

## **CONSTITUTION, NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OFFICER - PDG [Lion David Merchant](#)**

Following last year's District Convention the International Office at Oak Brook was advised of the names of the successful candidates in the ballots for District Governor and First and Second District Governor for 2016-17. The District Constitution was revised in line with the decisions taken at Convention 2016 and the revised version published on the District website, where a copy can always be found. The District Cabinet, at their May Meeting, accepted a proposal to host Convention 2018 in Portsmouth and there will be a presentation on this proposal during Convention 2017.

The Convention 2017 Call was issued by District Governor David Taylor in August 2016. This included requesting Nominations for the posts of District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors for 2017-18, any Resolutions for debate at Convention 2017 and an Invitation to host Convention in 2019.

By the closing date for receipt of Nominations, Resolutions and Invitations:-

One nomination had been received for the post of District Governor 2017-18.

One nomination had been received for the post of First Vice District Governor 2017-18.

No nominations had been received for the post of Second Vice District Governor 2017-18. However it will be acceptable to receive Nominations, for suitably qualified Lions, from the floor during Convention 2017.

All nominations will require an election by way of secret ballot at Convention 2017.

Three Resolutions had been received for debate at Convention 2017, all in the name of the District Cabinet.

No Invitation was received to host Convention 2019.

Details of the above Nominations and Resolutions were circulated to Clubs by the due date and are included in the Convention Booklet. I can confirm both candidates are fully qualified (as defined by the Constitution and By-Laws of our International Association) to stand for the posts for which they have been nominated.

At the time of writing this report in late December 2016, I had received no amendments to the published Resolutions. However, as the closing date for receipt of amendments by me was Monday 16th January 2017 it is possible this situation changed. Were this to be the case, Clubs will have been advised accordingly when final details of all the Nominations and Resolutions were issued in late January 2017.

I continue to provide the District Governor and the District Cabinet with advice on constitutional matters. Such queries currently centre on the impact and possible consequences of redistricting. Members will be aware Council of Governors have sought the views of Clubs on 2 separate occasions during the current fiscal year, and they aim to formulate a Resolution based on the Club responses. This will be debated at the Multiple District Convention in Blackpool in April 2017.

Please remember I am always willing to offer advice to Clubs on constitutional matters and I can provide advice to help Clubs wishing to prepare Resolutions for debate at Convention.

## **DG TEAM - CONVENTION 2017 REPORTS**

### **District Governor – Lion David Taylor**

Being part of the District Governor team in our Centennial year has continued to be enjoyable. Between us the District Governor Team have completed our visits to the Clubs and Club Branches, continuing to be impressed with the variety and effectiveness we have seen throughout our District.

I said at last year's Convention that I would like us especially to focus on 4 things:

- Membership recruitment and retention through satisfaction.
- Centennial, especially reporting the activities we already undertake.
- Our continued support of Special Olympics for those with learning difficulties.
- Our global achievements within LCIF.

Membership: It was with great regret that we lost Swanage Lions in June at the end of the last Lions year. Since then our GMT/GLT Team laid on an excellent session on recruitment and many Clubs have provided examples of what methods have been successful for them in the past; they are now listed in the members' section of our website. It is for others to examine these and see if they can adopt them locally for their own use. The session also looked at retention - and it remains true that Clubs with active social lives that increase enjoyment are those that survive the inevitable tensions in any group of individuals and keep their membership alive. Perhaps we all need to look at this more closely as we have recruited plenty of new Lions yet lost just as many.

Turning to Centennial: The problem continues that some Clubs are simply not completing their Monthly Activity Reports to show the work they are doing; without a doubt, more Centennial work is being completed without being recognized. Internationally, 64% of Clubs have engaged in the challenge to serve more than 100 million people – a target exceeded over a year ahead of schedule with nearly 130 million people served so far.

Special Olympics: I continue to be grateful to those Clubs who have contributed to my appeal so far. This is a hands-on partnership that will involve many Lions in Sheffield this year and every penny we can raise will help us serve in a way that embodies all that we stand for; please encourage your Clubs to continue to contribute, especially as the President of Special Olympics GB, Lawrie McMenemy, will be joining as at our Convention.

LCIF: I'm proud to say our District continues to be one of the two major contributors to OUR international charity, over £18,000 before Christmas, of which £14,000 was towards various disaster appeals. However, LCIF completes so much more in the areas of Sight, Youth and Humanitarian work and more undesigned donations would be welcome.

At the end of January, after this report was written, I will have attended the MD Council meeting, together with 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Peter, at which the final proposal for redistricting should be discussed. At the time of writing it is still intended to proceed with the 8-District option which could see us lose Zone 1A to 105SW but welcome zones from 105W (Wiltshire) and 105A (Oxfordshire); however there is still some debate to be had as two Districts have discussed their own ideas that may jeopardize the entire proposal. We will be able to update Convention accordingly before the subject is debated at the MD Convention in April.

Finally, thank you again to the Zone Chairs. I said at last year's Convention that the position of Zone Chair is the most important role in Lions and it is no coincidence that they sit on the front row of the photo headlining our Facebook page. Being your District Governor has been a privilege, but it is the Zone Chairs who should be appreciated for their support.

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### **Immediate Past District Governor – Lion Alan Chapman**

My year as District Governor didn't get off to a very good start as I was unable to travel to the International Convention in Hawaii, as was my counterpart from District BN, we both suffer with chest complaints and the long haul flights were not recommended.

