

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

**Lioness Clubs**



**Chapter 9**



# Chapter 9

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## CONNECTICUT LIONESSES

Women have been active in Lionism from the beginning. Every married Lion knows that without the help of his wife his contribution would be substantially less.

The support of the women did not remain unorganized for long. The Lions magazine of March, 1920 reported the establishment of a wives club, "The Lioness Club" of Quincy, Illinois. The group was organized for "the purpose of being helpmates to the Lions of Quincy."

There were hundreds of such auxiliary women's groups around the world before the middle of the century. In 1974, the International Board of Directors sent a questionnaire to these groups seeking information about their interest in becoming official members of the International organization. The benefits were to be that they would receive the general support of Lions International in organizing and in recruiting members. They could make use of International awards to members and would have the benefits of the public image associated with the Lions. Especially attractive was the tax-exempt status already awarded Lions clubs as nonprofit organizations.

The conditions for joining Lions Clubs International were that each Lioness club would be sponsored by a Lions club and would have a Lion as liaison between the two groups and that Lioness clubs would follow a standardized constitution adopted by the Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International. Lioness clubs would continue their support of Lions clubs, but would be free to conduct their own fundraisers and charitable projects.

The response to the questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive, and on October 16, 1975, the first Lioness club was organized in Pawcatuck, Connecticut. However, the first Lioness charter was issued to the Mt. Pleasant (North Carolina) Lioness Club on December 24, 1975. One of the unexpected honors was that years of service in auxiliary organizations were credited to individual Lionesses for the purpose of meritorious service awards.

Not only were the old auxiliary clubs formally incorporated, but new Lioness clubs were organized. As of May 23, 1983, there were 4,314 clubs worldwide, with 2,391 of them in the United States. The total world membership was 107,850 and, of that number, 59,850 were in the United States. In 1983, Connecticut had a total of 18 clubs, four in District 23A, five in District 23B, and nine in District 23C.

The performance of Lioness clubs parallels that of the Lions. They make cash donations to worthy causes, perform service work which usually requires both labor and cash outlays, and they carry out projects for civic betterment. Civic projects also require labor and money. For such activities, the Lionesses conduct their own fundraisers. The story of these clubs, which follows immediately below, attests to the strong commitment of Lionesses to helping others and serving their communities. They live up to their motto, "We Serve Too."

### Lioness Clubs of District 23A

#### Cheshire Lioness Club

The women's auxiliary of the Cheshire Lions was organized in September 1964, and its members were known as the Lady Lions of Cheshire. The organizer, and first president, was Temah Reisenberg. The group was chartered as a Lioness club



*Lionesses at their leadership seminar in 1981. Sitting, left to right; Catherine Tatsapaugh, Judy Fox, Marguerite Segalla, District Governor 23B Otto Strobino, Barbara Clark, Nancy Purcell and Joyce Zeleski. Standing left to right; Ron Jones, George Precourt PDG, Ted Boryczki PDG, Marcia Pinto, Terry Dowd, Diane Brooks, Unidentified Lioness, Cliff Randall PDG and Bill Miller.*

on May 11, 1976, and held its charter night at the Waverly Inn in Cheshire. Sponsors were the Cheshire Lions Club and the New Haven Lioness Club. The Charter was presented by past International President Joseph McLoughlin.

The Cheshire Lionesses have contributed several thousands of dollars to a variety of causes. Among the beneficiaries were the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (\$1,750 to the Boardman Building Fund alone), Lions Gallery of the Sightless, Girl Scouts, Public Health Nursing Association, the Cheshire Public Library (large print books), the public schools (an eye testing machine), Camp Hemlocks, Oak Hill School for the Blind, and LCIF.

Service work included helping with glaucoma testing and entertaining and providing gifts to patients at Marbridge Convalescent Hospital. The Lionesses also help the Cheshire Lions Club with its activities, especially fundraisers.

