



From your Governor...

Michele Wyatt

What a great year District 23-C had. I want to congratulate all of you for getting back into your communities and serving. When I set out for my District Governor's year, I knew there would be some challenges, so I kept the districts goals small and simple and YOU have exceed all of our expectations – THANK-YOU LIONS for making our district shine.

The vision coming into this year was to thank all the lions for all that they do and to tell them how important they are to the organization – and to the success of our district. I had three goals for this year and I asked all the Lions in our District to assist us:

1. Step up to the plate and lead
2. Look at your bench and increase your team
3. Celebrate & of course have fun

And many of you took the challenge and ran with it – because of you our district is strong, we have new leaders ready to serve and along the way we had a lot of fun.

Our Service team concentrated on service reporting. GST Jim helped many clubs report their projects & fundraisers in MYLION. I went back into service reports 10 years plus and the people we served, the money we raised & donated are the highest ever in our district. Here is what we show as of June 7th, 2022.

There is still time to go into MYLION and report anything you have done from July 1, 2022 – Present. The deadline to get anything in for this lions' years is June 30, 2022. What should you report? EVERYTHING: club meetings, all your service project, fundraisers, every time you give out money, and do not forget your service you give to your fellow club members – this is all reportable service. If you need help, please contact GST Jim Tripp.

The Membership Team played a HUGE part to the success of this year. GMT Teri and GMA Hilary along with 1st VDG Sue visited numerous clubs this fall to engage them back into serving their communities. They planned Membership Drives, designed club brochures and they hosted membership nights. I want to thank this dynamic team who was committed & dedicated to your success. Just a reminder that LCI has stated that the waiver of the \$35.00 new members initiation fee will end June 30, 2022. Please make sure that you have all your new members entered in the system so that you do not miss this opportunity.

This year we achieved two very important milestones:

- First time EVER for 3 months in a row clubs reported their membership
- First time EVER – clubs reported their officers by May 15th.

A special thank you to everyone who imputed their data to make this happen – this was a team effort.

Many clubs are very close to achieving the District Governor Service Patch AND Lions Club International Club Excellence award. Please look over the requirements and send them to my attention no later than August 15th. These forms can be found in this newsletter.

I would like to wish DGE Sue Fisher and her team much success next year – she has started to build her vision for the district and gathering up her teammates. I am very excited to be on her cabinet and watch her vision grow.

Finally, I want to thank every one of you – I have had a fantastic journey this year and it was because you all made it so special and fun. Lions is a great organization – continue to grow your club, develop new leaders, and have fun and remember

In Service & Friendship
DG Michele

Two new Leo Clubs were started...



President), Tyler Quinn, Nico Oliva (Treasurer), Emily Murphy, Lilly Carol (front row) - Advisor Lion Kelly Milardo, Brooks Oliva, Reese Nicol, Carson Nicol (President), Dorothy Riley (Secretary), Sophia Larrow, Ava Maselek, Katie Milardo, Advisor Lion Marcia Nicol. Missing from picture: Cooper Beck, Camryn Dimauro, Ben McGrew, Luke Thompson, Parker Thompson



Three Portland Leos collecting donations for the Ukrainian refugees. Reese Nicol, Carson Nicol, Brooks Oliva

The Portland Leo Club held their Charter Event on Sunday, April 24th, inducting 18 members and installing their officers: President Carson Nicol, VP John Thompson, Secretary Dorothy Riley and Treasurer Nicholas Oliva with Portland Lions Marcia Nicol and Kelly Milardo as advisors.



Leo Denise, Leo Alexis, Leo Zahara, Advisor Lisa Klein, Leo Ruth, Leo Abby, Leo Grant, Leo Kaci, Leo Matthew, Leo Rye, District Governor Michele and Advisor Ellie Paules.



The First Leo Club in Portland sponsored by the Portland Lions. Charter members inducted April 24th are: (back row) - Alex Dawson, John Thompson (Vice

Midstate Leo Charter event with DG Michele.

The Midstate Leo Charter event took place on Saturday, April 30th inducting 17 members and installing their officers: Co-Presidents Abigail Kriger and Grant Weaver, Secretary Denise Samarawickrama and Treasurer Matthew Kriger with Cromwell Lion Lisa Klein and Middletown Lion Ellie Paules as advisors.

LISBON CENTENNIAL LIONS

The Lisbon Centennial Lions have been busy this spring! They held another successful Mother's Day Raffle with a week of prizes raising money to support their community.



