

LIONS DISTRICT 105M
MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD ON
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2009
AT THE HOLIDAY INN, COVENTRY ROAD, SHELDON

Present:

District Governor Lion Femi Onabolu in the Chair

Lions:

Christine Moss	Carl Kings	John Bush	Linda Cross
Pauline Fanti	Trevor Jones	Randhir Sahota	Martin Bye
Heather Lee	Heather Hill	Chris Haynes	Eric Hughes
Richard Wilson	Harry Fry	Paul Anstice	Phil White
Pauline Hoogerwerf	Simon Moss	Stuart Richmond	Gregory Hession
Joy Haffner	Bill Ranautta	Jackie McGuirk	Roger Handcock
Paul Murphy	Wim Hoogerwerf	David Jackson	Jenny Bryant
Mavis Cooke	Josh Ramji	Mike Jobbins	Martin Wright
Neil Chisholm	Mike Cooke	Dave Jeavons	Rob Hill
Geoffrey Thompson	Ian Haffner	Trevor Curtis	Elizabeth Jones
Peter Rotherham	Ron Cross	Suresh Gohil	
Andy Lockett	Doug Cross	June Lloyd-Adams	
Jackie Preece	Michelle Bate	Gulab Mistry	

Visitors:

Roger Starling, Shirley LC
Maisie-Lou Bate

Apologies:

Dave Roberts	Andy Pemberton	Bob Dutton	John Barnes
Bob Wilkes			

Call to Order:

Lion Peter Rotherham called the meeting to order.

Lion Rob Hill read the Lions Code of Ethics.

DG Femi welcomed everybody to the meeting. He said that reporting would be through the relevant committee Chairman, but specialist officers could update their reports as required. DG Femi congratulated everybody on submitting their report and said it was the first time that a report had been received from every officer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

World Sight Day is 8th October, not 12th.

Zone B report should read "misunderstanding with Birmingham Edgbaston LC".

Subject to the above amendment the minutes were proposed by Lion Phil White, seconded by PDG Heather Lee and approved as a true record.

Matters arising:

Lion Martin Wright sought clarification regarding the website and Lion Simon Moss confirmed that he would like a brief CV and photograph for each Cabinet Officer so he could put them on the District website.

Regarding Message in a Bottle, Lion Martin Wright asked if there were enough bottles in stock and it was confirmed by Lion Gulab Mistry that there were.

Notice of Any Other Business: No notice of any other business had been received.

Secretary:

Report as submitted.

Treasurer:

PDG John Bush commenced by apologising for forgetting to bring with him a spare PA system for use at Cabinet meetings.

Report as submitted.

Request received for money being held in reserve account for flood appeal to be redesignated, so it could be used for emergencies other than floods. PDG John Bush proposed renaming it the Humanitarian Emergency Appeal, seconded by PDG Heather Lee.

RC David Jeavons made an amendment, seconded by Lion June Lloyd-Adams, that the money be donated to two rescue services in the area of the floods, so it could be spent, rather than keeping it in reserve.

Lion Simon Moss made a further proposal, seconded by PDG Mike Jobbins, that the money be returned pro rata to all the Clubs who had donated it.

On voting, results were as follows:

1. Lion Simon's amendment was lost.
2. RC David's amendment was lost.
3. PDG John's proposal was carried.

PDG John to write to relevant Clubs and to copy to Region and Zone Chairmen, asking them to vote on the proposal to rename the fund. If no reply was received, it would count as a "no" vote.

Regarding a LCIF grant of £5,000, which had been received in 2007 for flood relief, PDG Suresh Gohil said that £3,500 had actually been spent and a report for LCIF was being prepared. It was possible that the unused portion would have to be returned to LCIF.

PDG John reported that the Multiple District set up an emergency fund in 2007 and Clubs could apply to the Council of Governors for a grant.

PDG John said that at the end of the year there was a small surplus of £500 in the account. Two-thirds of Clubs had paid their first half-year subscriptions – John to circulate list of outstanding Clubs to relevant Region Chairmen.

