

**A Brief History of Lionism
in Connecticut
1922-1983**

Lions Clubs of District 23-B



Chapter 5

Chapter 5

CLUBS OF DISTRICT 23B

Avon Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, Boy Scouts, the Avon fuel bank, a low vision center at the Avon Public Library, LCIF, CLERF and LGS.

Service activities included hosting an annual Christmas party for the handicapped, painting a house for an elderly couple and assisting at the Farmington Valley Association for The Retarded and Handicapped.

Civic projects are painting and cleanup days.

Fundraisers are fall and spring pancake breakfasts, an annual auction and Lions Day.

The club honors Past District Governor Otto Ruppert who served the club and district well in many offices.

It also honors a deceased lion, John Oelrich, who held many cabinet positions and did much for his club.

Barkhamsted Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships (total annually \$1,000), CLERF and LGS (over \$5,000), the American School for the Deaf and the Barkhamsted Boys League Baseball for 8-to-12 year olds.

Service projects include sponsoring youth soccer, baseball and basketball teams and giving holiday dinners for the needy.

Civic projects include a large Christmas display and tree lights at the town hall, eight-foot benches at supermarkets for seniors, preservation work on a historical schoolhouse, picnic tables at a local swimming area and conducting the annual Fourth of July parade.

Fundraisers include an annual play by the Pleasant Valley Players (17th year), a fisherman's breakfast (17th year), an apple sale (6th year) and an AAU-sanctioned road race (5th year).

The main social activities are the club president's family picnic, the president's cocktail party at the installation of officers and a Valentine's Day Night plus four other ladies nights.

The Barkhamsted Lions Club honors Richard Church, charter member, who has donated the use of the downstairs in a building he owns for a Lions den over the years. But this club has many worthy members.

Berlin Lions Club

The Berlin Lions Club has contributed over \$56,000 to charitable causes in three years, 1981-1983. Such contributions are possible because of income from the Berlin Lions Fair (see Ch. VII).

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$3,000 in 1981-1982 and \$4,000 in 1982-1983), CLERF (\$2,000 in 1981-1982 and \$2,500 in 1982-1983), LGS (\$2,000 in 1981-1982, \$2,000 in 1982-1983). Miscellaneous contributions amounted to more than \$14,000 in the same period. These include camperships and an annual sports night for the Berlin High School.

The Berlin club built and maintains a swimming pool for the community, the Lions Memorial Pool.



Nunzio Rosso

The Berlin club honors a truly outstanding Lion, Nunzio Rosso. He has held all club offices, was Zone Chairman, District Governor, served as International Board Appointee 1977-1978, was State Council Secretary-Treasurer, served as Secretary of the Lions Eye Research Foundation for 12 years and was President of the Lions Gallery of the Sightless. Nunzio joined the Lions in 1954 and has a record of perfect attendance. He also served as Treasurer of the Berlin Lions Fair for 25 years. Few Lions can match his record of service.

Berlin also honors Past District Governor Theodore S. Boryczki who served as governor in 1976 and continues to give his all for lionism.



Berlin Lions Vice president Harry Hillstrand, president George Ondrick and P.D.G. Ted Boryczki trying a wig on Nunzio Rosso.

Bethlehem Lions Club

The Bethlehem club compiled only a partial list of their charitable and civic activities which in itself is quite long. Contributions went towards: state and international projects, an eye testing machine for the school, a hearing testing machine for the school, dental work for a young girl, repairing of eyeglasses for the needy, an aid for teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a bike safety program and rodeo, building a fence around a yard for a deaf boy, new uniforms for Little League, a local fuel bank, Babe Ruth team, Girl Scouts, help for a needy family, eyeglasses, scholarships, a water pump for a needy person and completion of a project for recording books for the blind.

"After receiving our charter and at the second board of directors meeting we were advised of a young person who needed an eye operation and the parents couldn't provide it," the club reported. "After a lot of contact with the zone chairman and district governor we started out to get the job done. A doctor at Yale did the operation for us under the condition that we donate \$100 a year to eye research for four years. Since it was a brand new club, we had not had a fundraiser, but we found the money to pay the hospital, and this young man is now an asset to our community. The same year we started a busing program for the elderly. It proves that men working together can accomplish things that might seem impossible."

Service projects included sponsoring a drug program, sponsoring blood pressure and glaucoma tests and helping a family burned out a week before Christmas. There was 100% participation by the club to help the family.

Civic projects included buying and installing a clock for the new town hall, donating a figure for the town creche, a donation for the town flagpole, local fluoride treatment of water, a donation toward rebuilding a town-owned hall, picnic tables and fireplaces at the town beach and donations to the town ambulance service.

The Bethlehem club honors Lion Bob Overton, first president. Bob Overton was inducted as the first King Lion of the Bethlehem Lions in May, 1972, continuing in his drive to give of himself to help others.

Overton was born August 13, 1931, and raised in Waterbury, Connecticut with his four brothers and two sisters. He graduated from school there and was drafted in



Bob Overton

the Korean War. He moved to Bethlehem in the 1950s and joined the local Volunteer Fire Department. Before retiring he served as Cub Scoutmaster, Chairman of the Board of Finance, President of the Bethlehem Business Association, and he is a member of the American Legion. He served two terms as King Lion in the Bethlehem Club and was Zone Chairman for two years. Bob was instrumental in starting the senior citizen busing program in addition to chairing many projects over the past 11 years. Bob owns and operates a successful landscape business in Bethlehem and is the father of three children. He can be seen almost any day driving the streets of Bethlehem with one of his grandchildren as copilot. He is a man who would say, "God has been good to me."

Fundraisers included food booths at the Bethlehem Fair, harvest dinners, Valentine's Day dances, chicken dinners for campers, an auction, light bulb sales and Lions Day. The most successful, the Valentine's Day dance in 1982, raised \$1,600.

Bloomfield Lions Club

The Bloomfield Lions take pride in belonging to the first service club organized in their town. The club was chartered in 1942.

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, hearing tests and hearing aids, Thanksgiving baskets, large print books and magnifiers for the library, Little League, Oak Hill School for the Blind and Handicapped, CLERF, LGS, hearing conservation, LCIF and support for the high school band.

Service work included Christmas parties at a convalescent home with carols, gifts and refreshments. Bert Johnson played the piano and Jim Callahan usually played Santa Claus.

Civic projects included staging the annual Halloween parade with a Lions float and high school bands from Bloomfield and other participating towns, and with a huge bonfire and free donuts and cider afterwards. The club also sponsored an annual fireworks display and supported the town ambulance association.

Fundraisers included selling Christmas trees, light bulbs, brooms and calendars, a letter appeal campaign and a products show.

The Bloomfield Lions Club honors their own District Governor Thomas Hubbs. He also served as President of the Lions Gallery of the Sightless, 1978-1979, and as



Thomas A. Hubbs

President of the Lions Eye Research Foundation, 1981-1983. Tom joins the other illustrious Lions of Connecticut who have made "We Serve" into a career of selfless dedication to the welfare of others.

Bristol Lions Club

For eleven years, 1972-1983, the Bristol club has donated to the CLERF, LGS, LCIF, Oak Hill School for the Blind, United Way and scholarships. The club sent a 12-year-old child to Washington, D.C. for laser treatment of an eye disorder and sent another blind person to Boston for an operation and treatment to restore sight. The club donated a medical examination table to the senior center, four eye testing machines to the Health Department for school use, two sets of telecaptioners for hearing impaired families, a large-type typewriter to the library, a substantial number of eyeglasses and eye examinations to Bristol residents and provided hearing aids and audiological evaluations for a dozen or more residents.

Service projects included eyeglass collecting, "a whopping 80,000 pairs," glaucoma screenings for the last ten years, and helping at city-wide health-life expositions providing health screenings for Bristol citizens. Dr. Sidney Shafran, chairman of the Lions committee, conducted sing-alongs for senior citizens and at convalescent homes, and brought Christmas gifts to those who were homebound.

One fundraiser is a pancake breakfast. This activity raised \$3,700 in 1982.

The Bristol club honors Ralph R. Strong. Lion Ralph, a retired elementary school principal, helped form the Bristol Lions Club in 1926, and through the years has epitomized the very meaning of the International Association of Lions Clubs.



Ralph Strong, Bristol Lions Club

Lion Ralph has held just about every office or responsibility the local club has to offer, including several years as its president. However, the most remarkable accomplishment has to be his 55 years of perfect attendance. This is an almost unequaled feat throughout Lionism, and is especially noteworthy as Lions Clubs International itself is only 62 years old!