Earth Day was celebrated with a spring clean-up of trash around the historical grounds of the Burnham Tavern. A group of Lions collected 5 large bags of trash consisting of mostly discarded plastic, to not only beautify the area, but help the environment.

A celebration was held to recognize the club's **5 year Charter Anniversary**. Several Lions spoke about the numerous accomplishments achieved by this small but mighty club for the communities of Griswold, Lisbon and Sprague.



Lisbon Centennial Lions also participated in the Journey for Sight with 100% of funds earned going to Camp Rising Sun. A committee counted, sorted and boxed 774 pairs of glasses for the Eye Glasses Extravaganza. As usual this club had a lot of fun while working together!

A scholarship was awarded to a **Griswold High School senior** in memory of Renee Olesik. Lion Renee was a dedicated member of the Lisbon Centennial Lions who spent her life time caring for others and making our world a better place.

A **Night of Giving** was held with community members exemplifying how though hard work, kindness and dedication good things happen. Donations were made to the following:

- **Freedom Guide Dogs**
- **St Mary Food Pantry in Jewett City**
- **Griswold Elementary School Teacher Grants**
- **Griswold Middle School Teacher Grants**
- **Griswold High School Teacher Grants**
- **Lisbon Central School Teacher Grants**
- **Griswold Senior Center**

LISBON CENTENNIAL LIONS

LISBON CENTENNIAL NIGHT OF GIVING CONT'D ...

- Lisbon Senior Center
- Lions Low Vision Center
- Sprague Food Pantry
- Camp Rising Sun
- LCIF



District 23C Environment Committee

It has been a successful year for the District NexTrex plastic film recycling program championing on one of the Lions' five global causes - Environment. This program offers the perfect avenue to collect and recycle plastic film materials that typically would be discarded and end up in our landfills. The program has the added bonus that when a Club collects at least 500 pounds of plastic film Trex® will donate a high-performance composite bench to their community made from the recycled materials.

Four clubs - Ledyard, Montville, Middlefield, and North Stonington reached their goal, collected 500 pounds of plastic film material, and qualified for a free Trex® bench:



The Willimantic Club started the NexTrex Challenge in March and the Old Saybrook Club is about to start. Several Clubs in our District are also participating in the challenge by collecting plastic film and donating it to one of the other participating clubs such as Ledyard or North Stonington.

To help our Clubs promote the program, Trex® provides posters and recycling collection bins to the club.

Distributing these collection bins around our communities increases the awareness of another recycling opportunity for plastic that is not easily recycled. In North Stonington, the Sr. Center held a special informational program at one of their weekly luncheons on the NexTrex Challenge and plastic film recycling after receiving one of the recycling bin.

Once you start collecting the plastic film you begin to realize the enormous Bulk that 500 pounds of plastic film occupies. Trex® estimates that it takes about 40,500 plastic bags to reach 500 pounds. Another estimate is that one large black plastic garden waste bag holds about 7 pounds of plastic film. Therefore, it takes over 70 large black plastic bags to reach 500 pounds. That number of bags roughly fills the floor space of a two car garage.

Thanks to all of the Lions Clubs and individuals that have contributed to making this project a success. We have made a significant contribution to improving our environment. Please contact me if you have any questions. I am happy to talk with your Club about the NexTrex Challenge.

Lion Tom Adams Environment Committee, District 23C
environment@LionsDistrict23C.org

Ledyard Peace Poster Winners



Karl Jennings, Ledyard Prevention Coalition Youth Coordinator joins Ledyard Lions President Pete Franzese in recognizing their Peace Poster Contestants: Maya Velez, Ruby Jensen, Faith Dalton along with PDG Laura Rowe at the Ledyard Middle School Awards Assembly

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Governor Michele presents Humanitarian Award to Ledyard Lions Nominee George Roy at the Gales Ferry Firehouse



Lion Debbie Goldman of the Montville Lions Club made 7,000 earsavers to wear with masks during the pandemic and donated them. She made 4,000 this year donating 3,000 to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

Ledyard Memorial day Parade

Ledyard Lions hosted Ledyard's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade with a great turnout after a two year break due to COVID.



Council Chairman Kevin Dombrowski and Mayor Fred Allyn, III place wreath at Ledyard's Memorial



Ledyard Police Honor Guard with the 1109th TASMG lead off the Ledyard Memorial Day Parade.