At the 105D Handover held at the Stones Hotel near Salisbury in July was an unforgettable experience for Anne and I. The event was arranged by Cabinet members ably assisted by the Salisbury Club who organised a Hawaiian theme which was totally unexpected. Before the handover I was officially inducted by Past International Director Howard Lee where I took the oath in front of my District members before IPDG Mike Hendy made the handover by adorning me with the DG's Chain of Office.

My year started with the first Council meeting of the year where we were confronted with the request from District 105I to break away from the Multiple District and become a Single District. This put a lot of pressure on the DGs as it would not be possible to continue the MD with 12 districts with 10 in Transition (less than 1,250 members). This meant that the number of districts would have to be reduced, it was suggested that the MD should consist of 5 districts across the England, Scotland and Wales, Northern Ireland would go with Republic of Ireland. This suggestion was rejected by the Council and a plan for 7 districts was drawn up but

unfortunately this plan dissolved 105D which would be split between 105SE, 105A and 105W. I then put forward a plan to retain 105D making 8 districts because the road system in the south of England was not suitable for long distance travel especially through the summer months. It was a hard fight but we finished up with 2 resolutions at the MD Convention. There was also a major dispute between District EA and the Council of Governors which involved Conciliation and therefore an emergency resolution was fielded. The result of the emergency resolution was voted on and agreed by convention, this automatically cancelled out the 2 resolutions for Redistricting and the 2016/2017 Council was given the task of finding a Redistricting solution by October 2016.

My memories of that Convention were not happy as there was a great deal of dissatisfaction from the floor, much of which was totally unilionic, leaving me with the feeling that much of my time which I invested into the Redistricting programme was wasted.

On a much happier note Anne and I had a wonderful year visiting clubs throughout the District where we were made very welcome, also meeting many wonderful Lions doing terrific work within their communities. We also attended many Charters with lasting memories of the achievements of those clubs and the people who make clubs what they are. The DG Team system worked very well and every club was visited throughout the District.

Our 105D Convention at the Holiday Inn, Winchester, was very successful in as much as we didn't lose money, we were forced to move the venue due to some uncertainty of my original choice of the Wessex Hotel Bournemouth where the budget was agreed and therefore we had to work within that figure. The success was due to the negotiation skills of the Convention Committee chaired by 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Peter Burnett and greatly supported by Sergeant at Arms, Dave Ebsworth and others, without them, things could have been very different.

Anne and I attended the District SW Convention in March. On the Friday evening at the host dinner, we were privileged to be seated on the top table opposite the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice International President Gudrun Bjort Yngvottir and husband Dr. Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson from Iceland, who we had met before, we had a long conversation with them regarding the general state of Lionism in the UK and the fact that more female members would improve clubs. On the Saturday morning, I was asked to take part in their Flag Ceremony where I carried the Union Flag to the front of the auditorium and handed it to the DG who mounted it in Flag display on the stage. The Convention was held at the Holiday Camp at Croyde in Devon, it was a good fun event with very little formality other than during the business session on the Saturday morning. Lessons to be learnt!!

Finally I handed the Chain of Office to DG David at our Handover which was combined with DG David's first Cabinet meeting at the Southampton Hilton. I wish to thank everyone who stood by me through the difficulties of the Redistricting and advising me when it was necessary.

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### **1st Vice District Governor – Lion Peter Burnett**

During the past two years I have now visited nearly two thirds of the clubs within the district and I look forward to visiting the remainder next year.

The sheer diversity of the clubs and meetings continues to amaze me, I find it incredibly rewarding and a great honour to be allowed to visit all of our clubs. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the welcome I have received along with either Lion Debbie or another member of Wimborne & Ferndown Lions Club who always try and accompany me if Debbie cannot make it. I would like to put it in writing my appreciation of my own clubs support in this way, not least in keeping me awake on some of the long journeys home after a day at work and a meeting.

At the time of writing this we are about to enter 2017 our actual centenary year and we must all take full advantage of this. Please ensure that absolutely everything you do as a club is recorded so that the figures for people served at the end of the period are accurate.

Most clubs have now embraced Facebook and some use Twitter, as well as most having really good websites. Please ensure that your websites are kept up to date and that Facebook is updated regularly. If we are to attract more members these things are essential as the first thing a potential member will do is 'Google' your club and out of date information will soon put people off.

Finally we need to once again remember that we are a membership led organisation and that the Council of Governors is meant to advise not dictate. By the time of convention I will have completed my District Governor training in Solihull & have attended my first Council of Governors meeting with the other 1st Vice District Governors from MD 105. We will become the Council of Governors in 2017-18 and I am confident that as a team we will be more than willing to listen to and act on the wishes of the rank and file members rather than the aspirational few.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor – Lion Kenneth Staniforth**

At the beginning of the Lionistic year, I was determined to make it a year of learning and spent a lot of time listening. It turned out to be a wise decision.

Visiting clubs and listening to the varied ways that they are run by their Members, chaired by their Presidents and promoted to those around, shows perfectly what Lions are all about.....individuality, each member 'doing their bit' for the common goal. Obviously there have been times when individuals have not seen eye to eye but these issues get resolved, mostly in a way that benefits the club as a whole. Our District is strong and will get stronger as long as our message hits the right people. We must shout out and let people know who we are and the fantastic work that we achieve as part of the largest service organization in the World working at local levels.

I have been fortunate enough to assist a few clubs in their Membership Drives, some successful, some not quite, but the main message that I have taken from all the clubs that I have visited is that each have an active membership campaign and must be congratulated for that.

During training last June, I met my fellow 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors and the big debate was of course redistricting as if we are fortunate to carry on our path to represent our Districts as the Governor, it will be up to us to oversee the transition. But as we have already experienced, nothing is set in stone and there are those who are being less than co-operative and totally selfish. Watch this space!!.