Lions across the seas and all over our great land have grown to love Ralph Strong through his involvement in athletics as a fine tennis player and because of his sense of dedication to his club and his community. His friendly smile and quick "hello" are found at every project from pancakes to light bulb sales.

Ralph's understanding, compassion, and helping hands can be seen helping a blind child understand a Christmas gift or helping an elderly person through a glaucoma clinic. His example in all phases of Lionism and life itself would serve us all well to follow. He is a great Lion and a great man.

Bristol also honors Past District Governor Leroy Anderson who led the district in 1953. "Andy" has always remembered our motto "We Serve."

Burlington Lions Club

The Burlington Lions Club is a relatively new one, chartered in 1968, yet it estimates total charitable giving at about \$35,000.

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS, LCIF-CARE, scholarships, Little League, Pony League, youth basketball, Girl Scouts, summer olympics and other needs.

Civic projects were contributions of \$11,000 to the fire department, \$10,000 for a community center and \$1,000 for town beautification. The club is looking to acquire land for a large recreation center.

Fundraisers were turkey shoots, Las Vegas Nights, summerfests, flower sales, auctions, a light bulb sale and a community calendar. The most profitable were the summerfests, one grossing \$12,000.

Canaan Lions Club

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS, hearing conservation, LCIF-CARE, prescription glasses, a day-care center and other charities.

Service activities included the loaning of wheelchairs and hospital beds to the handicapped and the ill who are at home and without resources. The club owns the equipment. The Canaan Lions also sell articles for the blind.

Civic projects are support for the Canaan and Falls Village Ambulance Corps and Fire Departments.

Fundraisers have been lotteries, pancake breakfasts and an annual road race.

Canton Lions Club

The Canton Lions Club gave about \$26,000 to worthy causes, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: Girl and Boy Scouts, Little League, band concerts, the Canton Library, scholarships and eyeglasses for the needy. Also, the club contributed to CLERF, LGS and LCIF.

Service projects were a fishing derby for youths under 16 years, umpiring Little League games and helping at the FAVARH Horse Show.

Civic projects are an annual July band concert and an annual town skating party.

Fundraisers included an annual flea market, auctions, a dance and a food concession at a theater group function. The most successful was a flea market in 1982 which raised \$2,100.



Canton Lions Skating Party, February 1982

Colebrook Lions Club

Contributions went towards: Little League farm teams, a Cape Cod trip for fifth and sixth graders and repair of playground equipment at Colebrook School. The Club supported LCIF, LGS, CLERF, hearing conservation, the American School for the Deaf, Fidelco, United Way and the Regional Health Center.

Service activities were sales of articles for the blind, work at the local health expositions and a fishing derby and picnic for the convalescent elderly.

Fundraisers were dinner dances and a money wheel at the beerfest. The Colebrook Lions honor Ted Veling who was Man-of-the Year for the Winsted area.

The Colebrook Lions Club claims an unusual distinction. It is probably the only club with a framed stained-glass Lions emblem.

East Granby Lions Club

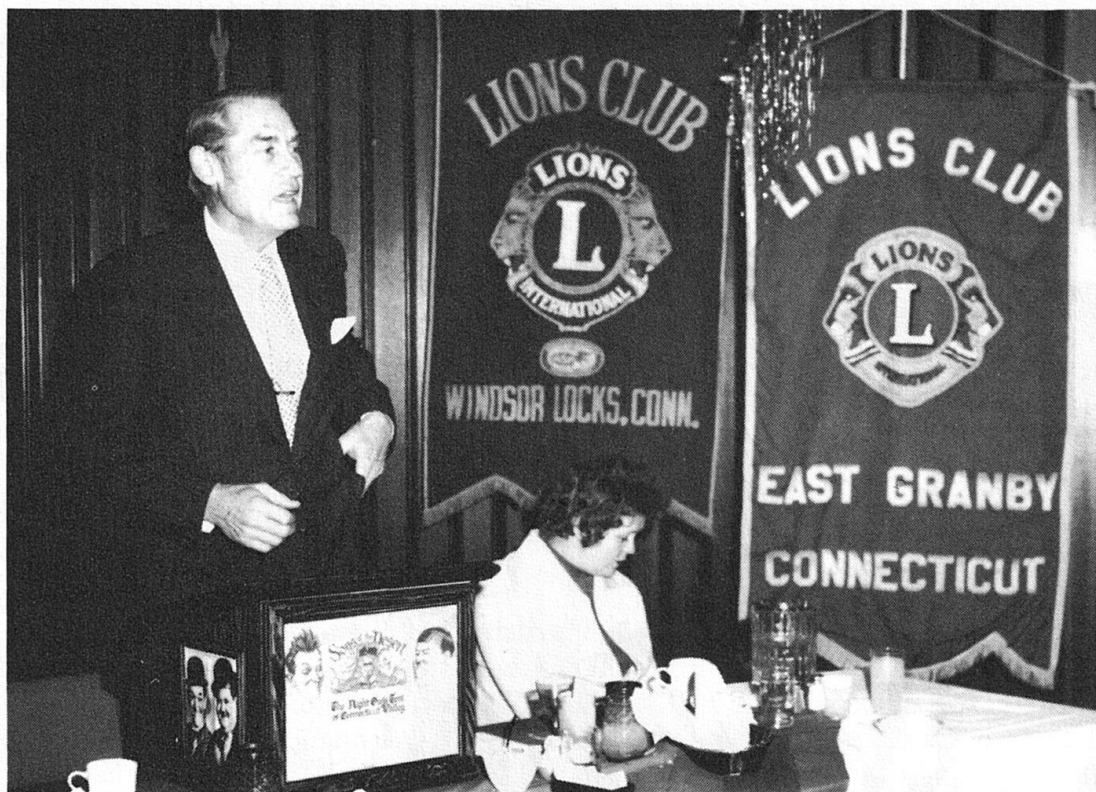
Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, awards to outstanding students in mathematics and science and to outstanding athletes and holiday food baskets. The club contributed to CLERF, LCIF-CARE, LGS, hearing conservation, senior citizens services and the baseball league.

A service project was a Christmas party for the special education students.

Civic projects were support for the Ambulance Association and participation in Memorial Day parades.

Fundraisers were bingo games, dinners, flea markets, food concessions and calendar sales.

The East Granby Lions Club honors George Lomnitzer who was elected Governor of District 23B, 1984-1985. George served on many district committees including Employment for the Blind.



Charles H. Kaman, president of Fidelco, addresses a joint meeting of the Windsor Locks and East Granby Lions Clubs.

East Hartford Lions Club

The East Hartford Lions contributed approximately \$52,500 to worthy causes, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS, LCIF-CARE, scholarships, eyeglasses, basketball banquets, Christmas baskets, hearing aids for the hearing impaired and Little League. Contributions to school group activities were for: bands, dances, girls' track and cross country and other items. The Club paid air fare for a Peruvian child stranded in the United States and provided Braille thermo paper for Braille exhibits, drapes for the senior center and a booth for the sale of blind-made products at the Eastern States Exposition. The club also supported the Oak Hill School for the Blind and Retarded, Newington Workshop for the Blind, Connecticut Volunteer Service for the Blind, Raymond Record Library, tornado relief and the East Hartford Road Race.

Service activities included delivering Christmas baskets to the Mansfield Training Center, Christmas baskets for the needy, Christmas toys and parties for the Warehouse Point Receiving Home, bingo parties and sing alongs at a convalescent home, guide and tour duty at the historic Huguenot House and making repairs on the home of a blind mother of three children.

Support for civic needs included an inhalator for the East Hartford Police Department cruisers and a "jaws of life" for the fire department. The East Hartford Lions supported the Huguenot House restoration and the East Hartford Main Street revitalization. They engaged in the environmental drive to "plant a tree in '83" as well as other beautification projects.

The East Hartford Lions Club is proudest of its most dedicated member, "Bert" Johnson. He is known to many Connecticut Lions as "Mr. Lionism," and has been

made an honorary Lion by the Bloomfield, Hartford, South Windsor, Windsor and Windsor Locks Lions Clubs. His wife, Shirley, also has devoted many hours to Lionism. Their son is past president of another club. It really is a family commitment.

Bert joined the East Hartford club in 1950, and immediately became involved in all the committees. He served in all the club offices and as president, 1957-1958. As club bulletin editor his news was always complete and interesting and, above all, on time. Lion Bert was Secretary-Treasurer of the district cabinet for six years and served the cabinet in various capacities for 16 years. He served as Lions International Representative in 1970 and 1971. If that were not enough, he recently served two years as club treasurer. The club awarded him a Life Membership in 1974. Bert is retired from United Technologies. The club honors also Past District Governor George Precourt. George is most known for his work with the blind regarding their employment and the Blind Workshop.