PUTNAM LIONS

The 2022 Putnam Lions Volleyball Challenge took place at the Strong Field House on the campus of the Pomfret School on Sunday, March 20th. There were 4 teams participating. Over \$13,000 was raised to benefit the forty plus organizations to which the Putnam Lions Club donates. These funds will be distributed during our annual Night of Giving which will be on April 8th this year. Sunday was our corporate division that competes for a cash prize and a travelling trophy. The winning team on Sunday was the Vertically Challenged team.

We want to thank all of our players, sponsors and Lion volunteers who made this year's tournament such a success. We would

especially like to thank our Diamond sponsor, KARS of Putnam, our Platinum sponsor: Day Kimball Hospital, our gold sponsors: Spirol International Corp, Hallisey & D'Agostino LLP, Rawson Materials, our gold sponsors with team Archambault Insurance Associates, Byrnes Insurance Agency, Dave and Eileen Stuyanski, our silver sponsors WINY Radio, Gerardi Insurance Services Inc, Woodstock Building Associates, National Chromium Company, Bachand, Longo and Higgins and the over forty additional sponsors that donated to this event. Special thanks go to the Putnam High School girls' volleyball team, who did the refereeing for the entire tournament and the Putnam II Leo Club for helping with set-up and breakdown.



NIANTIC LIONS



Our club performed the annual spring clean up at the Brookside Farm & Museum (formerly the Smith-Harris House) on April 30th in Niantic. Brookside Farm Museum offers an historical and educational view of agricultural and domestic life from 1845 to 1955. A variety of events are offered throughout the year that convey the family stories of the people who resided in the house and worked the farm. Spring clean up at the farm museum has been an annual project with our club for many years. Our day was punctuated by perfect weather and attended by 7 Lions and 12 Leos. Lions Gary and Craig chainsawed multiple fallen trees and we picked up hundreds of pounds of yard debris. Lions pictured are Jim Moos, Craig Woody, Gary Lakowsky (chairman of the Brookside Farm Museum Commission), Dick MacDonald, Stacey Wyeth, Kirk Engel, and 12 Shoreline Leos. Not pictured is Lion Vicky Moos, who brought GREAT blueberry muffins!

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Kirk

Seven Niantic club members and two Shoreline Leos participated in litter collection and clean up along I-95 South exit 75 (route 1) on March 26, 2022. Those participating included: club President Kirk Engel, Steve Garabedian and his 2 sons (Owen & Henry), Jim Curley, Mark Rolsma, Craig Woody, Stacey Wyeth, and Gary Lakowsky.

Thank you Lion Steve for suggesting and orchestrating this effort that culminated in disposing over a dozen large bags of trash and beautifying the entrance into the Flanders Four Corners area of East Lyme. We hope to attack another area in the near future!

Sincerely,
Lion Kirk



NIANTIC LIONS

Students Receive Lions International Service Awards

Twenty-nine (29) Shoreline Leo Club students were recently honored with Lions International Young Leaders in Service Awards for their community service contributions at the East Lyme Community Center. Through the Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards, Lions clubs encourage youth in the philosophy and habit of service to the community. The premise of the award is to demonstrate student's love for service, build community relationships, promote young people to effect change, and invite youth to partner on hands-on projects. Niantic Lions President Kirk Engel, Lions 1st Vice District 23C Governor Sue Fisher, ELHS Principal Deb Kelly, and Lion PDG (Past District Governor 23C) Diana Grise presented the awards. East Lyme First Selectman Kevin Seery visited as a guest along with Lion PDG Jan Miller.



Leo Club Award students and Guest presenters at the Leo's Service Awards Night at the East Lyme Community Center

The Award recipient's volunteer service hours collectively totaled over 2300 hours during the past year. Leos logged service hours over a twelve month period with the goal of completing either 50 or 100 hours of service to their community. Each student received a 50 or 100-hour award certificate from the Niantic Lions Club. The following students qualified and received the Lions International community service awards:

2021 Gold Service Awards - 100 hours or more: Bansal Riddhi, Isabella Gesino, Jenny Guo, Avni Kabra, Aditya Kabra, Mannat Kadian, Anna Lu, Devin Minogue, Christopher Munzner, Emily Sevigny, Yurina Shirai, and Eve Slemp.

2021 Silver Service Awards - 50-99 hours: William Bao, Ted Bergman, Caroline Daugherty, Rex Davis, Lucas DeNucci, Brendan Fant, Tony He, Ryan Huang, Jack Keating, Noah Krishnaswami, Gwyneth Minogue, Aiden Minogue, Hailey Newton, Eric Quelle, Scott Quelle, Sara Tamara, and Colin Zhang.

