

6. MERL REPORTS

NAME: Douglas Cross
OFFICE: MERL Chairman
DATE: 29th January 2010

Not one Zone Chairman has reported on a Zone Membership Committee as requested by the DG & MERL Committee, I realise this is not easy to obtain.

Although some Zone Chairman are attending and working hard on club membership on a regular basis with both the new clubs & rebuilding.

The full programme for the **MERL** Committee is now based on 5 Regions

NEW CLUBS This is the best way to increase membership
Bad weather & snow resulted in meetings being cancelled in many areas

Region 1 (Dave Roberts)

The first new possible club in the Northern part of the District is Perton.
A local preliminary meeting will be held in the first place
Other locations will be considered in due course as well

Region 2 (Heather Hill)

Atherstone A meeting will be planned to organise a Yellow Card drop in the Area probably in March hopefully the local clubs will assist. Andy/Gregg/Heather

Oldbury / Langley Sandwell Club (Richard Beadles) as a contact in this area and discussions will take place shortly to see if a new club can be considered here.

Region 2B (Birmingham) (David Cox)

Birmingham Phoenix, lunch meetings are already planned for Jan & Feb

Birmingham Sparkbrook The first preliminary meeting is planned for 10th Feb with local interested people.

Region 3C (Coventry) (Bill Ranautta)

Coventry Phoenix Will be the name of the third Coventry Club. First 7 members have paid fees and the first inductions are arranged for 11th February.

Royal Leamington Spa Initial meetings cancelled because of weather, next meeting with prospective Lions planned for 22nd February Neil /Henry

Region 3 (Chris Haynes)

Preliminary meeting set up for March to reform Daventry Meeting place problem
Paul/Chris

Towcester carried out a preliminary press advert idea to try & reform Brackley

Now with Spring approaching is the time for a New Club Push across 105M

We must then form teams of Lions/ Clubs, preferably local who will help us.

REBUILDING

We still have existing clubs with less than 10/11/12 members and probably always will have. The MERL Committee RC & ZC can help but only the club themselves can really pull themselves round.

Region 3 RC Paul, Chris H & both ZC are preparing a joint Zone Membership drive so clubs can help each other with card drops & D/N evenings.

Birmingham Erdington very limited success 2/3 possible new members

Sutton Coldfield have now changed their meeting place but require outside help

Wolverhampton Now moved to new location Park Hall 2 joined plus 1 poss.

Walsall Have 3 new members from YC drop etc.

Bilston are following up 30 membership enquires from a raffle/press advert

Hinckley & Burbage 2 new members now planning new YC drop

Wellingboro have loss 40% of their membership

Kettering plan a Yellow Card drop 24th Feb

Ruston Urgently require help after loss of members now down to 6

Club Branches

All CB's will have a President, Secretary and Treasurer from July 2010 onward. Great news.

New Club Branch Alcester have increased membership to 8:
CB Market Harborough up 2: CB Brixworth Y Card drop in April

Good to note fairly New Club Sandwell have added 3 more members
Castle Brom big success_will have gained 12 this Lions year

YELLOW CARDS

Results vary considerably many clubs are now amending Design & wordage to suit themselves. No problem with this if it's the way to success, make sure I get a copy

BUT please remember on the Drinks & Nibbles night you must have a planned future programme with social nights very important. This is where many clubs fail. Try to get help with the presentation, MERL Committee will help if possible, BUT and a very big but individual invitation is still the best way to obtain new members.

FINANCE

Financial help is still available but we are spending our reserve fast.
Please do not commit spending on Yellow Cards etc until I have agreed it.

OBJECTIVES

The MERL Committee cannot achieve this alone, remember you are all membership officers. Particularly cabinet officers why do they fail to respond, we are all in this!!!

We want experienced Lions teams in all areas of NEW CLUBS and to help REBUILD with weak clubs—We can then form special teams probably 3/4 Can you help please.

We will only achieve our 1250 target if all exiting clubs increase membership

LEADERSHIP see Phil White see separate cabinet report

NAME: Dave Roberts
OFFICE: Membership Region 1
DATE: 28-01-10

DECISIONS REQUIRED:
NIL

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Attended committee meeting at Arden Hotel 26/1/10 to report on progress on membership drives in Zone A.

