



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF MY YEAR AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR



International Convention this year has taken place earlier than normal this year, so instead of starting 'as you read this Jackie and I will be attending International Convention' mine starts 'as you read this, Jackie and I are desperately trying to overcome jet lag as we have just arrived back into Birmingham airport after our eighteen hour journey back from the far east'.

As I'm sure you all realise, this newsletter is being written in advance of us leaving for the International Convention in Busan, South Korea and so we will share the photographs of Convention with you in the August edition of my Newsletter. The plans for our journey start on 13th June when we fly to Seoul, the capital of Korea, via Dubai for a few days of sightseeing and acclimatisation with the other District Governors Elect and their wives. Then it is onward by coach to Busan on Sunday 17th to begin a week of training at the District Governor Elect Seminars.

Convention begins on Saturday 23rd June with the parade, which should be a wonderful event, and we will do our best to fly the flag for Multiple District 105. Convention finishes on Tuesday 26th June when I am one of seven hundred and fifty Lions sworn in as District Governor 2012-2013. The final leg of our trip is to fly to Hong Kong for a further four days and then it is the long haul flight home, again via Dubai, arriving in Birmingham, blurry eyed, at noon on Sunday 1st July.

Then the work as District Governor starts! District Handover is at St John's Hotel in Solihull on Sunday 15th July and I have my first proper Council Meeting from 27th to 29th July. As I am writing this, we are in the process of arranging the first three months of club visits which I intend to begin in August. It will be a very busy year but one, I hope, we will all enjoy together.

DISTRICT VISION

As a District we have a clear vision for the future of Lions Clubs International and its members within this part of the United Kingdom:

- To be the leading community and humanitarian service organisation in Midlands
- To have the highest and most respected reputation for service to the community within the Midlands
- To build a strong membership base within the Midlands in a structured and sustainable manner
- To be known for our fun and friendship



Please circulate to all Club Members

CHALLENGE

As most of you will know, my theme for the year is 'touching the hearts of those in need' or rather 'Lions touching the hearts of those in need' and this is reflected in my bannerette and pin this year.

It reflects Lions' commitment to service in their community, showing compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves, helping in the development of our young, who are our future, enabling someone with disabilities achieve an ambition and safeguarding the future through environmental projects.

At Convention I asked Lions to imagine what effect we could have if, over the next fifty two weeks of the coming year, we were each able to make a difference to a new needy person each week, even if it were only for one hour.

It would mean we would make a difference to the lives of over 52,000 additional people, expend at least 52,000 hours or about 6 years of additional service and let 52,000 people know who Lions are and what we do. My challenge to each Lion in the District is to turn this into a reality.

DATES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- **Sunday 15th July 2012**
District Handover, St John's Hotel, Solihull
- **Sunday 19th August 2012**
District Cabinet, St John's Hotel, Solihull
(Region 1 Presidents to be invited)
- **Sunday 14th October 2012**
Autumn Forum at a venue to be confirmed
- **Sunday 18th November 2012**
District Cabinet at St John's Hotel, Solihull
(Region 2 Presidents to be invited)
- **Sunday 10th February 2013**
District Cabinet at St John's Hotel, Solihull
(Region 3 Presidents to be invited)
- **Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March 2013**
District Convention at the Peartree Inn Hotel, Worcester
- **Friday 26th to Sunday 28th April 2013**
Multiple District Convention at the Rivera Conference Centre, Torquay
- **Sunday 19th May 2013**
District Cabinet at St John's Hotel, Solihull

CAP

Over the last twelve months clubs have been truly service minded in their response to Beryl's requests for help through her chosen charity Christians against Poverty (CAP).

Having been on the receiving end of one of these requests, it reminded me of how it used to be when organisations, such as CAB, and Social Services would contact Lions with requests of help for their clients before the Data Protection Act took effect. [cont.](#)

CAP continued

Beryl has asked me to allow her to continue with these requests to clubs as cases arise and I have agreed that she may do so.

