



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Firstly, I wish to welcome you all back to a New Year; or rather hope you are happy to have me back from Nigeria where I spent 3 weeks in December celebrating reunion with colleagues who graduated 50 years ago from College. I hope you all had as good a time as I had and enjoyed the festive season with your families and friends.

I wish you all a New Year full of hopes, happiness, good health, peace and harmony in your homes, successes in your occupations and fulfillment of all your heart's desires. As you serve your communities, the needy and humanity, may you continue to be abundantly Blessed.

Whilst we say goodbye to 2009 and welcome to 2010, it is important as Lions to remember that we are only in the middle of our Lions Year. Only 6 months have passed since I took over the mantle of leadership of this District as Governor and there are 6 more months to go before I hand over that mantle.

A lot happened in the last 6 months, including the changeover in July, 1st Cabinet meeting in August, formation of Alcester Branch Club in September, Autumn Forum in October, 43 Clubs visited and 8 Charter anniversaries attended between August and the end of November, 2nd Cabinet meeting in November and the loss of Codsall Lions Club in November. Above all these, full visible commitment and cooperation of District Cabinet and Clubs officers with Club Lions, to the aims and ideals of Lions Clubs International, and the display of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding among all Lions. Thank you all.

My Vision for the next 6 months includes two more District Cabinet and two Council of Governors' meetings, a unique District Convention, combined with my 70th Birthday celebration, and a 60th anniversary celebrative MD Convention in Leeds. Most importantly, we need to put great effort into the formation of at least 2 New Lions Clubs and 2 Branch Clubs, as well as increasing membership in all our Clubs through encouragement. We especially need to help Clubs with less than 15 members to carry out Card drops (which has proved a very successful method of membership drive). We must also ensure retention of members through involvement of every Lion in Club, Zone, Regional and District activities.



Mission Statement of Lions Clubs International

"To empower volunteers to Serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote International understanding through Lions Clubs".

Please use this mission statement when asked who Lions are and what Lions do or stand for.

Lions In Sight

Have you planned any PR events for the International President's initiative of projecting, propagating and promoting Lions image during the last 2 weeks of January 2010? This may help in making your community more aware of who Lions are and what we do, and may result in more new members. Please send your report and photographs to the Midland News officer Joy Haffner.

Please circulate to all Club Members

CONVENTION 26-28TH MARCH 2010

This is a very important event in our District Diary. Have you booked yet? Please remember that even if you will only be attending the formal part of the Convention on Saturday 27th March, we need you to book.

The Host Night and Banquet & Ball are very important; your support and attendance will make all the difference.



Our International Guest is International Director Lion H.O.B. Lawal, the recently elected first Nigerian International Director representing ISAAME (India, South Asia, Africa & Middle East).

Biography

Hamed Olugbenga Babajide Lawal, from Ikorodu, Nigeria, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of The International Association of Lions Clubs

at the association's 92nd International Convention, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, July 6-10 2009.

Director Lawal is a managing director in the civil engineering industry. A member of the Lagos Ikorodu Lions Club since 1982, he has held many offices within the association, including club president, district governor, district committee chair, Lions Day with the UN multiple district chair, member of Mission 30, member of Team 20K, member of the Presidential Steering Committee on Africa and faculty at the All Africa Conference and ISAAME.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including an Appreciation Award for Charter President, Lion Of the Year Award, two Achievement Awards, Lion of the Decade Award, three Merit Awards, four Appreciation Awards, Best Region Chairman Award, Pillar Of Service Award, Distinguished Service Award, Passion For Service Award, Everyday Heroes Award, DG Excellence Award, Recognition Award and nine International President's Appreciation Awards. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Lawal is active in numerous professional and community organisations. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Governors for Ijebu Muslim College, the Chairman of the Diamond Anniversary Committee of IMC and the Chairman of the Projects Committee for the Ijebu-Ode Metropolitan Club. In the past, he has served as the President of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers and the Lord Mayor of the Ijebu-Ode Metropolitan Club. Director Lawal has two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.

We shall also be joined by our PID Howard & Claire Lee and PID Phil & Heidi-Anne Nathan.