Jean and I would like to express our sincere thanks to those Clubs that we have visited both officially and socially for their welcome in true Lionistic style, we have enjoyed each and every one.

Finally, I would like to thank District Governor David, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Peter (and Debbie), the Members of our District and especially the Members of Salisbury and District for your support through our personal trials.

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## **DISTRICT ALMONER - CONVENTION 2017 REPORT – PDG Lion Ron Twining**

I sent out the usual letter introducing myself and asking for details of those passing to higher service along with funeral details, also details of special occasions such as special birthdays, special wedding anniversaries, and of course any one taken ill with a very serious illness, along with details of where to send condolence, congratulation and get well cards etc, this I did at the start of the year. A lot of these details have not been very forthcoming and have made the job somewhat difficult, to say the least.

The Title of Almoner is not given to a person who only deals with deaths but someone who is there to help and deal with other more happy occasions as well, but it seems Lions think it is only to deal with sympathy in death. The District Remembrance Book is of course the permanent way the Lions who pass to higher service are remembered.

Thank you District Governor David for allowing me to be your District Almoner for the past year.

*Let us also remember those ex-lions, who during their life gave of their time and who have now also passed to higher service*

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## **DISTRICT ADMIN TEAM - CONVENTION 2017 REPORTS**

### **From District Secretary – PDG Lion Godwin Micallef**

As usual, my role this year has been similar to prior years which include minute taking at various District meetings and supporting the Clubs with District mailings and assistance, when requested.

Please remember that a one year History of mailings is available on our District website at <http://www.lions105d.org.uk/index/secretary.html>

This information is available to any Lion member, as well as the Public who access our website, so please let your members know. These mailings are regularly posted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of a month, and are available regardless of whether you receive a notification email from me, or not.

The District Directory is also available on our District website. This Directory information is restricted, and is only accessible by authorised Club and District Officers.

Please note that the MyLCI website should be kept up to date, with any changes to member's details and/or meeting places/dates etc. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to provide me with such changes, therefore please make me aware of any changes relating to the Club President, Secretary, Treasurer or to meeting dates/locations. I will then update the online Directory.

The other important factor is that MDHQ also use the MyLCI database, to create the MD Directory and also to post the Lion magazine. Therefore, it is important that all members information is kept up to date.

Convention Books are a summary of our year, in preparation for our Annual General Meeting/Convention. Some information, such as Nominations & Resolutions, will have already been provided to Clubs, by end of January.

However, the full Convention Book, including Cabinet Officer Reports etc. are on our District website, <http://www.lions105d.org.uk/about/convention.html> and is accessible by anyone.

It is assumed that any new Club Secretary receives some training from their predecessor, which includes gaining access to MyLCI and some familiarisation of the monthly reporting tasks.

In addition to this, a familiarisation/training session is provided by the District and I would encourage Secretaries to attend. Failing that, please liaise with me, prior to the start of your year, for some guidance.

As ever, I am here to help you, therefore please feel free to contact me if you need any assistance.

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#### **From District Treasurer - Lion Linda Picton**

Accounts for 2015-2016 Administration and Charitable Trust Accounts have been inspected by Gilroy and Brookes, Accountants. We continue to be grateful for the level of service received enabling our reporting deadlines to be achieved. There was a question raised at Convention 2015 and 2016 suggesting new accountants should be appointed periodically. This was answered in part during the open session on Sunday. I have been assured by Gilroy and Brookes that they would be happy to address any queries relating to the accounts. In the first instance this would be investigated by the individual who carried out the inspection who in turn would refer to another member of the team for a second opinion before offering a response. I hope that this now offers the desired level of confidence in the system. A full set of accounts and related paperwork were discussed with the Finance Committee, who were satisfied that the level of service received was exceptional, particularly as on a no fee basis.

I am pleased to advise that no issues were reported by the Accountants. The final signed documents can be viewed on the 105D website financial information page.

<https://www.lions105d.org.uk/index/financialinformation/2015-16.html> this link has also been circulated by the District Secretary. **Reminder: no hard copies will be printed for Convention.**

Convention 2016 was again a successful event with numbers attending in excess of budget figure which made it possible for surplus funds to be transferred into reserves against previous losses. It is always the intention to offer value for money with a 'break even' result rather than the need to make a profit. This is always a challenge with budget being agreed, hotel and entertainment contracted in advance of bookings being made – which are often very last minute.

Once again many District Officers did not fully claim items of expenditure allowable under the current guidelines which contributed to administrative savings, increasing the reserve funds at the end of the year. The Finance Committee have been asked to look at and define the purpose of our reserves. We must continue to hold sufficient funds for a number of contingencies including, but not limited to:

- replacement of essential equipment
- cancellation of Convention due to bad weather etc.
- additional extraordinary Convention/AGM resulting from any redistricting/restructuring of MD105
- investment in new club development, membership recruitment programmes and additional PR opportunities

Zone Chairpersons have been asked to discuss the investment opportunities highlighted above with their clubs to enable further discussions and a plan of action to be formulated.

A credit of £5.50 per member previously agreed effectively reduces income for 2016-2017 by approx. £6,500. This figure will be taken from Administration Reserves.

Please can I encourage all club members to read the annual report and accounts 2015-2016 and to let me know, in advance of Convention, if there are any areas for which I can offer any further details. The aim is to be concise with the business on the day.