East Windsor Lions

The East Windsor Lions contributed over \$3,000 in direct cash gifts in one year, 1981-1982. This does not include their many service and civic projects.

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$1,000 annually), eye examinations and eye glasses, Girls State, Boys State, the East Windsor High School Boosters Club, the Close-up Foundation, the Five Corner Food Shelf, the American School for the Deaf, the Visiting Nurses Association, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and CARE.

Service activities were cosponsoring with the VNA a health fair with glaucoma screening, annual Christmas parties for handicapped children in conjunction with other clubs, annual delivery of cookies and hams to approximately 200 elderly people, pickup and delivery of government give-away cheese including paying the charge of \$1.10 per case and participation in the Youth Exchange Program. One child of a Lion member has been sent to a foreign country each of the past ten years, and many young people from other countries have been hosted by Club members.

Civic projects included the purchase of an ambulance for the East Windsor Ambulance Association.

Fundraisers are an annual game dinner, an annual scholarship variety show with the Rotary Club, an annual auction, an annual turkey shoot, fuel raffles and armchair horse races.

The East Windsor Lions honor two members; Walter E. Colton, charter member and founder of the club, and Sidney Balf, Treasurer for 26 years with perfect attendance.

The East Windsor club enjoys some rather unusual social activities: hay rides, an annual Sunday brunch run completely by their wives and a ladies night with a special reward — attendance by Youth Exchange visitors.

Elmwood Lions Club

Contributions went towards: hearing conservation, the American School for the Deaf, LCIF, LGS and CLERF.

Service activities were selling articles made by the blind and painting the second floor of the Workshop for the Blind.

Major fundraisers are vending machines and car washes.

The Elmwood Lions Club honors Richard Gellis who organized all sales for the blind, set up the vending machines, and is organizing an auction and tag sale.

Enfield Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Little League, girls softball, youth soccer league, Toys-for-Joy, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, high school yearbooks, foliage trips for the elderly, CLERF, LGS, hearing conservation and LCIF. Also, the club provided transmitters and subscriptions to programs for the blind, and paid expenses for a woman to participate in the Connecticut Radio Information Service (CRIS) for the sight-impaired.

Service projects were three Christmas parties at nursing homes and sale of articles for the blind.

Civic projects were contributions to the Enfield Ambulance Fund, support for the Neighborhood Center and contributions toward purchase of a bus for Dial-a-Ride.

Fundraisers were annual beerfests, giant raffles, pancake breakfasts and a miniatures show.

The Enfield Lions honor their two Past District Governors, Joseph F. Cimino and Ralph C. Fiore. They honor Dominic Cimino for his 40 years of dedicated service.

Glastonbury Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses for the needy, Glastonbury Little League, the Senior Citizens Center, CLERF and LGS.

A service project was giving cider and apples to seniors in two housing complexes.

Fundraisers included pancake breakfasts, golf tournaments, paper goods sales, raffles and a food booth at the Rotary Club product show.

The Glastonbury club honors members George Mellen and George Perron, Sr.

Granby Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, scholarships and support for the Hartford Neighborhood Center and for Camp Hi-Ho-Ti.

Service activities were annual Christmas parties at the Oak Hill School for the Blind and Retarded, selling articles for the blind, joint sponsorship with the YMCA of an annual mini-marathon, selling tickets and soliciting donations for a kiddie show and assisting at community eye examinations.

A civic activity was participation at a town cleanup day.

Fundraisers were Christmas tree sales, turkey shoots and Lions Day solicitations. The club planted 500 Christmas trees to go with 2,000 already planted for Lions use.

A club member owns the land and permits its use by the club for this purpose.

Hartford (Host) Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses for the needy, Oak Hill School for the Blind, the Hartford Neighborhood Center, Channel 3 Country Camp, the House of Bread, Loaves and Fishes, the West Hartford Day Care Center, CLERF and LGS.

Fundraisers included a Bushnell theater stage show, a kiddie show, a mini-marathon, a merchandise drawing, cheese sale, a gumball project and Lions Day solicitations.

The Hartford (Host) Club honors Past District Governor Herbert Leibert, Ed Nordstrom for hard work and financial help, and Dr. Bill Pehl for his work with the Lions Gallery of the Sightless.

The Hartford Lions Club had an honorable member, Robert Kellog. He composed the famous song, "Don't You Hear Those Lions Roar?" It was first sung by the Pittsburgh Quartet at the National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in 1924.

Hartford (Downtown) Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses and for the Hartford Community Renewal Team (CRT) emergency fund.

A service activity was selling articles for the blind.

A fundraiser was a raffle.

The club honors Philip Binns who volunteers for every project and is totally involved in all functions.



President of the new Hartford Downtown Lions Club Martin Libman (r) receives the club's charter from District Governor Otto Strobino at Charter Night activities at the Hartford Sheraton Hotel. A total of 30 Lions were charter members of the new club, 1981.

Ruggiero Photo

Hartford (Evening) Lions Club

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LCIF, LGS and hearing conservation. Also, a donation was made to the widow of a fellow Lion.

Service activities were annual awards dinners for Hispanic Pioneers and an awards dinner for local school administrators.

One fundraiser was a raffle held jointly with four other Lions Clubs.

The Hartford Evening Lions honor Mike Satut for his work in organizing the club and his dedication to Lionism.

Hartford (South) Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye tests and eyeglasses, 20 Christmas turkeys to each of four local churches and CLERF.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, merchandise drawings, car parking for the Italian festival and Lions Day solicitations.

Hartland Lions Club

Contributions went towards: Little League, Boy Scouts, Hartland School for an eye-testing machine, Christmas baskets, American Cancer Society, FIDELCO, CLERF and LGS. The Hartland Lions donated a Connecticut Radio Information Service receiver to a blind person, and they provide smoke detectors to the blind at minimum cost or without charge.

A service activity is their annual roast beef dinner for the elderly, with Lions and their wives cooking, serving and cleaning up.

Civic activities are manning a food booth for the Volunteer Fire Department at its annual carnival, painting a meeting room for the fire department and donations to the Granby Ambulance Service and the Women's Community Fund for town beautification.

The Hartland Lions Honor the Reverend Richard Wagner for his leadership and his personal example of the spirit of Lionism.

Harwinton Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Special Olympics, the Youth League and Christmas food baskets.

Fundraisers were a food booth at the Wolcott Lions Club Fair and an annual horse show.

Kent Lions Club

Contributions went towards: the local Childrens Center, the organization for abused women and children, the Visiting Nurses Association, the library, the Cultural Arts Committee and the elderly in a housing project. They also donated an audiometer to the regional school system.

Civic projects were building a playground for the elementary school, supporting the fire department, honoring local citizens, erecting Christmas trees for the town and sponsoring a blues and rhythm guitar concert for the public.

Fundraisers are lobster sales.

Litchfield Lions Club

The Litchfield club has contributed more than \$20,000 to a variety of causes, 1975-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses, shoes for the needy, Connecticut Junior Republic, American Red Cross, American Field Service, Litchfield Extension Service, Student Teachers' Council, Litchfield Track Club, Service for the Blind, District 23B hearing projects, the Methodist Church building fund, CLERF, LCIF and LGS.

Service activities included Litchfield football dinners.

Civic projects included a community flagpole, payments on a \$16,000 loan for construction of a community building and recreation field and support for the Berkshire Ambulance Service.

Fundraisers were breakfasts, ski sales and exchanges, raffles, a road race, fishing derbies, an antique car booth and Lions Day. The largest sum raised was \$2,450 at the road race food booth.

Manchester Lions Club

The Manchester Lions contributed over \$20,000 to charity, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses,

hearing aids, a punching bag and exercycle for the Drug Rehabilitation Center, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and hearing conservation.

Service activities included a Christmas Party for the elderly, transporting several elderly persons to the eye doctor and constructing a ramp for wheelchairs at a local facility.

Civic projects were donations to the Lutz Museum and to the Wilton Library.

The largest sum raised on any fundraiser was \$2,000 at the town parade in 1976.

Manchester Lions honor Donald Bon, a charter member with perfect attendance for over 30 years. He has been involved in all club activities and was secretary for many years. His dedication has been a model and inspiration for all the members.

One of the club's memorable experience was a visit by a delegation from the Lions Club of Manchester, England. It was a demonstration of the unity of Lions Clubs International.

