

# THE LIONS TALE

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**District Governor:** Ken Tucker  
**1st VDG:** Jan Miller  
**2nd VDG:** Steve Novic  
**Region 1 Chairman:** Steve Novic  
**Region 2 Chairman:** Nanette Burdick  
**Region 3 Chairman:** Nancy Tucker  
**Region 4 Chairman:** George Salpietro

Volume 39, Number 1

Miracles Through Service

October 11



Fellow Lions of District 23C,

How the time flies. Our Lions year is one quarter over already and the year is off to a great start. It all started with the International Convention in Seattle. Our International President, Dr. Tam's theme is "I Believe". It is a theme that can resonate with each and every one of us. Believe in and take

action to strengthen our membership by caring for our fellow Lions members as if they are family. Believe that one person can make a difference. Believe that the entire world can be changed when we come together as Lions. Believe that changing a life – or the world – starts with each one of us. Dr. Tam also challenged Lions across the world to plant one million trees. The District Governors at the convention pledged to plant over four million trees. Our goal for the clubs in District 23C is to plant at least 1,000 trees and I know that you will all respond.

In September, we all were impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. Many communities lost power for a substantial amount of time and there were many needs that needed to be taken care of. Our Lions provided generators, cooked food, cut trees, working in town shelters, and at distribution points, even though they too were without power. Thank you Lions for doing what we do best – serving the multitude of needs in our communities.

Thanks to the efforts of Zone Chairman Hilary Kumnik, our district was just awarded a LCIF grant to promote Lions Quest

and to conduct educator workshops. Lions Quest is a school-based, life-skills program for children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It teaches skills to resist drugs, peer pressure and violence while building self-esteem, peer relations, decision-making and problem solving. Students learn valuable skills for emotional and social development. Lions Quest is not a program that reacts to bullying after the fact; it proactively helps create a positive, caring, respectful, productive, orderly and service-minded school environment. I expect the Lions Quest program to be a great success.

Please continue to support our Lions Low Vision Center. We now have over one thousand clients and the need continues to grow. Our board of directors, under the direction of President Eileen Akers, continues to be diligent in ensuring that the monies you donate are used wisely. The service provided by our technician, Carol Dykas, is so appreciated by our clients.

I have two new initiatives that I would like you to be part of. The first is the creation of an eyeglass and hearing aid collection committee. Lions clubs do a great job collecting used eyeglasses but many don't know what to do with them. We store them in our spare rooms or the trunk of our cars. We collect very few hearing aids. This committee will help our clubs be able to place these eyeglasses in the hands of those that need them.

The second committee is to create a public access television program where we can promote our Lions activities to our Lions members and those in our communities. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing you all during my club visits. My theme this year is "Lions Make a World of Difference". I am confident that each and every one of you make a world of difference to those we serve in our communities. It is an honor to serve as your District Governor. Yours in Lionism,

District Governor Ken Tucker

# What's Happening in

## Zone 1, Chair Susan Jensen

The Clubs in Zone 1 are already busy with Fundraising Events and Service Projects and I am looking forward to working with them during this Lions year.

**Groton Lions** held a new fundraiser called Pancakes in the Park. The weather was not pleasant that day, but those of us who attended had a nice time. On the Fourth of July they marched in the Groton Parade and the next week sold fried dough, hot dogs, and soda at the fireworks. In August the members sold sausage & pepper sandwiches, burgers, and hot dogs at the Mystic Art Festival. A Golf Tournament was rescheduled for Sept 30 at Shennecossett Golf Course because of rain. Their first annual yard sale will take place in Oct. In December the Groton Lions will be selling Christmas Trees.

**Ledyard Lions** hold Bingo every Wednesday Night at the Gales Ferry Fire House on Route 12 at 7 PM. They had a food booth at the Ledyard Fair (Sept 9 - Sept 11) where they sold fried dough, fish, scallops, chicken, shrimp, French fries, clam and apple fritters, and various soft drinks. They will be helping their town at Children's Day by having hot dogs and drinks on Sept 24. Club members will be cooking at the Firehouse in Nov for a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Center of the Blind. A Club Picnic is being planned for members and their families.

**Mystic Lions** held their annual golf tournament in June at the Stonington Country Club which was a big success. In July the club sold hot dogs, and soft drinks in the Mystic River Park for the Antique Boat Parade. In Oct they will

be holding their Wine and Spirits Tasting at the Mystic Art Center. There will be foods donated from local restaurants and a silent and live auction. A few members attended Veterans Stand Down and screened vets. The club made a donation and purchased reading glasses for some of the veterans.

**North Stonington Lions** helped support the Ledyard Lions at the Ledyard Fair by working in a food booth. This fall they will be helping to promote Hewitt Farm Development by selling food from their trailer. At Thanksgiving time, the North Stonington Lions will be packing and delivering meals from the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center to those confined to their homes. They also donate many of the pies that go along with the meal. They are looking forward to Gov. Ken's visit this month.


**Pawcatuck Lions** hold Pasta Dinners on the first Wednesday of every month. The Club made a donation to West Broad Street School for the Discovery Program. They will be installing one new member this fall. Pawcatuck Lions also will help to buy and deliver meals at Thanksgiving time for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. In November they will be holding their Theater Night and seeing "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum".

## Zone 2, Chair Denise Williams

The Clubs in Zone 2 are already busy with Fundraising Events and Service Projects and I am looking forward to working with them during this Lions year.

