



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Contacts: DG Lion Femi Onabolu: dg@lions105m.org.uk
 Pauline Hoogerwerf: secretary@lions105m.org.uk



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF A LIFETIME

Having attended six International Conventions in previous years, I least expected such a difference it made to attend one as District Governor Elect. The experience was mind-boggling.

We arrived ten days before Convention began and I took part in the DGE training, opening ceremonies and heard special speeches from the Incoming President, Eberhard Wirfs, on his dream theme "Move To Grow".

I attended the DG Training schools with 11 others from MD105, 3 from the Netherlands, one each from Lebanon, Greece and Egypt. We interacted with 752 Lions DGEs from every nation on planet Earth, exchanging experiences in foyers, corridors and restaurants.

We had great fellowship on excursions and at receptions, received our Certificates of accreditation as DGs and, finally, wore our white jackets for the first time at the DGE Banquet & Ball. These are once in a life time experiences.

The actual Convention, which started on Tuesday 7th July, was attended by almost 20,000 Lions.

Apart from featuring results of Lions Miracles through Service in the opening ceremony, we were privileged to have General Colin Powell as the Keynote speaker - another great achievement for Lions. The annual parade was equally a great attraction.



Minneapolis was warm and welcoming and the Convention was very well organised. I urge every aspiring Lion leader to make some effort to attend an International Convention; the experience should not be left only to your imagination.

Please circulate to all Club Members

DISTRICT CHANGEOVER

I am told that the changeover on Sunday 19th July was a success. I can vouch that it was smooth since Andy looked eager to handover the Gong and I heard him silently singing "Take this chain from my neck and set me free"!



I must thank Andy for grooming me for this year and for the amount of work he did in creating a dossier of invaluable data on every Club. These will be updated and handed over to future District Governors. Thank you Andy.

My sincere apologies to all those who could not be accommodated at the Changeover due to restricted numbers. Please try to book early for the Autumn Forum and next Convention.

MOVE TO GROW

Our International President's Theme for 2009/2010 is "Move To Grow". This is a very broad-based theme modelled after the Ginkgo tree (otherwise known as the Millennium tree, which is a symbol of hope, heritage, longevity, adaptability, utility and sustainability).

It focuses on achievement of growth in Social Understanding, humanitarian services, leadership development, club membership, International and social understanding, Leo Clubs, Lions Quest (Youth), cultural activities and LCIF support. The overall core message is growth in Membership with healthy extension and minimal loss of members.

DG PROGRAMME MEMBERSHIP

Membership increase will continue to be in the forefront of my programme. I have set MERL an ambitious target to form 3 new Clubs (one in each Region), 3 Branch Clubs, revitalise 3 dwindling Clubs and ensure a net gain of one member average per Club in the first 6 months (by Christmas).

This will be achievable only with the cooperation of all Clubs and dynamic leadership by Club Presidents and Zone chairmen. I am lucky to have 6 of my 9 Zone chairmen as women whom I look up to for drive and motivation towards achievement of our target. Our Region Chairmen will also be expected not only to oversee but also to motivate and energise their Regions.

Whilst we focus on new Clubs and increase in Club membership, we shall not lose sight of Retention of our existing members, who are the backbones of our existence.

PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

A new Committee has been put in place to ensure greater publicity of Lions, who we are and what we do. The Committee has two PR officers - one covering Internal publicity and the other, named 'Press Officer', who will ensure media coverage of major Lions Club and District activities in Newspapers, magazines, radio and possibly television.

Widespread publicity will be given to the LCI World Service Day and World Sight day which both incidentally fall on Thursday 8th October this year. Clubs are urged to start planning public activities in their communities for either event on the Thursday or on the weekend following.

Clubs are also urged to have a designated PR officer, which is essential for successful all round publicity.

MIDLAND NEWS

Joy Haffner is preparing a bumper news but she is looking for support from all the Clubs with stories and photographs of their Social and Service activities. The Midland News will be a separate issue from the DG Newsletters. It will continue with last year's pattern and Lions can access latest information on the web.

Please circulate to all Club Members

FUTURE EVENTS

AUTUMN FORUM

This year's Autumn Forum will take place on Sunday 18th October at the Airport Holiday Inn. It promises excitement and innovations. The keynote speaker is Georgina Hulme, a former Special Olympics multi-Gold medal athlete and currently a Special Olympics Board Member. All those present at the last MD Convention in Southport will remember the five minute standing ovation that followed her great, moving and inspirational speech. You will not want to miss the opportunity to enjoy listening to her.

There will be a presentation by Jackie Mcguirk on the DG,s Spouse Project "Hospice at Home, standing in for my wife Anna who unfortunately has to be in Greece at that time.

The District International Project will feature Dr. Kunle Onabolu, UK Trustee of "African Child Trust" (A.C.T.), supporting more than 600 orphans and children of widowed and single mothers in six African Countries. In Dr. Onabolu's words, "The challenge of eliminating poverty in Africa through education of the children and by empowering widows is enormous, but we are confident that it can be achieved, one child at a time".

There will be two interactive seminars on "How to obtain Grants" and Publicity & Public Relations. In addition, there will be short presentations on Speech & Hearing and LCIF.

You will also have the opportunity to meet the candidates for election at the 2010 District Convention.