Their own fundraisers have been tag sales, craft fairs, flea markets, a tag sale and a big-band night. The big-band affair was the most successful. It netted about \$2,200.

The Cheshire Lionesses are successful with their communications, having a dozen newspaper items per year, a radio announcement, an article in the District Bulletin, and a monthly newsletter.

### **Guilford Lionesses**

The Guilford Lioness Club was chartered on March 6, 1979. Lion Michael Gagliardi of the Guilford Lions Club helped organize the Lionesses. Charter Officers were: Frances Conin, president; Ann Galloway, vice president; Jenny Hewdorfer, secretary; and Elaine Fox, treasurer. Other officers positions not given, were: Christine Offredi, Beatrice Armstead, and Susan Lac.

A contribution of \$2,000 was made to purchase an impedance analyzer for the school district. It is used to test students' hearing. The Guilford Lionesses also contributed to the CLERF and LCIF.

Fundraisers were peach festivals, bake sales, and candy sales. The Lionesses also participate in Lions Day. The Guilford Lionesses also contribute to the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire to establish a Lioness place of honor at the Cathedral.



*Guilford Lionesses donate an impedance analyzer for hearing tests to the school district. Left to right, Valerie Redman, Lioness Club, Suzanne Lombardi, Lioness President, and Walter Wilk, special services director of the school district.*



*Guilford Lionesses make pies for bake sale. Left to right, Sue Lombardi and Anne Lemauro.*

### **New Haven Lioness Club**

The ladies of the New Haven Lions were organized June 17, 1937, with Betty Armstrong as their first president. Over the years they conducted many fundraising projects and supported a variety of charitable causes. They also helped the New Haven Lions Club in many of its activities.



When Lions Clubs International established Lioness Clubs in 1975, the ladies of the New Haven Lions merely changed the name of their organization. Under the provision of credit for time served in the auxiliary organizations, two members, Marion Hintz and Vera Dockendorff, received pins from Lions Clubs International for 45 years of service.

Records of the club were destroyed in the 1982 flood, but they estimate their total money contributed to charitable causes at more than \$2,500. But a greater contribution was in hours of service to the community and to the New Haven Lions Club.

### **Seymour Lioness Club**

The Seymour Lioness Club was chartered on July 22, 1980, with 21 members. Charter officers were: Gail Zullo, president; Lucille Robillard, first vice president; Jeanne Potosky, second vice president; Priscilla Altorelli, secretary; Mary LaPaglis, treasurer; and Jerri Walsh and Josephine DiMartino, directors. Perhaps a unique feature of the club is that its membership comes from five towns in the lower Naugatuck Valley.

Charitable donations were made towards: scholarships, Thanksgiving food baskets, Christmas food baskets and toys, four families whose homes were destroyed by fire, the Valley Battered Women's Project, the Heart Association, the O'Brien Learning Center, the Lower Naugatuck Valley Community Health Association, Camp Hemlocks, the local library, and CLERF.



*A student from each of the four Valley high schools received awards from the Seymour Lioness Club for marked academic improvement and emotional and social growth at a recent meeting of the club at Whittemore Tavern. From left are Lisa Mitchell, Ansonia; Robin Falcioni, Derby; Lynee Firmender, Shelton; Laura Shail, Seymour, and Gail Zullo, club president.*

Service activities included a Christmas party for the retarded, serving refreshments at the New England regional girls softball tournament, serving refreshments at an orientation meeting of the Health Association, providing and serving refreshments at both the eliminations and finals of the Seymour-Oxford



spelling bees and awarding certificates of merit to participants and savings bonds to winners, and manning the phones for the WADS Radio Station radiothon for the Heart Association. The club also collected eyeglasses for the statewide drive. The club has "adopted" as a club "grandmother" a resident of a local nursing home. They remember her on her birthdays and on holidays with gifts and cards, and invite her as guest of honor to their club Christmas parties.