Expenditure on the Administration Account 2016-2017 as at 31st December 2016 appears on target and can be viewed in the relevant column on the Proposed Budget Plan 2017-2018 (copy below) which recommends dues for District 105D to be set at £10 per member. This budget is based on a membership of 1225, which was a realistic membership figure at the time of planning and will, if realised, require approx. £2 member from reserves.

This budget plan as reviewed by Finance Committee and endorsed by Cabinet in October 2016 is now recommended to Convention 2017. The notes page offers more details by way of explanation. At the time of this Convention we await the outcome of redistricting proposals for MD105. Therefore given the uncertainties we face, the target is for a gradual reduction in reserves over an agreed period rather than any major reduction in any given year.

All clubs are also encouraged to review their income and expenditure plans for the year and to ensure that dues are set to adequately cover annual membership fees and other administrative costs associated with the club. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that there will be a US\$10 increase in new member joining fee effective July 2017 as agreed by The International Board of Directors.

All clubs are reminded to send a copy of club end of year accounts to the District Treasurer please.

Clubs with Charitable Trusts are also reminded of the importance of Charity Commission compliance issues relating to reporting of finances and details of Trustees. Charitable Organisation (CIO) status has suffered several major setbacks delaying the roll out. The original plan was to phase the implementation with District 105d being one of three districts in Phase I. However the data received from the 'Expression of Interest' Questionnaires indicated that the number of clubs with income in excess of £5,000 and not registered with Charitable Trust was higher than anticipated. This resulted in questionnaire being circulated across MD105. Overall - 147 clubs with a staggering income of £2,339,109 - have been identified with a need to register with Charity Commission. These clubs will by default take priority status. Following successful registration of pilot clubs roll out will restart early in 2017. It is also hoped that the expectations of those clubs with Charitable Trust status and an identified need to acquire CIO can be managed as part of the initial process.

Thank you to all club treasurers for ensuring that payments continue to be made on time. Your cooperation is much appreciated. Thank you also for so generously supporting the emergency appeals and Lions projects during the year. Details of charity donations YTD are updated at the end of each calendar month, and can be viewed on the 105D website. It is still the recommendation that donations be made via District Treasurer. Keep it simple - for all payments – cheques to District Treasurer – payee - 'LCI District 105D or by BACS if you prefer.

The Finance Committee meets regularly during the year to monitor the finances of District 105D and I am grateful for the support offered. My thanks also go to the District Governor for once again offering me this opportunity to serve as District Treasurer.



2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2015-2016	2016-2017	2016-2017	2017-2018	105D ADMINISTRATION
final 30-Jun-12	final 30-Jun-13	final Jun-14	final 30-Jun-15	PLAN	final Jun-16	BUDGET PLAN	YTD Dec-16	DRAFT	
12154	11859	14472	12926	13750	13788	6765	-93	12250	<b>INCOME</b>
186	162	139	131		116				Membership Dues
72	779				207				Affinity Card
		1775	1156		798				Sundry Income
									Convention Social
<b>12412</b>	<b>12800</b>	<b>16386</b>	<b>14213</b>	<b>13750</b>	<b>14909</b>	<b>6765</b>	<b>-93</b>	<b>12250</b>	<b>Total Income</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>									
<b>District</b>									
800	800	800	800	800	800	800	450	800	District Governor
				500	420	400	61	400	Vice District Governors
804	320	95	175	200	148	200	15	200	District Secretary
279	209	134	175	200	172	200	135	200	District Treasurer
	18		96	100	63	250		350	Sgt at Arms/Centennial
				50		50		50	DG Advisory Cttee
106	75	128	107	100		100		100	Almoner
352	67		43	200	103	200		250	Region 1
543	437	315		500	371	450		475	Region 2
99	179	70	169	200	187	200	10	250	Region 3
96			114	200	75	200	41	250	Region 4
210	145	27	28	200	36	200		250	Region 5
1229		1553	755	2000	260	2000	100	2000	Forums & Room Hire
495	350	10	132	200		200	255	200	Equipment/Regalia
606	883	697	303	750	598	750	152	650	Island Travel
			20						Bank Charges
									Tax
280	67	119	169	200	51	200	98	200	Room Hire (Cabinet)
150									Miscellaneous
<b>6049</b>	<b>3550</b>	<b>3948</b>	<b>3086</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>3284</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>6625</b>	<b>Total District</b>
<b>Committees</b>									
120	367	316	230	450	221	400	203	375	Communications
797	733	354	476	550	408	500	40	450	Community Service
2846	3688	3651	2320	2500	2086	2500	1500	2500	Convention
6756	764								Convention Social
281	341	155	272	200	117	200	133	150	Finance
420	328	580	256	500	350	400	26	375	International Relations
119	119					50	18	50	CNRO
714		127		400		400		400	Lord Mayor Show
313	275	565	410	1000	500	1000	450	1000	Membership Drives
1336	741	829	782	1100	800	1000	266	950	GMT/GLT
				700		700		700	New Club Development
319	775		12	300		300		200	PR
				440		440		440	Training
574	770	390	264	500	417	400	125	400	Youth
<b>14595</b>	<b>8901</b>	<b>6967</b>	<b>5022</b>	<b>8640</b>	<b>4899</b>	<b>8290</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>7990</b>	<b>Total Committees</b>
<b>20644</b>	<b>12451</b>	<b>10915</b>	<b>8108</b>	<b>15040</b>	<b>8183</b>	<b>14690</b>	<b>4078</b>	<b>14615</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>-8232</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>5471</b>	<b>6105</b>	<b>-1290</b>	<b>6726</b>	<b>-7925</b>	<b>-4171</b>	<b>-2365</b>	<b>Shortfall/Surplus</b>
1347	1327	1316		1250		1230	1212	1225	Members
<b>9.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>		<b>11.00</b>		<b>11.00</b>		<b>10.00</b>	
15404	15753	17399	22348		28439	20514			<b>Reserves</b>
685	685	685	685		522	522			Administration
5000	5000	5000	5000		5000	5000			Leos
0		1775	2931		3729	3729			Convention Business
2445	2445	4495	4495		4495	4495			Convention Social
<b>23534</b>	<b>23883</b>	<b>29354</b>	<b>35459</b>		<b>42185</b>	<b>34260</b>			Membership
<b>est yr end</b>									
				<b>12.032</b>			<b>11.9431</b>	<b>11.93</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>