**Canterbury Lions** held a golf tournament on the 29<sup>th</sup> of

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SHIRLEY ANNUNZIATA  
President

MONTVILLE MOHEGAN-PEQUOT LIONS

5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

10AM – 3PM

MOHEGAN SCHOOL 49 GOLDEN RD

UNCASVILLE

# the Clubs of the District

July and a Chicken BBQ for Old Home Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>. They are planning to participate in the Putnam Club's Lions Dog Walk on September 24<sup>th</sup> and in October they will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs at the Chamber of Commerce's request at City Hall in Canterbury. In December they plan to participate in the tree lighting at their Community Center. Sometime this spring they are planning a combined Hearing screening/Spaghetti Dinner. So, go and check out your hearing at their fun-d-raising event!

**Griswold Lions** hold their Comedy Night every year and this year will be no exception as they plan to bring a side splitting event to the area November 19<sup>th</sup>. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, they will be having a "Breakfast with Santa" at Griswold High School. Of course, my favorite event coming in December is their annual "Jail Your Boss", with the \$1/min fee going to everyone who jails their boss for any amount of time. I wonder how DG Ken would look in those striped pajamas???

**Killingly Quiet Corner Lions** held their annual booth at the Woodstock Fair. They sold pancakes and lemonade and were happy with the turnout of the fair. They will be participating in a Flea Market on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and will be having their annual quilting bees on September 24-25 and October 1-2. Last year, PDG Julie Shilosky won their beautiful quilt and all the proceeds went to the Low Vision Center.

**Norwich Lions** had a great booth at the Taste of Italy fair in downtown Norwich on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Fidelco, a state senator, and their iconic bracelets were the stars of the show. They are planning to hold their annual Cocoa Contest at the

Leffingwell Inn on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 pm. At Christmas time, the Norwich Lions will be packing and delivering baskets from a list provided by the Rose City Senior Center to those confined to their homes. They also plan to participate in the tree project and the Quest programs this year.

### Zone 3, Chair Ken Chen

Clubs in Zone 3 have been busy since the summer. There are several fun events coming up and I am looking forward to participating at the events.

**Waterford Regional Lions Club** had a bus trip to Boston, 860-443-2705 Waterford Regional Lions Club. Also had Pasta Dinner at the Waterford Senior Center on October 8. They also hosted for our district the 2nd cabinet meeting. In November, they will have a Craft Show at the Senior Center.

**New London Lions and Waterford Lions** had a Picnic for the Center for the Blind at the Harkness Memorial State Park over the summer. New London Lions is also hosting a Pancake Breakfast inn November.

**Eastern Connecticut Asian and American Lions** is hosting a Bus Trip to New York City's Chinatown. The trip includes a Guided Tour of Chinatown, Museum of Chinese in America, as well as dim sum lunch. Please join them and experience this fascinating section of Manhattan.

### Zone 4, Chair Hilary Matthew Kumnick

**The Durham Lions club** is gearing up for their assault on the appetites of Durham Fair-Goers. They operate one of the oldest and most successful food operations. Durham

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**Lori Dickinson**

**Waterford Regional Lions Club**  
**Holiday Craft Show**  
**November 12, 2011**  
**10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**Free Door Prize Drawing**  
**Waterford Community Center**  
**Waterford, Connecticut**

# What's Happening in the Clubs of the District (cont.)

Lions open early for fair vendors and workers providing the usual menu plus breakfast sandwiches and much-appreciated coffee! They feature Lenny & Joe's famous Clam Chowder. Durham will be lead again this year by President Richard Pasieka, Secretary Charles Ingold and Treasurer Kevin Mischke.

**Clinton Lions** hosted golfers at their annual Shoreline Shootout Golf Tournament on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Clinton Country Club. The proceeds benefit the Clinton Schools' DARE Programs. Leading the Clinton Lions this year are President Peter Niles, Secretary Dave Reynolds and Treasurer Matthew Stillman.

**Middletown Lions** met at the Cypress Restaurant in September and began planning for their hugely-successful River Regatta on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This is their largest fundraiser and is a tremendous event which draws participants from all over the east coast. President Marty Knight is joined by Treasurer Joe Milardo and the club's new Secretary Sandra Reynolds.

The Middletown Lions will again be co-hosting a Vision Screening on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at AME Zion Church. Lions are partnering with the Middletown Health Department to produce combination flu shot and vision screening clinic. Last year the event was very successful. This summer, Lions operated the snow cone booth at the Middletown Cruise Night and the Middletown Motorcycle Mania events.

**Middlefield Lions** will be preparing their famous foot-long hot dogs and other fair specialties at the Durham Fair. Work is progressing to fill the hundred or so time slots on their work schedule. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Middlefield opened up their Lions Pavilion kitchen at Peckam Park and welcomed the community; serving over 350 meals! Lunch/dinner was offered on Monday and dinner was provided on Tuesday and Wednesday after the Sunday storm. President Summer Lerch stated: "We will never forget Hurricane Irene. A small part of that memory is likely to be how we all came together to help each other out...being able to serve as a member of the Lions Club of Middlefield (is) truly a blessing".

**The Killingworth Lions Club** cooked for 200 local residents at a Community Supper after Hurricane Irene due to widespread, week-long power outages in town. Lions are preparing their booth at the Durham Fair for the production of thousands of corn dogs and fried dough pizzas. The first Kid's Night Out (KNO) dance of the year went off without a hitch as Lions hosted almost 190 middle school students. The Lions will host Arlo Guthrie at HKMS to benefit the Parmelee Farm Pole Barn reconstruction. Work on the Pole Barn will be performed by Lions and a Lions kitchen will be placed in the community pavilion in order "To Serve" meals at fairground events.

