



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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HOW TIME FLIES!

March is upon us already and, as the final third of my year as District Governor starts, I am aware of the lengthening evenings and the diminishing number of club visits to complete. The longer nights also mean that I can resume doing the longer visits and I've been to Wellesbourne and Stour Valley this month. And very enjoyable visits they have been, mainly for the friendship and hospitality at both clubs but also partly because I have been heading towards the Cotswolds and the land of my birth and God's own country in the South West.



February also has seen the start in earnest of the Club Charter celebration season and Jackie and I have shared these celebrations with Solihull, Bushby and Walsall over the past couple of weeks.

Apart from sharing good food and company, I have been privileged to acknowledge the service of a number of Lions and have presented four Melvin Jones Fellowships.

In each case the recipient has been stunned to receive the award but seeing a gob-smacked Alan James of Solihull is an image that will remain with me for a long time as it is such a rare occasion.

I would like to congratulate Lions Paul Jolly, Keith Culliford and PDG Alan James of Solihull, together with Lion President Kalpech Chauhan of Bushby for the recognition of their service given to them by their peers.

It was also at Bushby's Charter Night that Jackie and I learned that Lion President Kalpech had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with a friend in September last year raising money through sponsorship. His friend had flown specially in from Dubai for the Charter Night, to give a short presentation of their expedition.

We heard how they had to cope with altitude sickness and that the final ascent started at midnight to make sure the volcanic ash near the top was frozen and therefore could be climbed. They arrived back at their camp at 2.30pm exhausted and had 30 minutes rest before a meal. You can imagine their horror to find after their meal that their tents had disappeared and moved to a lower camp area a further five hours trek away!

But congratulations to Lion President Kalpech on his achievement and I do hope he achieves his other ambition to raise money climbing to Everest base camp.



Please circulate to all Club Members

YOUNG AMBASSADOR MD FINAL

The month ended with the Multiple District Young Ambassadors of the 21st Century Final at Dudley. As many of you know, this year I have been involved with a review of our Youth Projects at District and Multiple District levels. 13% of clubs across the Multiple District believe that this project should be dropped with it being as high as 30% in one District. Those Lions that question the value of the Young Ambassadors project should make the effort to attend a final and learn at first-hand what wonderful and dedicated young people are working in our communities.

At the final, the audience were treated to presentations from fourteen inspirational young people, firstly listening to last year's MD and Europa Forum winner Charlotte Smith who has developed into a very confident young lady with some interesting and thoughtful views of Lions of the future. Charlotte was followed by thirteen young people doing amazing work within their respective communities.



Unfortunately, 105M's candidate, Ashleigh Woodall was not the outright winner, which was Adam Harris from 105I. However, in reality, all thirteen were winners.



Ashleigh receives her certificate from Council Chairman, Martin Morgan

And interspersed with the DG day job, I have been working with the team on the plans for our Convention next month. Jackie and I are looking forward to welcoming you all to Worcester for a great weekend.

DISTRICT CONVENTION



March has arrived and so has the most important date in the District calendar - District Convention on 22nd to 24 March 2013 at the Pear Tree Inn and Country Hotel in Worcester. If you haven't booked yet, time is running out.

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 Ball and finishes on Sunday with a question and answer session with ID Benedict Ancar.

One of the weekend package deals is still available for 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.

If, however, you can only attend a part of the weekend, the individual events are as follows:

- Host Night including a two course buffet meal at £17.50 per person
- Attendance at Convention is free **but registration via the booking form is required**
- A guided tour of Worcester for Partners' at £5.00 per person
- Convention buffet lunch at £9.50 per person. This is recommended as there are no alternatives available near the Convention venue. **Pre-booking is essential.**
- Banquet and Ball at £25.00 per person

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

Please circulate to all Club Members

CALLING ALL CLUB DELEGATES

- Do not miss out on the opportunity to have your say!
- Do not miss out on the opportunity to decide on the future direction of District 105M!
- Do not miss out on the opportunity to vote for the Governors Team for 2013-2014!
- Do not be disenfranchised!

Delegate and alternates nomination forms were sent to all Club Secretaries electronically on the 20th December 2012 **and it is still not too late to register.** For clubs in 'good standing', each club is entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each ten members who have been enrolled for at least one year and one day in the Club or major fraction thereof, as shown by the records at International Office on the 1st February 2013.

Good Standing means that District, Multiple District and International dues are received by the District Treasurer by Wednesday 20th March 2013.

If your club is still to register delegates, then submit your signed delegates and alternates form without delay to **Convention Registration Officer, Lion Ian Haffner, 3 Cartwright Avenue, Harley-Whitefort, Warndon Villages, Worcester, WR4 0NZ.**

TIME TO DECIDE

It does not matter whether you have an evening of formal elections, whether you draw lots, whether it is the person who does not hide their head quick enough, or whether the status quo remains for another year, the time has come to elect your club President and officers for 2013-2014 and submit your PU101 forms.



The deadline date for submission is 15th May 2013 but the earlier you decide, the more time you have to prepare for a successful and rewarding year.

To help you have a successful year, the District Global Leadership Team has arranged a Club Officers orientation day on Sunday 12th May at MDHQ. Every year Club officers decide not to attend because 'they have done the job before'. Every year things change and every year those same officers ask for help because **things have changed.** It is important that you attend so you can do your job properly and if you have done the job before, you can share your experiences and best practices with those newcomers.

