



DISTRICT GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

30th April 2016

## District Governor District 105M 2015/16 Lion Heather Jeavons

“reach out to serve”

PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS

Hello everyone

I hope that your Club events have not been too badly affected by the mad weather which we have seen over the last few weeks! It is a lovely time of year with new spring flowers coming through, but the rain, snow and cold winds are much less welcome.

### The Redistricting Issue

I have tried to keep you fully informed through my newsletters and through our Zone and Regional Chairs of the work which has been undertaken on the question of Redistricting the remaining Districts in our Multiple District when Ireland leave us from July 2017. Reports detailing the proposals were circulated to every club in the Multiple District on 3<sup>rd</sup> November last year and a consultation was undertaken to give every member a chance to have their say on the proposals.

As a result, detailed proposals are to be put to the forthcoming Multiple District Convention from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May proposing changes to the boundaries and number of the remaining districts with effect from July 2018; additionally, an emergency resolution will also be put to Convention seeking to postpone a decision on Redistricting for a further 12 months to next year's MD Convention, and to have further consultations and to seek further alternatives for boundaries in Redistricting.

At our own District Convention, Redistricting was debated and the view of almost all of the delegates to our District Convention was that there should be no further delay, and that Redistricting should be decided now and implemented from 2018.

### Membership

I know how hard you have all worked to attract new members to join us and help to deliver our service, and I am so grateful to Andy, Doug and Melissa- our hardworking membership team- for the support which they have given to us all this year.

As well as welcoming new members, I am also mindful of the value to us all of our present members and of the service which they continue to provide, and of the wisdom and knowledge which they hold. We must all work to retain happy and fulfilled Lions in thriving and effective Clubs- and perhaps we may need to be flexible to enable the changing life patterns of our members to be accommodated in attending meetings or undertaking activities so that we do not lose their service and fellowship as valued Lions if they have to take on other commitments in their lives.

## Appeal to Support the Children's Hospital Hologram Scanner

I am very grateful to everyone who has donated to the appeal which my husband, Lion Dave, has promoted this year in support of the Children's Hospital Hologram Scanner Appeal. I include below a message from Lion Dave about the appeal.

*Each year in the DG's spouse has the privilege of nominating a charity to benefit from funds raised within our District. Heather and I chose the Birmingham Children's Hospital Hologram Scanner appeal because of the fact that the hospital is a national centre of excellence and treats children from a wide area of this country and beyond, so that any funds raised will help often very ill young children for a long time to come.*

*The hospital is very proud of a computerised scanner which allows high quality images to be taken giving precise information to enable the best possible treatment. Children as young as 3 years old come from all over the country and beyond to receive treatment for what can be very serious and prolonged illnesses including heart, cancer, liver, trauma and neuro patients. Up to 20 scans are carried out every day at the hospital and often one child will need a number of scans during the course of their treatment. In recent weeks you will probably have seen on the television the story of young Harry from Shrewsbury who recently received part of his Dad's liver in an operation carried out at the Children's hospital. This was his second transplant, and, thankfully Harry and his dad are now recovering at home.*

*At the moment the room where is CT scanner lives is really dull and the scanner itself is a huge machine which can seem scary and very young children have to be sedated in order to help them lie still. Many young children have to use it a lot-which, unsurprisingly, can make them very nervous and agitated. The plan is, therefore, to transform the room into a bright, fun and interactive space by installing a multi-sensory IT programme. Children will be given a specially adapted iPad and will be able to personalise the colour scheme, speakers for music or TV programmes or to display photos of Mom and Dad and anything else from Facebook. The hospital is looking to raise funds to give children a sense of security and comfort and a setting that is currently stark and bare. It will be the first such facility in Europe. It will mean that fewer children will need to be sedated or anaesthetised prior to their scan reducing the risks associated with anaesthetic, as children will be more relaxed, and it will also save time and money, enabling more scans to be carried out as scans will be conducted more efficiently. **As you can see from the figures, among the children who attended the hospital in 2015 are patients from all over our District: - Leicestershire - 664, Northamptonshire – 534, Warwickshire – 8710, West Midlands – 82286 and Worcestershire 11202. There are many, many more who come from further afield.***

*A number of clubs have run events to raise money for this very worthwhile cause, thank you so much for helping, and please will everyone else think of this charity when arranging your next club event, and see if you can help me to support it. This is Matilda from Kenilworth who is a long term and frequent patient at the hospital, her parents have kindly given us permission to use her photograph. The BCH is serves all children in need of its care, and we are so lucky to have it so close by.*



As Dave says, Clubs have been very generous with donations and in holding fun and fundraising events such as quizzes and donating the proceeds via District Treasurer Brian to support the appeal. If your Club is running an event in the next few weeks, please can you consider whether a donation to the Hologram Scanner Appeal could be made from part of the proceeds?

#### Earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan

You will also have seen the news coverage in the last few weeks of the earthquakes which have shattered lives in Ecuador and Japan. LCIF has stepped in to make grants for immediate relief, and so you may wish please to consider making donations through LCIF to help the victims of these disasters.

#### Lion Jaap- Cycling to Eastbourne to support the Cure Parkinson's Trust

And a final "good luck" to Lion Jaap of Shirley Lions who will cycle the 180 miles from Solihull to the MD Convention on a 1930's vintage cycle to raise funds for this excellent cause.

Kind regards to all

*Heather*