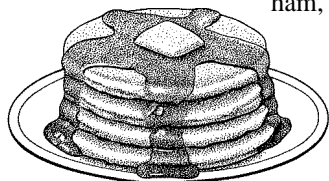
In Zone news, there will be a District Governor's Advisory Committee held at Zone Chair Hilary Kumnick's home on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Clubs seem genuinely enthusiastic about their upcoming year's activities at this early juncture. The Middlefield, Killingworth and Durham clubs collaborated to offer a discount promotion for a meal at the Durham Fair this year.

## Willimantic Lions Pancake Breakfasts

November 6, 2011  
February 12, 2012  
April 29, 2012



7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Elks Home, Pleasant St.  
Willimantic



Includes all the pancakes or French toast you can eat, plus ham, eggs, orange juice and all the fixin's  
Adults \$6.00  
Senior Citizens \$5.00  
Children under 12 \$4.00  
Sales tax included

## What's Happening in the Clubs of the District (cont.)

### Zone 5, Chair Mark Lowrey

**The Deep River, Chester Lions** got back in the swing with their annual food booth at the Chester Fair. Unfortunately, it was the same weekend that hurricane Irene paid us a visit. They weathered that storm and are preparing for their annual golf tournament at the Cedar Ridge country club on Oct. 1, with the proceeds going towards their annual scholarships. They are also preparing to sell food at the air show being held at the Chester Airport on the same day. Their new Leo club, under good leadership, are eagerly assisting and planning their upcoming year. They also serve food at the local soup kitchen.

**The East Haddam Lions** again had a very successful auction over the summer, auctioning off donated items they collect over the course of the year. Their chicken dinner for seniors was put off because of hurricane Irene, but they put on a dinner for about 400 people a couple of days later when it was really needed in the community, with a big assist from the East Haddam Community Lions. This was a good example of lions helping each other and their community when it was needed the most. They have also held their annual golf tournament on Sept. 16 at banner lodge country club.

**The East Hampton Lions** worked their annual food booth at the Haddam Neck Fair and did well. They are preparing for a spaghetti dinner at the V.F.W. hall in East Hampton on Nov. 11. In the true spirit of lionism, they are putting on a vision screening for pre-schoolers. They are also starting their planning for the plant a tree campaign. They host a Leo club started last year.

**The Haddam Lions** had their annual car show on July 10 at Haddam Meadows with impressive results. This is their 16th year putting on this event with a loyal following. They are also preparing to serve food at the ho-down being held at the Haddam Elementary school on Oct. 14.

Good job by all.

### Zone 6, Chair Larry Updyke

The Lions of **Zone 6** in **Region 2** have had a very busy summer with fundraisers and community service events.

The newly re-formed **Westbrook Lions** held their very first fundraiser the Westbrook Potato Festival in August with participation and support from a number of other Lions clubs and many District 23C cabinet officers.

The **Lyme/Old Lyme Lions** had their Annual Memorial Day Antique Car Show somewhat shortened by rain and served food at the Old Lyme Midsummer Festival (a new event for the club).

Their **Leo club** also delivered coloring books to The Children's Hospital in Hartford. The **Essex Lions** held their Annual Lobsterbake in August and, with the support of local teen clubs, served 400 lobster and nearly 150 steak dinners and had another successful raffle.

While the **Niantic Lions**, with the support of the **Shoreline Leos**, had another good year for their July 4<sup>th</sup> Arts and Crafts show/ Lobsterfest/ Chicken BBQ (despite a rainy Sunday afternoon) and raised funds serving food/Kettle-corn at Celebrate East Lyme and at the **Westbrook Lions** Potato Festival.

In addition, in September, the **Niantic Lions** were honored by being recognized as the **Spotlight Lions club** in **The LION** magazine from LCI.

The **Old Saybrook Lions Club** cleaned up the Upper Cemetery in Old Saybrook for Lions Serve day. They also served food at the Antique Wooden Boat show in Essex and held a well attended Pet Fair at Old Saybrook High School. They also served free coffee all day long (5 AM-8 PM) post-Hurricane Irene for 4 days. All the clubs in the zone are gearing up for a very busy fall serving their local communities.

### Zone 7, Chair Greg King

A new year of Lionism has started in the Quiet Corner. Putnam, Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock Lions were all represented at the Woodstock Fair on Labor Day weekend.

**Thompson** was selling their award winning clam chowder and clam cakes. They also had their eye catching yellow trailer at the Brooklyn Fair the week before. That was the

## What's Happening in the Clubs of the District (cont.)

week that Irene came to town and shortened the Fair by one day. The Thompson club has had their trailer at the Saturday cruise nights in Putnam as well as the big Car Cruise on Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup>. Thompson will also be Sponsoring a Yard Sale for the P.T.O in September and they will be putting on a Roast beef dinner in November.

**The Putnam Lions** were very busy at the Woodstock Fair manning two booths. The world famous Putnam Lions onion rings is always a must for fair goers. Putnam also had a full menu food trailer at the Horse Ring, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Putnam club had their food trailer at several Putnam river fires, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, family fun day, and dancing under the stars. Future events for the Putnam Lions food trailer are, NEADS Dog Walk, the Putnam Car Cruise & the craft show at the Pink House in Woodstock, Ct. They will also be at the Light Dazzle Parade in Putnam on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The Putnam Lions Sightmobile has been out all summer collecting used eye glasses for recycling. Putnam has a Health Screening planned for May of 2012.

**The Pomfret Lions** were at the Woodstock Fair with their gas free Chili. The Chili is always a big blast with fairgoers. The Pomfret lions major fund raiser of the year will take place in November. It is a Cow Chip event where you buy a square in a big field and hope the cow has an urge to relieve herself on your square. A lot of people buy squares but not many watch the event. There is a nice dinner at the Harvest Restaurant that evening for all square owners and the winners are revealed.

