



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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FLOODS AND BLIZZARDS

January has been a funny old month; I was expecting it to be busy being the first month of a new year, but in reality it has turned out less so. We were expecting to be heading off to Kidderminster on New Year's Day to support their annual Duck Race and prove to PDG Ron Cross that as a Scot, Jackie can still celebrate Hogmanay in the traditional manner and be up the next morning. Alas, the wet weather had swollen the river to such a state that it was too dangerous for the canoeists to steward the events and so it was cancelled.



It was a good job that I had not planned many club visits through January as that 'deep and crisp and even' that I mentioned in my December newsletter turned up in abundance. It was also by chance, although I might like to think it was shrewd forethought and planning, my three club visits were local and so the snow and ice had little effect on my travels. I was even more pleased that two of the three clubs have new members, being part of ten new members reported as joining Lions Clubs International this month.

We also were invited as guests at two Charter anniversaries and the heavy snow fall the day before Kenilworth Lions Charter celebration made us worried that we might have difficulties reaching the venue. Our journey turned out to be relatively trouble free which is more than can be said for Lion President Kit who had been in Ilfracombe the day before the charter and had to struggle through the snow from Devon to the Midlands. But like all good Lions, no barrier is too difficult to overcome and a great Charter night was had by all present.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The month ended with a Council of Governors meeting at which the VDGs attended to see what they have let themselves in for. If the VDGs can survive the January Council meeting they can survive any Council meeting, as much of the weekend was tied up discussing finance, budgets and preparing resolutions for the Multiple District Convention in Torquay at the end of April.

They also had another important thing to do which was to elect their Chair of Council for their year as Governors. I congratulate my compatriot from 105SE, DG Phil Robinson and commiserate with the others who were brave enough to put their heads over the parapet but were unsuccessful.

Whilst Council was meeting in one room at St John's Hotel, the Past District Governors Association was meeting in another. As is the tradition, the current Council of Governors were invited to join them for dinner on the Saturday evening and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

I'm not sure if it is out of respect for the current District Governors that the invitation is given – probably not – or more to remind us all that in twelve months' time we will all be eligible to be members of the Association and be present as Past District Governors. We are all well aware that the infamous trap door which is the 30th June 2013, looms ever nearer and we will drop through it as all our predecessors have done before us.

MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following new members into the family of Lions:

Chris Godbold	Corby
Trevor Haynes	Corby
Malcolm Knowles	Coventry Leofric
June Wilkinson	Northampton
Dennis Langton	Rugby Rokeby
Nishad Jitendra Shah	Thurnby
Nicola Hall	Warwick
Linda Melonie	Worcester

I would like to welcome the return of: Caplan Ramdas-Harsia, Birmingham Handsworth, to the family of Lions



Please circulate to all Club Members

DISTRICT CONVENTION

The snow has melted, the days are beginning to get longer, there will soon be lambs in the field, Spring is only just around the corner. And so is District Convention on 22nd to 24 March 2013 at the Pear Tree Inn and Country Hotel in Worcester.

Convention begins with a themed 'Birthday Party' Host Night full of 'fun and entertainment' on Friday evening. The formal business session or District Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday. It is a chance to question the District Officers, elect the Governors Team for 2013-2014, vote on resolutions and hear our guest, International Director Benedict Ancar from Romania. Convention continues in the evening with a formal 'Black Tie and Tiara' Banquet and finishes on Sunday with a question and answer session with ID Benedict Ancar.

Accommodation at the Convention Hotel is now fully booked, leaving only one package deal available for all the complete weekend events and accommodation at £230 per couple staying in the Fownes Hotel, Worcester. This price includes transport on to the social events at the Convention hotel on Friday and Saturday evenings

There is also a Package Booking for singles which is £200. So don't delay, book today.

For further details go to the District website on www.lions105m.org.uk and look under 'Latest News'.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S DIARY DATES:

February

1 st	Kettering and District 40 th Charter Anniversary
2 nd	Solihull 43 rd Charter Anniversary
5 th	Birmingham Handsworth Lions Club visit
7 th	Corby and District Lions Club visit
9 th	Bushby Lions 17 th Charter Anniversary
10 th	District Cabinet Meeting
11 th	Wellesbourne and District Lions Club visit
12 th	Stour Valley Lions Club visit
13 th	Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club visit
16 th	Walsall Lions 38 th Charter Anniversary
24 th	MD Young Ambassadors Final
26 th	Governors Meeting

March

1 st	105BN District Convention at Blackpool
2 nd	Shirley Charter Anniversary at Nottingham
6 th	Bushby Lions Club visit
9 th	Hinckley and Burbage/Barwell & Earl Shilton Charter Anniversaries
11 th	Birmingham Edgbaston Lions Club visit
12 th	UN Day at the Palace of Westminster
18 th	Balsall Common President's Charity Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust
22 nd -24 th	105M District Convention at Worcester
26 th	Governors Meeting

MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION REQUEST

Some Lions who have resigned and Clubs within the District have received letters from LCI at Oakbrook entitled 'Membership Termination Request' and have wondered what it means.