The club's most rewarding service activity is the support given to one needy family. In 1981, the club learned of a five-year-old girl who was paralyzed from the neck down. With money from the club treasury, and personal donations by members and their friends, a fund was established for the child and her family. For Easter 1981, the club stocked the family freezer with meats and purchased Easter gifts for each member of the family. They provided two cases of formula for the paralyzed girl which was necessary for her survival. They have continued to donate Christmas gifts, paid for an eye examination for the oldest child, and treated the two healthy children to a pizza party. They continue to provide formula and disposable diapers for the handicapped girl. They purchased live chickens and rabbits for the family when the mother expressed a wish for them in order to raise some of her own food supply. The condition of the child has improved to where she can eat table food and is attending a school for the handicapped. In November of 1982, the club helped to bring the children's grandparents from Portugal so the family could be together for Christmas.

Such dedication is the very essence of service. It is in the greatest tradition of Lionism.

A civic activity of the Seymour Lionesses is participating in the annual Seymour Christmas parade along with the Seymour Lions, and passing out candy to the children along the way. In 1982, their float, "Frosty the Snowman," won first prize.

Fundraisers were a refreshment booth at the Seymour Lions Club antique car show, participation in a product survey, selling cheese and sausage gift packages at Christmas time, and participation in Lions Day with the Seymour Lions to raise funds for CLERF. The most successful is the annual gift package sale which netted \$1,121.80 in 1982.

## **Lioness Clubs of District 23B**

### **Canaan Lioness Club**

The Canaan Lioness Club was organized under the leadership of Sam Wolkon, Lioness Chairman of District 23B. Charter night was held at the Burlington Inn on July 12, 1980. Charter officers were: Mary Ann Hunker, president; Judy Fox, vice president; Kathleen McKay, secretary; Linda Marks, treasurer; and Veronica Gulotta, Kathleen Powell and Marguerite Segalla, directors.

Charitable contributions went towards: scholarships, food baskets, sponsorship of a child from the American School for the Deaf to attend summer camp, sponsorship of a child to summer camp, muscular dystrophy, cancer victims, equipment for the Workshop for the Blind; together with the Seymour Lions, purchase of a "jaws of life" for the Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Association, "lifeline" communication aids for three invalids, assistance for a family victimized by fire, and support for District, State, and International Lions projects.

Service activities were assisting at screenings for diabetes, glaucoma, and hearing; assisting at a Women's Legal Awareness program, arranging the staffing by volunteers of a child care center, volunteering at an adult day care center, working with the drug awareness program and the bloodmobile, collecting eyeglasses, and selling articles for the Workshop for the Blind.



A civic activity is participation in the annual area Firemen's Parade.

Fundraisers were three variety shows, each netting \$1,600 to \$2,000. Local talent donated their time for the variety shows. Lionesses edit the programs, sell tickets, and donate a door prize. Also, they have bake sales, annual drawings, sponsorship of community flea markets, and a St. Patrick's Day Irish dinner. The Canaan Lionesses started community flea markets in an effort to get all organizations in town together. The Lionesses sell spaces to other vendors and run their own booth.

The Canaan club honors Marguerite Segalla for her efforts in organizing the club, for giving so much time, and for perfect attendance. Also, they honor Mary Hunker, their first president, Vera Parker as the best salesperson and oldest member, Catherine Tatsapaugh as a major fundraiser, and Sandra Schafer as an excellent club president and organizer.

### **Hartford Lioness Club**

The Hartford Lioness Club, the first in District 23B, received its charter on May 22, 1976. Yolanda Carrera was the charter president. Originally organized as a group of Hispanic women, the club has broadened to become a group of professional career women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds from the Greater Hartford area.

Contributions went towards: uniforms for the Girl Scouts, television and hospital equipment for the Golden Age Senior Center, hurricane victims in Santo Domingo, flood victims in the Dominican Republic, crippled children in Puerto Rico, and return transportation to Connecticut for two children orphaned on vacation in Florida.

