

DISTRICT 23A CABINET MEETING
Lakeview Lodge, 265 Beacon Road, Bethany
Monday, October 9, 2017
Minutes (Draft)

The second Cabinet Meeting of Lions year 2017-2018 was held at Lakeview Lodge in Bethany on October 9, 2017. District Governor Shaukat Khan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. There were fifty (50) Lions present. (See attachment #1 for details.)

A four-point meeting opening was observed.

DG Khan first recognized Past Council Chair Sia Dowlatshahi, a candidate for International Director who hails from District 23B's South Windsor Lions Club. PCC Dowlatshahi presented his credentials and qualifications for the high office he is seeking. He joined Lions in 1992 and served as Club President one short year later. Sia then went up the ranks, becoming a Zone Chair, a Region Chair, a several times Cabinet Committee Chair, a 2nd and 1st Vice-District Governor, District Governor (2010-2011), and Council Chair (2001-2012). Most recently, PCC Sia has served on CLERF's Board of Directors and as MD23 Membership Chair. He is passionate about Lions, and he wants to bring his passion and experience to the International Lions Board.

After PCC Dowlatshahi took his leave, Lion Paul-Stephen Varszegi was allowed a few minutes to inform everyone about the U.S. Veterans' Rowing and Kayaking Program, a non-profit volunteer organization now based in Connecticut (he was first exposed to it in Rhode Island) which serves all military veterans in the East Coast region that suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other health-related issues. Lion Varszegi is a former member of the Monroe Lions Club and a current member of the Bethany Lions Club who is now attempting to bring his passion for rowing and helping veterans to the next level – by forming a new, specialty Lions Club, so please stay tuned for future developments here.

On a motion made by 2nd VDG Bill Manthey, seconded by RC Alan Sturtz, the minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on July 31, 2017 were approved.

The following correspondences were noted by Cabinet Secretary Bennett: he received a letter from the Greenwich Lions Club endorsing the candidacy of Lion Allen O'Farrell for the high office of District Governor for Lions year 2018-2019 (Attachment #2); he received a letter from the Cheshire Lions Club endorsing the candidacy of Lion William Manthey for the high office of 1st Vice-District Governor for Lions year 2018-2019 (Attachment #3); he received letters from both the New Haven and North Haven Lions Clubs endorsing the candidacy of Lion Alan Sturtz for the high office of 2nd Vice-District Governor for Lions year 2018-2019 (Attachments #4 and #5); and he mailed out the Notice of the Special MD23 Lions Convention (to be held in Middletown on November 4, 2017) and Credential Certificate Form to all Club Secretaries on October 2, 2017 (Attachments #6 and #7).

Cabinet Treasurer Linda Maggs presented a Financial Report for the current Lions year as of this date. She was pleased to note that both the Administrative and Projects Accounts are now in balance after all written checks finally cleared. (Attachments #8 and #9)

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 #10) 2nd Vice-District Governor Bill Manthey did not submit a formal report but commented that he continues to be available to assist any Cabinet Service Project Chairperson and that he is also working hard to expand the District's pediatric and adult eye screening efforts.

Global Leadership Team: Lori-Ann Beninson asked all clubs to please encourage health care professionals and educators in their local communities to attend the MD23 Women and Children Symposium scheduled for November 18, 2017 in Hamden. (See attachment #11 for the flyer.)

Global Membership Team: Melissa Smith reported that District membership is down by thirteen (13) as of October 8, 2017 and mentioned that a District Membership Seminar will be held in Cheshire on December 2, 2017. (See attachment #12 for her full report.)

Global Service Team: Chairperson Janet Brunwin absent; no report received.

Lions Clubs International Foundation: PDG Ed Haberli, MD23 LCIF Chairperson, reported that PDG Joan Bennett is in the final year of her three-year term as District 23A LCIF Coordinator, so a replacement will be needed beginning next 1 July. (See attachment #13 for his full report.)

Lions Low Vision Centers: PDG Ed Haberli, LLVC's President, presented a nice overview of the program's organizational structure, reported that we are now providing low vision services in eight locations with hopes of opening two additional sites soon, and announced two new fundraising ideas: an anonymous donor will match any contributions made by 31 December by clubs who did not donate to the LLVC's last year; and a Progressive Ambassador of Sight award will soon be introduced. (See attachment #14 for PDG Ed's full report.)