**The Woodstock Lions** were at the Woodstock Fair as well. They were serving their delicious soft serve ice cream cones and sundaes. Among other events the Woodstock Lions are having a Book Sale in September.

Call me if you have any questions. Phone 860-234-0526

### Zone 8, Chair Maggie Grenier

The summer just barely over and the clubs have been very busy:

**Vernon** hosted the first cabinet meeting of the year in August. They were serving their delicious soft serve ice cream cones and sundaes. Among other events the Woodstock Lions are having a Book Sale in September.

Since beginning the year they have inducted 5 new members! Sue Bannon and Phil Mollison were presented with a Melvin Jones Fellow award by the club. In October they will be doing a food and blood drive. They are in the planning stages of their auction which is scheduled for May.

**Mansfield** is participating in the Mansfield Festival on the green they will be having a table about Lionism with games for the kids. In October they will have a Fall Festival at which they host a live and silent auction, car show, country store, chicken barbeque, activities for children and a raffle. This is their largest fundraiser of the year.

**Danielson** served 150 picnic dinners in 105 degree temperatures in July for Brooklyn Camp for Kids. They have been busy with their food trailer working car shows and serving the Killingly community, they have another car show in October. Soon they will be inducting a set of triplets into their club; this will be a very special induction as these members have been Leos and now want to make the transition into Lionism.

The year in Zone 8 is off to a great start with some growth and a lot of activity. We are looking forward to a productive and prosperous year. We believe that we make a world of difference!

Written by Region Chairperson Nancy Tucker for Maggie Grenier

### Zone 9, Chair Paul Beausoleil

Another summer has come to an end and the cold weather is close at hand, but clubs of Zone Nine were busy over the summer months.

**The new Plainfield TC club** was busy with fundraisers and marching in parades collecting eyeglasses. They are presently preparing a fundraiser for their annual Christmas Bazaar.

**Tolland Lions Club** was very busy trying to keep up with the demands of their tent rentals over the past few months. They were kept so busy it may turn out to be their best year ever.

**Somers Lions** held their Somers Annual Golf Tournament

## What's Happening in the Clubs of the District (cont.)

on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Elmcrest Country Club in East Longmeadow Ma. It was in the mid 90's but with a good turnout fund raised set a new club record. This fall the club will hold its second annual Wine Tasting In November. Up coming activities for the club include Somers Seniors Christmas Dinner, Toys for Joy and Somers annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

**The Stafford Lions Club** has been busy with fundraisers over the summer months and is presently gearing up for a busy fall of fund raising activities.

**The Plainfield Lions Club** has been and still is busy working their food booth at the Central Cycle Club (Motorcycle race track). The racetrack keeps the club busy over the summer months. Upcoming activities include getting started on the annual Thanksgiving food baskets and their Comedy Night fundraisers.

It looks like we have the start of another busy Lions year of helping make a better life for those in need.

### Zone 10, Chair Diana Grisé

Our new Lions' year is well underway with many clubs having worked very hard at local fairs.

**The Bolton Lions Club** had the first District Governor visitation at their meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. They ran a successful Golf Tournament on August 20<sup>th</sup> and held a Pasta Dinner at the Bolton Center School on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Club is planning on presenting dictionaries to all the third grade students in Bolton. At the Halloween Party sponsored by the Bolton Women's Club in October these Lions will be doing a hayride. An ongoing project of theirs is stocking the Bolton Food Bank.

**The Franklin Lions Club** sold apple pie, cider and popcorn at the Blue Slope Country Museum Fall Event on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will participate in "Trick or Trunk" with the Franklin Fire Department and PTO.

**The Montville Lions Club** held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Road Race ("Kahlan's Challenge" this year) on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the benefit of a ten year old Montville girl fighting leukemia for

the second time and presented the family with a check for \$5,500. They sponsored a golf tournament on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, RI which was a great success.

**The Montville Leo Club** sponsored a "Battle of the Bands" on June 11<sup>th</sup> where they raised \$4,180 for Kahlan and Hailey (a Montville toddler with a rare type of epilepsy). Members attended the first *District Leo Picnic* at the Lebanon Fairgrounds on July 31<sup>st</sup> where they met and talked with eight former Lions' exchange students that were back in the US for a reunion while networking and having fun with Leos from seven other clubs.

Members of the **University of CT Campus Lions Club** volunteer hours every month to WAIM in Willimantic. They worked with the Mansfield Lions at the Fall Festival on September 25<sup>th</sup> and the Festival on the Green on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**The Willimantic Lions Club** helped the Lebanon Lions at their Fair in August and sold donuts at the Hebron Fair September 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Their first pancake breakfast of this Lions' year will be in early November.

I am excited about all the events and activities being planned for the holidays and look forward to working with these great Lions.

### Zone 11, Chair Lori Dickinson

The Lions in my zone have been very busy, starting their Lions year with planning, raising money and growing...

**The Columbia Lions** were busy working at the Hebron Fair. They have also been to their Farmers Market selling bricks for their walk of honor In Columbia. Their annual chicken barbeque went great and sold over 700 meals! They are keeping very busy planning fundraisers for the upcoming year!

**The Hebron Lions** are always busy planning for their fabulous Hebron Harvest Fair. When one fair ends, the planning for the next year begins. They had a great fair in spite of all the mud. It is always all hands on deck for this event. Food, fun, great shows and entertainers, this is their

## What's Happening in the Clubs of the District (cont.)

major fundraiser. The weather was great and their tribute to 9/11 was fantastic. They are also busy planning for three fundraising dinners they will be holding and are also planning for their pancake breakfast in conjunction with the Hebron Maple fest.