Service activities included assisting at the Three Kings Festival, The Charity Fair, and the Spanish American Center, staffing check point for the Red Cross marathon, and collecting over 1,000 food items for the Greater Hartford Commission.

Fundraisers included bake sales, raffles, auctions of gifts donated by celebrities, bus trips to Atlantic City, a paella dinner, a Portugese Night, a Flamingo Night, and an international gourmet cookbook.

### **Manchester Lioness Club**

The Manchester Lioness Club, founded in 1976, is the second oldest in District 23B. Its first president was Gertrude DiLeo.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, prizes for children's reading programs at the library, donations to the library of handmade puppets depicting storybook characters, Christmas baskets of homemade food, donations to the town food bank, and other local needs.

Service activities were training Lioness members as guides at the Lions Gallery of the Senses, providing rides for senior citizens to the hospital, for doctors appointments, and for shopping trips; helping transport convalescent home residents to their families' homes on special occasions, and delivering homemade birthday cakes to the lonely and sick in convalescent homes. The Lionesses also sold items for the Workshop for the Blind.

Fundraisers were spaghetti dinners, candy sales, and craft fairs.

### **Marlborough Lioness Club**

The Marlborough Lioness Club was the third founded in Connecticut. Their first president was Ida Farley, who led the conversion of the group from a ladies auxiliary to an official Lioness organization. Other charter officers were: Ann Asbury, vice president; Shirley Chapman, secretary; and Penny Bates, treasurer.



Often called "The Lady Lions of Marlborough," they have distinguished themselves by dedication to their motto of serving.

Contributions went towards: a PTA after-school language program, the Fife and Drum Corps, Camp Hemlocks, food baskets at Christmas and Thanksgiving and in emergencies throughout the year, support of the local food bank, support of the local fuel bank, fuel directly for a needy family, bus trips for seniors, guide dogs for the blind, muscular dystrophy, the local library, and to CLERF, LGS, and LCIF-CARE.

Service activities were: organizing and conducting games for children at local fairs, co-sponsoring Easter egg hunts, helping with the bloodmobile, organizing a senior citizens club, sponsoring an eye-donor Sunday, selling articles for the Workshop for the Blind, and collecting eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Civic activities included lighting of a town Christmas tree followed by singing carols and passing out gifts, and support for the Marlborough Ambulance Association and the Fire Department.

Fundraisers were a craft auction, a fashion show, a confection booth at the fairs, a movie with popcorn, and bake sales.

The club is proud of their letter from Governor Ella Grasso thanking them for their contributions to the fuel bank and for their many other contributions to the welfare of their community.

The club honors their first president, and indefatigable worker, Ida Farley. No one could have done more for her club.

### **South Windsor Lioness Club**

The South Windsor Lioness Club was formed in 1981 with Rosemary Walkon as charter president. The club received an official resolution from the mayor congratulating it for being the first women's service organization formed in the town.

Contributions went towards: scholarship specifically designated for the handicapped (the first such scholarship in the town), support for school activities for preschooler with handicaps, the town library, the South Windsor Human Services Department (for emergency needs), the Workshop for the Blind, and other local needs.

Service activities were assistance to seniors (including painting the Senior Center), helping with income taxes through the VITA program, and presenting a rape crisis prevention program.

A civic activity is support of the local volunteer ambulance corps.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, and booths at the town fair and at flea markets.

### **Winsted Lioness Club**

The Winsted Lioness Club was chartered in April 1980, with Marge Knight as its first president. Other charter officers were: Linda Fancher, vice president; Mary Neal, secretary; and Mary Conklin, treasurer. They celebrated receipt of their official recognition in June at DiLeo's Grove on the 20th anniversary of the Winsted Lions Club.

