

July 1, 2009

Opportunity is Knocking

Issue 1

District 23B Governor's Newsletter



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WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR...

The past Lions year saw great accomplishments in District 23B. Under the guidance of Immediate Past District Governor Len Johnson, we saw the first positive membership growth in our District in a decade. We saw the District pledge over \$250,000 toward Campaign SightFirst II. We saw increased participation in our District's Fishing Tournament for the Visually Impaired. Our 23B Low Vision Centers reached the milestone of 10,000 people assisted. And throughout the District, our clubs provided hands-on service and financial support where there was need. IPDG Len's bulldozer has built up a lot of momentum, and our challenge this year is to keep that machine running strong.

In 1925, Helen Keller made a plea to the Lions attending the International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. She represented herself as an opportunity knocking on their door. From that plea came the Lions' ongoing commitment to sight and vision, and the crusade against preventable blindness. My theme this year is a harkening to the day when Lions responded to that knock on their door. As individuals, as Lions clubs, and as a District, we are constantly exposed to new opportunities. Let's answer the door when these opportunities come knocking.

WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

The International President for 2009-2010 is Eberhard J. Wirfs, from Germany. His International Theme is called "Move to Grow", which challenges us to grow and develop our capability for service through action. One of his initiatives for the coming year is called Lions in Sight, which encourages clubs to promote themselves to their communities. Lions are known for their "sight" activities, but are not "in sight" of the general public. Make yourselves visible as you continue to make a difference in your community.

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING – AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

Our annual training for incoming club officers will be held on **Saturday, August 15th**, at the IBTD Building on Main Street in New Britain. Registration is at **8 am** and the overall seminar should be done by 12 noon. Please make every effort to attend, even if you have participated in the seminars before. District Leadership Chairman Alan Daninhirsch is putting together a very informative session so that our club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Chairmen can have an effective – and enjoyable - year.

CABINET TRAINING – AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

In conjunction with the club officer training above, incoming cabinet chairmen are asked to attend Cabinet Officer School – same time, same place. I am pleased that several new faces have joined the cabinet this year – along with some experienced faces who are growing into new roles and responsibilities. Please come out and meet your new team, and welcome our club officers as well.

FIRST CABINET MEETING

The first Cabinet Meeting for District 23 B will be held at the Riverside Healthcare Center, 745 Main Street, East Hartford 6:30 pm. **Monday, August 3, 2009**. This will be a light supper put on by the East Hartford Lions.

All Lions, Cabinet members, Club President's and PDG's are welcome but must RSVP to Cabinet Secretary Kathy Randall **(860) 292-1316 or kathy.randall@yahoo.com**, no later than **July 30, 2009**.

Dinner Cost is \$5.00 p/p.

LIONS MEMORIAL SERVICE – AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER

New England Lions will gather at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire on **Sunday, September 13th**. Each District Governor will read the names of those in their respective districts who have left us this past year. This moving tribute takes place in an outdoor wooded area in view of majestic Mount Monadnock.

If you have lost a Lion this year, please make the trip to join me and other Lions from around New England. It is a wonderful experience.

JDRF WALKS – AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT.

For the past 3 years, Lions of 23B have walked to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Like last year, there are two walks planned. The first is on Sunday, September 13th at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, CT. The second is Sunday, September 20th at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. More information will

become available, but please save the dates, and perhaps make a club effort to walk to fight diabetes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 6-10	Lions International Convention, Minneapolis, MN
August 3	23B Cabinet Meeting
August 10	MD23 Council Meeting
August 17	CLERF Meeting
September 9	Zone 3 Meeting
September 10	Zone 5 Meeting
September 13	New England Lions Memorial Service, Rindge, NH
September 13	JDRF Walk, Litchfield
September 14	Zone 8 Meeting
September 15	Zone 4 Meeting
September 17	Zone 2 Meeting
September 18	Veterans Stand Down, Rocky Hill
September 20	JDRF Walk, East Hartford
September 21	Zone 6 Meeting
September 24-26	USA-Canada Forum, Memphis, TN
September 29	Zone 1 Meeting
September 30	Zone 7 Meeting

AN OPPORTUNITY TO END THIS NEWSLETTER

The spirit of Lionism is alive and well in District 23B. This coming year, I promise to cultivate that spirit as we move forward and Move to Grow. But I will not do it alone. I will need the help of all Lions, at the Cabinet and Club level, to make this year the best that it can be. We can accomplish great things through effective communication, team cooperation and a winning enthusiasm. We can build on the successes of the past, and position ourselves for a better future. We can challenge ourselves to add that one new project, that one new service, or that one new member to support our communities. And we can proudly embody our motto "We Serve".

David B. Yadach, District Governor