



105A News

Incorporating the District Governor's Newsletter

Mission: To inform, update and entertain

Issue 1, July/August 2004

Installed in Detroit

Approximately 13,000 members of Lions Clubs International and their families met in Detroit, Michigan, USA/Windsor, Ontario, Canada for the association's 87th International Convention from Monday, July 5 to Friday, July 9 at which the International President Dr. Tae-Sup Lee administered the oath of office to Clement F. Kusiak, the new International President – see picture below.

Our own DG Max Mongia was then sworn in along with all the other DG's from all over the world. To complete the formalities, the spouses of all the DGs then ripped off the ribbon labeled "Elect" (attached to the name badges) to the count of three from President Kusiak to mark the official installation of all the DGs. The Editor was present in the Convention Centre and captured the moment on camera.

The highlights included a Parade of Nations, presentation of the prestigious Lions Humanitarian Award and three plenary sessions during one of which Coretta Scott King, one of the most influential women leaders in the world, delivered the keynote address. Since the assassination of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she has dedicated her life to speaking out on behalf of civil rights, including racial equality and women's rights.

This year's International Convention attracted a very small number of Lions from this MD and only three

other couples from 105A. Most Lions appear to have set their sights on the 88th Convention to be held in Hong Kong.



WE ARE BACK!

A little later than planned, but we are definitely back – the **105A News** in its new full colour glory is a bit late but we trust you will forgive that!

Our view was to delay publication after the DG and the Editor's trip to the International Convention so that we could bring you hot news of the first month of this lionistic year. We have therefore called this the July/August

issue. Future issues will follow at regular monthly intervals.

We hope you will like the look and style that full colour makes possible. And how about this fantastic step forward – your own personal copy mailed to your own address!

We have tried various distribution methods in the past – from hand delivery to Zone Chairpersons and bulk posting to club secretaries. None of these has proved totally successful. Taking account of the costing and logistics and by controlling the production and distribu-

tion costs coupled with sponsorship we are able to deliver individual copies to each Lion in the district on a trial basis.

However, for this to continue and to comply with the data protection regulations we will need the cooperation of all Lions to establish a district database for such purpose. Please therefore return the enclosed authorization letter through your club secretary at your earliest.

And look out for the next issue!
- THE EDITOR

Editor:

Viresh Paul

District Governor:

Max Mongia

This issue is sponsored by



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An Epic Journey



On Tuesday 22nd of June, Lions from District 105A walked with an extraordinary man, Chris Moon, on part of his epic journey of 1,284 miles (John O'Groats to Land's End) writes *District PRO Lion Maria Azcona*.

Chris Moon, together with Lions help, is on target to raise **£1 million** for Leonard Cheshire

Homes, an organisation dedicated to create opportunities for disabled people.

Chris himself, a former soldier, lost his right arm and leg, clearing land mines for the United Nations in Mozambique in 1995.

He thought it was incredibly important to visit London, which has added a further 300 miles, and so fellow Lions Clubs joined him in walking the seven miles from Lords Cricket Ground to Westminster. Along the way, there was time to take in the scenery, as well as meeting a lot of other extraordinary people.

When we arrived at Lords, we were greeted by a brass band, and DJ Jono Coleman, from Heart FM, (who started the walk with us). Once Chris had done a series of interviews, he was officially greeted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster. Also along the way there were refreshments, a goody bag, a lovely t-shirt with the Lions logo on it, balloons and much needed foot spray, (as much as we wanted!).

District Governor, Dr Elliot Shubert, with fellow Lion President Jean Hughes from Red-

bridge Lions, Lion President Trevor Hill from Barking Lions Club, Vijay Arora from Stanmore Lions Club and Maria Azcona, St Albans Lions Club with her two children, Joseph and James (aged 8 and 9), walked the seven miles with Chris.

Chris was in very high spirits on the trek through London, and the Lions got to walk along side him. He told us that Lions Clubs throughout the U.K. had turned out to walk with him, and he was eternally grateful for our support.

Once we reached the finishing line, our efforts were rewarded with whoops of cheers from organisers and fellow walkers alike, as well as getting a medal, a certificate and a mug. Our best reward, however, was knowing that we made a difference in someone's life.

To summarise, the weather held up until we all got home, which was lucky, as torrential rain had been forecast from midday. This was a most memorable day for everyone who took part, where people's dreams were made into reality.

Youth Camps fulfil an important objective of Lions

Officially adopted by The International Association of Lions Clubs in 1974, the Lions International Youth Camp Program fulfills the First Object of the Lions: "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world."