Marlborough Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$250 annually beginning in 1981, increased to \$500 in 1983, with plans to increase to \$1,000 in 1984), eye examinations and eyeglasses, sponsorship of a baseball team in the Youth Athletic Association, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and hearing conservation.

The Marlborough Lions are proud of one of their service activities, an annual "Ye Olde Tyme Fourth of July Celebration" of Marlborough, a family event. They also collect used eyeglasses.

Where the Marlborough club has really excelled is in civic activities. They sponsored a book drive for RHAM High School Library, erected playground equipment at the Elmer Thienes School, erected the flagpole at the town hall, enlarged the town beach, worked with the firemen in constructing the park pavilion, stained the pavilion, erected and maintained the fence at the town cemetery, provided the basketball court at Mary Hall School and donated volleyball equipment to Blish Park and a first-aid kit to the town police. They installed picnic tables and grills in the park and erected a fence around the Marlborough Nursery School.

Fundraisers are citrus fruit sales, a food booth at the annual Arts Committee festival and children's movies.

The Marlborough Lions honor Bob Farley, charter president, and Doug Secord, charter member. Both have contributed much to the club and are still active.


New Britain (Host) Lions Club

The New Britain Lions Club contributed over \$50,000 to worthy causes, 1972-1983.

Contributions, a partial listing, went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, many sports awards programs, an annual Youth Library — Museum Safari (transporting school children to the Youth Museum's outdoor wild-life preserve and historical facility and the local library) and other projects for young people. Also, the club supported local health agencies, New Britain Senior Center, YMCA, New Britain Symphony, Central Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens, Resurrection House, New Britain Emergency Food Bank, the elderly at Erwin Home for Valentine's Day trips, New Horizons for the Handicapped, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and hearing conservation.

From the beginning, the club has been concerned with the needs of children. They received a telegram on February 13, 1930, from President Herbert Hoover,

himself a Lion, congratulating them on the excellent work they were doing for underprivileged and handicapped youth. As early as the 1920s, the club sponsored an annual frolic with professional entertainers to raise money for children.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL	WESTERN UNION	CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message		 TELEGRAM	Day Message	
Day Letter	DL		Day Letter	DL
Night Message	NM		Night Message	NM
Night Letter	NL		Night Letter	NL
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.			If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	
NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W E ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT				

Received at 93 West Main St., New Britain, Conn.

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N291 26 GOVT—THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 13 553P

FREDERIC C TEICH—

PRESIDENT NEW BRITAIN LIONS CLUB NEW BRITAIN CONN—
 ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS UPON THE FINE SERVICE YOUR
 ORGANIZATION IS RENDERING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
 UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN OF NEW BRITAIN YOU ARE SETTING A
 WORTHY EXAMPLE—

HERBERT HOOVER.

Service projects included organizing and helping with glaucoma and diabetes testing, conducting the E. C. Goodwin Technical High School Sports awards programs, initiating and working for the annual New Britain Emergency Food Bank, conducting a "paint-the-fence" project with Lions and 200 school children painting 700 feet of fence at the Smalley Elementary School and conducting a seminar at the American School for the Deaf.

A major civic project has been tree plantings (see Chapter III).

Fundraisers have included celebrity shows, a horse race, a beer and food tent at the New Britain Main Street USA Festival, raffles and many other projects.

The New Britain club, chartered on September 12, 1922, was the second service club in the city and it is the fourth Lions Club in Connecticut. It has had seven district governors, and it organized four other Lions Clubs: The Plainville, Berlin, and Newington clubs, and the New Britain Evening Lions. Thus, it is hard to nominate one or two outstanding lions. Many programs and projects conducted throughout the state were initiated by New Britain Lions. Thomas Leonard was one of the founders of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation in 1956. Lion Paul Moran originated the change in the State Convention from a one-day to a three-day affair.

However, for special honors one must start with Past District Governor Howard Wry. Lion Howard started the annual eyeglass collection (see Chapter III), promoted the flood relief drive necessitated by Hurricane Diane in 1955 (Chapter III), initiated and supervised the Lions New Britain Emergency Food Bank efforts in 1981, and was the main force in organizing and conducting the annual Lions Charity Golf Tournament. This also started in 1981. Lion Howard initiated the Lions Leadership Seminar (see Chapter VIII), which is now directed by a permanent committee of the State Council. Even though Lion Howard served on many state committees, he never lost sight of his first obligation to his own club.

The club experienced great sorrow at the death of Lion Howard on March 28,

1984. His passing was marked with the flying of the flag at half-staff at City Hall, a measure of the esteem in which he was held, not only by his club, but by the community. To everyone who knew him, he was "No. 1 Lion."

Past District Governor Otto Strobino is another honored Lion of the New Britain Club. Otto was born in Patterson, New Jersey, but has resided in Connecticut since 1951. He and his wife, Agnes (Past President of the Cheshire Lioness Club), presently reside in Cheshire. They have two children, now adults. Otto served with the First Marine Division in World War II. His is president of Connecticut Medical Management Services, Inc., located in New Britain.



Howard Wry at a leadership seminar. At his left, Lion Robert Clement of the West Hartford Lions.

His record of service in Lionism is outstanding. He joined the New Britain club in 1957, served in all club offices and was elected President in 1976. He served as Zone Chairman, Deputy District Governor, and was elected District Governor in 1981. Otto served as membership chairman and LCIF chairman for the State Council, and as Candy Day chairman and Car Raffle chairman for the CLERF.

Lion Otto was the primary force in arranging the dedication of the new Main Street Bridge in New Britain, October 8, 1983, as the Lions Memorial Bridge. Alderman Brendon Kennedy proposed the bridge naming to the Common Council, and Mayor William McNamara added his support to make it a reality. This may be the only Lions Memorial Bridge in the world. The bridge is an overpass over the Route 72 connector to Interstate Highway I-84, and it symbolizes bridging obstacles that separate people, a major goal of Lionism. Lions Howard Wry, Alan Daninhirsch, then President of the club, and others on the special committees, carried the plan to completion.

Dedication ceremonies were held with the unveiling of a bronze memorial plaque made by the Emhart Corporation. The unveiling was by Mrs. Arvid Carlson, wife of deceased club member Arvid Carlson. She was assisted by Mayor McMamara, Daninhirsch, and District Governor of District 23B, Angelo Salvatore. A special guest was Laura Malone of the TV program "Another World," who was also Honorary Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade being held in the city on the same day.

Lion Otto initiated the planting of the Lions Memorial Forest on the campus of the University of Connecticut (see Chapter III). He also has been a major force in bringing this History of Lionism in Connecticut into being. Without his help in so many ways it would not have been written. And one can add to this the work he has done for his club, for the State Lions, and for Lions Clubs International.



Dedication of New Britain Lions Memorial Bridge. Left to right: Angelo Salvatore, District Governor; Alan Daninhirsch, president New Britain Lions; Mrs. Arvid Carlson, widow of New Britain Lions Club member; Otto Strobino, co-chairman of bridge dedication service; William McNamara, mayor.

New Britain (Evening) Lions Club

The New Britain Evening Club contributed about \$33,000 to charity over 11 years, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, a national government summer internship, a Braille typewriter for a college student, a clothes dryer for retarded students at Chamberlain Elementary School, Girl Scouts, YMCA youth programs, New Britain and Pulaski High School Marching Bands for a trip to Bermuda, New Britain High School track team for a trip to Florida, the Vance Elementary School Student Council fund, the New Britain secondary schools music workshop and a van for the Youth Museum. Also, contributions were made to the New Britain Symphony Orchestra, New Britain General Hospital for a defibrillator, the New Britain Area conference of Churches, Salvation Army, the Prudence Crandall Center for Abused Women and Children, New Horizons for the handicapped, the Central Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens, and Halfway House. They also supported LCIF, CLERF, LGS and hearing conservation.

Service activities were annual bingo games with prizes at five local convalescent homes, free movies and refreshments at the Klingberg Home for Children, a picnic for 52 children, a pizza party for underprivileged children, collecting used eyeglasses, participating in the Youth Exchange program, operating, in cooperation with the New Britain Host Club, an annual food bank drive, and also in conjunction



Lions Ken Olson and Curtis Jennings giving a scholarship award to Lion Joshua Isaya Kiniirya of Kenya.

