



# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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



**My Fellow Lions In Service,**

**"We shall pass through this World but once;  
 Any Good thing therefore we can do  
 Or any kindness we can show to any Human being,  
 Let us do it now, let us not defer or neglect it,  
 For we shall not pass through this way again".**

*Adaptation from Stephen Grellet*

This poem represents our call to Service  
 and reminds us of our time limitation.

Welcome to my fifth monthly Newsletter; how time flies? We are almost halfway there. There are lots and lots of events and activities to share with you this month.

## AUTUMN FORUM

My gratitude goes to all 137 (counted) attendees at this year's Forum. Post-Forum feedbacks have been on the whole favorable, most complimenting the attendance, content, format and timings, with very many Lions attending a District Forum for the first time.

However, not everyone was happy; a young Lion President from a New Club, attending a Forum for the first time with his colleague, made the following observation; "Having been to my first Autumn Forum, we left feeling slightly deflated (the elitism is one thing that concerns me). It seems that LCI wants to move on with the times and embrace the future but there seems a lot of resistance from existing Lions to keep things as they are". Whatever the reason behind this comment (which I intend to discuss amicably), this young Lion is giving us a lot of food for thought. I will recommend to my successors that preparations of future District events should involve more of our younger, newer members. We may save Lions by paying more attention to their ideas.

The morning session provided three informative presentations on Speech and Hearing, LCIF and Vulnerable Persons Policy by relevant District officers; followed by the first Seminar on obtaining Grants. Following the Coffee break, members of the District Information, Communications and PR Committee, gave a brief description of their roles and how best to promote PR in Clubs and achieve good publicity and press coverage in the Media. PDG Doug Cross rounded up the morning session with an update on Membership plans and progress in formation of new Clubs and increase in Clubs' membership.

After an excellent lunch, there was a presentation by DG spouse Anna on her chosen project "**Hospice at Home**". She introduced Helen Relihan from St. Giles Hospice who emphasized the importance of Home Care during a patient's last days or hours. **Anna called on Lions to generously support this project which will benefit about seven different self-funding Hospices spread all over our District.**

The DG and 1<sup>st</sup> VDG candidates were introduced and because there is no nomination as yet for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, the closing date for nominations was extended to 30<sup>th</sup> November.



**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**FORUM continued ...**

Dr. Kunle Onabolu (brother) gave a presentation on "**African Child Trust**", a charity currently supporting children of needy widows and orphans through education in six African countries, to enable them to achieve their full potentials in life and empower widows to support themselves and their children. This is the DG's International project for my year. **Only through Education of needy children in Developing Nations can we ensure progress and enrichment of future communities.**

PID Phil Nathan, Director of Special Olympics GB then introduced the Keynote speaker, Georgina Hulme, a multiple Gold medalist, former athlete and swimmer and a Board member of Special Olympics UK.



Georgina's presentation was a great inspiration to all, and many people, including myself, were deeply moved by her speech.

After a short DVD presentation on this year's Special Olympics, I was proud to present a cheque of £500 to Special Olympics on behalf of the District.

The Forum was rounded up with a questions and answers session and an update on the Special Lions Black Country Museum event on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

All in all a wonderful day with record attendance especially of first time attendees at Forums. My gratitude and appreciation goes to all Lions and partners who made this a memorable Forum.

**LIONS WORLD SIGHT DAY 2009**

Most unfortunately, the announcement of the project for this year's celebration of World Sight Day "Step Into the Unknown" arrived too late for most Clubs to organise activities to mark the day. However some Clubs managed to put up a good outing. Among these were:

**Worcester**, supported by Worcestershire Association for the Blind (WAB) and Vision Express. They were later joined by Worcester Mayor,



Councillor Andy Roberts who was blindfolded and led for about 300 steps around the Crown Gate Centre. They also had an Information display and provided simple Eye Tests.



**Bromsgrove**, also supported by (WAB) put up an excellent display with interactive games, including 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey' whilst blindfolded.

**Kidderminster &**

**District**, supported by Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper, held their Sight Awareness Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, as part of the Bewdley Festival. They provided an information Board and distributed leaflets detailing the Lions Eye Health Program outside the Bewdley Museum on the High Street.

