**LCIF NEWS**

**Introduction**

The work of LCIF goes on, with natural disasters occurring in different parts of the world with regularity and also managing the applications for other grants. Fortunately there are often Lions Clubs in the areas affected by disasters and there are many examples of how local Lions Clubs have assisted immediately following a disaster. There are usually also long-term requirements such as rebuilding and the like. LCIF often helps with both the immediate aid and funds rebuilding of a particular project or projects in conjunction with the local Lions Clubs.

**Italian Earthquake**

You will be aware of the Italian earthquake that stuck central Italy on 24th August 2016 and killed 297 persons and left thousands homeless. LCIF has made a Major Catastrophe Grant of US$100,000 (£76,000) to enable Lions Clubs on the ground to assist as appropriate. I do hope your Club will support the LCIF Disaster Fund for the Italian earthquake. A number of Clubs have already donated and I would like to thank them on behalf of LCIF for their generosity. Donations should be sent to the District Treasurer marked ‘LCIF Disaster Fund Italian earthquake’. These donations will count towards credits for future Melvin Jones Fellowships.

**LCIF Video**

I hope you will have a few moments to see this one minute video on LCIF. Simply right click the link below.

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/news-media/videos/videos.php?id=gBiLc5>

**Melvin Jones Fellowships**

I am mentioning again that I receive a statement each month showing what credits Clubs have towards Melvin Jones Fellowships. Please contact me if you would like to know what credits your Club has earned towards Melvin Jones Fellowship or need assistance with the online application form. It is quite possible one or two or more could be obtained at no further cost to your Club. If your Club does not have sufficient credits then an additional amount can be paid to make up the credits to US$1,000 (£760.00). Please have a word with me if your Club wishes to make up the credits and I will talk through the methodology.

**LCIF Contributing Members**

Some members wish to give a personal donation to LCIF. This is very welcome and now members can nominate which area of LCIF activity to which they would like their contribution directed (disaster relief or humanitarian causes (e.g. measles initiative), sight or youth or alternatively ‘for the area of greatest need’. A donation of the equivalent of US$20.00 (currently £15.50) will qualify the donor for a small bronze pin. I know some members might wish to give without their Club knowing. This can be done by sending me a cheque for £15.50 payable to ‘International Association of Lions Clubs’ and if you could let me know your Club name and your own membership number (as this is required by LCIF) I will do the rest.(My address is 18 West Court, West Drive, Sonning, Reading, Berks RG4 6GL). I do hope some members will consider a personal donation to our Foundation.

**Presentations on LCIF**

Once again I am repeating my comments from previous newsletters. LCIF still remains a ‘mystery’ to many members despite its amazing record of funding for disasters, sight, youth and humanitarian needs since 1968. I would be pleased to visit any Club, or preferably Zone, to give a presentation on our own Foundation.

PDG Lion Patrick Hamblin, District 105D LCIF Coordinator (patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com)

20th September 2016