



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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“THANK YOU “ FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE TIME

“And now the end is near,
And so I face the final curtain,
My friends, I'll say it clear,
I'll state my case of which I'm certain;
I've lived a life that's full
I've travelled each and every high-way
And more, much more than this,
I did it my way.”

Paul Ankar (US Pop singer and songwriter 1969)

What a wonderful experience this year has been. It's had its ups and a few downs, its gains and its losses; but at the end a District that is intact, with increased membership and brilliant hopes for a better tomorrow; I owe it all to you, the Lions of District 105M.

Thank you all, for receiving me at your Club meetings, showering Anna and me with honour, gifts and flowers at your Clubs' Charter anniversaries, filling up all available spaces at our District Changeover, participating in unprecedented number at our Autumn Forum and our District Convention, raising vast amount of funds for charity and enriching the Lives of the needy in our various communities. You have supported District, Multiple District and Lions Clubs International charities, responding decisively to Worldwide tragedies but, most of all, you have given me a wonderful birthday with a most enjoyable and entertaining Host Night and an unforgettable Banquet & Ball.

I am immensely grateful to you also for allowing me to try new ideas and giving your support to make them work.

THANK YOU TO MY CABINET OFFICERS

How can I ever thank enough the 60 members of my Cabinet whose activities were very visible through their presence, e-mail communications and various newsletters that were read out at Club and Zone meetings. Throughout the year they gave their full support to Cabinet meetings. My Cabinet was a round peg in a round hole fitting in perfectly with my program. I am extremely grateful to each and everyone that has shown commitment, devotion and dedication to their respective duties.

I would like to thank most especially the Region, Zone and Committee Chairmen who have worked hard to integrate their various Clubs into our proposals.

Special gratitude also must go to my Cabinet Secretary Pauline Hoogerwerf, Treasurer PDG John Bush, Sergeant at Arms Peter Rotherham, Events officer Stuart Richmond, Convention Chairman PDG Heather Lee, MERL Chairman PDG Doug Cross and the Leadership and Training officer Phil White, without whom the burden of leadership would have been too heavy for me to carry. They all worked tirelessly and conscientiously to ensure a very successful year for the District.

Special mention must also be made of the unprecedented cooperation in the communications committee, especially between our IT officer Simon Moss and Midland News officer Joy Haffner. I am sure you all appreciate the flow of news on our e-mails and the wealth of information available of our Clubs activities and functions in our Midland News website.

Thank you all.

Please circulate to all Club Members

MAY CABINET MEETING

At our last Cabinet meeting for this Lions' year, I had the pleasure of presenting staff at the Holiday Inn with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the District.

I gave this as a token of thanks for all their efforts in ensuring that our District Convention ran smoothly, in spite of all the earlier problems with the hotel being incomplete.



- Cabinet agreed to purchase a new lap-top computer for use by the District, keeping the current one as a spare.
- Lion John Barnes requested that all Cabinet Officers who hold chains of office return them to him prior to District Changeover.
- District Changeover will take place at the Ramada (George) Hotel, Solihull on 18th July. Further details will be sent in due course.
- I finished the meeting by asking my "Hippy Friend from Leeds" to present all Officers with a small gift, in the form of a cuddly Lion, as a token of my appreciation.



MESSAGE FROM MD YOUTH FOOTBALL CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Lions, this year has seen many postponed football matches due to the worst weather that I can remember. Through the courtesy of your District Governor and this News Letter I want to thank all the Lions Clubs who have supported this Youth Activity. Not just those Clubs who sponsored football teams, but especially those Lions Clubs who helped organise games arranged mid-way between opposing Clubs.

I sincerely hope your Club will think about entering next year's competition.

Kind Regards, Lion Paul Withers.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership was a big issue and given great priority during my year. The MERL committee worked very hard and, although we were unable to charter a new Club during my year, the focus was on strengthening weak Clubs, reviving closed Clubs in Atherstone, Coventry & Coleshill, forming more Branch Clubs in areas inaccessible to existing Clubs and ensuring retention by stemming resignations.

We had a measure of success in all these sectors and, on the whole, we are ending the year with a positive increase of almost 20 in membership.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

I welcome the following Lions to the family of Lions Clubs International; I hope you will settle down to the fun and fellowship offered by your Club, your Zone and your District.

Michael & Audrey Baker	Castle Bromwich & District
Stephen & Maureen Else	Castle Bromwich & District
Eric & Terrie Knibb	Castle Bromwich & District
Lion David Thing	Southam & District
Lion Ann Greening	Birmingham Acocks Green

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Castle Bromwich & District for the Club's incredible membership growth from 14 members at the beginning of this Lions year to 27 members by the end of May - even after the resignation of 3 members.