MD LEO CONVENTION 9TH - 11TH APRIL 2010

Our District, with the support of Coventry Godiva Lions Club, will host this year's MD Leo Convention. This is the first time in some years that the Leos will have an MD Convention.

Our Leo Clubs are the soul of Lionism in the young generation but unfortunately their number is dwindling. We need to show the Leos that we are still very interested in their survival by encouraging them with our presence at their functions. It will be good if Clubs can ensure representation at their Convention and attendance at their Saturday Social events.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION & 60 YEARS OF LIONS IN BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

The 2010 MD Convention marking the 20th Anniversary of Lions in the British Isles and Ireland will take place in Leeds from the 30th of April to the 2nd of May. Has your Club chosen your Delegates & Alternates? Have the names been submitted to the District Secretary? Your Secretary has been sent the Registration Forms.

Closing date for submission to the District Secretary is 1st February 2010.

DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

This is the season for our various District Competitions: Young Musicians, Young Ambassador, Youth Football, District Skittles etc.

I call on Lions to please support all these competitions with their presence at the various venues. Where possible, our Lions Vests and Jackets will be good publicity to participants as well as guests.

Please circulate to all Club Members

MEMBERSHIP

We have succeeded in maintaining a good membership balance so far; as at 15th December, we had a gain of 35 new members and lost 37 (this is inclusive of 7 members from Codsall). Comparatively with past trend, this is not bad because we can look forward to a lot of growth in membership in the second half of our Lions' year.

I am aware of a Club who will soon be adding 6 (may be 7) more members to 6 newly inducted members. These are all from recently concluded yellow Card drops.

The MERL Committee members have also been burning the midnight oil to ensure support for weak Clubs and encouragement of new Club formation in all the Regions.

I am very grateful to all Lions who are working hard to introduce relatives and friends to various Clubs even when these are not in their own localities.

If you know of any service minded relative, friend or acquaintance, please refer them to a member of the MERL committee and they will approach or contact them.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

I wish to thank all the Clubs who have so far contributed very generously to this very laudable project. Our District currently leads all other Districts in number of Clubs and total amount so far donated. I wish to remind Clubs who have not yet pledged a contribution to discuss this project in their next meeting. Thank you all for "All the Patriots who from their National Services and sacrifices, now Rest In Peace". They deserve to be remembered.

OBITUARY

It is with deepest regret that I announce the passing to Glory of Lion John Abbots of Solihull Lions Club on the 29th of December 2009. John was a Past President, served on District Cabinet as Membership Officer and was Region Chairman in 2001/2002.

Cremation will take place at Robin Hood on Friday 8th January at 10.00 a.m.

On behalf of all Lions in District 105M, our condolences go out to his wife Pam and daughter Lizzie.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (MIAB)

We are informed that there is a large quantity of newly delivered Bottles in Lion Gulab Mistry's garage. Now that Father Christmas has packed up his sleigh for another year, Clubs may have more time to devote to distribution. Remember that this is a great opportunity to engage prospective Lions in CS in their localities. Please contact and collect bottles from Gulab.

DG Travels 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: Kenilworth	Sun. 31st.: B'ham Exhibition
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LIONS DAY WITH UNITED NATIONS

Details of 2010 Celebrations as follows:

MD Lions Day with UN (London) - Tuesday 16th March at the Houses of Parliament

Lions Day with UN (Scotland) - at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh; date to be advised.

Lions Day with UN (Ireland) - Sunday 14th March following the 105I Convention at Antrim.

Lions Day with UN (Wales) - hosted by District 105W at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff on Thursday 25th February.

Invitations to any or all of the meetings are open to All Lions in MD105.

CONCLUSION

My fellow Lions, I thank you all for your co-operation in the last 6 months, your solid support of my program, your encouragement in various ways especially through your contributions to our District charities, your participation in District competitions and your efforts at increasing your Clubs membership. All these make our District unique. I shall look forward to your continued support to make the rest of this Lions' year a greater success than the last 6 months.

Have a Great Year in Service to your community and humanity, remembering always that we are

"All One In Service".

Thank You All.

Please circulate to all Club Members