



# District 105D

## District Governor

### David Merchant



**49th Annual District Convention**  
**28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Holiday Inn,**  
**Winchester**  
**SO21 1HZ**

*“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”*

# **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES**

**TO ORGANISE**, charter and supervise clubs to be known as Lions clubs.

**TO COORDINATE** the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.

**TO CREATE** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

**TO PROMOTE** the principles of good government and good citizenship.

**TO TAKE** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

**TO UNITE** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

**TO PROVIDE** a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided, however that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

**TO ENCOURAGE** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.



## The International Association of Lions Clubs

### District 105D

Incorporating Lions Clubs International District 105D Charitable Trust  
Registered Number 1072984



## District Governor 2013 - 2014 ♦ Lion David Merchant

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*“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”*

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Hello and Welcome My Fellow Lions and Guests to 105D District Convention,



It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of our attendees whether they be from our own District or further afield to this our 49<sup>th</sup> District Convention being held here in Winchester – a new venue and a new part of our District for Convention 2014. I am indebted to PDG Fred Massey, his hard working team and all of those who have combined to providing what I am sure will be a District Convention to remember. I have attempted to make some changes to the way our Convention is run, in particular for the Business Sessions, changes which I hope will find favour with you all. The traditional framework has been maintained but some of the ingredients have been mixed to provide a more vibrant and, I hope, interesting experience.

I am so pleased Past International Director Phil Nathan has agreed to open our Convention – Phil is a Lion who will be well known to you all and is someone who needs no introduction. It is wonderful he has agreed to join us this weekend.

Jim Ervin, our International Guest, had the honour to be our International President for the year 1999-2000 and he is a renowned and engaging public speaker and we extend a courteous welcome to his wife, Sharon Dillard.

Since his year as President Jim has continued to serve the Association in many ways and has been honoured in so many guises including the Association's highest honour – Ambassador of Good Will. Jim has been looking forward to returning to the UK, in renewing old friendships and we are looking forward to him providing our District with his knowledge and expertise. I am very grateful he has agreed to be our International guest for 2014.

I aim to meet as many Lions as possible during the weekend, in particular those who are new to our wonderful organisation and those for whom this is their 1<sup>st</sup> Convention – I trust it will prove to be the first of many. There will be an opportunity for those who are new Lions to meet Lion Diana and myself as well as Past President Jim and Sharon at a reception prior to the Banquet and Ball on Saturday evening.

Please remember this is your AGM and the Business Sessions provide you with the opportunity to ask questions, to vote on matters which will affect you as a Lion and to take part in the Workshops – these are interactive and are designed to attract comment and an exchange of views.

This year, along with Lion Diana, I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to join in with Club Meetings, attend Charter Anniversaries and observe Lions working in their own communities. These are all occasions which I will always cherish and it is in meeting so many Lions – each one of whom is totally committed to our international motto of 'We Serve' – that we are able to enjoy our many and varied experiences.

I set out at the beginning of the year to provide 'Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment' and I am so pleased that Lions throughout the District have taken this theme of mine to heart. They have shown tremendous Pride in their achievements, have worked together in the spirit of true Friendship and have Enjoyed themselves both at work and in their social activities.

Please enjoy yourselves this weekend, become fully involved in what is happening and I hope you will make lasting friendships. Thank you for all you do for those most in need whether it is locally, nationally or internationally and above all thank you for being a Lion.

With Best Wishes,

David



# **JIM ERVIN**

## **PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Jim Ervin, of Albany, Georgia, USA, served as President of The International Association of Lions Clubs following his election at the association's 82<sup>nd</sup> International Convention, held in San Diego, California, USA, June 28-July 2, 1999.

A member of the Albany Lions Club since 1977, Past President Ervin has held many positions within the association, including Club President, Zone Chairman, District Governor and Council Chairman. He was an International Director during 1992-94.

Past President Ervin served as Chairman of the Lions Clubs International Foundation during 2000-01 and presently serves on the SightFirst Advisory Committee. He is also a past Director and trustee of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind.

Past President Ervin has received numerous awards in recognition of his service to the Association, including an Extension Award, a Guiding Lion Award, two International President's Certificates of Appreciation, nine International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honour the association bestows upon its members. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Past President Ervin is a member of several business, professional and fraternal organizations.

Past President Ervin lives with his wife Sharon Dillard and has four children and five grandchildren.