The Winsted Lionesses had the misfortune of losing all their records, so only partial reconstruction of their work is possible.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, the Becky Dew Fund (help for an 18-month old cancer victim), a CPR baby model for the Farmington Medical Center, an oxygen analyzer for the hospital, the American Cancer Society, braille tags in a hospital elevator, and the YMCA pool.

Service activities included a Christmas Village trip for children, conducting turtle races at a kiddie carnival, arranging the fingerprinting of over 650 school



children, helping the Eagle Scouts in trying to locate a liver donar for a child, participating in a FIDELCO walkathon, holding an awards banquet for Gilbert High School students with an 85 or better average, selling articles for the workshop for the Blind, and collecting eyeglasses.

Fundraisers were tag sales, flea markets, raffles, sales of homemade candies, Easter flowers, pizza, and a bridal extravaganza. Proceeds from the extravaganza will be donated to the University of Connecticut Medical Center Department of Neonatology to help in the purchase of training aids for research on causes of sudden infant deaths. One interesting fundraiser was having people who return bottles and cans at supermarkets and package stores donate the money received to the Lioness Club. These Lionesses also "captured" the president of the Winsted Lions Club and held him for ransom—which went for a donation to the Lions Gallery of the Senses.

### **Lioness Clubs of District 23C**

#### **The Bolton Lioness Club**

The Bolton Lioness Club was organized on May 8, 1980, with the following charter officers: Gerry Wilson, president; Karen Hoar, first vice president; Marie Rys, second vice president; Margaret Manegia, third vice president; Sophia Litvinskis, secretary; Marilyn Vatteroni, treasurer; Betty Tasky, financial secretary; Ann Marie Schlaefel, tail twister; and Virginia Bergstrom, Eva Morra, and Norma Tedford, directors.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, subscriptions to "winners" (a magazine for drug-abuse awareness in elementary schools), fruit baskets for a convalescent home, assistance for two Bolton families afflicted with diabetes and partial blindness, and for a large-print dictionary for the library.

Service activities included a Halloween party for senior citizens and help with glaucoma screening and the Bolton Health Fair.

Fundraisers were a big-band dance, a spring dance, pancake breakfasts, a fashion show, bake sales, and a white-elephant booth at the Hebron Harvest Fair. The most successful was the fashion show.

#### **East Haddam Lioness Club**

The East Haddam Lioness Club was organized under the sponsorship of the East Haddam Lions Club. Lion John Robida served as liaison. The Lioness Club held its certification night on June 29, 1984, at the Chestnut Lodge in Colchester, Connecticut, with 23 members inducted by District Governor William K. Allen II.

Charter club officers were: Gail Egan, president; Judy Fiala, first vice president; Nancy Taylor, second vice president; Betsey Davies, third vice president; Celia Delehanty, secretary; Donna Allen-Ballek, treasurer; Mary Ventres, lioness tamer; and Linda DiLaura, tail twister. Three Lionesses were elected to the Board of Directors: Dorothy Wocl, three years; Theresa Kromish, two years; and Gladys Rhodes, one year.

Contributions went towards: several local projects, CLERF, The Boardman building fund, LCIF, and hearing conservation.

Service activities began as soon as the club was chartered. It was one of the first clubs in the area to collect hearing aids. These were presented to the Southeast Connecticut Hearing and Speech Center for establishment of a hearing-aid bank. They also worked with the East Haddam Lions Club on many of their projects.

Civic activities likewise began immediately after charter night. The club design-

ed and sold bumper stickers celebrating the Town's 300th-year celebration. Proceeds were donated to the town to help defray expenses of the event. They also operated soda booths for the same purpose.

Fundraisers were bake sales held in conjunction with the East Haddam Lions auction in July and Lions autumn harvest in September.