I wish the Club continued Growth.

Please circulate to all Club Members

CHANGES TO SUTTON COLDFIELD CLUB

I am sad to report that at the end of this Lions year, Sutton Coldfield Lions Club will cease to exist as a single entity. However, arrangements have been put in place by the MERL Committee to merge the Club with Birmingham Erdington Lions Club, forming a new Club to be known as Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Lions Club.

MY YEAR IN REVIEW

Late International Convention meant a late Change over on the 19th July 2009. I had left the rest of July free to settle in and complete necessary planning and executive meetings.

- Club visits started earnestly in August and thanks to my Club Presidents and Leadership and Training officer's hard work, I had my timetable and drivers arranged and between 1st August and 30th November 2009 I was able to cover 42 Clubs visits out of 60(inclusive of Branch Clubs).
- In September Alcester branch Club was formed, thanks to the hard work put in by Shakespeare Lions, and the closed Coventry was revived as Coventry Phoenix Lions Club.
- Most unfortunately, I had the unpleasant duty of closing down Codsall Lions Club, with the approval of Cabinet, with a regrettable loss to Lions of 7 members.
- World Sight Day was given wide publicity and celebrated by a number of Clubs in the District on the 8th of October 2009. Similar publicity (even if rather late) produced some response from a few Clubs for the International President's "Lions In Sight" PR celebrations in January 2010.
- The success of the revised structure of the Autumn Forum and Convention has been widely acclaimed but, as in all changes, there were a handful of unhappy Lions. I am pleased with the experiment and I am sure DG Elect Martin will modify this (with hind sight review) to suit his own program.
- I attended all MD Council meetings and chaired all District Cabinet meetings.
- My DG monthly Newsletters were designed to be informative on all District and Council decisions. I hope Club Secretaries made copies available to their Club members.

CLUBS' COMMUNITY SERVICES & CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

I can not fail to congratulate and thank all our Clubs for the vast amount of contributions they have made in this Lions year to their local communities, the District nominated Charities, International projects and especially Worldwide disasters that seem to have climaxed this year.

The following is a brief catalogue of hair-raising contributions by various Clubs:

- As at last the count by the 15th of May, our District has contributed £22,384.02 to the Haiti disaster and more is expected before the end of June. Special thanks to Kenilworth Lions for their contribution of £4,000 to this disaster
- £9,988.50 was contributed by a single Club, Knowle & Dorridge, to CSF II and I watched in awe and admiration as this same Club gave cheques totaling over £50,000 to various Charities. They gave over £10,000 each to Macmillan Cancer Support and Wizz-Kidz, £7,000 for Leukemia Research and various amounts ranging from £200 to £2,000 to more than 20 other charities.
- The District contributed £1,400 towards the Indonesian disaster, £751.00 for the Philippines Typhoon, £650.00 for Samoa Chu, £482.00 for Moorfields, £280 towards Australian Fires, more than £3,000 towards the National Arboretum, over £4,500 towards Eye Camps (and a lot more expected in the last weeks of the year), and several more for Special Olympics, Disabled Games, Edukits, Tacade, WaterAid & Street Children, African Child trust, Medic Alert and a host of others.

It is impossible to calculate the millions of man hours Lions in this District have put into Serving Humanity this year.

THANK YOU ALL. AS YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE HUMANITY, MAY YOU AND ALL YOUR LOVED ONES CONTINUE TO BE ABUNDANTLY BLESSED.

Please circulate to all Club Members

IN CONCLUSION

“Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.....

(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882))



“I shall pass through this world but once;
Any good thing therefore I can do,
Or any kindness I can show to any human being,
Let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again.”

(Stephen Grelet)

My fellow Lions of District 105M, I thank you all for this last time, for giving me an enjoyable year.

To all who, through commission or omission I might have offended or stepped upon, I extend my sincerest apology; **“to err is human; to forgive is divine” please forgive me even if you cannot forget.**



I have served this District to the best of my ability and yet, in hindsight, there are many things I would and could have done differently, but how disquieting is hindsight! - usually too late to rectify!

I will hand over the mantle of Leadership to a friend and a good Lion who I can assure you will serve this District with determination, dedication and sincere devotion to duty.

I call on everyone to accord Martin all the assistance and cooperation you gave me. He will lead this District to greater heights in 2010/2011.

May God Bless you All as you continue to serve your communities and humanity.

Please remember always that we shall remain:

“All One In Service”.



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