



# “JUNGLE NEWS”

Official Publication of the  
New Haven Lions Club

Volume I, Issue 15

February 10, 2008

## MEMBERSHIP; LET’S KEEP GROWING!

Maureen Mazzacane, Co-Chair (with Ruth Carr) of this year’s Membership Committee, announces that the Committee will next meet on Tuesday, February 19th, 7:00 PM, at 108 May Street, West Haven.

The meeting’s primary purpose will be to finalize the details of our next Membership Night, which is slated for Thursday, April 3rd at Brazi’s, but the Committee will also discuss how the club might immediately involve some of our new Lions in activities meaningful to them.

This year has been one of significant transition and turnaround for the New Haven Lions Club. Having suffered a number of devastating membership losses over the past several years (via deaths, transfers, and resignations), we have been pleased to welcome five new Lions into our den so

far this year (Caitlin Farrell, Todd Jokl, Paul Mazzacane, Terri Seaquist, and Sue Turbert), and have a sixth person (Giacomo Tolomeo) approved for membership and scheduled to be inducted on April 3rd.

That’s a great start, but we can’t stop now, and we won’t if the Membership Committee has any say in the matter, which they do, so if YOU have a prospective member candidate in mind, we urge you to invite that person to attend our April 3rd Membership Night as our guest.

As impressed as I’ve been with the quality of this year’s new members, I’ve been equally pleased to note how young they are, which bodes well for the club’s future success IF we manage to get all of them meaningfully involved and connected.

We must allow these young



Lions to assume positions of leadership, take our club in new directions, try new fundraisers and service projects, and engage in new social interactions with the greater New Haven community we serve, all with our blessing and support.

Of course, we also hope Caitlin, Todd, Paul, Terri, Sue, Giacomo, and the other new Lions to come will support our presently-established activities to the best of their abilities, as it is important that these continue to succeed until they are replaced by other ones.

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### Upcoming Events:

February 21st - Club Meeting  
at Brazi’s, 7:00 PM

February 23rd - An Evening to  
Benefit LCIF, 7:00 PM, Portland  
(ME) Holiday Inn

February 26th - Board Meeting,  
7:30 PM, 11 St. John  
Street, #A1, North Haven

March 6th - Club Meeting at  
Brazi’s, 7:00 PM

## BOARD MEETING NOTICE

This month’s administrative gathering will be hosted by Jim and Joan Bennett on Tuesday, February 26th, 7:30 PM, at their 11 St. John Street, #A1, North Haven condominium.

All Board members are encouraged to attend, and the club also welcomes the input of any other interested member, new or old.

It is at these gatherings that the real business of the club is conducted; where the club’s many Committees (service, social, and fundraising) report on their activities; where significant correspondences both received and initiated are reported; where the club’s financial condition is reviewed; where requests for

funds are received and acted upon; and where new ideas of all kinds are discussed.

If you have something you would like the Board to consider and cannot attend this meeting, I entreat you to let me know your concern or idea so that I can present it on your behalf.



## MID-WINTER CONFERENCE RECAP

More than 440 registrants enjoyed the sights, sounds, and activities of the 57th Annual MD23 Mid-Winter Conference held at the Farmington Marriott from February 1-3.

First International Lions VP Albert Brandel and his wife, Lion Maureen, were our special guests for the weekend, and they mixed wonderfully well with us Connecticut Lions.

Friday night featured “King

and I” themed hospitality presented by the three Vice-District Governor candidates, as well as club skits and good dancing music. (A few of us even went in costume.)

Saturday’s activities began with two sessions of Seminar offerings. A lunch followed, at which the Multiple District’s three Peace Poster winners were honored, PDG Mike Del Re spoke about the Connecticut Lions Eye Research

Foundation, and the clubs presented their donations to various projects. An afternoon business meeting was next, during which the District Governors presented their mid-year reports, and the nominating and seconding speeches for the VDG candidates were received. A cocktail hour followed, then the evening Banquet, at which several Lions received International Certificates of Appreciation, and 1st VP Brandel gave his

keynote address, followed by more VDG hospitality in the E-Wing.