NOTES to budget plan 2017-18				
<b>Income based on membership 1225 @ £10 per member</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
ALL Minor amendments reflect historic expenditure and new Cabinet Structure				
Sgt.at Arms - change of officer 2014-2015. Now includes Centennial Officer				
DG Advisory Committee - not previously utilised - token sum as precaution special meetings				
Region/Zone: minor amendment budget also available within GMT/GLT				
Forums and Room Hire - no change in allocation. Will also provide workshops at convention.				
Island travel - minor amendment to reflect new officers				
Room Hire Cabinet - venue/charge unknown - precautionary sum				
New Club Development: new item				
Training: monies collected to assist with attendance at Institutes etc. IF MOVED TO RESERVES WILL PAY OUT OF GLT BUDGET				
Vice District Governors: previously within GMT/GLT for meetings/visits not covered under official LCI budget				
Lord Mayor Show: awaiting outcome of discussions for Centennial parade.				
Long Range Planning: reassigned CNRO				
Region/Zone budgets: element to assist with transport costs guest speakers at Zone meetings				
Balance 2013-2014 GMT/GLT/Forums/Membership Drives				
. £2050 to New Club Development Reserves.				
. Planned expenditure New club Development over 3 years				
RESERVES	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>rationale</b>
Administration	28439	20514	18149	general reserves
Leos	522	522	522	ring-fenced funds from closure of District Leo Account
Convention Business	5000	5000	5000	ring-fenced funds emergency cancellation protection
Convention Social	3729	3729	3729	rolling total of reimbursement previous overspend totalling 8,500
Membership	4495	4495	4495	ring-fenced funds for New Club Development and Membership projects
Total Reserves	<b>42185</b>	<b>34260</b>	<b>31895</b>	
Estimate use reserves as budget plan		<b>-7925</b>	<b>-2365</b>	5000 Equipment/regalia replacement
				5000 Extra ordinary Convention contingency (redistricting)
		50% dues credit	£2 dues subsidy	
				? PR/Marketing Initiatives
				? Priorities from zones
				? redistricting/reorganisational uncertainties
				Overall aim would be gradual reduction in general reserves
				to approx £10,000 on equivalent 1 year operational costs

## **CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE - CONVENTION 2017 REPORT – [IPDG Lion Alan Chapman](#)**

The 2016 – 2017 Finance Committee consists of myself (Chairman), District Treasurer Lion Linda Picton, District Secretary Godwin Micallef, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Peter Burnett and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Lion Ken Staniforth.

The Committee has met twice officially and once informally prior to the October Cabinet meeting to discuss a known financial question from the floor of that meeting. The question raised was regarding the 2 years general reserves held by the District which amounts to around £25,000 which was considered to be excessive.

It was explained that it is necessary to hold reserves equalling two years income of around £10,000 pa to enable the District to cover any financial eventualities of known and unknown expenditure. The 2 year reserve was ratified by a resolution at the 2009/2010 Convention; it will require a new resolution to change this.

It has been noticeable to me as Chairman and signatory to expense claims, that very few Cabinet members are making the claims that they are entitled to, this is one of the reasons for the reserves being higher than expected; if a cabinet member does not wish to claim their expenses, there is a box on the claim form to donate the money to a District project of their choice.

There is also a legal case involving an insurance claim which has been ongoing regarding an event held 4 years ago in District 105C. District 105D was cited in error, but District Treasurer Linda is still in the process of dealing with solicitors to rectify this case of Mistaken Identity where our reputation could be compromised. The case is still pending at the time of writing this report.



There will be two further meetings held before our Convention, both of which will be Conference Calls. The committee continues to monitor the District finances on a day to day basis, and the District Governor is kept up to date with all financial matters as they arise.

The District 2017/18 budget has been discussed and prepared along with the 2018 Convention budget ready for presentation to this Convention.

The Committee agreed that the District dues for 2017/2018 should be reduced to £10.00, a reduction of £1 on the previous year.

The District accounts for 2015/2016 have been inspected by our auditors and found to be an accurate record for the year. It has been suggested that, due to the length of time we have used Gilroy Brooks as our auditors, it is time to consider a new auditor as one would do in a commercial business. Gilroy Brooks have assured us that the inspection is done by different personnel each year and there is no complacency regarding the annual inspection. The Financial Committee is happy with this scenario as there has never been any complaint and there is no cost to the District.

It is with pride that I report that the District Service, the 2016 Convention and the District Handover were successfully held without financial support from the District reserves, this is a trend which must continue. District Treasurer Linda is still beaver away with the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) process, so far the Trowbridge Lions Club is the only club now registered as a CIO in 105D. It is hoped that more clubs will be registered in the not too distant future.

I have to admit that, at first I found the chairmanship of the Finance Committee a slightly daunting task, but with the assistance of the Treasurer Lion Linda and the Secretary PDG Godwin, the task became clear and understandable. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and especially Lion Linda for the time she puts into the daily running of the financial aspect of the District, her knowledge and dedication is second to none.