Region Reports: Alan Sturtz, Region I Chair (See attachment #15 for his report); Linda Gustafson, Region II Chair - Chairperson absent; no report received; Rich Groski, Region III Chair - Chairperson absent, no report received; and Joe Fazzino, Region IV Chair – RC Fazzino remarked that a Region IV Meeting was held on October 4, 2017 and said he has so far made visits to five clubs.

Zone Reports:

Narottam Mundra, Zone 1 Chair – ZC Mundra commented that he was excited to be a part of this year's Cabinet but unaware that he would be called upon to make a report tonight;

Kim Cunningham, Zone 2 Chair – ZC Cunningham reported that a Region 1 Meeting was held on September 25th and summarized some of the club activities presented at that meeting (Attachment #16 contains her full report);

Al Stoccatore, Zone 3 Chair – Chairperson absent, no report received;

Anne Dembski, Zone 4 Chair – ZC Dembski remarked that a Zone 4 Meeting was held at her home on October 5th (See attachment #17 for her full report);

Joan Bielizna, Zone 5 Chair – Chairperson absent, no report received;

Ken Post, Zone 6 Chair – ZC Post commented that a Zone 6 Meeting was held on October 5th, with the next one scheduled for December 28th (See attachment #18 for his full report);

Nick Bencivengo, Zone 7 Chair – Chairperson absent, but a report was received (Attachment #19); and

Letizia Morales, Zone 8 Chair – ZC Morales reported that four of her six clubs attended the Region Meeting held in New Haven on October 4th. Most are doing well, but membership remains a serious challenge with the Guilford, Hamden, and North Haven Clubs.

Cabinet Secretary Bennett reminded everyone that Charter Night for the new Wallingford Bengal Centennial Lions Club will be held at Lakeview Lodge (Bethany) this coming Friday, October 13th, beginning at 6:30 pm. Tonight is the last day to make reservations, so please see CS Bennett before you leave. The evening will be a combination Charter Night/Multi-Cultural Event, as Bridgeport Lion Jack Lynn and some performers of Bangladeshi origin will be providing entertainment after the charter ceremonies are concluded, and all extra monies received will be designated for "LCIF."

Committee Reports:

Lions Project, Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI) – PCC Linda Maggs, Chair: PCC Maggs announced that she is currently LPCCI's National President (Congratulations, Linda!). She also stated that she plans to attend an upcoming NELC Weekend to introduce that group to the good work being done by LPCCI.

Lions Alert – Ted Bresky reported that more than one hundred thirty volunteers have responded so far to the emergency service needs caused by recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida. Mark Beninson commented that CERT and CPR Training will be offered regionally this year, and he is still urging homeowners to take advantage of the "upgrade your fire alarms" program.

Centennial Service Challenge – Linda Stephenson, Chair: Linda said she sent an e-mail to clubs promoting this project and is pleased to report that the Milford and Orange Lions Clubs will be doing a joint beautification project next month.

Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF) – Alan Sturtz, Chair: Alan reported that he attended an August 21st Meeting of the Foundation (See attachment #20 for his full report).

KidSight – Joyce Wruck, Chair: Joyce reported that she currently has six screening teams in place who have screened 3,172 children since 1 July, with a 15% referral rate (See attachment #21 for her full report).

Conventions – PDG Rose Marie Spatafore, Co-Chair: PDG Spatafore urged all clubs in District 23A to please send their full slate of delegates to the November 4th MD23 Special Convention. She also mentioned that the MWC/State Convention will be a combined event this year and will be held from February 2nd-4th, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell.

Diabetes Awareness and Action - Jerry and Helene Dellert, Co-Chairs: Jerry and Helene reported that the District funded five partial and two full camperships to Camp Clara Barton last year, and they announced tonight their 2017-2018 World Diabetes Day Challenge. (See attachment #22 for their full report)

Information Technology – Ernie Harrington, Chair: Ernie reported that he begins his important work on May 16th, when he starts to track and follow up on missing information from the clubs once they report their new officers. He next works closely with Joan Bielizna and others to put together an accurate District Directory, then he tracks and posts upcoming club events on the District calendar/website.