### **The East Hampton Regional Lioness Club**

The East Hampton Regional Lioness Club was organized in February 1983, and chartered on April 9, 1983. Charter officers were: Jane Robida, president; Elizabeth Duguay, first vice president; Nancy Taylor, second vice president; Susan Tirone, third vice president; Celia Delahanty, secretary; Linda DiLaura, treasurer; Donna Fletcher, lioness tamer; Chrisandra Robida, tail twister; and Gloria Tourville, Violet Wall, Elaine Wall, and Linda Praskievicz, directors.

Contributions went towards: local projects and LCIF,

A service activity is working with the retarded children and adults.

A civic activity was helping to pay for playground equipment.

Fundraisers were: a raffle, a soda booth at an antique show, and selling tickets for the Haddam Neck Fair on a percentage basis.



*Sargent James Warga of the East Hampton Police Department, speaker at the February dinner meeting of the East Hampton Regional Lioness Club, helps display the Heritage Quilt raffled off at the meeting. Showing off her prize is Lioness Susan Maly.*

### **Franklin Lioness Club**

The Franklin Lioness Club was organized on January 21, 1978 and chartered in April, 1978. Charter officers were: Betty Hook, president; Rose Marie Marone, first vice president; Phyllis Papp, second vice president; Beverly LaPere, third vice president; Helen Manning, secretary; Rose Cosentino, treasurer; Kathe Stern, tail twister; Diane St. Laurent, lioness tamer; and Doris Caroni, Barbara Morin, Lee Pillar, Nancy Bobter, and Jeanette Semmelrock, directors.

Contributions went towards: food baskets, Camp Hemlocks, Connecticut School for the Blind, Connecticut School for the Deaf, other local needs and CLERF.

An annual service activity is helping the Franklin Lions with the Christmas party for senior citizens.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, dances, and tag sales. Tag sales have been the most successful. These are held at the Franklin Lions Club's annual horse show.

### **Montville Lioness Club**

The Montville Lioness Club was organized in January 1976, and chartered on July 10, 1976. Gus Hirshfield of the Montville Lions was the main force in forming the Lioness Club. The charter president was Martha De Bartlo.



Contributions went towards: scholarships, the Montville High School Band, a hearing aid for a student, uniforms for Special Olympics, eyeglasses for an elderly man, holiday baskets for the needy, Raymond Hill Library, an elderly ladies' home, many gifts for one elderly woman, Norwich Hospital Outreach Program, drapes for Oakdale Community Center, hearing conservation, CLERF, and LCIF.

Service activities included painting a home for an elderly woman, sponsoring children's Christmas parties, the bloodmobile, and providing refreshments for Rid Litter Day.

Civic activities were installing draperies in the community center in Independence Village, and purchasing benches for Independence Village.

### **New London Lioness Club**

The New London Lionesses held their charter night at the Morton House in Niantic, Connecticut, on June 8, 1980. Charter officers were: Ruth Nast, president; L. Ruth Wood, first vice president; Beverly LaCrois, treasurer; Donna Henault, tail twister; and Vivian D'Amico, Junerose Killian, and Vicki Videll, directors.

Contributions went towards: food baskets, many local needs, and state and international projects.

Service activities have been a major concern. These included visits to various nursing and convalescent homes, "adopting" Cedar Grove Convalescent Home and holding a monthly bingo game, with special visits on patients' birthdays, and taking several to the New London Flower Show. Also, the Lionesses took a group of cheerleaders from the Waterford High School to visit the Camelot Nursing Home New London. Lioness Betty Smith compiled a humorous scrapbook which is passed around among nursing homes. In 1982, the Lionesses sponsored a weekend camp for the blind at Harkness Memorial Park. Blind participants and their guides came from all over New England. The Lioness prepared three meals daily for approximately 45 people for two days and provided transportation from local train and bus stations to Harkness and return. The club collects toys and arranges for Santa to distribute them at the drop-in learning center. Each year they decorate a Christmas tree and present it to the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in Mystic. The Lionesses have expanded their service activities to include diabetes awareness and soliciting donations of healthy organs for surgical transplants.