I therefore ask Lions to consider any such request alongside their normal service activities

NOW IS THE TIME

It's the start of another bright and exciting year as a Lion and no doubt you are all making your plans for 2012-2013.

Now is the time to be looking for the service-minded youth within your community to support, encourage and broaden their horizons for the benefit of all our futures.

Now is the time to find candidates for our Young Leaders in Service programme.

Now is the time to identify inspiring young people to put forward for the Young Ambassadors award.

Now is the time to identify suitable young people to go on a Youth Exchange in 2013 and broaden their horizons.

Now is the time to identify schools and young students to enter the Peace Poster competition.

Now is the time to identify schools, youth clubs and scout and guide clubs to enter candidates in our Roy White writing competition.

Now is the time to identify a candidate for the reinstated music competition.

Your District Youth Portfolio team is there to help you:

Youth Portfolio Chairman:
Harry Fry - youth@lions105m.org.uk

Young Leaders in Service Officer:
Janet Long - yjis@lions105m.org.uk

Young Ambassador Officer:
Cath Kendall - youngambassdor@lions105m.org.uk

Youth Exchange Officer:
Jackie Williams - youthx@lions105m.org.uk

Youth Music Officer:
Lion John Barnes - music@lions105m.org.uk

and

District Competitions Officer:
Lion Terrie Knibb - competitions@lions105m.org.uk

Now is the time.

Please circulate to all Club Members



**Are you the one that stands out from the crowd?
Are you the one that can lead and motivate others?**

Are you a future District Governor?

Are you actively thinking about offering your leadership skills to the District, by standing for the office of 2nd Vice District Governor, leading to District Governor in the near or slightly longer term future?

OR

Are you just plain interested to understand how the new Governors Team works?

If so, come and learn about it from those who have 'been there, done that and got the T-shirt'.

An informal meeting with tea and biscuits has been arranged on Thursday 30th August with the pioneers of the new Governors Team format - IPDG Neil, 1st VDG Simon and 2nd VDG Ian, who will share their experiences.

The venue has still to be decided upon and will depend on numbers.

Watch this space for more information.

Your District Needs You!



District Governor's Wife's Appeal – Teenage Cancer Trust



It is the custom for the wife or partner of every District Governor to support a charity for their year. My charity this year is in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, which is dear to my heart.

I was introduced to the charity through a young Lion in my previous club in Bedford, whose brother died of cancer but, during his illness, had been supported by the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Cancer is a disease we mainly associate with adults but it attacks all ages and is especially aggressive in teenagers where their natural growth and hormonal changes exacerbates the situation.

The teenage years are difficult enough for most young people as they struggle with all the bodily changes that lead to adulthood, let alone have to face a life-threatening illness. Unfortunately, most hospitals are not set up to cater for the particular needs of these cancer patients. It is probable that, until the age of 16, they will be treated in paediatric wards alongside toddlers, and above 16 they will end up in an adult ward alongside the elderly. In either case, teenagers end up alongside people they do not relate to.

The Teenage Cancer Trust's aim is to build units within NHS hospitals specifically for teenagers with cancer. These units are equipped with the medical facilities to treat cancer but, more importantly, provide the facilities such as day rooms and kitchens for them to relax in and feel at home and also provide them with familiar things such as computers, TVs and play stations in order to occupy their time whilst they are being treated.

Most importantly, the units provide an environment where teenagers can meet others in a similar situation and allow patients to build friendships and mechanisms to cope with their disease. The Teenage Cancer Trust also funds Activities Coordinators in some units, to help patients cope with their disease and pass the time in hospital.

Teenage Cancer Trust run Family Support Networks which provide support, in an informal setting to young people and their families, siblings and partners during and after the young person's cancer treatment. The networks focus on the needs of the whole family; if loved ones are supported, the young person in turn will be supported. They also fund research into why young people get cancer and how best to treat it, ultimately improving diagnosis, treatment and survival rates.

Please support my appeal this year so that together we can make a difference to young cancer sufferers. For further information, visit: www.teenagecancertrust.org

Please circulate to all Club Members