Leo Clubs – Ernie Harrington, Chair: Ernie has been working hard to make sure all Leo Club Advisors are registered on MyLCI (only one of seventeen has not done so). He also reported that the Leo registration fee for next year's MWC/State Convention will be raised to \$25.

International Photo Contest - Frank Molinaro, Chair: Frank reported that LCI is presently evaluating its Environmental Photo Contest for possible changes, so there may not be a contest in 2017.

International Relations – Dianne Yamin, Chair: Dianne suggested three possible endeavors clubs might want to pursue – Youth and Camp Exchange; Lions Day at the UN; and Club Twinning. (See attachment #23 for her full report)

CRIS – Keith Beaver, Chair: Keith said things are going well, although there are opportunities available at the Danbury studio. Also, he announced that a new studio recently opened in Norwalk.

Past District Governors – PCC Tom Sullivan, Chair: In PCC Tom's absence, the Cabinet Secretary announced that the PDG Association will next meet on October 17th at the Valley Diner in Derby.

Peace Poster – Dot Pickens, Chair: In Dot's absence, CS Bennett reminded everyone that posters need to be returned to DG Khan by November 15th.

Promote Connecticut – PCC Tom Sullivan, Chair: In PCC Tom’s absence, Helen Belluschi reported that a meeting of the MD23 Promote CT Committee will be held next week.

Public Relations – PDG Lyn Meyers, Co-Chair: PDG Lyn reported that he is in the process of setting up visits to Zone Meetings and individual clubs. In the interim, he stressed the importance of every club having a person in charge of public relations.

Reading Action/School-in-a-Box Programs - Brian Fournier, Chair: Brian stated that he reached out to all Club Presidents last month regarding these programs. He has visited two clubs so far, with more to come. He is planning to promote a spring fundraiser, perhaps a Spelling Bee?

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation – Marie-Anne Barnhart and Joan Hunt, Co-Chairs: Fidelco Board members (and dogs) attended September’s USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum held in Portland, OR. The Foundation will also have a presence at NELC’s upcoming Fall Conference (October 20th-22nd). Upcoming meetings of the Fidelco Lions Advisory Board are scheduled on December 2nd, March 17th, and May 19th (Open House).

White Cane Day – Anne Fortunato, Chair: Anne reported that this year’s event will be celebrated on October 15th.

Veterans Stand Down - Pam Mainiero, Chair: This year’s event was held at the Connecticut Veterans Home, 287 West Street, in Rocky Hill on September 22nd. Thirty-six Lions, six other volunteers, twenty student nurses from CCSU and Yale, and one hearing technician participated. 111 veterans had their eyesight screened, while 34 underwent a hearing exam. Pam thanked all the District 23A Lions who took part, with particular thanks to the Brookfield Lions, who not only provided volunteers but also a wonderful quantity of reading glasses.

DG Recognitions:

DG Khan announced that two Lions won his first quarter Membership Challenge by sponsoring two new members each. They are Edward Miklaszewski (Newtown) and Rae Dlugokenski (Seymour). Each received a nice clock, thank you letter, and pin.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

DG Khan announced that he received congratulatory letters from LCI’s 3rd Vice-President and from the Membership Coordinator for Constitutional Area 1 on the forming of the new Wallingford Bengal Centennial Lions Club. DG Khan also noted that he has designed Hamden as a Priority Club with LCI. There will be other clubs so designated as the year progresses. Lastly, Shaukat said he needs more Certified Guiding Lions, so please consider getting certified or re-certified now.

The Orange Lions Club announced that it will conduct a Comedy Night fundraiser on October 14th.

The New Haven Lions Club will hold its 15th Annual Wine and Beer Tasting on October 26th at Anthony’s Ocean View.

The Bridgeport Lions Club will held a Gala Evening fundraiser on November 4th at the Gaelic Club in Fairfield.

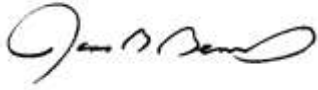
And DG Khan reminded everyone of the upcoming Charter Night for the Wallingford Bengal Centennial Lions Club, to be held at this site on October 13th and announced that special guest Lion Nazmul Haque from Bangladesh will be attending it.

The next Cabinet Meeting will be held on **Monday, January 8, 2018** at a site still to be determined.

District Chaplain Jim Bennett offered a benediction.

With business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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