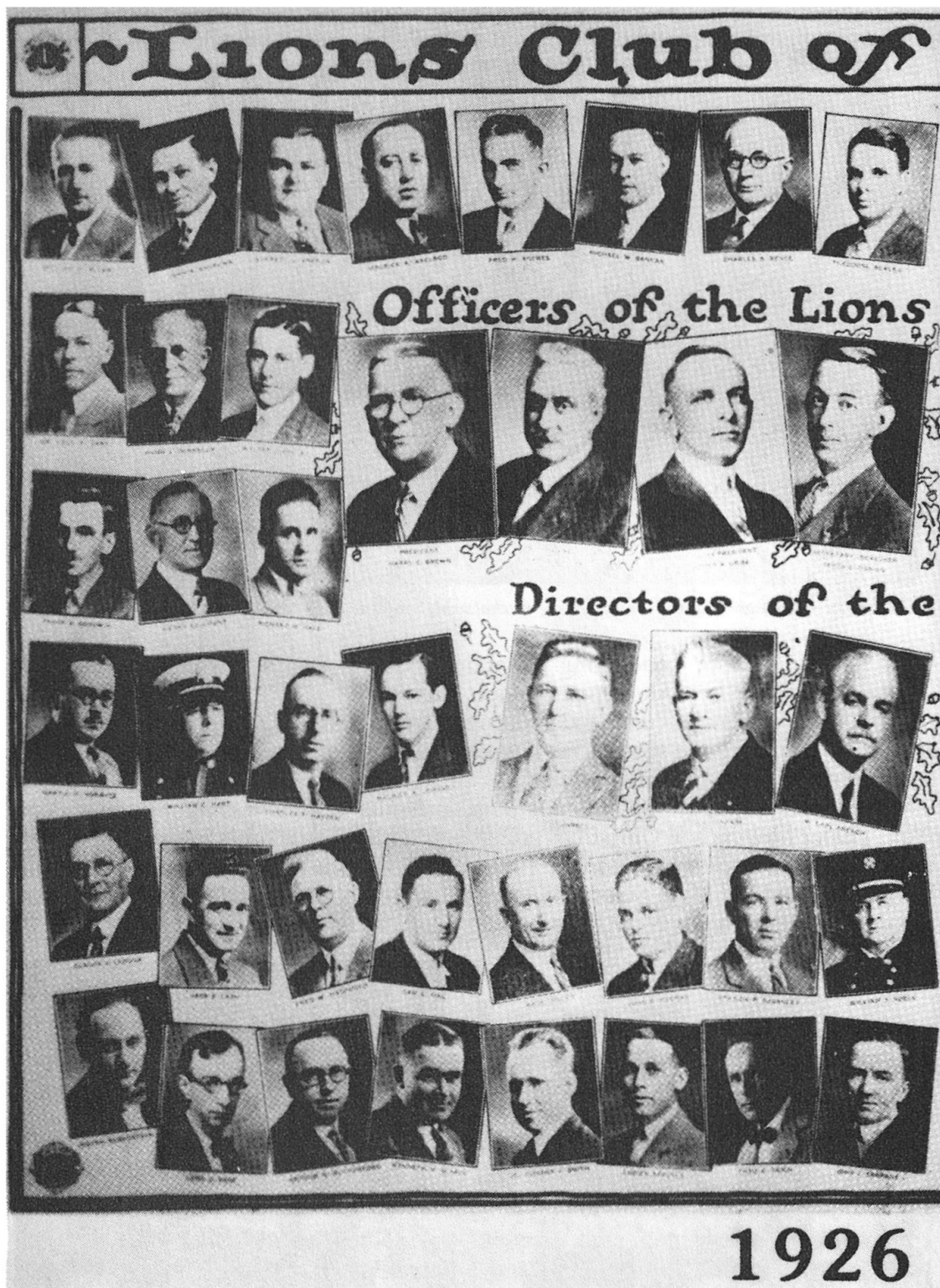
with the Host Club, conducting an annual Sports Award dinner for Goodwin Technical High School students and their parents.

Civic projects included annual planting of trees, painting the theater building for Repertory Theater, and sponsoring a weekly newspaper schedule of football games for the two local public high schools.

Fundraisers included raffles, auctions, and sales of brooms, light bulbs, citrus fruit, Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias. Other fundraisers included sponsoring, in 1974, a one-day circus (the first in New Britain in 35 years), booths at the Berlin Fair and the Main Street USA annual festival, charity golf tournaments run in conjunction with the New Britain Host Club, and Lions (Candy) Day.



New Britain Evening Lions citrus sale. Left to right: Al Barkman, Frank Wesely, Frank Arute, Ed Ziegler, Wayne Wright, Dave Lyon and Frank Krutzky.



Top Row Left: William Allen, John A. Andrews, Everett J. Arbour, Maurice D. Axelrod, Freh H. Andres, Michael W. Bannan, Charles A. Bence, Theodore Beaven. Top Row Right: Walter B. Boewe, Louis Bouet, Thure Bengston, * C. Walter Buckley, *William W. Bullen, Howard Bronson, Sidney E. Congdon, Rock David, Dr. George H. Dalton. Second Row Left: Dr. Leon Dary, Hugh J. Donnelly, Walter J. Doyle. Second Row Right: Dr. Edward J. Dray, Rev. Raymond Gilman, Joseph Gaeta. Third Row Left: Frank E. Goodwin, Henry Guilmont, Richard M. Hall. Third Row Right: *Harry E. Hancock, Harry F. Haynes, Otto H. Henrich. Fourth Row Left: Martin M. Horwitz, William C. Hart, Charles T. Hayden, Maurice A. Johnson. Fourth Row Right: Carl Johnson, Thomas C. Kilfoil, Patrick F. King, Rudolph J. Kloiber. Fifth Row Left: Claude J. Leroux, Jack E. Lash, Fred W. Macomber, Sam E. Mag, Frank Miller, John F. Meehan, Francis P. McGauley, William J. Noble. Fifth Row Right: Arthur J. Nelson, Willard C.



Club of New Britain



Lions Club



- 1927

*Oquist, Thomas P. Orchard, Clarence L. Pierce, A. Wales Piper, George E. Prentis, Fred J. Phillips, *George A. Quigley. Sixth Row Left: Joeseeph Rubenstein, Leon Ross, Arthur Rutherford, Kenneth Searce, Dr. Vincent J. Smith, Lucien Stevens, *Fred C. Teich, John J. Tarrant. Sixth Row Right: Stanley J. Traceski, Robert C. Vance, Dr. Charles V. Wahlberg, Royal C. Wilbor, Henry F. Williametz, Joseph G. Woods, Chester D. Williams, Louis W. Vogel. Officers: *Harry C. Brown, Clarence H. Maxon; 1st VP, Romeo A. Grise; 2nd VP, James E. O'Brien; Sec-Treas., *James V. Onorato; Lion Tamer, Francis C. Clynes; Tail Twister, A.J. DeLaurier; Lion Trainer. Directors: William Brennecke, Archie J. Sharp, *W. Carl French, R.H. Erwin, David L. Nair, Dr. Joseph H. Potts.*

* *Past Presidents*

The New Britain Evening Lions are proud of having inducted a blind man, a foreign student from Kenya and an active-duty Marine staff sergeant as members.

Lion Charles R. Herzy served two terms as Zone Chairman, and Lion Kenneth Olson served as Zone Chairman and Deputy District Governor of Region III. Lion Frank Arute served two terms on the District Cabinet as Club Extension Chairman, 1972-1974. He organized the Bethlehem Lions Club. A Lion for over 30 years, he has had perfect attendance for the last 15 years, served as Club President and is one of two Life Members, the other being Dr. Irving Eichenbaum.

The New Britain Evening Lions, with the New Britain Host Lions, dedicated a Lions Memorial Bridge in town. This is fully reported in the New Britain Lions Host Club report.

New Hartford Lions Club

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS, LCIF and FIDELCO. They also gave financial assistance to a cancer patient.

Service activities were Santa visits to children, a fishing derby for children with prizes donated by local businessmen and winterizing homes for the elderly with materials supplied by the town.

A civic activity was participation in New Hartford Days with free balloons for children.

Fundraisers were lobster sales and Christmas tree sales.

Newington Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, Boys State and Girls State, the Student Assistance Fund, Little League, LCIF, CLERF, LGS and hearing conservation.

Service projects were sales of items for the blind, town swimming meets for the past 24 years, entertainment programs for the Newington Children's Hospital and block parties.

Civic projects included support for the Volunteer Fire Department and the Ambulance Service and participation in the Memorial Day parade.

Fundraisers were semi-annual antique shows, flower sales, auctions, horse shows, roller skating parties, a circus and a "Life be in it" day.

The club honors Leopold "Moe" Guertin, a past president who has given much to his club and community.



Taking tickets at the Newington Lions antique show. Left to right, Jack Flynn, Moe and Evelyn Guertin.

New Milford Lions Club

In the past 15 years the New Milford Lions have contributed over \$185,000 to the community and to state and international projects.