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## **ZONE CHAIRMEN - CONVENTION 2017 REPORTS**

### **Zone 1A Chairman - Lion Peter Oswick**

At the end of the first six months of this Lion year there are 67 members across the four Clubs, which is three down for the period.

All Clubs are aware of the need for new younger members and are making special efforts.

Bridport have a very young President in Lucy Paull only 21 years of age and doing a really great job.

Efforts are still being made to raise the Lions profile in the Sherborne and Wincanton areas, Blackmore Vale again visited both areas with their Xmas float with great success and plan to hold a significant concert at Sherborne Abbey with the Treorchy Male Voice Choir on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Zone clubs again had a marketing display at the Dorset Show in September helping to raise the profile of Lions. It is expected that the Zone will again have this display at the September 2017 show.

All Clubs continue to work exceptionally hard in their communities raising substantial funds for their Charity work. Falling membership does not help and as said so many times we are all so thankful of the help given by "Friends of Lions". Also where possible our Clubs help each other.

Weymouth and Portland had a record 398 people enter their Christmas Day swim. Brrrrrrr !!

With support from the Zone Clubs a cheque for £2000 was presented to Future Roots who use farming and the countryside to provide effective solutions to health and social problems for young and old.

The annual zone lunch and the annual inter Club skittles match are being planned.

The 2017 zone project will be agreed at the next Zone meeting.

Overall we are not happy that the Zone is being moved to SW District considering the strong ties we have with local clubs in Dorset.

### **Zone 1B Chairman - Lion George Pothecary**

Membership within the zone has benefited from a small growth over the year (2016: 105 2017: 115). Three clubs have a membership of less than 20 but this has not diminished their commitment or activity. The Bournemouth club has successfully recruited two younger members and I believe this reflects their commitment to work with youth and also demonstrates that clubs with some younger members are likely to have more success at attracting others.

Sadly the zone lost one club last summer and my hope that they might reconsider and pick up their charter with twelve months has not been realised. However, some former members have indicated that they would be willing to continue as 'Friends' and I'm currently pursuing this in the hope that positive momentum might lead to the club being restarted at a future date.

All clubs in the zone have raised money for local causes and contributed to national and international appeals. That said, the priority for members is to serve their local communities. Bournemouth again merit mention in view of the imagination they have shown by organising a healthy living event, staging a 'Murder Mystery' evening and putting on a Pantomime.

The Zone's Annual Activity Day for young people living with physical and mental disability was again held at Redcliffe Farm thanks to the generous support of the owner. Nearly 200 people including careers attended. In addition to a BBQ and a Disco the activities available included canoeing, boat trips on the river, trailer rides, skittles and hoopla.

### **Zone 2C Chairman - Lion Jarvis MacDonald**

By the time the convention arrives I will have made all my visits to all the zone clubs. All clubs have different characteristics but all share the same objectives to serve their areas well.

As a zone we are 3 members up from last June at 119 members, I know 3 clubs that will be badging up new members in Jan/Feb, so by the time of convention the zone should be up to 122-123 members

We have held two zone meetings (Exchanges) which have been lively events discussing such topics as encouraging more ladies to join, how to encourage younger members to clubs and of course redistricting

We are holding two social events, a game night in January where all clubs meet and compete for the "Valued Horn Trophy" and a five-a-side cricket tournament in May

Many of the clubs assist each other at events which helps get through larger events and create closer ties

With regards redistricting the clubs are generally in agreement with the district view of 8 clubs – the main point is that they want our District and Zone 2c to remain intact

Westbury continue to run a vibrant Leos club with many events and tasks being undertaken by over 25 Leos members. In January Westbury will be badging one member of Leos up to a full Lion

#### **Zone 2D Chairman - [Lion Devan Kandiah](#)**

All clubs are aware and actively promoting and recruiting members to enable us to continue the great service to the community. Romsey have so far the best recruitment success and a well done to Romsey.

Both Eastleigh and Romsey Clubs are planning to have a grand joint Charter Dinner Dance to celebrate the Centennial year. This joint social event hopefully will lead to more joint activities both social and Community activities.

Clubs in the Zone will be contacted shortly for me to co- ordinate where possible the Centennial Year projects in the Zone.

#### **Zone 2E Chairman - [Lion Jenny Bithell](#)**

The clubs in this zone continue to progress. Four of the five clubs have increased their membership this year and their existing members have been retained. Recruitment as ever is a problem, and recruitment events have not worked well for all the clubs.

A lot of work has been going on throughout the zone in preparation for centennial celebrations, but large scale festivals, town events etc. are becoming more of a problem with shortages in manpower, often due to the increasing age of members.

The link with Brockenhurst College remains strong and another group of young people went on Youth Exchanges this year, returning to give their presentations at an evening in New Milton. This club has a very ambitious programme for a six week centennial festival of events during early summer. Christchurch club has lost its regular venue and is still looking for another permanent meeting place, Ringwood and Fordingbridge, Hythe & Waterside and Lymington & Brockenhurst all continue working hard and are actively involved in their regular Lions projects and work in their local communities.

#### **Zone 3F Chairman – [Lion Reg Norton](#)**

Despite the best efforts of the five clubs, notably the Lions Club of Fareham who added 5 to their membership, we reach the half way mark in our year with a total of 53 members, two less than this time last year! However, each of our clubs is determined to increase membership during this Centennial Year.

As Zone Chairman I have visited all clubs for their business meetings and had the pleasure of presenting various awards and centennial achievement patches, particularly with the Lions Club of Gosport & Lee on Solent. I have also taken part in a number of social and fundraising activities. We have had one Zone Meeting hosted on a club meeting night by the Lions Club of Crofton.