*New London Lioness Club "Booth at the New London Lions' Flower Show." Lionesses left to right, behind table; Virginia Pratt, Joan Vars, Barbara Sala, Doris Narocky. Photo taken in March 1984.*

A civic activity in 1983 was planting two trees at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital as part of the clubs environmental project.

Fundraisers were bake sales, craft and "white elephant" sales, making and selling Christmas wreaths and tag sales.

Their monthly newsletter, "Purr-tinent News" keeps the members well informed on all the clubs affairs.

### **Norwich Lioness Club**

The Norwich Lioness Club was sponsored by the Norwich Lions. The Lioness Club received its charter on May 14, 1979. Charter officers were: Rose Barlow, president; Laura Gualtieri, first vice president; Irene Russo, second vice president; Barbara O'Keeffe, third vice president; Agness Hawkins, secretary; Laura Nagel, treasurer; Rose Slaga, tail twister; and Goldie Connor, lioness tamer. Directors elected for two years were: Ida DiBattista and Marilyn Sheehan. Directors for one year were Elizabeth Talla and Fay Schlechter. There was a total of 22 charter members including the officers.

Contributions went towards: Camp Hemlocks, "Tommy Toy" Christmas fund, a home for battered women and children, a youth who lost a leg because of cancer, partial payment of transportation costs for a youth to make regular visits to a Hartford Hospital, Christmas baskets, the Otis Library (large-print books), Saint Vincent DePaul's soup kitchen, smoke detectors for the elderly, Norwich Home Convalescent Center, LCIF-CARE, CLERF, and hearing conservation.



*Governor Allen visits Norwich Lionesses. Left to right; Anita Allen, Bill Allen, President Rose Slaga, Secretary Laura Gualtieri.*

*Seated is Barbara O'Keeffe at the Norwich Sheraton Lioness Arts and Crafts fundraiser held on November 5, 1983.*





Service projects have been visits to convalescent homes.

Fundraisers were food booths, raffles, flea markets, and arts and crafts shows.

The Norwich Lioness Club honors Lioness Laura Gualtieri who helped organize the club and who has ably represented the club at Lions mid-winter conferences and at Lions state conventions.

### **Old Saybrook Lioness Club**

The Old Saybrook Lioness Club was chartered in June 1978. The first president was Magda Trott. Other officers were: Dawn Neely, Geraldine Chanette, Norma Smith, Barbara Crowley, Jacqueline Jenkins, and Nancy Thomas.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, Christmas baskets, popcorn and cupcakes for children in the Parks and Recreation Department's programs, Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD), Hospice and CLERF.

Service projects were: Co-sponsoring the annual health day with the public health agencies, working in a phone-a-thon for Middlesex Hospital, and transporting patients to doctors' offices.

Civic projects were: donations of spring bulbs and fertilizer for the town green, planting a pink dogwood tree in memory of Old Saybrook Lion, Jack Watson, selling and collecting tickets at Old Saybrook's 350th anniversary celebration, and operating a refreshment stand for the Parks and Recreation Department's torchlight parade.

Fundraisers were: food stands at the Chamber of Commerce art show and the antique show, a valentine dance, a tag sale, a raffle, and a fashion show.

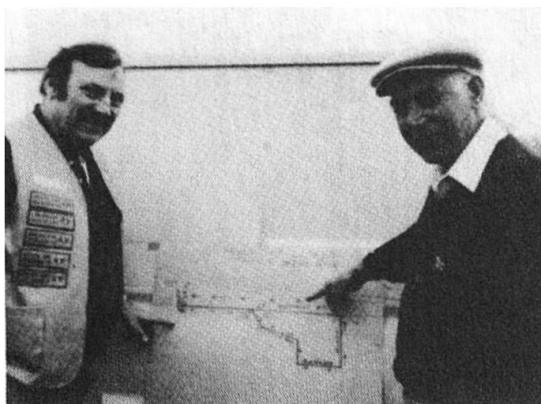
A special event of honor to the Old Saybrook Lioness Club was sponsorship of the first Lioness jamboree in District 23C.