**Rugby Rokeby**, joined by Rugby's Lord Mayor and Consort, a News Reporter and chaperoned by Lion President Liz Scaffidi, all 'Stepped into the Unknown' blindfolded and led around the Town centre. Both Rugby Observer and Rugby Advertiser gave coverage to the event.

**Wellesbourne & District** organised a Lions Sight

Saver and Eye Health Awareness Fundraising Evening as part of their contribution to World Lions Sight Day, treating about 70 Lions and Guests to an excellent Meal and Bollywood singers and dancers at the Shahs Restaurant in Wellesbourne with the hope of raising over £1,000 for Sight charities.



**Kenilworth** also took part in "Stepping into the Unknown." Details are not presently available.

**It is my hope that Clubs will have the date of 3rd Thursday in October 2010 marked out and projects planned well ahead of time to share the joy of World Lions Sight Day with their local communities.**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**LIONS IN SIGHT**

Lions have gained worldwide recognition for our work to improve sight; but we are not "in sight" of the general Public.

The International President, Eberhard Wirfs, asks every Club, District and MD to organise a major PR activity during the last 2 weeks of January 2010.

Clubs may among others:

- (a) Arrange a cultural Event such as a dance, music program or International Food, Wine or Beer festival,
- (b) Organise a Green Team Project to clean up a Park, plant trees or recycle.
- (c) Organise vision screening to promote Glaucoma awareness,
- (d) Sponsor hearing Aid or spectacles collections.
- (e) Work with youth groups and other worthy local projects.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS' DECISIONS**

The Council of Governors met from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November. The following decisions were among several others taken.

**Change of MD Insurance Brokers:**

As you would have read in the District Insurance Officer's circulations, the new MD Insurance brokers are Miles Smith & Co.

**National Memorial Arboretum:**

Lions can no longer afford to sit on the fence and it was decided to provide a Lions Shelter in the Arboretum as a Service Activity. Lions Clubs in the MD will be called upon to donate £100 each, in order to raise £25,000.00 which will ensure completion of the project in time for commemoration of 60 years of Lions Services in the British Isles and Ireland.

**Celebration of 60 years of Lions in Britain:**

Arrangement is on hand for the celebration of 60 years of Lions in Britain. A PR budget of £4,484.00 was approved for use by LION magazine to fund production of a bumper Anniversary Issue. Each District is urged to apply for LCI Grant of £1,000.00 available for PR in their Districts and a contribution from this Grant of £360 each, will be contributed towards the required publicity.

**Reminder:**

**MD Convention in Leeds** will take place from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010. The Convention Headquarters is the Queens Hotel whilst the Convention Venue is the Saville at the Armories. More information will follow.

**Directory:**

It was agreed that 7,500 Directories be printed next year, after allocating to Club officers, Cabinet members and MD officers. Each Club will then receive one extra Directory pro-rata per 5 members. This will allow provision to other members interested in having a copy of the directory, whilst reducing production costs, without denying Lions who need them.

**Leo Convention in Birmingham:**

Coventry Godiva will host the MD Leo Convention from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2010. A budget of £600 submitted by MDLO for the Convention was approved. Approval was also given to 105SW proposal to host MD105 Youth Camp in 2011.

**5 Nations Youth Football Tournament:**

Districts are urged to seek Cabinet approval to make additional reimbursement to Individual Lions Clubs for travelling expenses to the tournaments.

**MD Convention 2012:**

Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel was approved as the venue for 2012 MD Convention. Similarly, the bid of City of Manchester to host the International Convention in either 2015 or 2017 was endorsed.

**Charity Pack:**

An updated Charity Pack is now available on the MD website for Clubs who wish to form new Charitable Trust.

**Marie Curie:**

Council approved that letters from Marie Curie be allowed circulation among all the Clubs in the MD on the grounds that MD105 gains considerable "piggy-back" exposure from this continuing relationship.

The request to canvas interest from Clubs in the MD for the use of a **Money Lion Box** to determine production viability was also approved on the grounds that Council acknowledges the potential for both fund raising & PR from such an item.

**PID Wayne Madden of Indiana:**

Following a presentation of the resume and credentials of Past International Director Wayne, Council endorsed his candidature for International President in 2010/2011.

