

DISTRICT 23A CABINET MEETING
Brazi's Restaurant, 201 Food Terminal Plaza, New Haven
Monday, March 19, 2018
Minutes (Draft)

The fourth Cabinet Meeting of Lions year 2017-2018 was held at Brazi's Restaurant, 201 Food Terminal Plaza, in New Haven on **March 19, 2018**. District Governor Shaukat Khan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. There were thirty-eight (38) Lions present. (See attachment #1 for details.)

A four-point meeting opening was first observed.

DG Welcoming Remarks: Shaukat remarked that it's an exciting time to be a Lion, both locally and globally. Locally, we have welcomed in two new Lions Clubs and a new Leo Club, show a slight increase in membership, are working on a third new Lions Club, have 70% of the clubs reporting activities on MyLCI, and have conducted leadership training for future leaders and new Certified Guiding Lions. Globally, our District has an endorsed candidate for International Director (PCC Mark Lyon), Lions have provided service to more than 215 million people, and our association will welcome its first female President next July. DG Khan also reported that he has visited forty-two (42) of the District's fifty (50) clubs to date.

Remarks by CC Kathy Randall: MD23 Council Chair Kathy Randall observed that DG Shaukat has been quite busy this year and commended him on the two new clubs he established before the end of December and on the membership growth the District has achieved year-to-date. She encouraged Lions to please consider attending Lions Day at the United Nations (on March 24th), the 101st International Lions Convention (July 29th-July 3rd, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas), and the 41st Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum (September 20th-22nd, in Columbus, OH), and she announced that next year's State Lions Convention will be held from May 5-7, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel Cromwell.

On a motion made by 2nd VDG Bill Manthey, seconded by Region I Chair Alan Sturtz, the minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on January 8, 2018 were approved.

PDG Joan Bennett announced that the wood-carved Lions head she is sitting next to will be raffled off at May 5th's MD23 Centennial Gala to be held at the Radisson Hotel Cromwell as a fundraiser for PCC Mark Lyon, and she just happens to have some \$10 raffle tickets with her tonight.

Cabinet Secretary Bennett noted that he sent out fifteen correspondences 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.)

DG Shaukat presented Certified Guiding Lion Certificates to District GLT Coordinator Lori-Ann Beninson and to 2nd VDG Bill Manthey.

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, and explained why some project accounts are cleared out periodically while others accumulate funds over time.

Speaker: We next welcomed Jennifer Cretella, Development Director at the Clifford Beers Clinic, for a few remarks. The Clifford Beers Clinic is an advocate for mental health issues that works with the whole family. Its

newest clinic just opened on Marne Street in Hamden, and it is a one-stop shop “offering comfort, community, and consistency to promote social inclusion for children and adults with disabilities.” Care is offered in a truly comprehensive fashion, and there is no “aging out” of care. The speaker was aware of the Autism Speaks group and mentioned that Clifford Beers was present at last November’s event in Wallingford. She was also knowledgeable of the upcoming pediatric screening the PDG Bennetts are planning to conduct at the Marne Street location on May 5th.

1st Vice-District Governor Allen O’Farrell reported on some of the many activities he has attended since the last Cabinet Meeting, announced that Lori-Ann Beninson will be his Cabinet Secretary and that PCC Linda Maggs will be repeating as Cabinet Treasurer, and commented that Club/District Officers Training will be held on May 12th at a location and time still to be determined. (Please see attachment #4 for his complete report.)

2nd Vice-District Governor Bill Manthey thanked everyone who supported his hospitality responsibilities at the MW/State Lions Convention and mentioned that he has also been quite busy since the last Cabinet Meeting. (Attachment #5 contains his complete report).

Global Leadership Team: Lori-Ann Beninson reported that Guiding Lions Training was successfully-conducted in Bethany on March 4th. All in attendance completed the training in acceptance with LCI’s requirements, and she is looking forward to seeing the graduates utilized in a variety of roles to help grow our District. And, as 1st VDG O’Farrell announced, planning for District training has begun, and more information of when and where should be announced shortly

Global Membership Team: Melissa Smith reported (electronically) that District membership is up by five (5) as of March 18th (from 1,422 to 1,427), reported on the recent club visits she has made, the club activities she has attended, and the Zone Meetings she has attended, and she highlighted some of her future schedule for same. (See attachment #6 for her full report.)

Global Service Team: Janet Brunwin reported that her main focus continues to be attending Zone Meetings to talk to clubs about the importance of holding service activities, and, equally important, reporting those activities via MyLCI. To date she has attended seven separate or combined Zone Meetings and has just Zone 3 still to visit.

Region I: Alan Sturtz remarked that a third combined Zone 1 and 2 Meeting was held on March 12th, with four of the Region’s ten clubs present, and he stated that membership continues to be down by 18 year-to-date. (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 March 12th and reviewed the membership/health/activities status of the clubs in her Zone (Easton, Fairfield, Georgetown, Norwalk, and Ridgefield), while also highlighting some of her personal projects and goals. (See attachment #8 for her full report.)