**Colchester Lions** have started their year off with a lot of events. They sold food from their trailer at the Hebron Fair, had their annual Horse Show, sold fried dough at their town 57 Fest. Their annual Pumpkins and Pooches fall fair in October is always a lot of family fun. Great food, dog contests, dogs in costumes and more. They will be inducting at least 3 new members in October as well.

The **Bolton Regional Lions** are also busy building up their membership. They are involved in the peace poster contest as well. They are planning some fundraising trips. One is to Atlantic City and the other to Mohegan Sun in November. They are planning their tag sale, bake sale and eyeglass collection also. The lions are busy collecting townwide information to see where their community needs assistance from them as well.

The **East Hampton Village Lions Club** is starting to discuss having their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Belltown Winter Wonderland fundraiser. The Club asks East Hampton and the surrounding towns to contribute a Christmas/Holiday ornament such as wreaths, Christmas Trees 4 feet or less in height, centerpieces, plaques or other decorative items to be displayed at the East Hampton Library during the holiday season. The beautiful items decorate their library in a festive manner for up to 2 weeks. Upon completion, a silent auction is held with all monies presented to the East Hampton Fuel Bank. Last year, they contribute about \$1,500 to the fuel bank. All contributions are appreciated and are acknowledged.

### Zone 12, Chair "Ric" Tetrault

The beginning of a new Lion's year with an "old" Zone Chair who is learning all the new stuff that has been implemented in the last five years since I was last in this position. It's a good thing that I can at least type with ten fingers and not just two.

One thing that has NOT changed is the enthusiasm and dedication of the Lions of Region 4, Zone 12 as I read the Activity Reports since the July 1st start of the new Lion's year.

**East Haddam Community Lions Club.** I note that they had an Ice Cream Festival for the community in July (I l-o-v-e Ice Cream), unfortunately due to travel we couldn't be there. They also had a Club picnic and in August their 2nd Annual Bowl-a-thon for Lions, family and friends. It was a great summer for both events. Add to that a helping hand to the Hebron Lions at the Fair made for a busy and fun summer.

**Lebanon Lions Club.** Another example of Lions energy and commitment. Good weather made for a great day at the annual Fair at the Lion's Fairgrounds. Nice to see Lions from other clubs there also giving a helping hand.

**Montville-Mohegan Pequot Lions.** These Lions raised funds selling potatoes at the Lebanon Fair and also raised funds for one of their Lion's in need with a Breakfast Buffet and joined countless other Lions giving a helping hand to the Hebron Lions at their Fair.

**Salem Lions Club.** Salem Lions delivered some 1650 signature Salem Lions Calendars to homes and businesses in their town. Add to that, lending a helping hand to the Hebron Lions and (as this Lion's Tale is being prepared) started splitting wood for the «Woodbank», an annual endeavor for their Firewood for Seniors Program.

**Taftville Lions Club.** Last, but not least, the Taftville «Center of the Universe» Club continued serving their signature All You Can Eat Pasta monthly (except July), continue to sell Rada knives and continue with the town Fireman's Park project. Amazing how many weeds can grow in a short period of time. Plans for a November Dance to benefit the Low Vision Center are in place as well as Holiday Wreaths and Boxes.

And the Lions year has just begun!

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## **GMT THE NEW DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE**

PDG FRAN GREGOIRE GMT DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Membership is critical to the overall success of any organization. An effective membership team provides the vision, guidance and motivation necessary for Lions Clubs International to continue to fulfill its mission of providing quality service to the global community.

For the past several years, the primary focus of the association has been increasing membership in existing clubs and creating new clubs. Combined with a solid base of effective leadership, membership growth can be sustained and maximized.

In 2008 GMT was initiated by LCI. It provided continuity and flexibility to meet International goals and simplified communication flow between the GMT, multiple districts, districts and clubs. This program has been considered a success as membership has continued to grow.

With the replacing of the MERL concept, with (Global Membership Team) GMT and (Global Leadership Team) GLT, GMT will be responsible for Membership, Extension and Retention. The new structure was designed to allow for greater integration of local membership growth efforts and Global Membership Team efforts, maximizing the opportunities for success.

A new component of this concept is the Global Leadership Team (GLT), intended to operate as a parallel, mutually supportive specialized team with the GMT. The GLT provides for an enhanced focus on and support of leadership development, which is critical to the success of every LCI program and to the future vitality of the association as a whole.

Members of the GMT and GLT work independently but also in concert with one another to identify, develop and encourage opportunities for present and future Lions leaders, and to develop membership through service.

By considering historical data, area and culture, and by using the resources of LCI, members of the GMT stand ready to assist in identification of District and Club service opportunities. This will also help in developing membership goals and aid in the rebuilding of struggling clubs.

The responsibilities of the GMT District coordinator will be to work under the direction of the Multiple District coordinator; this is PDG DR. Keith Lemire. Also work in conjunction with the Multiple District GLT coordinator IPDG Denise Dudek. The GLT District coordinator is

PCC Diane Bielski. All of these Lions are dedicated to the task of increasing membership, helping to start new clubs and strengthening our clubs by means of retention and education. Two (2) teams of three (3) to four (4) Lions each have been appointed by District Governor Ken Tucker. The GMT team at the present time is comprised of Lion George Finlayson and PDG Fran Gregoire. Lions Priscilla Lewis, Sheri Pellerin and PCC Armand LaFleur comprise the GLT Team.