A Sunday breakfast was last up for those still on site, then it was time to trek home for the Super Bowl. (Did Dallas win?)

Enjoying this year’s Mid-Winter Conference were Al and Jean Bennett, Jim and Joan Bennett, Sal and Polly Brancato, Fran Calzetta, Barbara Gould, and John and Maureen Mazzacane.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

Having highlighted the Birthday Fund in issue #9, then subtly pointing out how much more could be realized if just a few more members contributed to it in issue #13, imagine my amazement that instead of seeing an outpouring of member support, exactly the opposite effect was achieved. In fact, not one

BF contribution has been recorded in the past two months (and I do believe several club member birthdays were commemorated during that period).

Undaunted, I persevere, recognizing that our February-born have always been among our most fervent BF supporters.

Celebrating birthdays this month are Barbara Gould (on the 2nd), Jim Bennett (on the 16th), John Lyons (also on the 16th), Betsy Maloney (on the 23rd), and Merrill Douglas (on the 24th).

To each we extend fondest birthday wishes. From each we hope to receive a gift of thanks earmarked for the

Birthday Fund.

For the record, contributions totaling \$460 have been received as of January 31, 2008, catalogued from ten (10) contributors. Thank you, one and all!



## NEW CLUB SHIRTS/DUES

Topic #1 - After much discussion and deliberation, the Board gave Sal Brancato the go-ahead to investigate a new club shirt, and his resultant proposal to the Board was likewise approved.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter mailing an order form for your use to

purchase a new New Haven Lions Club Shirt. Both men’s and ladies’ cuts are available in a selection of sizes, and the cost just \$25.

Your completed order forms and appropriate payments, made payable to the “New Haven Lions Club,” should be mailed to Sal Brancato, 12 Milo Drive,

Branford, CT 06405.

Topic #2 - I’m disappointed to announce that we still have five members owing their basic Dues obligation fully seven months into our Lions year, plus two new inductees who owe money. The new members I will excuse presently, but the five others I cannot excuse,

as they have been club members long enough to recognize the importance of fulfilling this most basic membership obligation in a timely fashion.

Please send your outstanding dues obligations to the club’s P.O. Box or to me without any further delay.





## PROGRAMS

**February 21st:** District Governor Rose Marie Spatafore will be on hand, as will several interested persons from the American Diabetes Association in Meriden, who will be inducted into Lionism on this night as members of a new Branch Club under the sponsorship and parenting of the New Haven Lions Club.

As the Branch Club concept is fairly new, there's a learning curve for all of us, but our main responsibilities to it will be to assist its new members in "obtaining and maintaining a high level of

commitment, activity, and enthusiasm."

Please recognize that these new Lions will be full members of OUR club and entitled to all the obligations and privileges thereof, until they reach the twenty member number required to form their own club. I sincerely hope we can get a great New Haven Lions turnout on this night!

### **February 7th Summary:**

Fifteen club members were in attendance, along with spouse Polly Brancato, to listen to an informative,

enlightening, and yes, disturbing talk given by Alice Forrester, Executive Director of the Clifford Beers Clinic.

Clifford Beers is the oldest, community-based non-profit outpatient mental health clinic in the country. Founded in 1913, it serves more than 2,500 children and their families each year, treating them for the effects of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, domestic and community violence, and traumatic loss.

You might also be interested to know that one of our own, Lion Jim Traester, presently serves as Treasurer of the Clifford Beers Clinic.



## CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRST II

As of February 4th, the Lions of the world have pledged \$137M to Campaign SightFirst II, and 1st International VP Al Brandel reported at Mid-Winter that it is expected that LCI will announce that we have reached our \$150M minimum goal within the next two weeks.

That's terrific news, as it's

an achievement ALL Lions can be proud of, but wouldn't YOU be more connected if YOU were a part of the campaign's success?

You should be proud that the New Haven Lions Club committed to be a Model Club for this worldwide campaign to eradicate preventable blindness, obligating us to raise a minimum of

\$23,200, or \$400/member.