Regarding a decision required on where to send donations for Street Children, Lion Pauline Hoogerwerf said that the Officer had requested in his report that the money go to the Railway Children project. This was approved.

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**Chairman:**

Report as submitted. ZC Christine Moss had received a MBNA leaflet of very poor quality and questioned where this had come from. It was confirmed that the leaflet had been circulated through MDHQ. 1st VDG Martin Bye to contact MDHQ and to discuss with Lion Cedric Brocklehurst.

CNRO:

Report as submitted. PDG Wim Hoogerwerf reported that as yet there were no candidates for 2nd Vice District Governor for next year.

Health & Safety:

Report as submitted.

Events/Lion Tamer:

Report as submitted.

Convention 2010:

Report as submitted.

Insurance:

PDG Suresh Gohil had received a lengthy manual from MDHQ and would circulate relevant extracts to all Clubs.

Long Range Planning:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

REGION 1**Chairman:**

Report as submitted. RC Gregory Hession thanked everybody who had contributed to Sheldon Lions Clubs appeal to support the O'Brien grandchildren's Trust Fund. A total of nearly £20,000 had been donated, including £7,346 from Lions Clubs. Lion Martin Wright asked if appeals of this nature should be the Almoner's responsibility, but DG Femi pointed out that this would need Cabinet approval and, as it was a Club initiative, it would be best handled by the Club involved.

RC Gregory reminded officers of the special event being held at the Black Country Museum on 5th December.

Zone A:

Report as submitted. ZC Michelle's first Zone Meeting to be held on Sunday 6th September, 9.00 a.m. at the White Rose, Bilston – a breakfast meeting.

Zone B:

Report as submitted.

Zone C:

Report as submitted.

REGION 2**Chairman:**

RC David Jeavons reported that ZC Bob Dutton had been in hospital with heart problems, but was home now. His first Zone social was well attended but his first Zone meeting had been postponed.

Femi re-iterated the importance of letting the District Almoner know when a member was ill, or there had been a bereavement.

Zone D:

Report as submitted.

Zone E:

Report as submitted.

Zone F:

Report as submitted.

REGION 3

Chairman:

Report as submitted. Brixworth Branch Club to be renamed as Brixworth & District.

Zone G:

Report as submitted.

Zone H:

Report as submitted. ZC Jackie reported on change of date for first Zone Meeting to Monday 28th September.

Zone I:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of Region and Zone reports carried.

MEMBERSHIP/MERL COMMITTEE

Chairman:

PDG Doug Cross said that Zone membership committees were needed, with one member from each Club. Two more Regions being formed in Birmingham and Coventry. Work was being done to form new Clubs in Small Heath and Hall Green. Also proposing a commercial Club in Birmingham city centre. Coventry Club being reformed. Membership drive taking place with 6,500 cards being circulated with the help of local Clubs.

PDG Doug stressed the importance of keeping up membership in new Clubs. He said that finance was available to help new clubs, through a grant approved from Oak Brook. However, he requested that officers and Clubs should speak to him before spending any money.

Lion Martin Wright said he would send details of organisations in the Sandwell area to Sandwell Club.

Lion Randhir Sahota said that Lions needed more PR. DG Femi explained that was why he had set up an Information, Communications and PR Committee and had created the separate posts of Internal Communications and External Press Officer.

DG Femi said that membership was paramount. Only four new Clubs had been formed in the whole Multiple District last year. DG Femi said his aim was to form three new Clubs in 105M this year.

MERL MD Committee Representative:

Report as submitted. Decision re payment of expenses to those attending MERL workshop on 29th and 30th August approved, subject to there being no more than three couples attending at £85 per couple.

Membership Region 1:

Report as submitted.

Membership Region 2:

Report as submitted.

Membership Region 3:

Report as submitted. Lion Chris Haynes reported that a venue had now been found for the potential new Daventry Club and it was hoped that adverts would be published in the local press.

Membership Special Duties:

Lion Bill Ranautta reported that Alcester had 12 potential members and Coventry had 20 potential members.