Region II: Linda Gustafson reported that she went to Zone 4’s Meeting last week, which she found very enjoyable, with the attendees upbeat and enthusiastic. Zone 3 Chairperson Al Stoccatore has been running phone meetings this year due to various health issues.

Zone 3: Chairperson Stoccatore absent, no report received.

Zone 4: Anne Dembski reported (electronically) on the productive Zone 4 Meeting held on March 15th, with the Beacon Falls, Bethany, Oxford, and Seymour clubs present. All have completed recent service and/or fundraising projects and have other ones planned. (See attachment #9 for her full report.)

Region III: Chairperson Groski absent, no report received.

Zone 5: Joan Bielizna remarked that a Zone Meeting was held on February 26th with four of six clubs attending. Activities announced included an April 1st Wine and Cheese Social for Prospective Members (Danbury), a June 27th Golf Tournament (Danbury), and a July 1st NY Yankees Baseball Game fundraiser (NF Candlewood).

Zone 6: Ken Post announced that his next Zone Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd.

Region IV: Joe Fazzino deferred to his two Zone Chairs regarding activities conducted by the twelve clubs in his Region, commenting only that he has been focusing his efforts on the Guilford club and saying he is pleased the Club Secretary is now online and excited also that the club is putting on a Wine and Paint project in April.

Zone 7: Nick Bencivengo reported that a Region IV Meeting was held on March 14th with three of his six clubs attending, and he announced the following completed and/or upcoming club activities: Milford earned \$3,226 from a February 17th "Taste of Italy" night and is conducting a Comedy Night fundraiser on April 6th; New Haven made \$6,250-worth of charitable donations in the past two months and is now gearing up for its 40th Annual Charity Golf Tournament event (to be held on June 18th, at Grassy Hill Country Club); and Orange had inducted three new members since 1 January, netted more than \$8,000 from a March 16th Wine and Beer Tasting, distributed more than \$7,000 in local community grants at its March meeting, and will conduct its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 24th.

Zone 8: Letizia Morales highlighted the following, upcoming club activities: Branford has a Pancake Breakfast scheduled for March 24th, a Steak and Lobster Picnic on May 14th, and a Golf Tournament slated for June 4th; East Haven will run another Military Whist event on April 20th and has another Pediatric Eye Screening planned; Hamden has a Ladies Night Out at the Good Cause Boutique slated for April 5th and a Pajama and Book Drive event on May 12th; and North Haven will hold a first-ever Wine Bottling/Corking/Labeling fundraiser on April 27th. (Please see attachment #10 for complete minutes of the March 14th Region IV Meeting.)

Committee Reports:

Lions Alert/Emergency Response: Ted Bresky reported that the Red Cross has very busy recently responding to emergency service needs caused by the cold weather, and he also mentioned that the Red Cross is still promoting its free smoke detectors program.

Centennial Service Challenge: Linda Stephenson reported 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 some of the actions taken at the Board's February 19th Meeting and on his travels throughout the District to promote the Foundation. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for April 16th. (See attachment #11 for his full report.)

Conventions: PDG Rose Marie Spatafore urged everyone to please try to attend the International Lions Convention in Las Vegas (June 29th-July 3rd) to support the candidacy of PCC Mark Lyon for the high office of International Director. She also announced that the Milford Lions Club is co-sponsoring a new specialty club, the Central Holidays Tour Company Lions Club, in New Jersey.

Diabetes Awareness and Action: Helene Dellert announced that Lions Appreciation Day at Camp Joslin will be held on July 21st, stated that she and husband Jerry will be issuing another Campership Challenge to the clubs

this week, and reported that a Multiple District Task Force has recently been assembled to explore the possibility of establishing a Youth Diabetes Camp in Connecticut. Forty-six states currently have at least one, but Connecticut does not. (See attachment #12 for the Dellerts' full report.)

Family and Women's Membership: PDG Kathy Patterson's only comment was to thank everyone for the International President's Leadership Medal she recently received.

Information Technology: Ernie Harrington reminded everyone that May 15th is the deadline for reporting new Club Officers to LCI via MyLCI but encouraged the clubs not to wait but to report as soon as elections are held. 1st VDG O'Farrell reiterated Ernie's request, commenting that Club Officers information is needed not only for the Directory but also for District Training purposes. Ernie will also soon begin his work on next year's Directory, working with Joan Bielizna and others. Having accurate information is key, so Club Secretaries, please review your membership listings on MyLCI and fill in and/or correct all missing and/or incorrect data.

International Relations: Diane Yamin reported that March 24th's Lions Day at the United Nations is sold out, and she again encouraged clubs to consider "twinning" with other clubs outside the U. S. Diane also commented that she attended three separate Lions Club Meetings while on a recent thirty-day cruise.

Leo Clubs: Ernie Harrington stated that all eighteen (18) District Leo Clubs now have current Advisors listed on MyLCI, but most clubs are still not reporting their activities or keeping their memberships up to date. (See attachment #13 for Ernie's complete IT/Leo Report.)

Lions Clubs International Foundation: Joan Bennett announced that contributions to LCIF from District 23A Clubs total \$60,401.75 thru February 28th, or 163.87% of her goal for the year. Thirty-seven of the District's fifty clubs have made donations to LCIF so far this year.