All students receiving awards attend East Lyme High School, except for: Gwyneth Minogue, (East Lyme Middle School), Rex Davis (Williams School), and Colin Zhang (moved to California).



ELHS Principal Kelly 1st Vice District Governor Fisher, Leo Club President Aditya Kabra (receiving his Gold Award), Past District Governor Diana Grise, and Lions President Kirk Engel

Niantic Lions President Kirk Engel congratulated each of the Leos for their "demonstrated and sustained volunteer community service commitment, making the world a better place for everyone." East Lyme High School Principal Deb Kelly thanked the students for "accepting the school's challenge to improve their local communities through volunteer service." Lions 1st Vice District 23C Governor Sue Fisher thanked both the Lions and Leos for their community service.



GOVERNOR'S AWARDS BREAKFAST



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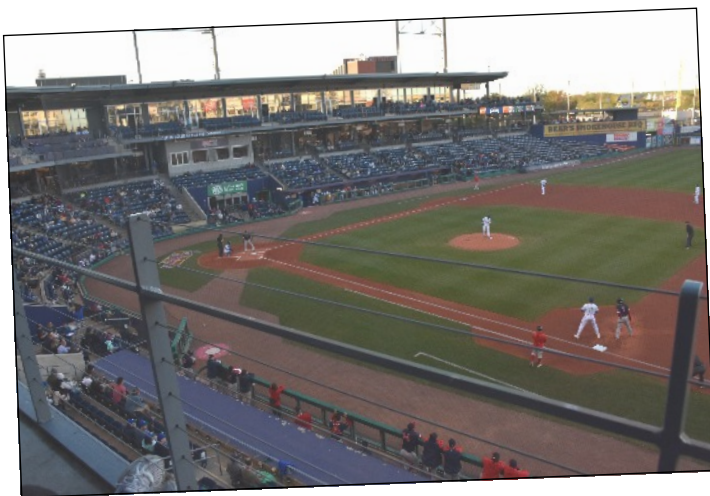
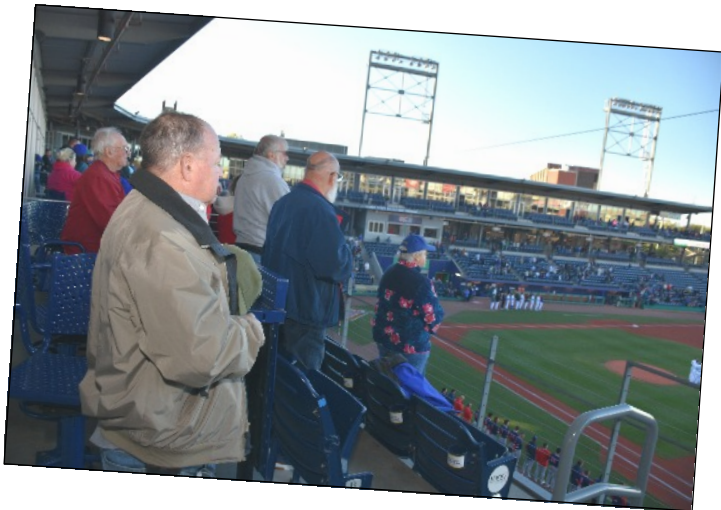
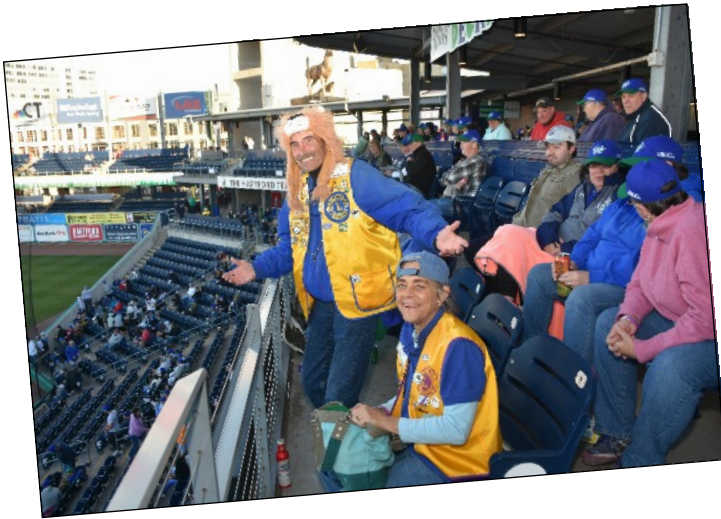
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS BREAKFAST



GOVERNOR'S AWARDS BREAKFAST



Lions Day at the Yard Goats Stadium



Journey for Sight/Eyeglass Extravaganza



Additional pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GENEqBHs6wPXSMJC9>

MD23 Connecticut Lions State Convention



Link for additional Pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/9xcamsdUMzGx793d6>

Kick off and Fundraiser for PID Mark & Lion Lyn Lyon on their journey as Lions Clubs International Third Vice President Candidate

Lions gathered at Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant following the State and Special Conventions held on May 14th where his endorsement was officially signed.

