

Zone 9, Region 4

Snow at last has left the ground; the clubs are “springing” into summer projects and services. I thank them for their service to their communities... the heartbeat of Lions Clubs International.

Clinton Lions Club: Dropped 8 members at the start of the year but have inducted 7 new members. They continue to be active meeting the needs of their community. Help sponsor and support a new Town Police Dog, their annual Pancake breakfast for “Families helping Families” and they are planning their Golf Tournament in support of Clinton Education Foundation in June.

Deep River / Chester Lions Club: Dropped 1 member and gained 3 new members. Very active in their community, plans are now underway for the annual Luau on April 26^h, Memorial Day Carnival and Deep River Carnival in June, and their annual Golf Tournament later in the year.

East Haddam Community Lions Club: Dropped 6 members and have 4 new members installed or awaiting installation. The Annual April Fools Road Race, with 5k and 10.5 mile was just completed and plans are now underway for the 9th.annual English Tea Party on May 10th. Pediatric Eye screenings during the first week of May, They will dress a float for the Memorial Day Parade and participate in the Opening Eyes program in June

Essex Lions Club: Added 8 new members. Plans are underway for their next BIG event which is a full two weekend food service for Thomas the Tank at Essex Steam Train in May and the Annual Lobster festival in August

Westbrook Lions Club: Decided to hand in their Charter despite the excellent support from their rebuilding Lions RC Larry Updyke and PDG Denise Dudek. 9 of these members transferred to other clubs, their service will be missed by the town of Westbrook.

The Zone held a Joint meeting earlier in the year with Old Saybrook Lions club, supporting each other and exchanging ideas, they hope to make it an annual event.

Respectfully submitted;
ZC Linda Bradshaw

As Re-building Lion for the East Hampton Village Lions I wish to share my achievement and express my pride at the way this small club under threat of extinction has turned its self around.

They, like many small clubs, have dealt with conflicts with-in their club and have over the years lost many members through this, they are now happy with their club dynamics but are not reluctant about touting for new members that may change the new comfortable dynamic. So they are now over worked and struggling to get members to step into officer positions... many have held these on numerous occasion and can see no new way forward.

But with support and many pep talks they have turned another corner and can see a light at the end of the tunnel.... they got a long time member to step up to take office that they had avoided for years and I watched as they went from defeated and all but handing in their charter at one meeting to enthusiasm and club pride at a wonderful membership night (hosting several prospective new members) not a week later.

I sincerely hope these excellent Lions that I am so proud of, get to continue and support their community that they have serve so well for 20 plus years. Hopefully with some like minded new lions to help them grow in the right direction.

The CEP membership strategy may work as a guide line but. "One size does not fit all..." every club is autonomous and I think that they would agree, that I, was the right fit for the East Hampton Village Lions Club.

My hope is that every club that is struggling ... it's not about the numbers, can be mentored by a re-building lion who can see that clubs needs, and fill them.

Respectfully submitted;
ZC Linda Bradshaw