



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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



DG's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

With very best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Blessed, Enjoyable, Fruitful, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to every Lion as you offer your Time, Labour and Means in Service of your Community and Humanity at large.

May we, "Ordinary People achieving Amazing Things" continue to be mindful of the Needs of Others; and may we be Blessed with the where-with-all to continue our Services in the New Year.

As you all engage in running Santa's Sleigh and Christmas Shops and Street collections this December, we wish you abundant success and enjoyable comradeship.

Please remember to talk to assisting volunteers about the joys of being a Lion. "In Lions, we Serve together, make friends and enjoy Life". You may add a service minded person to your membership. Merry Christmas!!!

DG Femi & Lion Anna Onabolu.



APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE:

Erdington Lions Club has only 4 members left. Every year, they take a Santa's Sleigh round Erdington and raise a substantial amount for Charity.

They need help from fellow Lions to man the collection boxes on the 13th, 15th 17th and 20th of December starting at 06.00pm. They are prepared to share the collections on a pro-rata contribution in numbers and hours.

Please contact Club secretary, Lisa Burns on 07838 224857 for more information and registration of your availability.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

I wish to welcome the following new members to the International Association of Lions Clubs:

New Lion	Club
Robert Fenley	B'ham Moseley & Kings Heath
Dr. Binod Singh (Hon. Patron)	Castle Bromwich
Stephen Wigley	" "
Maureen Wigley	" "
Anna Onabolu	" "
Stephen Anderson	" "
Karen Anderson	" "
Gwen Peat	Kenilworth

May you all enjoy your membership of our great association.

Please circulate to all Club Members

DG's IMPRESSIONS

What a wonderful 6 months I have had as District Governor from 1st July 2009.

- The year started with an overbooked Change-over lunch with very many Lions, including Cabinet Officers unable to be accommodated. The Changeover ceremony was memorable.
- My first Cabinet meeting in August witnessed record attendance of Cabinet officers and most remarkably with 100% submission of all 60 Officers reports.
- An Autumn Forum with an unprecedented attendance of over 135 people, of which more than 30 were attending a Forum for the first time. General impressions and subsequent reports were very favourable.
- I have already visited 43 Clubs between August and the end of November and now have only 14 Clubs more to visit. The experiences have been varied but very much worthwhile.
- Although I have only attended 8 Charter celebrations, I am looking forward to many more starting from January 2010.
- The second Cabinet meeting was a lot better than the first, having gained more confidence and empathy from officers. Again another remarkable 100% submission of officers' reports. My congratulations and gratitude to all Cabinet officers for this great show of cooperation and responsibility.

Unfortunately "not all that glitters is gold"; the seven members of Codsall Lions Club withdrew their membership of Lions Clubs International in October, resulting in the Club being closed down by decision of Cabinet, with immediate effect.

On the whole though, it has been a good first six months and I give my thanks to every Lion and Club that has made this possible.

OBITUARY

I regret to announce the passing to Eternity of a very dedicated and most loved Lion Malcolm Hall of Birmingham Exhibition on the evening of Monday 30th November 2009. Our deepest condolences go to Dorcas, also a dedicated Lion of the same Club.

Funeral arrangements will be publicised.

DISTRICT CABINET DECISIONS

Following the last Cabinet meeting, the following decisions were ratified:

- Cancellation of Codsall Lions Club as above.
- Next year's budget to be presented to District Convention calling for annual subscription to remain at £8.75 per annum per Lion member.
- Approval for circulation of request for about 80 Lions required to volunteer as Marshals (Athletics Officials) at the Midland Regional Heats for Disabled Games, held annually in May at the Alexandra Stadium. This will give a huge boost to Lions PR and opportunity to serve as Marshals for other National and International events justifying our Motto, "We Serve".
- A Roller Banner, with Zone details, e-mail and Telephone numbers, was made available to each Zone and a Lions' Feather Flag to each Region Chairman. Clubs are urged to use these for their functions to promote Lions publicity.
- Volunteers are required to assist the MERL Team in every Zone. Please contact PDG Doug Cross if you can help.
- The District has recently found a candidate for the Classical Guitar Music Competition for 2010 and the instrument for 2010/2011 will be Saxophone.
- Explanation was given on the change of MD Insurance Brokers from Sutton Winson to Miles Smith. Clubs should please contact Lion Suresh Gohil for any information required.