### **Pawcatuck Regional Lioness Club**

The Pawcatuck Regional Lioness Club was the first to be organized after Lions Clubs International granted official status to women Lions. The Pawcatuck Lionesses were organized on October 16, 1975. Charter officers were: Ann Falcone, president; Mary Jones, first vice president; Isabelle Deeb, second vice president; Rose McGaw, third vice president; Renee Gerdes, secretary; Lorraine Galanti, treasurer; Kathleen Santos, tail twister; Phyllis Oberman, lioness tamer; and Rose Marie McGowen, Constance Brustolon, Sandi Planchon, Josephine Pescatello, and Joyce Crider, directors.

Contributions went towards: two annual scholarships, a telephone amplifier for a senior citizen, a hearing aid for a senior citizen, a teletypewriter for a hearing-

*Pawcatuck Lioness 3-mile Road Race, Mother's Day, 1983*



*PDG Joe Pescatello with Joe Tudisco looking over route of Lioness road race.*



*Isabelle Deeb (sitting), Rose Ahern, Kay Tudisco, Mary Jones.*

impaired young woman, the American School for the Deaf, the Oakdale School for the Blind and Retarded, and the LCIF.

Service activities included monthly visits to the Westerly Nursing Home for bingo and sing alongs.

Civic activities were providing money to start a "Garden of the Senses" in the Wilcox Park (Westerly) and yearly contributions to its upkeep.

Fundraisers were bake sales, book sales, card parties, road races, and a golf tournament.



*Pawcatuck Lionesses visit the "Garden of the Senses" in Wilcox Park, Westerly, R. I. Herbs and spices are labeled in Braille and arranged to accommodate persons in wheelchairs. The handicapped can feel and smell the plants.*

### **Waterford Regional Lioness Club**

The Waterford Regional Lioness Club was chartered on October 14, 1980. Lion Russell Diehm of the Waterford Lions Club was the first Lion liaison. Charter members of the club were: Majorie H. Senkow, president; Patricia Severance, first vice president; Judy Donsis, second vice president; Amelia Deurloo, third vice president; Nancy Lane, secretary; Christina Lane, treasurer; Agnes Janecek, tail twister; and Angelina Tanguay, lioness tamer.

Contributions were Christmas baskets for the needy.

Service projects were staffing the mobile sales unit to sell articles for the blind, helping at a free health day, and collecting pledges for the temporal bone and eye banks. Caroline Diehm was the main force in the drive for temporal-bone donations. She contributed and completed 100 applications, representing over 50 percent of the total received by the bone bank. The club was awarded a plaque for this achievement.

A civic project was participation in the Waterford Week Parade with a float.

Fundraisers were bake sales, sales of cookbooks and ceramic Christmas trees, tag sales, raffles, and bus trips to Quincy Market.



The Waterford Lionesses are proud to be rated first in their district for gifts to the needy. They are also first in their district to twin with a Lioness Club overseas, the Charleri-Horizon Club in Belgium.

The club's newsletter is the Waterford Regional Paw News.

The record of service of the Lioness clubs reflects a worthy parallel achievement of that of the Lions. In the beginning there was some opposition by Lions to giving official recognition to women's clubs in International Lionism. In fact, there are still individual Lions who do not approve of this development. They prefer the original design of women as auxiliary support groups without official designation. But those clubs which have sponsored Lioness clubs are pleased with the outcome. Not only have Lionesses distinguished themselves by their own contributions to the goals of Lionism, but also they have provided, and continue to provide, support to their sponsoring Lions Clubs. They help in Lions fund-raising projects. They cooperate with the Lions in local parade and civic festivals. Finally, they act jointly with the Lions in many service projects. Lionesses are here to stay as part of a great tradition of service to others.