Contributions were made to the New Milford Lions Memorial Scholarship Fund (established in 1965) and the John Pettibone Scholarship Fund. As of 1983, over \$49,000 in scholarships have been awarded. Also, contributions went towards: eye examinations, eye treatment and eyeglasses, Boy and Girl Scouts, Little League, Babe Ruth League, the Youth Hockey League, New Milford Bulls football, the Students' Government Intern Program in Washington, D.C., the Connecticut Lions Science Fair, Special Olympics, a University of New Hampshire music scholarship, the New Milford Hospital (over \$63,000 over the years), United Fund, Heart Fund, Cancer Fund, Visiting Nurses Association, Oak Hill School for the Blind, CLERF, LGS, and LCIF.

An annual service event is sponsorship of a seniors' Christmas party. The club sponsored the first Boy Scout Troop in town and still sponsors it, formerly Troop 1, now Troop 58. In 1930 the club also sponsored the second Cub Scout Pack in the United States for boys 8 to 11 years old.

Civic needs have been special concerns of the New Milford Lions. Soon after the club was chartered in 1929, they leased Young's Field for a recreation field, because the town had no land for this. Later, they persuaded the town to buy property on Lake Candlewood for public recreation. Lions Elmer Worthington and Harold Pulver were active in making arrangements.

The club purchased playground equipment for schools, waterfront equipment at Lake Candlewood, park benches for the town green, and a \$10,000 ambulance for the Volunteer Ambulance Association. The club's 40th Anniversary gift to New Milford was a pavilion at Lynn Deming Park on Lake Candlewood. For their 50th Anniversary, the club donated a pavilion and rest-room facilities at Young's Field. The cost was \$20,000 plus many man-hours of Lions labor in construction work.

Perhaps the greatest single project was the purchase, in the late 1960s, of 70 acres of land at a cost of \$70,000. The land was given to the Weantinoge Heritage Foundation for the preservation of open space. Money for the purchase came from the club's reserve fund which had been accumulated over the years, plus receipts from a Cadillac raffle. Lions who were active in the transactions were Past District Governor George Seely, Bob Ohmer, Walter Conn (who also was a member of the State Legislature), and William Bunker.

Fundraisers were car raffles, trip raffles, beerfests, lobster sales, annual Thanksgiving turkey shoots, Easter ham shoots and apple and cider sales.

The New Milford Lions honor Past District Governor and Life Member Robert Southworth, Past District Governor and Past International Director Ken Taylor, Past District Governor George Seely, and Life Members C. Robert Ohmen and William Bunker.

Norfolk Lions Club

Contributions went for eyeglasses and other personal items for the needy.

A service activity is Christmas fruit baskets for the elderly in a housing complex.

Civic activities were building a Little League dugout and sponsoring the fundraiser for the Norfolk Volunteer Ambulance Association. The club is proud of the fact they have provided the town with ambulance service for over 30 years without charge.

Fundraisers are two turkey shoots per year, apple and cider sales, a food booth

at the ambulance fund drive, pancake breakfasts and spaghetti suppers.

The club honors Sid Toomey, a charter member, Past President, current secretary, and a Lion much concerned about the welfare of the community.

Plainville Lions Club

Contributions amounted to about \$15,000 over two years, 1982-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, high school yearbooks, the Student Loan fund, Midget Football, Little League, American Legion baseball, sponsoring a student for Mr. Teenage American, the fuel bank, the community pantry, the Library, CLERF, LGS, hearing conservation, LCIF-CARE, United Way and the walkathon for world hunger.

Service activities were food collections for the pantry, Christmas cards signed by members and sent with 20 pounds of fruitcakes to a convalescent hospital, cooking and serving hot dogs and hamburgers at the annual seniors picnic and making up three baskets of apples into Easter baskets and giving them to families.

Civic activities were constructing a bath house for the town park, pouring a concrete floor at the park pavilion, planting a dogwood tree at the senior center, building and placing four concrete-wood benches at the library mini-park, and, with the help of a local nursery, landscaping the area with seed, shrubs and trees. The last project cost \$1,100. The Lions worked two Saturdays building a sidewalk and placing benches at the senior center. They also participate in town parades.

Fundraisers were an annual golf tournament, quarterly paper drives, fruitcake sales, annual pancake festivals and selling fried dough at the town fair.

The club honors Past District Governor Anthony Caparrelli who served his club and district so well. "Tony," amongst his many positions, served as president of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation.

Rocky Hill Lions Club

Rocky Hill Lions contribute about \$4,000 per year to worthy causes.

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$2,500 per year), eyeglasses, Boys State, soccer league, hockey league, Junior Olympics, aid to family fire victims, the senior center, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, partial expenses for a cancer victim, Hartford Friendship Center, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and hearing conservation.

Service activities were Christmas parties for high school seniors, a sports awards night for students, visiting all elementary schools and giving pencils to children, arranging foliage trips for senior citizens and helping at health fairs.

Civic projects are participation in town parades. The club also donated a flag to Town Hall.

Fundraisers have been beerfests, lobster fests, travel raffles, bazaars, fuel oil raffles, spring auctions and Lions Day.

Rocky Hill Lions honor Ed Sparapani who has directed more projects than one can remember. He has been "Mr. Hearing Conservation" for District 23B and the success of that program is due to his untiring efforts.

The club also honors Gene Rohr for his outstanding contributions to the club and to the district as Membership/Retention Chairman.

Sharon Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships and a child care center.

A civic project was planting a "tree for peace" on the town green.

Fundraisers were a raffle, a food booth at the art show, an annual theater party,

spaghetti and meatball suppers and Lions Day.

The Sharon club has a unique experience in their spaghetti suppers. A local citizen who is a non-Lion helps. In fact he runs the whole thing with Lions help. The event merited an eight-page article in Yankee Magazine, June, 1984.

Simsbury Lions Club

Contributions to worthy causes are over \$3,000 per year.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, hearing aids, sponsoring a child at the YMCA, Babe Ruth League, Special Olympics, day care for a preschooler, help for fire victims, Oak Hill School for the Blind and Retarded, Visiting Nurses Association, American School for the Deaf, Alleluia House, Meals-on-Wheels, CLERF and LCIF.

Service projects were Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, selling articles for the blind, and free sleigh rides for all town residents with free doughnuts, hot chocolate and hot cider served by the Lions.

Civic projects were donations to the Volunteer Ambulance Association.

Fundraisers were annual beerfests, Christmas tree sales and pecan sales.

Southington Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, prostheses for the handicapped, a van for the handicapped, CLERF, LCIF and other local and state Lions needs.

A service activity was yard maintenance for blind people.

Civic projects were building tennis courts for the town and donating bullet-proof vests to the police department.

Fundraisers were turkey shoots, pancake breakfasts, a booth at the annual Harvest Festival and antique car shows.

Southington honors William S. Jerin, Past District Governor and present Lions Clubs International staff representative for New England, and Past District Governor Edward Smith, now serving, 1983, as President of the New England Council. Lion Bill was the first extension representative for the six New England states. He was appointed in 1980.



Bruce Murray, Lions International Director, addressing the Connecticut Lions State Convention in 1983. To his right is Past District Governor Ed Smith.

South Windsor Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, a Braille typewriter, convalescent homes, FISH (a religious service organization), Pakistan refugees, an accident victim, South Windsor Community Service, FIDELCO (guide dogs), Oak Hill School for the Blind, CLERF, LCIF-CARE and LGS. The South Windsor Lions are also blood donors.

Service activities included awards dinners for Little League, glaucoma screenings, door-to-door eyeglass collecting, bingo games at the convalescent home in South Windsor and Christmas baskets for needy families, an average of 15 per year. The most satisfying service work is the bingo games.

Fundraisers regularly include a booth at the Wapping Fair, carnivals, Eye Seal mailings, pancake breakfasts, an auto swap and flea markets. The largest single fundraiser was a pancake breakfast which netted \$1,100 in 1980.*

Suffield Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye care for the needy, hearing aids, a closed-caption recorder for a hearing impaired family, and a zone Christmas party for handicapped and underprivileged children. Also, donations were made to CLERF, LGS, the American School for the Deaf, FIDELCO, and Red Acres Farm Hearing Dog Center.

A service project was painting and caulking windows for an elderly woman.

Fundraisers were annual pancake breakfasts on the green, annual fuel raffles and a Thanksgiving turkey raffle.

The Suffield Lions honor Francis Christian who, single-handed, rebuilt and reenergized the club during his year as president, 1980-1981. Also, he is one of two remaining charter members.

