



SMILE WE SERVE

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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AND NOW THE END IS NEAR

I cannot believe that my time as District Governor is drawing to an end. The reason for the delay in publishing my last newsletter is to fit in as much as possible.

I am going to start with a poem which I have read at a number of Charter Nights. I have adapted this from the original written by an Australian Lion Greg Dunn to show the important role that a Club president has.

ODE TO A PRESIDENT

I don't know how it happened all I know is I was there,
I dozed off for a second, next thing I'm in the chair
The President of this here lot - a motley looking crew,
But I know from past experience there isn't anything
they can't do.
I've seen them working as a team, as you'd expect they
should;
And I've seen them do some amazing things, but
whatever they do was good.
But all year round we're raising funds, we are proud of
what we do.
We offer help to those in need and have a good time
too.
The President, by gosh that's me, stand up and take a
bow
Then down to earth and run the show - I just wish that I
knew how
I'm the spokesman for all interviews, I'm the one they
ask along -
To have high teas and cocktails, I just can't do any
wrong.
I have to mix with dignitaries and talk all proper stuff,
I'm sure come next elections I'll have had about
enough,
I think I much prefer the mob, you know, that motley
crew,
'Cause when you get us all together there isn't anything
we can't do.

We are Ordinary People doing Amazing things - a motto
well deserved,

But as Lions we always remember

"SMILE WE SERVE"

SERVICE

I have been involved with a number of service projects
over the last few weeks.



It started at Kingswinford and Stourbridge Charter Night. The guest speaker was David Baxter Smith who is the Surgeon who works with the Graham Fulton Trust that provides Prostate Cancer screening. The club had

arranged a very successful session, with over 400 men being tested.

As Beryl placed an order for plants that night, the only way that they could be collected was if we went to the Collection point and helped in the process.



What an operation - over 90 Lions and helpers from Burntwood, Walsall and Kingswinford and Stourbridge moving £20,000 worth of plants which had been delivered overnight from a nursery in Cheshire.



It involved stocking the picking tables, pickers, checkers, wrappers, parcelers, van loaders and drivers.

It was logistics at its best, taking just over four hours to stock all the vans.

Of course the drivers and their assistants then had to make the deliveries, which did not finish until the evening.



Please circulate to all Club Members

SERVICE continued.....

The Disability games were this year held in Bromsgrove. Lions Clubs from around the District had offered to fund the Boccia Games that take place in Wolverhampton in January to ensure that the event took place.

I was delighted to hand to Dennis cheques to meet the cost.



Here is a picture of Lions on the finishing line.



It is unusual to have an event where you have more volunteers than needed, but this has been taken up with the organisers, who were new to the job, and will not happen again.



This picture was taken at Redditch Charter Night when I had the privilege of presenting two banners to the First Responders' of Studley for their Ambulances. The club had sponsored one vehicle and, as a result of that, another

sponsor came forward and paid for the second vehicle. I had been at the Club meeting when the First Responders' had made the request for help.



This is not the first Rotarian who has one of my banners, but Droitwich Lions have close ties with their colleagues in the town.



Market Harborough Branch Club also got a banner.

They are hoping to charter in October and will become Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club.

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to welcome the following members to our organisation:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| David Prescott | Acocks Green |
| Gavin Kibble | Coventry Leofric |
| Ian Russell | Coventry Leofric |
| Mark Higgins | Southam |
| Christina O'Brian | Walsall |
| Linda Walton | Walsall |

The good news is that currently we have increased the membership by 20 from this time last year, with 1,059 members in the District - the first time this has happened for three years.

I would remind Clubs that now is the best time to look at doing a card drop and a Drinks and Nibbles evening.

INTERNATIONAL - TREE PLANTING

One more tree was planted at the MD Convention with the Past International President Al Brandel looking on as I leaned on the shovel. He also got one of my banners.



On tree planting worldwide, we planted over 10 million trees. We have already planted 3,000 in this District and there is more to come, but has your Club Secretary recorded the number of trees planted on the Activity Report? Seeing the recorded figures, very few have. So please

make sure that your Club's tree planting efforts are part of the International total. It is just a figure on the return.

I said at the beginning of the year that I would donate an Environmental Trophy for the Club to compete for each year. This year it would be for the most trees planted, in line with the International



Presidents wishes. I was able to present the trophy to Sandwell, who had planted 987 trees at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

It was there that I found myself up to my knees in cow manure. I think this did give me the best caption for a picture this year - A District Governor is in the sh**.

Please circulate to all Club Members

LEADERSHIP

Do you want my job?

Do you want to be District Governor?

If you can answer “Yes” to either of these questions, there is an informal meeting to discuss what is involved on 30th August 2012.

Further details will be circulated in due course.

ENJOY

Multiple District Convention took place at the beginning of May at the NEC but, before that, we had our last Council of Governors meeting which included the incoming Council. Over the long weekend we fitted in over ten hours of business.



Friday night was the Host night with an Olympic theme. This included a Team from this District.



There was a display by members of the Special Olympics.

On the Saturday night everybody enjoyed the entertainment provided by the Joe Loss Orchestra.



The highlight on the Sunday has to be the welcoming of the District Governors-Elect.

I did warn Paul beforehand that it would be just a blur, but something which you never forget.

As host Governor, I would like to express my thanks to all the Club members who helped to make this an excellent Convention.

AND FINALLY –

The twisting DG. This was taken at Droitwich Charter Night.



The one question that I am constantly being asked is “are you enjoying the year?”

The answer is a resounding “Yes”, but it is coming to an end, so it is a **“BIG THANK YOU”** to all Lions and supporters who have made me and Beryl so welcome at events.

A **“BIG THANK YOU”** to the District Cabinet, who do so much more for Clubs than the Club members realise.

And, finally, a **“BIG THANK YOU”** to the District Governors team, the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors who have helped shape the District. I know that the District is in good hands and will be **Touching the hearts of those in need.**

It is Goodbye from me, Beryl and the International President Tam as we all move on to new challenges.



The more observant of you may have noticed that I have been wearing a red tie on Club visits, as it was given to me by the person in the picture.

I believe I have achieved what I set out in my mission statement, as **I wanted to put a SMILE on all Lions' faces as WE SERVE.**

So let's always remember

SMILE WE SERVE

Please circulate to all Club Members