Another is planned early in 2017 when plans will be discussed for joint service activities and challenges related to this special year.

I regret that I have not been able to be as active as I would have liked due to ongoing cancer treatment from October 2016 until April 2017.

#### **Zone 3G Chairman – [Lion Anne Twining](#)**

Since starting my second year as Zone Chairman, I have had family matters that had to take priority over Lions matters, so at the time of writing this report (4<sup>th</sup> January 2017), I have only undertaken one club visit, but the others are all scheduled to be completed before convention in March.

Two Zone Exchanges have been held, hosted by Sandown and Shanklin in September 2016 and Newport in November 2016. Ryde will be hosting the next one in February, then Ventnor in March and Cowes in June, which will mean that by the end of the Lions year, each club will have hosted one.

Newport and Cowes hosted a very good Zone Social at the end of the last Lions year, this year it will be hosted by Sandown and Shanklin.

The clubs of 3G are planning a Centennial Fayre in July 2017.

I would like to thank my husband PDG Lion Ron Twining for his support over the last six months, especially for being my computer slave.

### **Zone 3H Chairman – [Lion Gordon Rhodes](#)**

Zone 3H is one of the smaller zones in the District and includes four Clubs of which the oldest, Portsmouth, has celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary this year. Cosham is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Charter this year. Havant held the 50<sup>th</sup> Charter two years ago. Hayling has been established around 20 years.

The present position of the Clubs varies greatly with Hayling and Havant in good positions with well-established meeting venues, fundraising and welfare activities whilst also attracting new members. The Portsmouth and Cosham Clubs are currently much weaker despite the current Presidents being experienced Lions with experience at DG and Cabinet level.

As Zone Chairman I have visited all Clubs at least once during the year and we have held a Zone Meeting. This was attended by representatives of all the Clubs but in small numbers. A Zone Social planned by my predecessor and Portsmouth Club in the summer was abandoned due to lack of support.

Another Zone Social is to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January hosted by Hayling Club. There is generally a good working relationship between Hayling and Havant Clubs who will attend. We are trying to encourage Cosham and Portsmouth to become more involved and benefit from the support of the more successful Clubs.

A joint Zone Membership Event is also planned in the early spring as is a membership drive at a public street event being held in Cosham.

The weaknesses in both Portsmouth and Cosham are due to low numbers of membership coupled with a number of members being very inactive. The age profile of both clubs is quite high and they both have a number of poor health issues amongst their members. They are actively looking at how the two clubs can work together. We are trying to support and District is also involved in advice and offers of support as necessary.

### **Zone 4I Chairman – [Lion Roy Cuthbertson](#)**

Zone exchanges well attended and we continue with the sharing information and experience between Clubs. Fundraising throughout the Zone remained buoyant as did our levels of service and support.

Although there has been a slight reduction in the last period, Clubs membership in general remains healthy with over 20 members in all four clubs in the zone. The higher than normal loss at Meon Valley is being addressed but 3 of the losses were due to members moving out of the area.

Governance & cost Change Proposals – The initiative which was adopted & progressed by the zone and led to the Open Forum held in Alton in June 15 is still being progressed. Following success with resolutions brought to District and MD Conventions in 2016 a further resolution pertaining to 'Partner Travel Assistance' has been submitted for the 2017 MD Convention. The focus for the next period will be to try to network with other like minded Zones & Clubs in both our own and other Districts in order to progress further meaningful change that will enhance Lionism in the UK to better serve our communities.

### **10.5.10 Zone 4J Chairman – [Lion Tony Bamberger](#)**

The zone clubs are all active and membership has generally held up well over the past year. The zone meetings are generally well attended by all clubs. This year the clubs have agreed to support an initiative from Loddon Valley to install a call monitoring system for vulnerable people, this is due to come to fruition in the spring. Three club visits were completed last year with two visits to each of the zone clubs. Three club visits have been completed with another due in first quarter of 2017.

We have had two Zone Exchanges so far with another two arranged for March and probably June.

Membership is currently Andover 10, Basingstoke 20, Loddon Valley 34 and Newbury 18 but there are at least 3 new members in the pipeline.

All three clubs are active and committed and have done some great work in the community and raised lots of money. There are a wide range of activities across the zone from firework displays, pink pig races, treacle fair to concerts, swimathons, quizzes and of course Christmas collections. A huge range of welfare type work has also been achieved from individuals requiring help to efforts around world site day, special school minibus and many others.

The clubs are very supportive of each other and always willing to help with ideas and advice and guidance.

#### **10.5.11 Zone 4K Chairman – [Lion Marilyn Robson](#)**

The Zone is doing well. Two of the clubs have low membership but still operate well. Aldershot Club Branch is desperate to become a full club but recruiting new members proves difficult.

There have been changes at Fleet club. The members of their Club Branch, Fleet Sirius, have now become full members of Fleet Lions. This has meant that Fleet club now have lady members. They have also created a new Club Branch for their members over 70, who have completed more than 10 years with Fleet Lions. Not all of their members over 70 wished to join this new Club Branch which is called Fleet Lions Old Guys.

With Fleet Club becoming mixed gender Hart Lions, who are also based in Fleet, have chosen to remain single sex. They feel that their club is working well and has attracted a good number of new members over the last couple of years.

The Zone clubs work well together and still run a very successful Zone Event, Funfest, which has been running for well over 25 years.

I have held two Zone exchanges and will have held another at the beginning of March. The numbers attending are good at over 35, but it would be good if clubs could encourage their newer members to attend.