The objectives of the program are:

- To bring young people of different countries into meaningful contact with each other
- To permit the sharing of ideals and cultural viewpoints
- To promote international understanding and goodwill, and to work toward the goals of world peace and human understanding
- To develop leadership potential in outstanding youth
- To encourage respect in young people for the thinking of others



Zippos Circus - Five Years On

"That was brilliant and fantastic clever acts. I liked the cheeky birds and the men rolling up high and the funny clown. Thank you for the ice

cream, jelly, juice, crisps and a banana"

"Thank you for giving us a lovely time. We really liked the funny clown because he made us laugh"

These words from the children of Gifford School, Northolt and Marjory Kinnon School, Bedford sum up the show held on Acton Green on 5 July 2004 writes *Lion Rana Dhawan*.

Five years ago it started as a one off event. This year, 27 schools and groups

took part - over 850 children, their teachers and carers, all from special schools in the London Boroughs of Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow attended. The Deputy Mayors of Ealing and Hounslow and Past Mayor of Hillingdon and our own Vice District Governor Lion Eric Amaria and Arnawaz. were also present.

Norman Barrett, the world's greatest Ringmaster, introduced the entire circus company. There were jugglers and Fast Track Acrobatics of the Eros Troupe from Bulgaria. Appearing for the first time with Zippos Circus was Austen, with his unique and wonderful dog Sam in their "Dustbin Dog Act". Indeed, it was a show dedicated to skill and laughter and it made a difference in the

lives of those who have never had an opportunity to attend a live event like this.

I would like to thank Zippos Circus for providing the show and other facilities free of charge and all the Lions who helped us on the day. Our grateful thanks to Greenford Willow Tree and Feltham Lions Clubs for providing crisps and ice lollies respectively. Thanks are also due to Princes Soft Drinks and Natco Cash & Carry and A. Fox & Co, for their generous support.

Just to conclude with an extract from a school in Ealing. "We would like to take you up on your generous offer to put our school on top of the list for next year's performance. It would indeed be wonderful to take all 80 of our students to such a memorable event during July, 2005".



DG's Newsletter

Fellow Lions, Lionesses and Leos

I bring you greetings from our International President Lion Clement F Kusiak who was inducted into the office of President on 9th July in Detroit. This was followed by him asking 747 DGE's from around the world to take the oath of the office of District Governor. President Clement F Kusiak promotes sharing our many accomplishments through public relations and recognition, to amplify the success we have achieved over the past 87 years.

"Lions dedication to providing service for the benefit of others is a precious gift".

" Let us share Success Through Service with everyone in our world community".

The International Convention Detroit

Aruna and I were in Detroit for the International Convention from the 29th June 2004 to 9th July 2004. 30th June to 2nd July was the period dedicated to the intensive DG's school for the DGs and some get together sessions for the partners.

Having survived the first week and secured the requisite certification, I was deemed to be ready and fit to take the office of the District Governor to which you the Lions of 105A had nominated me. The International Convention between the 3rd and the 9th July 04 was packed with numerous seminars, meetings, cocktails and dinners. This was the most enjoyable part of the Convention where we met members from several countries. Our District was twinned with District No 49 from Alaska. Aruna and I dined with District Governor Sinus and his wife Sharon. I also made particular contacts with our Twin Districts from Kenya, Italy and Germany. I also established strong links with the extended countries in the European community like Turkey who are very keen to develop links with our District.

The Cabinet-2004/5

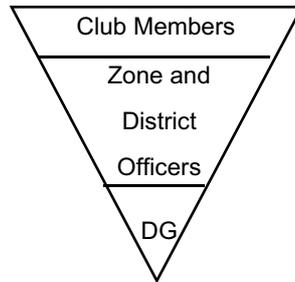
The Handover ceremony (held this year in in Milton Keynes on 17th July 2004) traditionally is a further endorsement to the Induction process. I inducted the 2004/5 Cabinet Officers having been re-inducted by DG Elliot Shubert as your District Governor.

The District Cabinet this year has been structured in the conventional manner without the Region Chairpersons but with the introduction of Group Chairpersons with specialist interests. This is demonstrated as per the Chart attached. The introduction of Group Chairpersons was to focus the activities of each group as a working team

whose efforts would be co-coordinated throughout the year. The group will be meeting in between the Cabinet Meetings thereby sharing the experience and monitoring the successes. The delegation of responsibility to the Group Chairpersons would assist the District Governor in the smooth management and running of the affairs of the District.

Theme for the Year: Back to Basics

Our aim during 2004/5 is to re-float the basic Lionistic values and objectives. We wish to recognise the individual Lion members and the Clubs for the work that they do for the community and their service by volunteering. We plan to practice the "Bottom up approach" with the pyramid turned upside down.



The Zone and the Cabinet officers are there to support the wishes and aspirations of our membership. We need to demonstrate this at every conceivable opportunity.