Terryville Lions Club

During the period 1981-1983 the total contributions of the Terryville Lions Club were about \$40,000.

Contributions over the years went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, eye screenings for preschool children, Boys and Girls State, Little League and Babe Ruth League, Girl Scouts, eye treatments in Boston for local residents, Christmas baskets, United Way, the Salvation Army, CLERF, LGS, LCIF and many other needs.

Service projects included erecting a fence for Little League, conducting a sports day at the high school, conducting a fishing derby for the handicapped and collecting eyeglasses for recycling.

Civic activities were purchasing an ambulance for the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps, support for the fire department, donations to the Lock Museum and putting up Christmas displays in Baldwin Park.

The club's fundraiser is the Lions Terryville Country Fair (see Chapter VII).

Thomaston Lions Club

The Thomaston club is a new one, chartered in 1981. Charitable contributions for two years, 1982-1983, amounted to about \$2,000.

The club's most successful fundraiser was a seafood booth which grossed about \$3,000.

Torrington Lions Club

In six years, 1978-1983, the Torrington Lions gave about \$18,000 to worthy causes.

Contributions went towards: four annual scholarships for local students attending the Torrington Branch, University of Connecticut, LCIF, CLERF, LGS, Meals On Wheels and nutrition for the elderly, large-print books and a Braille typewriter for the Torrington Library, a station wagon for Lark Industries, rescuscitators for Camp Workcoeman and Camp Maria Pratt, FISH (religious relief organization), Society for the Relief of Blindness, Litchfield County Association for the Retarded, the Goshen Agricultural Society, Center Congregational Church, Little League and other causes. In 1971, the club established a special fund, the Torrington Lions Club Therapy Fund. Originally, its purpose was to help provide an X-ray therapy unit at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. The fund grew to several thousand dollars through the generosity of local citizens. Now the fund is used for various club charities. The club also established a local trust fund for eye operations.

A civic project is supporting the city Fourth of July fireworks display.

Fundraisers were food booths at the Northwestern Connecticut Dog Show and at the Harwinton Fair and the Goshen Fair. The club acquired a large truck trailer capable of serving food on the scale of a small restaurant, with complete equipment and utensils. At the fairs they serve breakfast from 5:30 to 11 a.m. and lunch from 12 to 4 p.m. From stocking the trailer and other preparations, to serving food and cleaning up, the club members each spend 36 hours over the weekend for a total of about 1,000 man-hours. In addition, they are assisted by Lions wives and by friends of the Lions.

The Torrington Lions honor Charles Patterson, Sr., District Governor of 23B in 1941.

Unionville Lions Club

A partial list of Unionville Lions contributions over six years, 1977-1982, amounted to \$9,700. Of this, \$5,700 was for scholarships, \$2,500 for eye examinations and eyeglasses and \$1,500 for youth programs.

The Unionville club has a strong community orientation and from the outset was involved in many projects. There were programs for children, with Santa coming in a bus, Halloween parties, sponsoring of two Scout troops with Lions as leaders, glaucoma screenings, sponsoring entries in the Connecticut Junior Miss Contest and other service projects.

In the flood caused by Hurricane Diane in 1955, which did extensive damage in Unionville, the Lions Club raised funds for relief and helped wherever they were needed. The only doctor in town was Dr. Edward Dunn. There was fear of typhoid, but he could not get into town because the Farmington River was several feet above its banks. The Lions brought Dr. Dunn across in a boat, and Lion Robert W. Cowles sat up all night to keep a gas refrigerator going to preserve the vaccine for inoculations. Because of Dr. Dunn's dedication to the health and welfare of the people in his care, the Lions sponsored a "Day" to honor him. The community, along with the Lions, presented him a new Buick.

The Unionville Lions have been especially involved in civic projects. The club formed a separate corporation, Recreation, Incorporated, in 1947. Lion Wallace Burke did the legal work of securing the charter. The new corporation purchased 25 acres of land from Ira Cook and George Barker for \$2,800, in 1947. They constructed an open pavilion which was used by the Boy and Girl Scouts. This later burned, and the Lions built their own club house, doing all the work themselves without a mortgage. The building, completed in 1969, serves not only as a place for the club's meetings but also for many state and district Lions meetings. It is used by the scouts and is also rented to local groups for functions.

Soon after the land purchase, the club began raising money for a town swimming pool to be built on part of the property. The pool was opened for community use in 1952, and the Lions regularly contributed money to keep it operating. A rough estimate of the total cost borne by the Lions is \$75,000. Finally, the club donated the pool and 13 acres of land to the town.

Other civic projects included a pedestrian walk on the Main Street bridge over the Farmington River, curbing on Plainville Avenue, and an exercise trail constructed in 1982 on the 13 acres of donated land.

The Lions of Unionville honor their members who have labored in the larger vineyard of Lionism. Earl Glidden served as Zone Chairman, Deputy District Governor and District Governor. Aaron Heiman served as Zone Chairman and Deputy District Governor. Grant Brockett served as Zone Chairman, and Bob Cowles served as a cabinet member.



Officers, incumbents and predecessors, Unionville Lions in a 1947 photo. Left to right: front row Stuart Phelps, Earl Glidden, Howard Pulvey, Weston Barnes, unidentified, Dan Collins; center unidentified, Grant Brockett, Earl Jensen, Aaron Herman, Ken Nonamaker, Charles Yodkins; rear Ed Ryan, Frank Smith, Joe Hassett, Tom Leahy.

Washington Lions Club

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS, LCIF, Boy and Girl Scouts, Babe Ruth and Little League, Boys State, the Visiting Nurses Association, the blind and needy in the community and other causes.

A service project was a town recreation program at the high school.

One of the club's first civic projects, and still active, is the town ambulance service. The Washington Ambulance Association, Inc., was formed by the club members, February 4, 1942, only eight months after the club itself was founded. The first ambulance was an old Packard hearse. Nothing symbolic, it was all the club could afford. Now they have the best ambulance on the market. Other civic projects include participation in civil defense, sponsoring first aid programs and installing lights at the town skating rink. They also built a pavilion for the town.

Fundraisers were bingo games at the Town Hall, a minstrel show, salvage drives, the planting of thousands of small evergreen trees to be sold later as Christmas trees and a harvest dinner. They hold an annual summer auction. One auction, in 1983, raised \$6,000.

The Washington Lions honor George Wilber who was Zone Chairman for six years, Leo Chairman, Lions CARE Chairman, and member of the Board of Directors of the LGS. They also honor Bernie Beaucham, Zone Chairman for two years.

Watertown Lions Club

The Watertown Lions contributed over \$5,000 to worthy causes in two years, 1982-1983.

Contributions went towards: Girl Scouts, Little League, midget football, the softball team, the Drum Corps, camperships for the blind and retarded, doctor bills for a woman, St. Jude's Hospital, the Easter Seal foundation, FIDELCO, American Field Service, CLERF and LCIF.

Civic projects are the "Lions Corner" in the town library and a "jaws of life" for the fire department. With other clubs, they started the town fair. They contribute to many requests made by the town. Every four years they buy a new van to be used by senior citizens and by other groups.

Fundraisers were Christmas tree sales, an annual turkey shoot and raffle, a food booth at the Octoberfest, a golf tournament jointly with Rotary and UNICO, co-sponsoring the Watertown Heritage Fair and Lions (Candy) Day.

West Hartford Lions Club

Contributions for six years amounted to about \$100,000, 1978-1983. Contributions went towards: scholarships, Boy and Girl Scouts, Little League, many needs of the handicapped including a Braille typewriter for a needy student, various community health and social agencies and other causes.

The West Hartford Lions support LGS, CLERF, LCIF, the American School for the Deaf and hearing conservation. The largest single contribution was for the purchase of a bus for the American School for the Deaf.

Service projects were assisting at the Connecticut Special Olympics, taking senior citizens to the Wadsworth Atheneum and conducting hearing tests.

A civic project was installing 12 park benches throughout the city.

Fundraisers were horse shows, opera productions, bridge nights, pancake festivals, light bulb sales, theater parties, pecan sales, and even a performance by an internationally known hypnotist.

West Hartford honors Past District Governor Edward Dillon for his years of dedicated service to Lionism and to his community. It also honors Nicholas Ippedico who has served the district so well in many cabinet positions.

Wethersfield Lions Club

The Wethersfield Lions contributed approximately \$25,000 to charity over 11 years, 1972-1983.

The largest single contribution was to the Wethersfield Senior Center, in 1980.

Service activities were collecting eyeglasses, assisting at blood-bank drives, and co-sponsoring an awards dinner for the high school soccer team.