While the GMT and GLT are two independent parallel teams, the positive impact of each will only be realized through a collaborative effort. Collaboration ensures more effective use of individual talents. No individual Lion possesses all of the knowledge, skills and experience required to increase our membership base and improve the quality of our leadership alone. By working together, the effectiveness of the GMT and GLT can be maximized as we take advantage of the special knowledge and skills each represents.

The goals of the GMT are as follows:

1. The Global Membership team will set membership, extension, and retention development goals and implement an action plan incorporating the goals and objectives of the District and Multiple District.
2. The GMT working in conjunction with the GLT through the Multiple District Council will be responsible for the funding of programs for Membership, extension and retention.
3. The GMT will be responsible to publish membership, extension and retention development plans in the District Newsletters, websites and any other publications.
4. The GMT and GLT teams will plan and conduct workshops and seminars. Owing to the fact that this is the first full year of this idea, there will be a lot of massaging of the program until all of the kinks are worked out. However, it promises to be a very exciting year for our District, Multiple District and the clubs of District 23-C. Our District Governor has signed off on the program with Lions clubs International. We are all anticipating a banner year for membership with a large plus in membership by June 30, 2012

## GET TO KNOW THE LIONS LOW VISION CENTER OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT

BY: LION MELISSA KOWAL, LOW VISION LIAISON

As Lions we are always working to raise money to support worthy projects and causes. As clubs and as individuals, we work hard to support our International, National, Multiple District, District and Local projects. Many of the projects that we support have a great many clubs contributing to them to help raise the funds that they need to operate and serve. I would like to tell you about an organization that operates within our district, which is funded by donations from individuals and the Lions Clubs of Eastern Connecticut. Our very own Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut.

Our mission at the Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut is to provide appropriate low vision devices and help to people with decreased vision to empower them to improve their quality of life or maintain their independence through awareness, resources and solutions. Through your donations, we are able to employ a licensed optician, Carol Dykas, who works personally with each client to identify the challenges they are facing. Carol goes into client's homes, Senior Centers and Community Centers throughout our district providing Low Vision evaluations. Through Carol's interview process, she gathers information on the client's vision condition listens to their needs and concentrates on finding ways to help them overcome their challenges. She then selects devices to help that client not just tolerate their vision loss, but optimize their remaining vision. Carol instructs the client in the proper use of the devices that she provides. These devices could be as simple as magnifiers to help see print more clearly, large display clocks and calculators. Many clients tell us that with the simple devices or techniques that Carol has instructed them on, they can now perform tasks that they were unable to do prior to her visit. Often they are simple things that we take for granted like reading the newspaper, but the clients were unable to do that before Carol visited and provided devices to do so. Often families are not equipped to deal with Low Vision issues, and Carol is able to counsel the clients and their families on the components of Low Vision care. Carol is able to improve the quality of life for our clients. Our Low Vision Center is here to provide services to anyone who has low vision within our district.

The Lions Low Vision Center now has a website which I invite you to visit [lionslowvisionctr.org](http://lionslowvisionctr.org) This website is a

wonderful resource for Lions who may have an individual in their family, club or community with low vision. If you click onto the "Resources" section we have links to computer software, audio books and audio versions of print media. If you click onto the "Contact Us" section you will find our toll free number to call and set up an appointment for an evaluation. Plus a listing of the other Low Vision Centers around Connecticut for friends and family that may be in need outside of our service area of Tolland, Windham, New London and Middlesex counties.

As your Low Vision Liaison, I am happy to have you contact me with any questions you may have on the center or our services. I am available to visit your clubs to speak about the center or attend screenings or health fairs that your clubs may be planning. Please feel free to contact me anytime at [gr8fnishes@att.net](mailto:gr8fnishes@att.net) or call me at (860) 349-0768. I want to raise district wide awareness of The Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut, so we can continue to service the needs of our neighbors.



### Ledyard Lions

Present

**Breakfast with Santa**  
**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Snow date December 4<sup>th</sup>

**8am-12pm**

Gales Ferry Firehouse

1772 Route 12

Come join us for a yummy breakfast,  
And pictures with Santa!

Adults \$6 Children ages 5-10 \$4

For tickets or more information,  
Call 860-4050

# WHEN DID YOU BECOME A LION, REALLY?

BY PDG KEITH LEMIRE, LIONKEITH23C@YAHOO.COM

When did you become a Lion, really? Some of us may say, "Oh, About 10 years ago." Some of us may even remember the month and the year. I joined the Willimantic Lions club in January of 1996. I *really* became a Lion nearly 13 years after I joined the club. Two years ago, I visited the Clara Barton Diabetes camp as district governor. Each year, our district sponsors campers to attend the camp with other kids with Diabetes. It was my first time there and I was immediately greeted by a young woman with a bright smile. I instantly felt welcomed. The day was spent touring the camp, visiting the barracks, dining with the campers, and the evening ended with a great camp fire. Throughout the entire day and visit, I was thanked by kids I had never met before, thanked for being a Lion. Kids would spontaneously yell out, "We love you Lions!" as we toured the grounds. Groups of kids would break out in spontaneous cheers and songs, all praising the Lions. I was overwhelmed by the appreciation I felt from the campers. It became very clear to me that day what it meant to be a Lion. It was my "aha" moment if you will. I realized that no matter how small of a contribution, I made a difference. I made a difference to these kids because I was a Lion.

It was at that very moment that I said to myself, I am not going to be a Lion only when it is convenient, I am not going to be a Lion only when I have enough time or energy, I am not going to be a Lion only when I have nothing better to do, I am a **Lion for Life**. I realized that I am a small part of a much bigger picture, but my part really does matter. I realized I will always make a difference in someone else's life as a Lion. A stranger that I may never meet will receive a gift from me, today and every day, here and around the world. That day, I re-committed myself to being a Lion. I promised myself that I would forever offer my talents, my resources, my time to Lions, fully knowing and understanding that there will be times in my life when family, work, health, finances, and time will keep me from always being there.