NEW INSURANCE BROKERS

Sleigh Insurance Premium has been capped at £160 which is the same as charged monthly last year.

If any Club has to spend more than £160, the MD will refund the difference.

Clubs experiencing difficulties with the new Brokers or the policy cover that is being offered them, or any issues that are causing concerns should please send a Report to the DG.

Please circulate to all Club Members

CONVENTIONS 2010

Events Booking Forms are now out for the District Convention which will take place from 26th to 28th March 2010 at the Birmingham Airport Holiday Inn. Rooms at the Hotel are £49.95 Single and £59.95 Double per night, Bed and Breakfast.

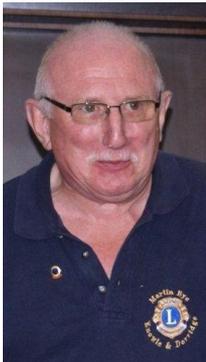
Similarly, the Forms for MD Convention in Leeds from 29th April to 3rd May are also available.

Please complete and return your Forms ASAP. Both Conventions are being rapidly booked up.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

As at 30th November, nominations received for election at our District Convention are as follows:

DG: Martin Bye Knowle & Dorridge
1st VDG: Neil Chisholm Warwick



Martin Bye



Neil Chisholm

There are two candidates for the post of 2nd VDG:

1. Paul Anstice Northampton 80
2. Bill Ranautta Coventry Godiva

DELEGATE REGISTRATION

All Club Secretaries have been sent the Delegate Registration form for the Multiple District Convention in Leeds. Please make sure that this is completed and returned to the District Secretary, Lion Pauline Hoogerwerf, by the due date of 1st February 2010.

Forms for District Convention will be circulated in the New Year.

WORLD SIGHT DAY

As reported in my November Newsletter, Kenilworth Lions took part in World Sight Day.

KENILWORTH Mayor Cllr. Richard Davies and the deputy mayor Cllr. Norman Vincett found out what it was like to be visually impaired as part of a special event to raise awareness of World Sight Day on October 8. The two civic figures took a blindfolded walk around the town and then on to the library, where the mayor was able to access the internet using special software for the visually impaired. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness for the visually impaired and promote the work of the Lions with Sight First.

LIONS IN SIGHT

This is a reminder of our International President's request for Clubs, Districts and MDs to organise a major PR event during the last 2 weeks of January 2010. Please start planning an activity if you have not already done so.

CLUB VISITS IN JANUARY:

Tues. 5th: B'ham Handsworth	Mon. 11th: B'ham Edgbaston
Wed. 13th: B'ham Sheldon	Thurs. 14th: Dudley
Wed. 20th: Towcester	Wed. 27th: Moseley & Kings Heath

CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES:

Sat. 30th Jan.: Kenilworth	Sun. 31st Jan.: B'ham Exhibition
Sat. 13th Feb.: Walsall	Sat. 20th Feb.: B'ham Sheldon
Sat. 27th Feb.: Bromsgrove	Sat. 6th Mar.: Barwell & Earl Shilton



Please circulate to all Club Members

THE LIONS HISTORY BOOK

A great publication for All Lions to buy is the "Lions Clubs in the 21st Century. This is the History of our Association. Ideally, every Lions Club should have a copy for reference and the enjoyment of its members and of course Individual Lions will benefit from having a personal copy to learn how Lions Clubs International grew to be the world's largest and most active Service Club organisation.

The book will be made available for purchase in the MDHQ.

I urge Clubs to consider purchasing at least a copy for Club members to read.

AFRICAN CHILD TRUST

This is another reminder of the District Governor's International Appeal for support of the "African Child Trust". As we all enjoy our Christmas festivities, let us remember the great value of education to children in Developing Nations.

CONCLUSION

My fellow Lions, This District has continued to be active in Social Interactions between Clubs, Zones and Regions. Our members have been more forthcoming in their responses to District activities and events, the Skittles competition is progressing towards Regional Finals.

In my visits to Clubs functions, I have noticed a lot of interactive support among Clubs; I have seen the effort being put at increasing membership. Tension has lessened in admission of females into our Clubs and I congratulate you all for these tremendous achievements.

Please let us keep up our support for each other; as we Serve Humanity, we should not neglect needed support for our fellow Lions.

I look forward to continued cooperation and progress in the second half of my term.

Please enjoy your Christmas Fund raising activities and have a Merry Christmas.

Some events from the DG's first six months



Please circulate to all Club Members