The District Global Leadership Team is there to help you have a successful and enjoyable year.

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH AND APRIL

District Governor

March

1 st	105BN District Convention at Blackpool
2 nd	Shirley Charter Anniversary at Nottingham
6 th	Bushby Lions Club visit
9 th	Hinckley & Burbage/Barwell Earl Shilton Charter Anniversary
11 th	Birmingham Edgbaston Lions Club visit
12 th	UN Day at the Palace of Westminster
13 th	MD GMT meeting at High Wycombe
14 th	District Skittles Final at Ansty
16 th	Nuneaton and Bedworth Charter Anniversaries
17 th	Harborough Twenty 12 lunch
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

April

3 rd	Towcester 39 th Charter Anniversary
6 th	Quiz in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust at Scaldwell
10 th	Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club visit
13 th	Kingswinford & Stourbridge 38th Charter Night
24 th -26 th	Council of Governors meeting
27 th -28 th	Multiple District Convention at Torquay
30 th	Governors Meeting

1st Vice District Governor

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

April

14 th	Incoming Zone & Region Chairmen training at MDHQ
16 th	Finance and Administration meeting
23 rd	Long Range Planning meeting
24 th -26 th	Council of Governors meeting
27 th -28 th	Multiple District Convention at Torquay
30 th	Governors Meeting

2nd Vice District Governor

March

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

April

1 st	Kidderminster Lions Club Duck Race
16 th	Finance and Administration meeting
23 rd	Long Range Planning meeting
27 th -28 th	Multiple District Convention at Torquay
30 th	Governors Meeting

Please circulate to all Club Members

SHOULD OUR CLUB HAVE A REGISTERED CHARITY?

A Lions Club is itself not a charity but a service club (we serve), but many of the ways in which we serve our communities locally, nationally and internationally are charitable. The Multiple District has recommended for many years that Lions Clubs establish a registered charity for its fundraising from the general public and also for making financial charitable donations. In this District about half the clubs have a registered charity, whilst the other 50% should consider seriously whether they should become a registered charity.

Does my Club need to register? The simple answer is yes if its annual charity account income or charity donations are £10,000 p.a. or more. Maybe, if the charity income is between £5k and £10k. No if the charity income is less than £5,000 p.a. There is a lot of guidance for making this decision on the Charity Commission website www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

What are the benefits of being a registered charity? The benefits are mainly financial in that the club can apply for Gift Aid on charitable donations, and exemption from some taxes e.g. bank interest or profits on investments. Shortly charities will be able to claim Gift Aid on donations from the general public without having to get forms filled in on street collections and door to door.

Many Local Authorities require clubs to be a registered charity before they are allowed to collect in public, and being a registered charity allows business and the public some degree of certainty that the money will end up in the right place.

How do I set up a registered charity? There is a simple, step by step, on line registration procedure on the Charity Commission website, but before doing this check the advice contained in Charity Pack for Clubs in England and Wales on the MD105 website. It was written in 2002 and the acts have changed but the agreements contained in the wordings still have validity with the Charity Commission. It also allows the Club to decide on charitable donations rather than the Trustees in isolation.

What are the responsibilities of a Registered Charity? The first and foremost responsibility is to act in accordance with the "governing document" and to handle finances responsibly and accurately. The second is to maintain adequate records of finances, produce reports and have them independently verified. The third is to submit timely accounts and reports to the Charity Commission within 10 months of the end of the Lion's year i.e. 30th April in the following year.

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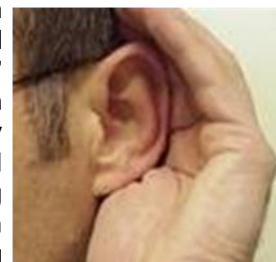
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Specific Advice for Registered Charities. The Charity Commission website has much good advice, FAQ's, examples which can help fledgling charities, answer the telephone and have a department dealing with charities under two years old.

For further information and advice please contact Lion Wim Hoogerwerf on cnro@lions105m.org.uk

HEARING THIS

After years of reading HearThis, produced by our District Hearing and Speech Officer Roger Handcock, and saying 'I don't have a problem' - even though I have been aware of tinnitus for many years and I know that I damaged part of my hearing as a twenty year old working in the car industry - I have at long last succumbed to hearing aids. And what a difference it has made, as I can hear properly again.



So beware; if you are being rude about me behind my back, I can now hear you!!

MEMBERS

It is with sadness that I mark the passing to higher service of Lion Greg Holt from Market Harborough Lions Club.

A THOUGHT FOR EVERY DAY

'My motto for community service is 'Carpe Diem' or 'Seize the Day'. Every day presents new opportunities for making a difference and it is up to us to decide how we respond to them.'

These are the words of MD Young Ambassador of the 21st Century winner, Adam Harris and how true they are. Every day we have a chance to make a difference but how do we respond to them? Do we always grasp that opportunity? We only live one life and that opportunity to make a difference often only presents itself on one occasion. If we ignore the opportunity it will be gone for ever.

'Seize the day' and reach out and **'touch the hearts of those in need'**.

Please circulate to all Club Members