Then I thought what a great retention program! If every Lion could have that aha moment, the moment you finally get it, we would not have a retention problem at all. When you finally realize that you really do make a difference, you could never possibly quit. Knowing, regardless of your circumstances, that your fellow Lions will always be there for you, you could never possibly quit. Knowing that your commitment comes only with

your promise to try your best, never to be judged, you could never possibly leave.

So, in keeping with our International President's theme, "I believe", I have signed a pledge to serve as a **Lion for life**.

***I believe I make a difference in the world because I am a Lion.***

***I believe that my talents, my resources, my time are valuable to this organization.***

***I believe that no matter what my circumstance, my fellow Lions will always support me.***

***I believe that my service, no matter how great or small, is priceless.***

***I believe I will serve as a Lion, for the rest of my life.***

As a reminder of my pledge, I wear a purple ribbon. Whether it is on my lapel, under my pin, or on my vest, it represents my promise to myself and to those I serve. I am a **Lion for Life**. With this pledge, there comes no worries, no expectations. No matter what, I will never quit.

So, I ask you, when did you become a Lion, really? What was your Aha moment? I am asking you to share your stories with me so that I can share them with everyone. I ask that you re-commit yourself to Lions because you believe in yourself and you believe in this organization. Sign this pledge and send it to me with or without your story. I will send you a purple ribbon and hopefully by years' end, every Lion will be wearing a purple ribbon, united and strong. Our retention problem will be solved, one Lion at a time.

***Lion for Life***

*I believe I make a difference in the world because I am a Lion*


*I believe my talents, my resources, my time are valuable*

*I believe no matter what the circumstance, my fellow lions will always support me*

*I believe that my service, no matter how great or small, is priceless*

*I believe I will serve as a Lion, for the rest of my life*

Lion \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# THE PHANTOM

The Middlefield Lions really showed the spirit of being a Lion during the storm Irene. On Monday they served 80 lunches and on Tuesday and Wednesday they served 350 people dinner. The First Selectman's wife Gwen Brayshaw, not a Lion, made fresh baked items for desserts every day.

Many Lions in the District helped their friends and neighbors during, and after the storm which tells us that when a friends, neighbors or strangers are down, the Lions are there to help pick them up.

*Fun Fact:* With Thanksgiving just around the corner I'll bet we all want to know what US State produces the most turkeys, and if you guessed Minnesota you're a winner. Three small towns take their name from the traditional Thanksgiving bird: Turkey TX, Turkey Creek LA and Turkey NC.

Happy Thanksgiving!



*Lion Summer Lerch and Lion Bob Veeley*



*Lion Trey Spencer with some community members*



*Gwen Brayshaw, Lion Jay Dalo, Lion Bob Veeley,  
Lion Trey Spencer, Lion Marc D'Amato and Lion Mary Roberts*



*Lion Jay Dalo, Lion Bob Veeley and Lion Mary Roberts*

## LIONS QUEST

HILARY MATTHEW KUMNICK, HKUMNICK@AOL.COM

The Killingworth and Middlefield Lions Clubs in conjunction with CT District 23C have been awarded a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Core 4 Grant which will cover 75% of the registration fees for approximately (250) two hundred and fifty attendees at Lions Quest educator workshops. Lions Quest and 23C will be administering the Lions Quest program throughout the district and state. Lions Quest is a school-based, life-skills program for children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It teaches skills to resist drugs, peer pressure and violence while building self-esteem, peer relations, decision-making and problem solving. Students learn valuable skills for emotional and social development. Lions Quest is not a program that reacts to bullying after the fact; it proactively helps create a positive, caring, respectful, productive, orderly and service-minded school environment.

Students carry out service learning projects in the community that reinforce classroom learning. All local Lions Clubs are dedicated to service and to creating Opportunities for Youth. For example, Lions Clubs sponsor youth leagues, dances, scholarships, awards, school clubs, scouting and many other youth initiatives.

In independent reviews, Lions Quest has received high marks for content and effectiveness. Studies show that it helps drastically reduce violence and drug use while improving drop-out rates. Local Prevention Coalitions (LPC) and national Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention umbrella organizations such as CADCA support Lions Quest. Lions Quest provides more than 12 million youth worldwide with essential life skills to make healthy choices.



### NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF DANGEROUS TREES AND BRANCHES

- Trees Cut
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## GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND

CC MILLIE BURKE

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the organization I represent for Lions District 23C. I am a proud Charter member of the Eastern Connecticut Asian & American Lions Club. I can not Thank District Governor Ken Tucker enough for honoring me by inviting me to be a **Service Dog Liaison in District 23C for Guiding Eyes for the Blind**. I can be reached at [gebgem@snet.net](mailto:gebgem@snet.net) 860-326-0676 or 860-572-8784. I look forward to meeting all of you and helping you learn more about Guiding Eyes for the Blind and the services they offer.

I grew up in Philadelphia, so was familiar with The Seeing Eye from Morristown, NJ. When I was a child, I once saw a dog guiding a person and since that time dreamed of being a part of the process. As a Girl Scout, I had volunteered at Home for the Blind and was truly impressed with the many things a person could do and not be able to see. Life happened and it was many years before I was able to follow up on the dream. At a GEB conference, I had the opportunity to participate in a Juno walk. I was blindfolded and a dog

in harness helped me navigate a winding path and over a footbridge. At first, I was terrified, at some point I realized I could trust the dog to do his job and guide me safely. That moment was the single most incredible experience that I have ever had! I knew then that as hard as it was to raise a dog and then let it go, if that was the feeling a visually impaired person got when they were led by a guide dog, it was worth it!