Leadership Development:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

LIONS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Chairman:

Report as submitted.

Lion Harry Fry said that John Barnes would need help with organising the Youth Centre 22nd July – 1st August 2010. Final of District Skittles Competition 2008-2009 being held on 21st August. Candidates for Music Competition needed but it was noted that classical guitar is not a popular instrument. Closing date for registration in Football Competition 31st August.

Lion Harry asked Zone Chairmen to invite members of the Youth Committee to their Zone meetings.

Vulnerable Persons:

Report as submitted.

Leo Liaison:

Report as submitted.

Young Ambassadors:

Report as submitted. Application forms available for this year's competition.

PDG Wim asked for clarification regarding the International Board's decision to cancel the Young Ambassador Programme and it was confirmed that this was only at international level. Districts and Multiple Districts could still continue as before. At international level a new competition was to be developed – Young Leaders in Service. DG Femi asked Lion George Billingham to combine this post with his existing duties.

Concern was expressed over the wording on the existing forms, as it still contained information about the international level of the competition. It was not known when new forms would be produced.

ZC Christine asked for clarification of all competition closing dates and DG Femi said it would be useful for all committees to include relevant dates in their reports.

Lion Harry said that a youth activity timetable was available and he would send it to the Region and Zone Chairmen.

Youth Exchange:

Report as submitted.

Youth Camp:

Report as submitted.

Youth Football:

Report as submitted.

Education, Life Skills & TACADE:

Report as submitted.

Competitions:

Report as submitted.

Cultural & Community Affairs:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Lion Martin Wright gave an update on disability awareness training, saying that it was hard to find training of a suitable standard. Lion Martin to liaise with Clubs and Zones to ask them to get involved.

Decisions required:

1. It was agreed that Lion Martin could approach Clubs to ask for a named contact to liaise with the Health & Environment Committee.
2. Permission was given for two newsletters to be emailed to Clubs and posted on the District website.
3. Lion Martin confirmed that the proposed sound system was compatible with the hearing loop system. Grants available through Birmingham Airport Foundation, with a deadline of the end of August. Lion Martin to apply in the name of Shirley Lions Club in order to meet the deadline.

DG Femi thanked Lion Martin for his initiative.

Environment:

Report as submitted. PDG Ron Cross said there was no MD Officer for the environment and DG Femi confirmed that an officer had just been appointed – PDG Vijay Arora.

Deadline for entries to Environmental Photo Competition 16th November. Five categories, but only one photo chosen overall. PDG Ron to send information to all via Lion Simon Moss.

Sight/LEHP:

Report as submitted.

Diabetes:

Report as submitted.

Speech & Hearing:

Report as submitted. PDG Roger Handcock asked officers to let him know if they had stocks of door hangers. 1st VDG Martin said there were stocks being held at MDHQ.

PDG Roger asked whether the District would be willing to donate £250 towards purchase of new supplies, if asked to do so. However, it was agreed that, as this was a Multiple District project, the MD should fund the purchase of new door hangers.

MedicAlert:

Report as submitted.

Message in a Bottle:

Report as submitted.

Physical & Learning Difficulties:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Report as submitted.

LCIF:

Report as submitted. Decisions required:

1. Decision not necessary. Lion Richard Wilson to request that PDG John Bush send him information on LCIF donations.
2. Agreed that Lion Richard should be kept in the loop when applications for Melvin Jones Fellowships are made. Copies of application forms to be sent to Lion Richard.
3. Request to ask Clubs to hold a specific fund-raising event for LCIF denied. DG Femi said contributions were voluntary and the DG's "Shopping List" was a suggested amount. It was up to the LCIF Officer to promote LCIF to the Clubs.

International Relations:

Report as submitted.

North Sea Lions:

Report as submitted. Lion John to contact Clubs to request payment.

WaterAid & Street Children:

Report as submitted. Decision to designate donations to Railway Children Project agreed.

Europa Forum:

Report as submitted, subject to it reading Tampere, Finland, not Iceland.

District Projects:

Report as submitted.

Adoption of reports carried.