Some have felt the wording is formal, legalistic and impersonal making no reference to any thanks or appreciation for the service given by the Lion involved during their membership. Certainly a number of my DG compatriots expressed these views at the January Council meeting.

I would like to say that there is nothing sinister about this letter but it has come about after a number of years of discussion between LCI headquarters, the International Board and this Multiple District.

Since the introduction of the WMMR reporting system, now known as MyLCI, members' personal data has been stored on the LCI database. That data has been stored in line with US data laws which are different from UK Data Protection law, in particular the requirement to remove data in the event of a member dying or resigning from the organisation.

Agreement has now been reached with LCI that the data of Lions from MD105 will be removed from the database 35 days after LCI has been notified and the letter confirms that removal date together with the data held by LCI.

The data of any member transferring within that 35 day window will remain in the database, any member transferring to another club outside that 35 day window can have their data reinstated using the data recorded on the termination letter, but this can only be carried out by the Club Officer and Record Administration staff at Oakbrook and not a Club Secretary.

As you can see, this is a formal letter and in place to safeguard your personal data held by the organisation and to ensure that it is not misused should you leave.

MORE DIARY DATES:

1st VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

February

5 th	Sandwell Lions Club visit
10 th	District Cabinet Meeting
11 th	Lutterworth Lions Club visit
13 th	Redditch Lions Club visit
16 th -17 th	GMT and GLT Summit meeting
26 th	Governors Meeting

March

4 th	Wellingborough Lions Club visit
12 th	UN Day at the Palace of Westminster
22 nd -24 th	105M District Convention at Worcester
26 th	Governors Meeting

Please circulate to all Club Members

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



March and April are months when Lions are asked to carry out projects in **protecting our environment**.

Now is the time to make our plans.

Climate Week is being held from 4th to 10th March and it is our chance as Lions to raise the awareness within our communities to the problems mankind are creating through the use of fossil fuels and the destruction this is causing to our planet.

The climate is changing, resulting in the melting of the polar ice caps, and none of us can have missed the fact that this year has been the wettest in the UK since records began, and it will only get worse unless we do something.

Lions can help create a massive movement for change by making Climate Week happen in our communities, by arranging a talk, workshop, training session, open day or any other relevant activity, or work with and support other organisations such as schools, scout groups charities, and councils organisations who ran similar events last year.

In addition, as the year moves into April and hopefully better spring weather, Lions can be more hands-on by undertaking local environmental projects such as:

- Organise rubbish collections to clear unsightly parts of our communities.
- Plant spring bulbs, flowers or trees. IPIP Wing-Kun Tam last year challenged Lions to plant one million trees and Lions responded by planting over thirteen million.

We should not stop there just because the year has passed, the planet still needs more trees to be planted.

Such projects can only serve to improve our local environment and being hands-on, give us the chance to be visible within our communities.

It also gives us the chance to inspire others as well as membership opportunities, which is a win-win situation for everyone.

More details can be obtained from the District Environment Officer, Lion Bob Dutton at environment@lions105m.org.uk

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

As the memory of London 2012 fades, Another exciting and unique event is coming to Bath this summer.

From 28th August to the 1st September, the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games will be hosted at Bath University.



Special Olympics GB is the third member of the Olympic family and the largest provider in the country of regular sports training and competition for young people and adults with a learning disability. Those who attended MD Convention at Birmingham last May witnessed a wonderful display put on by Special Olympics GB athletes and could not fail to be impressed and inspired by their dedication and commitment, or that of their volunteer coaches.

There will be some 1,700 athletes competing at Bath, supported by a further 450 volunteer coaches and team managers. Added to that are a further 3,000 family members and supporters and so, as you can imagine, like London 2012, the need for volunteers to help in the running of the events is high.

The Lions of 105W, under the guidance of DG Harry Smith and MD Vice Physical Learning and Disabilities Officer, IPDG 105A Andrew Allen, are helping with the organisation and are looking for Lions from across the Multiple District who are willing and able to volunteer some or all of their time and assist at the event at Bath.

If you are one of those Lions who can, please email Lion Andrew Allen at andrew1.allen@btopenworld.com and let him know.

MORE DIARY DATES

2nd VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

February

4 th	GLT Meeting
10 th	District Cabinet Meeting
16 th -17 th	GMT and GLT Summit meeting
18 th	Zone D visit
26 th	Governors Meeting
	Zone B visit – date to be confirmed

March

12 th	UN Day at the Palace of Westminster
22 nd -24 th	105M District Convention at Worcester
26 th	Governors Meeting

Please circulate to all Club Members