

Feb. 1, 2010

# Opportunity is Knocking

Issue 8

## District 23B Governor's Newsletter



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Another month is in the books, and 2010 is shaping up to be just as eventful as 2009 was. January was filled with club visits, Cabinet and Council meetings, Zone meetings and fundraisers. Thankfully my busy calendar has not yet been affected by winter weather – I'm crossing my fingers that this good fortune continues.

### THANK YOU

The West Hartford/Low Vision Center Scramble was once again a big hit. Thanks to all who came out and supported the event, which raised \$4,000.

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED EVENT

The **Midwinter Conference** takes place this weekend, **February 5-7** at the Crowne Plaza in Southbury. Our guest is Past International Director Joseph Gaffigan from Maryland. If you still have not registered, please be advised that the **Saturday lunch is sold out**. Our speaker at the lunch is Governor Jodi Rell. Also, the "**parade of checks**", where clubs can make annual donations to various Lions projects, will take place at the **Multiple District business meeting at 2:45**.

### THERE IS STILL ROOM ON THE WALL

This past year, our **Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation** contacted clubs to support the Vision of Excellence project at Yale. Support can be in the form of a club pledge, or an individual contribution. The first **300 individuals who pledge \$1000 payable over 5 years** will have their name listed on a wall plaque at the Yale Center. Our District CLERF Chair, Dan Divirgilio is making the rounds to clubs and zone meetings. Please consider a pledge to this effort.

## MELVIN JONES WEEKEND:

Lions from around New England will gather at the **New England Lions Melvin Jones weekend to benefit LCIF**. This year's event will be held in Milford, MA, the weekend of February 26-28. Clubs may choose to have their new Melvin Jones fellowships presented by Immediate Past International President **Al Brandel**. Information has been sent to all clubs, and is also available on the LCIF tab of our District website, [www.lions23b.org](http://www.lions23b.org).

## WARNING: DEADLINE APPROACHING

Submissions for the next issue of the **District Spirit** are due February 13. Please get your ads and articles in – we want to hear what your clubs are up to.

## DISTRICT AWARDS BREAKFASTS

It's also time to get in your responses for the annual awards breakfasts. The **Zone 1-4 breakfast will be March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cornucopia**. Please get your info to Lory Samolis. **The Zone 5-8 breakfast will be at La Renaissance on March 14<sup>th</sup>**, and those clubs should respond to Margaret Sylvester. A big Thanks to Lory and Margaret for their hard work.

## CLUB TREASURERS

Billing has gone out based on the December membership reports. PLEASE do not adjust your membership count when you remit payment. District 23B in turn reimburses the Multiple District based on the same December membership reports.

## LIONS DAY AT THE U.N.

Several people have asked about the annual Lions Day at the United Nations event. For many years Lions from our District have made the short trip down to New York. When our District directory went to print, there was a tentative date of March 12. However, **due to renovations, the event will not be held in New York this year**. It will instead take place in Vienna, Austria on March 26. No bus trip is planned.

## KUDOS:

Congratulations to the Lions **Harry Pentore** of Berlin, and **Frank Fuller** of Terryville, on being awarded **Life Membership** status by LCI. This special recognition is the result of many years of commitment and service.

## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the families and friends of our fellow Lions

**Robert August**, Avon Lions

**Richard Martinik**, Simsbury Lions

## OH, AND ONE LAST THING...

At the January Cabinet meeting, the subject turned to membership. We have done a great job in our District this year bringing new members into our organization. This month, we will reach 100 members added since July. It has been a privilege at my governor visits to have inducted 35 of these individuals who have answered the knock of opportunity. But despite this great news, **for every candle we have lit this year, 1 ½ candles have gone out**. As of early January, our District showed a net loss of 35 for the year. So, I issued a challenge that, if our membership reverses direction, and we show a net gain of 35 by the State Convention in April, I will completely **shave my head**. I say completely, because you may have noticed that nature has gotten quite a head start.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1	Zone 1&2 joint meeting
February 2	Club visitation – Hartford Hispanic Srs (afternoon)
February 2	Club visitation – West Hartford (evening)
February 3	Club visitation - Plainville
February 5-7	Mid Winter Conference - Southbury
February 8	Zone 6&8 joint meeting
February 9	Club visitation – Bloomfield
February 10	Club visitation – Southington
February 11	Club visitation – East Granby
February 15	CLERF Board of Directors
February 16	Club visitation – New Britain (afternoon)
February 16	Club visitation – Thomaston (evening)
February 17	Club visitation – Avon
February 22	Low Vision Board of Directors
February 24	Club visitation – Winsted
February 25	Club visitation – Hartford Evening
February 26-28	Melvin Jones Weekend – Milford, MA

And remember – **It's Great To Be A Lion!**

*David B. Yadach, District Governor*