Fundraisers included tag sales and eye seal sales. The largest return was \$1,500 from eye seals in 1982.



Wethersfield's first president, John F. Mulvihill, presiding at a club meeting.

Windsor Lions Club

The Windsor Lions contributed about \$47,000 to charity over 11 years, 1971-1983.

Contributions went towards: CLERF, LGS and hearing conservation. They also have a continuing scholarship program, which has increased from \$700 in 1975 to \$2,000 in 1982-1983. In the past eight years the club gave approximately \$2,000 for new prescription eyeglasses to the needy in the community. Other charities receiving assistance, some more than once, were the Oak Hill School, the library, the Senior Citizen's Workshop, the Fishing Derby, Camp Harkness for town residents, hearing aids for individuals, summer camps for children and Youth Services Answering Service Hotline.

Service activities were a senior citizens woodworking shop, a Christmas party for 50 handicapped youngsters, a bicentennial barbecue for townspeople and several excursions with 40 handicapped youth. Those trips included the Bradley Air Museum, the Trolley Museum, the Essex steam train-river boat ride, the Mystic Aquarium and the Animal Game Farm. They also assisted elderly shut-ins by performing household chores, and performed relief work after the tornado in 1979 when the Town of Windsor suffered extensive damage. The most satisfying labor was tornado relief because the disaster struck people in all walks of life and in minutes made so many destitute.

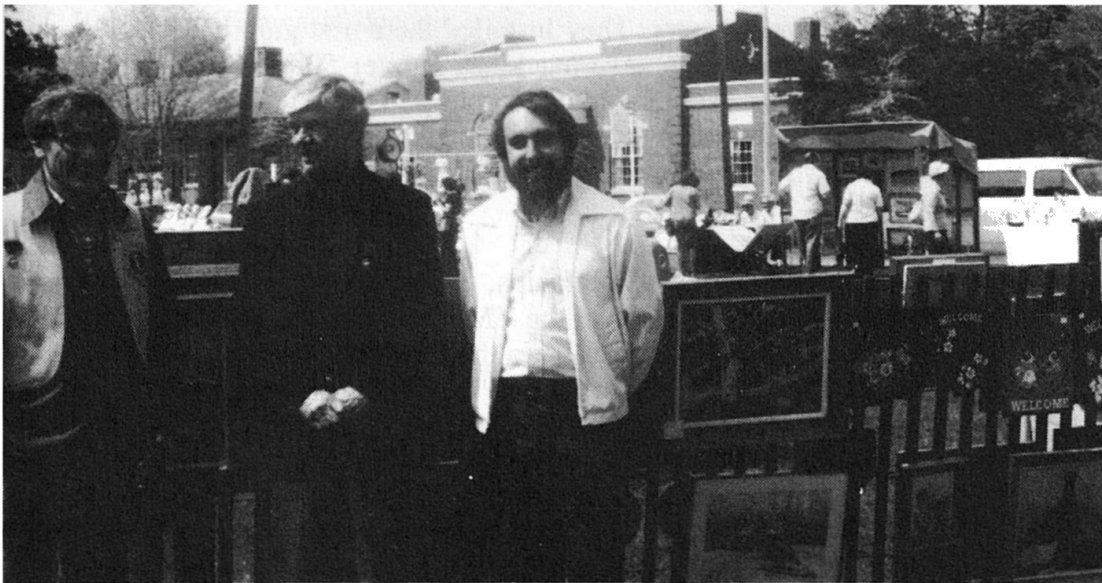
A civic project was erecting a civic logo display sign on the town's Main Street.

Fundraisers included the shad derbies, a beer festival, pancake breakfasts, raffles, auctions, eye seal mailings, dances, gum ball machines, placement ads, a brunch, a movie night and an Arts Festival. Aside from a special drive which netted \$32,000 for a kidney transplant, the largest net return on a fund raiser was \$4,300 from a shad derby in 1982.

The Windsor Lions Club honors Angelo Salvatore as their outstanding Lion. He

was born in Hartford, Connecticut. He and wife Jean have four children. "Ange" served in the U.S. Army with the rank of Sergeant. He is president of the Lupacchino and Salvatore Construction Company. He joined the Lions Club in 1965, held all club offices and served as zone director of the Gallery of the Senses, Zone Chairman, Cabinet Chairman of the Gallery of the Sightless, Deputy District Governor of Region III, Connecticut Lions cabinet information chairman, and Governor of District 23B, 1978-1979.

As club president in 1969 he chaired a special raffle fundraiser for a kidney transplant with related services (including a dialysis machine) for a Windsor resident. Also as club president he started the Windsor Lions' participation in the town's Shad Derby Day and served as chairman of this fundraiser for each of the following three years. Ange's leadership has been a major factor in the club's success.



1981-1982 Arts Festival, Town Green of Windsor. Mayor of Windsor, Everett B. Dowe, Jr. in the center with 1982-1983 club president John J. Bernardini to his left and 1982-1983 club secretary John C. Natale to his right.

Windsor Locks Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye-test machines for schools, eye examinations and eyeglasses, hearing aids, a seeing-eye dog for a local man, sponsorship and continuing support of the town's first Little League team, sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, 1961, and sponsorship of a Girl Scout troop, 1975 and continuing, and an annual campership award at the 4-H Camp in Marlborough, Connecticut. This is a memorial award honoring Elmer Leary, a charter member of the club. Also, the club grants a Memorial Sportsmanship Award to a male high school senior, since 1965, and the Ruby Fournier Memorial Sportsmanship Award for an outstanding senior girl, since 1974. The Lions instituted a nursing scholarship in 1969, and since then students have received three-year scholarships. They also have contributed regularly to the Jackson scholarship fund since its inception. The Windsor Locks club supports the Heart Fund, cancer drives, the Easter Seal campaign, Red Cross bloodmobiles and Senior Citizens Day. They contribute regularly to LCIF-CARE, LGS, and CLERF.

The first service activity of the Windsor Locks Lions was the installation of waiting stations for servicemen stationed at Bradley Field. Also, during World War II it was common practice to invite at least two servicemen to dinner meetings of the

club. Other service activities were Christmas parties for children, Christmas parties for patients at the Bidsford Convalescent Hospital, glaucoma screenings, blood pressure clinics in cooperation with the Windsor Locks Public Health Nursing Association, and, in cooperation with other Lions clubs, sponsorship of a giant Christmas party for special education children from neighboring towns.

A major civic project was the organization of the free ambulance service, conducted as an ongoing project by a special committee of the club. The first ambulance, a 1936 Oldsmobile, was purchased at a cost of \$1,650. Since that time, several new ambulances have been purchased. Many fundraisers have been conducted to assure the continuance of this free service. The club gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Windsor Locks Police Department and their own ambulance service. The Ambulance Corps now averages 750 calls per year.

Fundraisers were sales of Christmas trees, light bulbs, fruit cakes and candy. The Windsor Locks Lions also conducted pancake festivals, auctions, thrift and bake sales, carnivals and bazaars. They installed their first gum ball machine in a local business in 1966, and now have machines in over 50 locations.

Windsor Locks honors Past District Governor R. Clifford Randall and Richard O'Leary, both of whom have given much to their club and district. It also honors Dominic Ruggerio, who served lionism on the cabinet for so many years.

Winsted Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses, recreation programs for the elderly, helping in the renovation of the YMCA, donation of a room in Winsted Memorial Hospital and several regional health activities. They also supported the CLERF, and helped with costs of services to the deaf at a community college.

Service activities included a Christmas party for children at the Strand Theater, a girls' sports banquet and a fishing derby for the blind-retarded of Oak Hill School.

Many civic activities were financially supported.

Winsted honors Milan "Mike" Knight who has served his club, district and international so well for many years. "Mike" is a truly dedicated lion.



Winsted Lions Club antique auto show prizes.

Ken Olson photo

Woodbury Lions Club

The Woodbury Lions contributed over \$15,000 to worthy causes, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships (four-year and two-year), eye examinations and eyeglasses, payment of doctor bills for needy persons, the Woodbury Library, other local needs, CLERF, LGS and LCIF.

A service activity is the annual operation of a snack bar for St. Paul's Fair. This has continued since 1960.

Civic activities were erecting stone entrance markers to Woodbury's Bicentennial Park, installing a plaque on one of the markers and planting trees in the park. Also, they held a car show to raise money for a "jaws-of-life" for the Woodbury Fire Department.

Fundraisers were the car show, annual mail solicitations for eye research raffles, tag sales, light bulb sales and dinners. The club also has interest from \$11,500 in certificates of deposit.