Whether or not we achieve or surpass this challenging goal is now entirely up to YOU, the individual club member who hasn't yet responded to the invitation to participate.

The club has done its part by making a significant donation from the treasury,

and we were also the fortunate beneficiaries of both a lead member gift and a corporate matching gift. Please now choose to personally participate by forwarding YOUR completed pledge card (with money) to CSFII Group Coordinator Joan Bennett without any further delay. Thanks.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

On Monday, July 14th, our club will conduct its 30th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange.

From a humble first effort at that very site in 1979, we have managed to grow this fundraiser into a hugely

successful event, one that funds nearly all of our charitable giving.

The money comes in from several revenue streams: Golfer fees, Boosters, Golf Book advertisers, and Tees.

Our club has been blessed to have had a dedicated

core (small but dedicated) committed to making sure this event is successful each and every year, and I trust the same will hold true this year, but we do have some extenuating circumstances: a new job for Tournament Chair Peter Bennett, a

Kansas City-based vocation placement for Co-Chair Alan Bennett, and the reluctance of Ad Book Chairs John and Maureen Mazzacane to continue that responsibility most particularly. Bottom line - We'll need YOUR help in 2008 more than ever!



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The member we highlight this week is JOHN M. LYONS, and not just because he celebrates a birthday this coming week. John joined the New Haven Lions Club in November 1962 on the sponsorship of Bernie Farrell, and what a gift he has been to us over the past forty-five years! His Committee work has included stints on Programs, Nominating, Membership, and One to One; he Chaired both our 45th and 75th Club Anniversaries (so you know what successes they were!); he has rung the bell for the Salvation Army, shaken his collection can to raise funds for CLERF, and given hands-on and financial support to every club fundraising activity.

John also served the club as President in 1972-1973, and it was during this tenure that he left his most indelible legacy to us, as it was during his year of stewardship that the club's Charitable Trust was established.

A Knight of the Blind recipient and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, John Lyons is truly one of our finest club members ever, as well as the classiest gentleman you may ever have the privilege to know. Happy birthday, John, from all your New Haven Lion friends!



## LIONS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLUB

As Joan and I have become increasingly and progressively more involved in Lionism at the District and State levels, we have truly enjoyed the many additional opportunities for fellowship and friendship these commitments have afforded us.

I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is that all Lions recognize that the organization they joined is International in scope and not confined to the limits of one's specific geographic location.

So many club members never venture beyond the club meeting, and that's a real shame, as how can you really grow in your understanding

of Lionism if you don't expose yourself to new people, new ideas, and new perspectives? (That's enough preaching for now!)

We were pleased to escort several of our blind friends to last night's Milford Lions' Ziti Dinner fundraiser. I thank volunteer escorts Jay Farrell, Barbara Gould, Gail Traester, and Jim Traester for assisting Joan and me in transporting four blind to and from the event and also note that several other clubs (East Haven, Orange, Prospect, West Haven, and Wolcott.) were represented at it.

The Cheshire Lions Club is holding its 9th Annual Wine Tasting on Friday, February

29th at the Masonic Temple Building (9 Country Club Road) from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$20. Please contact Club President Anthony Cipriano (271-1202, apc52@cox.net) if interested.

The West Haven Lions Club is presenting its "Spring Luau" at App's Restaurant (283 Captain Thomas Boulevard) on Saturday, March 1st at 7:00 PM. \$35 will buy you a buffet dinner, dessert, beer, and wine, plus you can dance to the tunes of "Primo." Please call 933-2812 for tickets.

The East Haven Lions Club will hold a Wine Tasting event at the Beachhead Res-

taurant on Wednesday, April 9th, but the time and ticket price were unavailable as I went to word process and print this week.

Lastly, I'd like to put in a first announcement (and plug) for the 2008 MD23 State Lions Convention, which will take place from May 16-18 at the Mystic Hilton. Firm details are unknown presently, but I do know that New Haven Lion Joan Bennett will be elected there as District Governor-elect on Sunday morning, and who would want to miss that? Please plan to attend!