**International Report:**

IP Eberhard Wirfs reported an increase of 4,080 worldwide since 1<sup>st</sup> July with 20 new Clubs chartered in China and one in Northern Iraq. Our District has a net gain of 8 in the same period. Our MERL team continues to be actively putting all efforts into achievement of our plus goal for the year.

## CLUBS VISITS & CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES



I have so far visited 30 Clubs in the District, including my own, and 12 more will be visited by the beginning of December. I have attended 5 Charter Anniversaries, with 2 more in November. I have had the pleasure of attending

2 Disabled Games that were excellently organised by Kingswinford & Stourbridge and Malvern Hill Lions Clubs and very well supported by neighbouring Clubs.

The joy and fun that these games give to hundreds of disabled people is just indescribable: 'seeing is believing'.

I congratulate the Clubs for the amount of man hours and efforts they put into bringing joy and laughter into the lives of the needy.

**Sadly**, I also attended the funeral of Lion Peter Hebblethwaite of Balsall Common Lions Club on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009. We pray for peaceful repose of his Soul.



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISITS

### November/December:

Tues. 3rd: Worcester	Wed. 4th: Shirley
Thurs. 5th: Aldridge	Mon. 9th: Hinckley & Burbage
Tues. 10th: Stour Valley	Wed. 11th: B'ham Chinatown
Thurs. 12th: Shakespeare	Sat. 14th: Sutton Coldfield Charter Anniversary
Mon. 16th: Evesham	Tues. 17th: B'ham Exhibition
Wednesday 18th: Northampton	Mon. 23rd: Kingswinford & Stourbridge
Sat. 28th: Worcester 40th Charter Anniversary	Wed. 2nd December: Sutton Coldfield
DG on holiday for remainder of December	

## COMMENTS FROM MY CLUB VISITS

- Zone Chairmen should be urged to plan for all future Zone meetings from now so that attendance can be assured. Similarly all Zone Socials should be pre-planned at least 3 months before the event.
- It can be very useful for Club Treasurers to pre-invoice members at least 2 months before due date in avoidance of possible non-attendance of meetings or holidays.

- Christmas Season may be a good time to drop Christmas type, Invitational seasons greetings yellow cards, with Clubs' information and also knock on doors because people are more exposed and better inclined to charitable causes.
- Have you ever thought of leaving your old LION magazines in doctors' surgeries, opticians, pharmacies, law firms and other public places where people sit waiting to be served? Just remember to put a sticker with a contact name for whoever may want to know more about Lions. It may generate new members.
- Some Clubs complain they don't receive enough fliers and leaflets on important Lions projects. This is a double edge knife; whilst I will urge District officers to circulate more brochures to Club Secretaries, I will also urge Secretaries to contact relevant District officers or the MDHQ for a supply of their specific requirements.
- Lions wishing to know more about twinning, or Lions travelling abroad, are advised to contact International Relations officer June Lloyd-Adams who now has the latest International Directory.
- Clubs complain that a lot of District information on the web is out of date. District officers should please take note and ensure information on their sites is regularly updated.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:** I am happy to welcome into Lions Clubs International the following new members:

New Lion	Club
Lesley Croft:	Market Harborough Branch
Tina Merchant:	" " "
Bob Fenley:	Moseley & Kings Heath
Sebastian Rosso:	Solihull
Reginald Linford:	Lutterworth
Richard Buckley:	Knowle & Dorridge
Ute Smith:	" "
Sally Jane Atkinson :	Kenilworth
William Birkitt:	"
Steve & Marion Barber:	Birmingham Sheldon

It is my hope that you will all find joy and happiness in giving your time, labour and means in service to your communities and humanity at large. I welcome you to the largest humanitarian service Organisation in the World.

**Next Cabinet Meeting:** Please remember the open Invitation to Lions from Region 3, comprising of Zones G, H, & I to attend the next Cabinet meeting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Birmingham Airport Holiday Inn, Coventry Road, starting at 10.30am prompt. Coffee is served from 09.30.

My fellow Lions, I am grateful to you all for the cooperation so far extended to me in making the year a success. I look forward to your continued support in the achievement of our goal of ensuring that our District comes out of Administration soonest. As always please remember we are:

**"ALL ONE IN SERVICE"**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**