



Multiple District 23 Connecticut Council of Governors 2010-2011

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Dear MD23 Lions,

The 90th Annual State Convention has come and gone, and what a fantastic event it was! If you were fortunate to be in attendance, you certainly know what I mean. From the Western Hoedown on Friday night, to the educational opportunities, luncheon demonstrations, business meetings and banquet on Saturday, to the election of our new District leadership teams and brunch on Sunday – everything ran like clockwork; a truly enjoyable experience in the camaraderie of our fellow Lions from around the State of Connecticut. Our special guest, International Director Bob Smith and his wife, Lion Vickie, from Sacramento, California, were so impressed with the Lions of Connecticut, constantly commenting on the energy, passion and dedication we share as Lions. So again, to all of you who were able to attend, thank you so much. And for those of you who could not make it this year, we hope that you will do your best to join us in 2012.

I also need to share two pieces of business with you that have recently come to my attention. First, during the MD23 Business Meeting on Saturday, a report on the proposed 2011-2012 Administrative Budget was presented by CST Julie Shilosky and me. This report also included reference to a proposed \$0.50 dues increase (per Lion/per year) for the purpose of offsetting a reduction by Lions Clubs International in the reimbursable travel expense to the International Convention for our District Governor-Elects' spouse/partner.

Please be advised that this proposed dues increase should not have been a part of the 2011-2012 Administrative Budget proposal. After further review of the MD23 Finance Committee report to the April 4, 2011 MD23 Council Meeting, the recommendation was actually that MD23 consider and vote on this \$0.50 dues increase at the 2012 State Convention effective for the 2012-2013 Lions Year. There is no MD23 dues increase for the 2011-2012 Lions Year.

Secondly, despite our efforts to have the 2011-2012 administrative budget in place and ready for approval by the delegates at State Convention, we were unable to fully comply with the letter of our MD23 Constitution and Bylaws, which calls for the mailing of "notice of the proposed budget and levy to the Council and each Club Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Convention at which it is to be adopted." While the MD23 Council approved the budget at a Special Meeting called by me for that specific purpose, we admit that notice was not properly given to each Club Secretary.

The language in our MD23 Constitution and Bylaws is very restrictive, allowing the MD23 budget to only be approved at State Convention. However, the Council believes that the budget is appropriate, fair, complete and consistent with prior budgets. Therefore, we have recommended to the 2011-2012 Council that it operate under the current administrative budget until such time as a new administrative budget is passed. For your information, the Lions in attendance at the Business Meeting approved the budget unanimously and without debate.

Your MD23 Council of Governors makes every effort to operate with full transparency to the Lions of Connecticut, and we pledge to work even harder to ensure that these issues do not resurface. As Council Chair, I accept the responsibility for the matters described above. Should you have any questions with respect to these matters, I would ask that you contact me or CST Julie directly. Thank you for being Lions!

In Lionism,

Mark S. Lyon
Council Chair