Booking Forms and further information will be circulated soon. Please book early since unfortunately the hall can only accommodate a limited number of participants.

CABINET MEETINGS

All Cabinet meetings will take place at the Airport Holiday Inn starting at 09.30 with Region & Zone Chairmen DG briefings till 10.30. Cabinet will assemble at 10.45 and finish at 12.30 prompt.

Committees are advised to hold their quarterly meetings 2 weeks before Cabinet Report submission deadline.

DISTRICT CONVENTION 2010

It's not too early to start planning for next year's District Convention which will take place at the Airport Holiday Inn from 26th to 28th March 2010. The Convention committee Chairman PDG Heather Lee assures me it will be a mouth watering Convention and arrangements are already in place to make it the best Convention ever.

CLUB VISITS

Now that the holidays are over, the DG duties will start in full swing on Monday 3rd of August. We divided the Clubs into two Groups; the first to be visited in August and September and the second set to be visited from October. This was done to ensure that we confirm dates for the first set before moving on to the second.

If your Club has not received a letter with a suggested date for DG visit, it is only because you are in the second set.

Visits in August and September are as follows:

AUGUST:

Mon. 3rd: Wellingborough	Tues. 4th: Sandwell
Wed. 5th: Coventry Godiva	Thurs. 6th: Northampton 80
Tues. 11th: Acocks Green	Wed. 12th: Redditch
Thurs. 13th: Droitwich	Mon. 17th: Erdington
Wed. 19th: Nuneaton	Thurs. 20th: Castle Bromwich
Thurs. 27th: Wolverhampton	

SEPTEMBER:

Tues. 1st: Market Harborough & Branch	Wed. 2nd: Bushby
Thurs. 3rd: Rugby Rokeby	Tues. 8th: Thurnby
Wed. 9th: Rowell	Thurs. 10th: Kidderminster
Mon. 14th: Bedworth	Tues. 15th: Northfield & Kings Norton
Wed. 16th: Southam	Mon. 21st: Bromsgrove
Wed. 23rd: Moseley & Kings Heath	Mon. 28th: Wellesbourne

Please circulate to all Club Members

DISTRICT GOVERNORS "SHOPPING LIST"

To enable Clubs to plan early and programme their contributions towards District supported projects, please find below my recommendations for your consideration. Please note that the amounts mentioned are not cast in stone. It is left completely to the discretion of each Club to choose what they wish to support and amount they wish to give:

DG Partners Project - £200

Anna spoke briefly about "Hospice At Home" project at the Changeover. A Full presentation will be given at the Forum and Information packs will be made available to all Clubs.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS - £100

Many Clubs are already donating towards this very worthy cause that brings joy, happiness and hope to lots of people, whose lives would otherwise never have been the same. By the time we all listen to Georgina at the Autumn Forum, we shall be in no doubt that this is worth our support.

AFRICAN CHILD TRUST (ACT) - £150

Millions of children in Africa having both parents struggle for basic survival but it is even more difficult for children without a father. The mothers struggle to provide a livelihood but stand no chance of providing education; the future is bleak and near hopeless. ACT has taken up the responsibility of ensuring that more and more of these children are given a chance for the future. They call on you to join them in ACTING. A presentation and information packs at the Forum may be more convincing.

LCIF - £100

We have seen LCIF at work in moments of disasters and several Clubs, as well as our District, have benefited from various matching Grants. Every Club has made contributions to LCIF credited as undesignated Funds. Cumulatively these funds have been used by Clubs to award Melvin Jones Fellowships to deserving members. Invest in yourselves.

NORTH SEA LIONS - £150

District 105M was a partner in the formation of North Sea Lions, we are under obligation to sustain it and ensure continuity of the laudable projects it sponsors all around the Globe.

COMPREHENSIVE EYE SERVICES (Eye Camps) - £250

This is every Lions Club's contribution to the call of Lions as Knights in the fight against preventable Blindness. Eye Camps have become very popular among Lions worldwide and your contribution is accounted for by Lions Sight Savers.

YOUTH PROJECTS - £100

Support of Youth projects and offering opportunities for young people to develop their own skills is paramount to Lions future. Your contribution will help to support Young Ambassador, Music and Youth Football competitions,

GIFT FOR LIVING - £100

This goes towards rebuilding and rehabilitating areas in Europe destroyed by conflicts and wars and restoring some quality of life to the impoverished inhabitants.

TACADE - £100

Many of us are aware of the destruction to lives caused by addiction of young people to drugs, alcohol abuse, gambling and the devastating effect of bereavement on children. TACADE and Lions in the UK have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to promote distribution of Literatures in schools.

UNICEF - £200

Lions are partners with the United Nations and through UNICEF Lions contribute towards its work with Street Children (£45) and providing Edukits for children in developing Nations (£110). Remaining donation will go to Lions Water Aid (£45).

These are the recommended projects for your consideration.

CONCLUSION

There is a bright light in the horizon for our District this year. We aim to get very close (if not fully achieved) to the magic membership number of 1,250 to make our District self-sustaining. This will only be achieved by every Lion working together; bring into your Club a friend and let's see what happens. This is my challenge to one and all.

Please remember we are: "ALL ONE IN SERVICE".

Please circulate to all Club Members