Wolverhampton inducted 2 new members. Walsall will induct 3 new members at their next meeting. Bilston & Willenhall have received 32 replies for information on Lions following a leaflet drop at Willenhall Christmas lights, & will be holding informal meetings in February. Dudley lions have 2 potential new members.

During February I will be contacting members of the Perton carnival committee to promote lions and discuss our intention for a new club to be formed in the area .

OBJECTIVES.

To promote lions profile in the community and encourage all Lions to participate in future leaflet drops and membership events.

**CABINET/CONVENTION REPORT OF REGION 3 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
Lion Chris Haynes**

Progress achieved since the last District Convention

Hinckley and Burbage held a new members evening in September, and gained 2 new members and are now planning an extra card drop
Market Harborough Branch held a very successful evening with good results
Northampton and Wellingborough also both did card drops
Brixworth Branch will be holding a membership evening in the near future
All the clubs in Zone H have agreed to work together, and offer support and help each other when they have a membership drive in the future.

New Clubs

We are working with Towcester club about the formation of a Branch club in the Brackley/Silverstone area.

Lion Paul Anstice (Region Chairman) and I have been exploring the possibility of reforming the Daventry Club are our hoping to hold our first meeting in March.

Overview of direction for the rest of the year

To continue to assist all clubs in the Region to increase their membership by proactive and available.

NAME: Lion Bill Ranautta
OFFICE: MERL Committee Special Duties Officer
DATE: 28th January 2010

DECISIONS REQUIRED:

None

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

I am still working with Alcester and District Lions Club who have inducted another Member. With 8 members, the Club is actively up and running organising fund raising, social and community serves events. The Club has planed for a membership drive in April this year.

Coventry 3rd Club is now taken a shape and will be known as Coventry Phoenix Lions Club and will now meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Standard Triumph Recreation Club, Herald Avenue, Coventry. We are hoping to induct 10 Members at the next Meeting on the 11th February. The Club Officers have been chosen to take a lead and engage with fund raising and social activities starting with Easter Egg Raffle in March. It all looks promising.

To re-form Atherstone and Leamington Spa, work is still in the pipeline.

I am planning to visit some of the Clubs with fewer members in the New Year.

OBJECTIVES:

My objective is to expand and consolidate in membership growth.

NAME: Phil White
OFFICE: Leadership Development Officer
DATE: 26 January 2010

DECISIONS REQUIRED:

None

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Final Zone Chairman's Review Meeting of this Lions year was scheduled for 5 January but was cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. This has been re-arranged for Monday 1 February.

Region Chairmen were requested to organise a venue and attendees for a New Members workshop in each region. Please arrange provisional dates with me before leaving the cabinet meeting.

Lion Mike Barker and I were on the faculty at the MD Emerging Lions Leadership Institute at the St John Swallow Hotel, Solihull from 13-17 January 2010. It was disappointing that there was only one delegate from this District, Lion Terry White from Bromsgrove Lions Club. However, Terry did very well. I supplied details to several other Lions who expressed an interest but it would appear that they did not submit an application.

Cabinet post descriptions have been reviewed.

A Presentation Skills workshop will be offered shortly to all Lions across the District with the intention of delivery in February/March.

I attended a MERL meeting on 26 January.

OBJECTIVES:

To develop and refine my role

To promote the range of workshops/seminars available and encourage ideas for new ones

To deliver a minimum of one of the offered workshops during this year

To promote Lions Leadership Institutes

To provide information/training/support as required, particularly to new clubs and new Lions

To look for potential in all fellow Lions in the District and encourage and develop that potential where possible

NAME: Lion David Cox
OFFICE: Membership Region 2B
DATE: Friday 5th February 2010

A meeting was held on Monday the 1st February at the Council House where an arranged by Birmingham Sparkbrook. It is understood that the meeting went well and a new club could be formed shortly.

Seven members of the Lions attended a Phoenix Networking Lunch on Thursday the 28th January. It is the Lions intension to host a Phoenix lunch on Thursday 25th February 2010 to see if new members or possibly a new club could be formed. A fuller report will be available after the 25th.

Have now met with 7 businessmen from the Birmingham Gay Village all of whom are interested in forming a Lion Club in the area. Will report back to cabinet on the progress once we have sufficient interest to call a more formal meeting.