INFORMATION, PR & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**Chairman:**

Report as submitted. PDG Mike Cooke thanked all the members of his committee for their hard work.

Registrar:

Report as submitted.

IT/Webmaster:

Report as submitted.

Midland News:

Report as submitted.

Publicity Internal:

Lion Trevor Curtis gave an update and asked for permission to look into the production of a new Lions car sticker. This was agreed - PDG Mike Cooke to investigate and report back.

Press Officer – External:

Report as submitted. Lion Trevor Jones re-iterated that Lions needed to raise their profile. DG Femi said that Lions should advertise the fact that they were looking for new members at all their activities.

Almoner:

Report as submitted. PDG Mavis Cooke said that it was important to communicate with each other and requested that members let her know about good news, as well as bad. Lion Simon Moss to circulate information as requested.

PDG Mike asked if Cabinet reports needed to be on separate sheets and suggested using the same format as for the last District Convention. After discussion, it was agreed to try this for the next Cabinet meeting and the Secretary agreed to implement it.

ZC Christine asked how Clubs without a website could go about obtaining one and it was suggested that they contact Tom Sawyer, who advertises in the Lion Magazine under the name of Club Sites. The cost was approximately £1 per week.

Regarding the National Memorial Arboretum, PDG Mike confirmed that this was still being considered at MD level and that new costings were being obtained.

Adoption of reports carried.

1st Vice District Governor

Report as submitted.

2nd Vice District Governor

Report as submitted.

Immediate Past District Governor

Report as submitted. Regarding decision on spending of £1,000 grant from MD for promotional material, Lion Stuart Richmond updated Cabinet. Nine roller banners were being purchased – one for each Zone. Feather flags were still under discussion, as they were expensive and had no contact information on them. It was agreed to defer this to the next Cabinet meeting, when more information would be available.

District Governor

Report as submitted.

DG Femi then updated Cabinet on decisions from the Council of Governors:

- Reminder re Youth Camp 2010. John Barnes working hard to ensure success of camp but needed volunteers.
- Young Leaders in Service Officers to be appointed at District level.
- Multiple District Directory to be discontinued in its present format because of costs to produce. DG Femi reported that it would require £2 per head on subscriptions to cover the cost. He said that the MD was £24,000 in the red and had gone into the reserves to cover costs. In future, it was being proposed that the Directory would be available online and would be password protected.

A lengthy discussion then took place during which many Officers expressed their opinions. Lion Rob Hill was in favour of the change, but the majority were opposed to the abolition of the Directory. PDG Wim said there would be data protection issues if it was available online. PDG Mike Cooke said there would be implications for blind Lions who had no computer access because of their disability. PDG Suresh suggested that the Multiple District should reduce costs in other ways, such as MD Convention, before discontinuing a valuable resource.

DG Femi said that a definite decision had not yet been made and it was to be discussed again at the next Council of Governors meeting. He agreed to take all Officers' comments back to the Council.

- Vacancies existed for MD Legal Adviser and Community & Cultural Affairs Officers if anybody was interested in applying.
- DG Femi confirmed that further quotes were being sought for the project at the National Memorial Arboretum.
- Temporary branch Club being set up at MDHQ to accommodate members who relocated from one district to another without knowledge of local Lions Clubs.
- Approval had been given for MD105 to twin with Macedonia.
- Korle Bu project in Ghana ongoing and donations still coming in.
- Citibond Travel approved as official MD travel agent. Good deal to be given to members going to International Convention in Australia, including a free SIM card.
- Health & Safety policy soon to be available on the MD website. Road to Safety document being updated.

Adoption of reports carried.

Tail Twister:

Lion Harry Fry extorted money from the Officers on the slightest pretext.

The meeting closed at 13.30 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting:

Saturday 28th November at the Holiday Inn, Coventry Road, Sheldon.

Region and Zone Chairmen to meet with District Governor at 9.15 a.m.

Full Cabinet meeting to start at 10.30 a.m.

NB: Overflow car park will be open in future. Reception will give free pass for NCP car park if necessary.