Lions, Environmental: There may be an opportunity for Lions Clubs to earn money by promoting business conversions to LED lighting. Beacon Falls President Bill Mis has promised to forward information on this program to me, after which I will pass it along to the clubs.

Lions Eye Health Program: Joyce Wruck commented that the KidSight Program continues to run smoothly. We have six screening teams in place, who have screened 22,965 kids as of this date. (See attachment #14 for her full report.)

Lions Low Vision Centers: PDG Ed Haberli (electronically) reports that a ninth LLVC has opened in our District at Greenwich Hospital's Rehabilitation Services Center. With low vision services expanding, more money must be raised to fund the devices we provide to clients, so the Trustees are working hard to encourage the clubs to increase their donations. PDG Haberli also encourages Lions to attend the LLVC Annual Meeting on May 4th. (See attachment #15 for his complete report.)

Lions Services for Children: Per PDG Rose Marie Spatafore, Pediatric Cancer information was promulgated at the MW/State Lions Convention via a display and handouts, and Rose Marie spoke to many Lions regarding how their clubs could earn a Centennial Service Patch by donating to pediatric cancer research. PDG Spatafore said she was available to speak to clubs to promote this important Lions initiative.

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 Friday, June 8th and/or help pack everything up on Sunday afternoon.

Promote Connecticut: In PCC Tom Sullivan's absence, I reported that District 23A's PDG's, in conjunction with the Brookfield Lions Club, will be sponsoring a fundraiser for I.D. Candidate Mark Lyon in May. Details aren't finalized yet, but information should be going out shortly to everyone regarding the date, place, and cost.

Public Relations, Lions Information: PDG Lyn Meyers said new information will be going out to the clubs shortly.

Reading Action/School in a Box Programs: Brian Fournier spoke about possible holding a District-wide Spelling Bee sometime in May or June and suggested that he might need some seed money for this project. (He will be included in March 25th's Leadership Teleconference so that he can present his proposal in greater detail.)

Service Dog Programs:

Marie-Anne Barnhart and Joan Hunt, Fidelco Project Co-Chairs, reported (electronically) that Lions Appreciation Day at Fidelco will be held on May 19th, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. (See attachment #16 for their full report.)

Also, PCC Linda Maggs put in a plug for Lions Project, Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI), stating that it is another service dog entity very worthy of Lions support.

Speech and Hearing Preservation: Marianne Arrigone reported that we have provided hearing aids to nineteen (19) individuals so far this year, with another ten (10) requests in process.

Other Comments: 1st VDG O'Farrell made several comments, as follows: 1) the MD23 Centennial Gala is a big deal! It will be held at the Radisson Hotel Cromwell on May 5th, from 5:00-11:00 pm, and the reservation form should be available shortly; 2) he would like to get together in New York with others who are going to Lions Day at the UN on March 24th; 3) the Committee to Elect Mark Lyon as International Director will be running an Ice Cream Social in Las Vegas on July 2nd; all Connecticut Lions attending the Convention are invited, make that strongly encouraged to attend; 4) the MyLCI website has a ton of information on it; please check it out; and 5) the My Lion App is now available; please check this out also.

Old Business: None

New Business: DG Shaukat commented that his wish to hold a special District Lions Day does not seem to have the support of many Lions, so he suggested adding awards presentations, a celebration of this Lions year, maybe a service project, and perhaps a brief business meeting, to May 12th's District Training. Shaukat stated that his Testimonial will be held, as previously scheduled, on June 16th, and he reminded everyone that his third quarter Membership Challenge ends on March 31st.

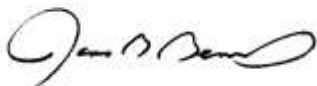
Announcements: None

Upcoming Lions Events: 3/24 – Lions Day at the UN; 4/2 – MD23 Council Meeting; 4/5 – Hamden Ladies Night out at Good Cause Gifts; 4/6 – Milford Comedy Night; 4/13 – South Meriden Wine Tasting; 4/16 – CLERF Board Meeting; 4/20 – East Haven Military Whist; 4/22 – Stamford Pancake Breakfast; 4/27 – North Haven Wine Bottling/Corking/Bottling; 5/4 – LLVC Annual Dinner; 5/5 – MD23 Centennial Gala; 5/7 – Cheshire Dinner Dance for the Blind; 5/12 – District Training; 5/12 – Hamden Pajama Program; 5/19 – Fidelco Open House; 6/4 – CLERF Annual Meeting; 6/4 – Branford Golf Tournament; 6/9-6/10 – Opening Eyes; 6/16 – District 23A Governor Testimonial; 6/18 – New Haven Golf Tournament; 6/27 – Danbury Golf Tournament; and 6/29-7-3 – International Lions Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

After a Benediction offered by District Chaplain Jim Bennett, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next Cabinet Leadership Teleconference will be conducted on Sunday, March 25th, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Note: Supporting documents (except Attendance and Financials 0 can be downloaded by clicking on Bullet to left of file name. For exceptions email Jim or Ernie.