubs who have supported their magazine subscription challenge. (See attachment #13 for a full report.)

International Relations: Diane Yamin reported that she sent a letter to Club Presidents on December 26th encouraging clubs to: 1) consider twinning with other clubs outside the U.S., and 2) consider attending Lions Day at the United Nations (March 24th). (See attachment #14 for her letter and attachment #15 for instructions on how to register online for Lions Day at the UN.)

International Photo Contest: Frank Molinaro reported that LCI has announced that it will no longer host the Environmental Photo Contest but asks clubs to take advantage of the MyLion app to enter other online photo contests going forward.

Lions Clubs International Foundation: Joan Bennett announced that LCIF reached its \$30M Measles Initiative Challenge Goal by 31 December, so it will be receiving a \$30M matching grant from the Gates Foundation. Also,

contributions to LCIF from District 23A Clubs total \$45,546.75 thru November 30th, or 123.57% of her goal for the year.

Lions Eye Health Program: Joyce Wruck commented that the KidSight Program is running smoothly, with 17,375 kids screened as of this date. (See attachment #16 for her full report.)

Opening Eyes: Joan Bennett reminded everyone that the dates this year are June 9th-10th at Southern CT State University. She would also appreciate having some people willing to help set up the room on June 8th and/or help pack everything up on Sunday afternoon.

Opportunities for Youth: Jay Farrell reported (electronically) on a visit DG Khan made to the Seth Hadley Elementary School in West Haven on December 15th at which he accepted handmade Christmas cards made by the school's children, to be delivered to patients at the VA Medical Center in West Haven. (See attachment #17 for her full report.)

Promote Connecticut: Joan Bennett commented that this Committee's main focus this year is to raise funds for I.D. Candidate Mark Lyon, so please (both individuals and clubs) contribute to his campaign. She also announced that the PDG Associations in all three Districts plan to conduct fundraisers for Mark.

Service Dog Programs:

Marie-Anne Barnhart and Joan Hunt, Fidelco Project Co-Chairs, reported that the Foundation has developed a new brochure and commented that there is presently a plethora of puppies available for fostering. (See attachment #18 for their full report.)

Services for Veterans: Paul-Stephen Varszegi announced that he is now working on a Charter Night for the New Haven Veterans Centennial Lions Club and should have some details to proclaim shortly.

DG Recognitions:

DG Khan announced that two Lions won his second quarter Membership Challenge by sponsoring two new members each. They were himself and RC Joe Fazzino (Branford).

Old Business: None

New Business: None

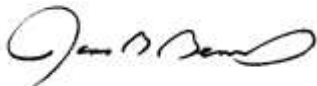
Announcements:

North Haven Lions Club President Alan Sturtz put in a plug for his club's upcoming Comedy Night fundraiser, to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Saturday, January 13th, beginning at 6:00 pm, and 1st VDG Allen O'Farrell likewise plugged an upcoming Greenwich Lions Club fundraiser, its 38th Annual Pancake Breakfast, which it will conduct on March 10th.

After District Chaplain Jim Bennett offered the Benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

The next Cabinet Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 19, 2018** at Brazi's Restaurant in New Haven.

Respectfully submitted,



James B. Bennett, PDG
Cabinet Secretary, District 23A