It is our intention that the Zone meeting would be held prior to the Cabinet meetings, thereby giving the Clubs an opportunity to communicate their needs. We need to get membership involved with the Zone activities; this was successfully achieved by Zone A last year by hosting Zone meetings at regular Club meeting of one of the Clubs in turn. This resulted in closer interaction of the membership with the Zone team.

Service to youth and children in need

The family of Lions supports programmes for the youth and children in need worldwide. We will continue the youth programmes such as opportunities for youth, young ambassadors, youth exchange, youth football, peace poster and street children. We will also encourage the support for our MD programme, "Gift for Living".

Peace

As members of the International Association, we will share our success with the world and fulfil our mission;

every Club needs to annually conduct at least one International activity in addition to work for the local community.

Public Relations

We need to expand our public image by effective use of the media – be it the Internet, newspapers, radio or television as they are great mediums to recognise the contribution of Lions and attract new members.

This is the bicentenary year for the Moorfield Eye hospital. Lions of MD 105 have now secured enough funds with LCIF grant to meet the needs of the hospital to modernise and update the eye bank programme. Moorfield intend to name this facility as 'Lions Eye Bank'. We should be proud of this achievement and share this information with the public at large.

Membership

One of my key roles this year will be to support the MERCL team to invite new and retain our current members. Special emphasis will be given to Clubs under 10 and Clubs at risk i.e. Clubs under 15. Membership is the foundation for building strong and successful Clubs and providing the service to the community.

My slogan for the year is "**Members recruit Members**". The only proven method of growth has been the introduction of new members to our association by existing members – each one of us should endeavour to introduce at least one member each.

Our growth will not only outstrip other Districts in the UK but will match the mega growth of the Italians and German Lions. Let us put our minds to it and talk of our success to our family, friends, colleagues at work and business associates.

Affinity Card

The Affinity Card programme which I had introduced in 105A in 1993/4 is now a truly Multiple District programme. The Council of Governors have now decided to appoint a Multiple District officer to drive the programme under one umbrella. The benefits from this will still stay within the District and benefit the membership directly by reducing their dues. Please support this programme and join this scheme, it costs nothing but helps our membership dues.

Fundraising:

CHARITY SHOPS

Charity shops have become a very acceptable means of raising money from the public at





DG's Newsletter

large. Almost all charities and service organisations are benefiting from this venture. We researched and studied the pros and cons of ownership of charity shop programmes. Our intention is to set up charity shops under a corporate entity of our District. The management and day to day running of the shops will be handled by hosting Club/Clubs. The revenue will be shared by the hosting Club/Clubs (for their preferred charities) and the District charity fund. Clubs interested to participate in this programme should contact the District Projects Chairman Lion Dipak Shah or the District Governor.

"Charity shops will give us the exposure to public and also raise much needed funds for our charities"

GALA NIGHT

We have planned a joint gala night in association with the Consortium of Street Children, during the month of November – date to be advised. This project will not only raise funds for the Consortium but will also contribute to some of our District programmes such as senior citizens party, kids *make it happen* day (at Chessington World of Adventures).

PUBLIC APPEALS

We have now set up a Chairman for raising funds through public appeals and gift programmes for our charities PDG Lion Parveen Verma has been appointed for this committee. Should you be aware of any individual or body that wishes to donate funds, please contact the Chairman or the District Governor.

LCIF

The enviable achievements of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) are:

- Restore sight to the needlessly blind.

- Provide food and clothing to the victims of natural disasters.
- Give young people the life skills to succeed through Tacade.
- And empower the disabled through programmes to increase their independence.

And many more success stories that lions have to share. These programmes require continued contributions and greater public awareness – for example Heather McCartney's presentation at Convention. An LCIF Gala night dinner is planned for January 2005 on a date to be advised pending confirmation of the International visitor and venue availability. Please plan your MJF's and make the evening a great success in your calendar.

Lions House

I have set up a small committee to look into the feasibility of acquiring a property which could be used by any Lions Club for their meetings and functions. Several clubs in the district have been suffering from a lack of suitable venue which has affected their numbers and stability and such a property will be of a great help to them. It is perceived that the property can be owned by Lion members in the same manner as golf clubs across the length and breadth of the country. The acquisition of the property will not commit the association, the district or the clubs in any way.

First Lady's Charity

Aruna and I have decided not to have a specific charity for the DG's Lady's appeal, to give the Clubs an opportunity to support their local and other preferred charities this year. My banner this year embodies the International Director's theme our District emblem and the Lionistic charities that we support. The banner will be a constant reminder. I hope to focus on a unified programme of Lions Clubs International and our preferred programmes.

We look forward to your support.



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