Thanks for photos from Lion Don Grisé



ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION

On Sunday, June 5th, 19 of us gathered at the Lions Pavilion in Sears Park, East Hampton for a St. Baldrick's Mini Shave Event. Our team consisted of four Lions, with three of them shaving on Sunday – Laura Rowe, Joe Walters, and Jim Tripp. Lion Howard Geltman had already gotten his hair cut but still raised money.

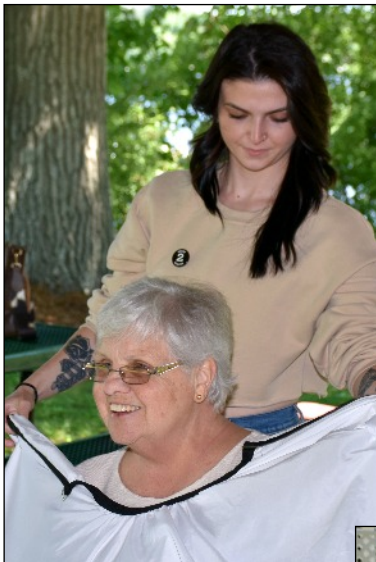
Thank you to the Portland Lions, especially Lions Jim Tripp and Teri Schlosser, for organizing this event and supplying water and goodies. Portland Lions also found a fantastic barber, Samantha DeProspero, of West Main Barbershop, Rockville. Samantha took great care to give each of us individual treatment and great shaves. In fact, Lion Joe Walters said it was the best shave and haircut he's ever received!

I project we will raise around \$3000 when all donations come in. Some of our largest fundraisers weren't able to participate today, but there's still time for them to raise funds and shave. Eastern Connecticut Lions have been involved with St. Baldrick's since 2019 and since that time we've raised a total of \$66,154.

Grow your hair and join us next year!

Respectfully Submitted,

PDG Laura Rowe



MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Pictures from Yesterday's MJF Breakfast. Congratulations to all our Honories. Thanks to Lion Don for his great pictures.

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNel9kiQ8tNqIXa51hPO2EWIhkPepwMMUvZq3ZuC_l67y0JhLEmfAvKVgM401hvA?key=bGF2ZnotMkYwNWRGLXhWNW5YdS1tWTEzOU5yZjJR

Link for further MJF Breakfast photos...

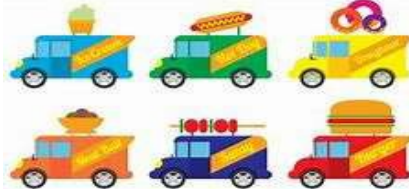
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Niantic Lions

61ST OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

FOOD TRUCK



July 2nd & 3rd

Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 10am-4pm

**East Lyme Town Hall Green
Featuring New England's Finest
Juried Artists and Crafters**

Niantic Lions Art & Craft Show



The Lions Tale Publication

The Lions of District 23-C Newsletter



News of Clubs activities, District projects, Committees, Zone Reports and any other items of interest to Lions should be sent directly to the editor. Copy may be included in the text of an email or as a Word file (.doc, .docx) attachment. Flyers may be completed **.pdf** files.

Submit graphics/ photos as **.jpg or .png** files **separate** from text.

Please do not submit photos with text as part of a Word/docx file, but as attachments in email. Thank you.

The Lion's Tale will be published as scheduled: This Newsletter is the forum for District 23-C with articles and pictures or service and fund raisers. Clubs are encouraged to print copies for their members who do not receive electronically - this is a big cost savings for the District.

Deadlines for submissions are as follows:

For 2022-23... deadlines yet to be determined...

*Please be aware of **DEADLINE DATE**... Any **late submissions** after deadline **WILL NOT APPEAR** in respective issue.*

Late submissions may be in following issue.

Please submit to: editor@lionsdistrict23c.org

Editor: Lance Gladue