**About Guiding Eyes for the Blind:** Guiding Eyes for the Blind ([www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)), an internationally accredited nonprofit guide dog school, was founded in 1954 to enrich the lives of blind and visually impaired men and women by providing them with the freedom to travel safely, thereby assuring greater independence, dignity and expanded horizons of opportunity. Since that time, Guiding Eyes has become one of the foremost guide dog schools in the world, graduating more than 8,000 guide dog teams. It provides superbly bred Guiding Eyes dogs, professional training and follow-up support services to students at no cost to them



The Pomfret Lions Club Cordially  
Invites You To Our

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cow Chip  
Raffle Celebration

Grand Prize of \$10,000

Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> - Doors open at 6 PM

The Harvest Restaurant,  
Route 44 Pomfret

Tickets are \$100 and are available by calling  
Mike Collins 860-336-6675 or Nick Gardner  
860-974-3162

### Montville Lions Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Midway Shopping Plaza

Rt. 32, Uncasville

Weekday's 1:00pm – 9:00pm

Weekends 9:00am – 9:00pm

“Beautiful Balsam Fir Christmas Trees”



Starting November 26, 2011

All sizes available and will be sold 'til we run out  
For info. Call Lion Patrick (860) 848-1194  
or Lion Al (860) 848-9893

and depends on contributions and volunteers to fulfill its mission. The comprehensive cost of breeding, raising, preparing, training, and supporting a Guiding Eyes team is \$45,000. Guiding Eyes for the Blind's Headquarters and Training Center is located in Yorktown Heights, NY and the Canine Development Center is in Patterson, NY.

In 2008, Heeling Autism service dogs began providing safety and companionship for children with autism. Our dogs have exceeded our expectations, and more importantly, those of the families that we serve, in countless ways. The program's outcomes are tangible, and evoke hope for these special children's futures.

I have been involved with Guiding Eyes for the Blind since October of 1997 when I became a Puppy Raiser for my first Guiding Eyes puppy, Bonnie. Bonnie became a working Guide Dog. Since then I have raised six other puppies for Guiding Eyes. Clarence is now working as a Guide Dog in California. Margie was retrained as an explosive detection dog by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. I

released Ella and Rupee to the public adoption program. Tartan resides with me and is an Ambassador for the Eastern CT region of Guiding Eyes. He and I have done countless public awareness presentations to help spread the word about Guiding Eyes. We would love to be invited to your Lion Club in order to share more information about Guiding Eyes, their programs and ways in which your Club can help Guiding Eyes achieve even greater success. Guiding Eyes for the Blind has five regions within Connecticut.

I am with the Eastern CT region and welcome you to visit one of our classes, so that you can observe firsthand a part of the process of Guiding Eyes superbly bred dogs becoming the helpmate to a person who is visually impaired. We meet at the Ledyard Congregational Church next to the Bill Library in Ledyard Center on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Classes start at nine and ten a.m. At these classes we work with relationship based training to help the puppies meet their full potential. We raise the Guiding Eyes specially bred puppies for 12 to 20 months. We provide the food, love, basic training and socialize them. Guiding Eyes provides the veterinary needs and training schedule. At the end of this stage the puppies go back to Yorktown Heights, New York for their In for Training test. When they pass that the professional trainers teach them the Harness work. This stage generally lasts 4-6 months. After they are placed with a visually impaired person, they train as a team for 3-4 weeks. Guiding Eyes also has a Home Based training program for those who may not be able to attend the program at the training center. At the Graduation Ceremony, which is open to the public, we puppy raisers get to meet the team. Often this results in lasting relationships.

Dogs that do not make it to Guide often go into other services such as Detection, Police work and the Heeling Autism program.

There is much more to be found on their website. I encourage you to visit it to learn more about Guiding Eyes programs and opportunities that your Club may be interested in taking part.

**MYSTIC LIONS CLUB**  
*7th Annual*  
**Wine, Beer & Spirits**  
**Tasting & Fundraiser**  
**SILENT & LIVE AUCTION ~ HEARTY HORS D'OEUVRES**  
*All proceeds benefit Lions Club charities.*  
**OCTOBER 22, 2011**  
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 Doors Open at 6:30pm  
 Live Auction at 8:00pm  
**TICKETS \$30**  
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*Ticket & Event Information*  
 Joe Gush - 860.213.0476  
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 www.mysticlionsclub.org

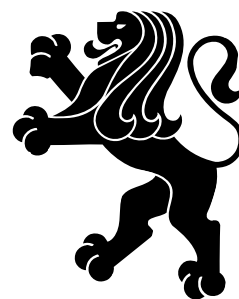
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## ADVERTISING IN "THE LIONS TALE"

To put an ad in The Lions Tale, you may email (gunnel@gulemo.com), send us a disk or hard copy (which we will scan) to PO Box 467, Willimantic, CT 06226. The editor does not create ads.

Send a check made out to "Lions District 23C" to PO Box 467, Willimantic, CT 06226.

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May 15	(deadline April 15)

	Lions Member	Lion Back Page
Business Card	\$30.00	\$36.00
1/4 Page AD	\$60.00	\$72.00
1/2 Page AD	\$100.00	\$120.00
Full Page AD	\$175.00	\$210.00
	Non-Lion	Non-Lion Back Page
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Full Page AD	\$200.00	\$240.00
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