#### **10.5.12 Zone 5L Chairman – [Lion Melvyn Williams](#)**

NIL report due to illness.

#### **10.5.13 Zone 5M Chairman – [Lion Tim Hanton](#)**

Since my last report for Covention, we have held 3 Zone meetings. These have continued to have a social theme to them:

\* In February we held a meal meeting

\* In May, we held an evening at SportsAble in Maidenhead, at which we participated in a number of disabled sports and also raised money for SportsAble.

\* In November, we had held a business meeting.

Bracknell. Membership is 19.

Membership is now at 19, with a further 2 attending business meetings on a regular basis. This is great position as a few years ago they were down to 4 members. They had a very successful Bracknell Show. Bracknell have also launched a project in Gambia - more details on this can be found on [www.gambia.bracknellforestlions.org.uk](http://www.gambia.bracknellforestlions.org.uk).

Reading. Membership is 37.

Membership continues to be strong the Club is very active in its local community. They held their 1st Dragon Boat Festival last August and are looking to repeat it next year. They held a successful Charity Golf Day in July and a fireworks evening on November. Their evening to screen men for Prostate Cancer continues to be very successful in attracting attendees and increasing publicity for this Cancer. The Club continues to be very active socially with a large number of events.

Wokingham. Membership is 33.

Membership continues to be strong. The Club continues to have a number of successful fundraising activities including a May Fayre, the running a beer festival in August and a Firework display with a consortium of five Service Clubs. The Club has also been very active in the local community supporting various charities and local groups. The Club also has an active social programme, aiming to put on at least one social event per month.

Woodley & Earley. Membership is 20.

Woodley and Earley have faced a few challenges during this Lions year with their President resigning. Despite this, the Club continues to be very active. Their Fireworks event raising a record profit this year and the Club is very active with their refurbished eco-friendly sleigh. They also have an active social programme. One of their members - Lion Philip Barry - has collected 63,000 glasses for SpecTrek over the last 11 years.

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## **COMMITTEES - CONVENTION 2017 REPORTS**

### **DISTRICT CLUB DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **GMT Co-ordinator - [Lion Pauline McCreanor](#)**

Since our last convention the team have once again been trying their utmost to encourage the clubs to tackle the issues of Membership, Extension, and particularly Retention within the District. It is once again with regret that I have to report the loss of a club due mainly to ageing membership and members not wishing to take on leadership roles within the club.

Members of the Lions club of Salisbury are still working towards establishing one or two forces clubs within the District.

We are still working hard in trying to improve communication within the District we need both negative and positive feedback from the clubs and zones in order to be able to assist where necessary and to be able to share best practices, there are clubs that have inducted new members and held successful membership initiatives. The team have and will continue to respond to requests of help and support from clubs.

At the time of writing this report our membership stands at 1213 year to date having added 56 new members and dropping 54 which once again highlights the importance of Retention.

I have continued to work closely with the Leadership Co-Ordinator holding regular meetings. We also held a Membership Extension and Retention evening in October where members were able to share best practices and speak openly about their concerns regarding all aspects of Membership and Leadership.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Peter has communicated with Leadership Co-Ordinator David and myself regarding his action plans for the next fiscal year.

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#### **GLT Co-Ordinator – [PDG Lion David Merchant](#)**

Since our last District Convention the following leadership opportunities have been held:

- (i) The Incoming Officers Seminar last April was very well attended and well received; this led to both Club and District Officers being prepared for their year in office. The event was also open to any Lions who wished to learn more about the organisation and a number of 'new' Lions took advantage of this opportunity, one which will be repeated in 2017.
- (ii) An evening on Recruitment and Retention was held in Southampton in October; this was extremely well attended and a series of useful notes, for use by Lions throughout the District, have been circulated with copy on the District website.

Plans are now well advanced for this year's Incoming Officers' Seminars, however we are attempting to attract even more Lions by providing the Seminars on different dates and in different locations around the District. These will be: Zone Chairs Seminar on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May in Southampton and Incoming Club Officers on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May in Southampton or Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the Reading area or Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June in Blandford. Those wishing to attend will be able to select the date and venue most convenient to their own needs.

I continue to work closely with the Membership Coordinator and we hold regular meetings with the Leadership and Membership Teams, including face to face and through Conference Calls. These meetings allow us to keep abreast of developments across the District and for us to feed relevant information to Clubs via the Zone Chairs and as a channel for information from Clubs to District..

I will arrange for both Cabinet and Lions throughout the District to receive presentations on Managing Change should the proposed plans for redistricting go ahead.

It is pleasing to report this year that a few Clubs and some individual Lions have sought support or advice on specific leadership topics for their Clubs and on a personal basis.



## **DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO – [Lion Tom Sayers](#)**

### **Communications Portfolio Coordinator – [Tom Sayers](#)**

You may have noticed that there is more and fresher content on the District website this year. This has been driven by DG David and made possible by the enormous contribution from PRO Richard Keeley.

Richard and I continue to work to further improve the information available to Cabinet Officers and clubs and DG David's suggestions have been very useful. Much more information can be accessed once logged-in. The District Directory is a good example but various documents and forms such as Insurance notes, Risk Assessments, Cabinet Minutes and Accounts are available.

Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter are being used more and more by clubs and District to help spread awareness of Lions projects. There is a Facebook feed on our Home page so you can read District posts even if you do not use Facebook.

This year's Convention website is simply <http://2017.lions105d.org.uk> and reflects the Convention theme for the year, "Centennial Convention" and gives comprehensive information and on-line booking form.

The District 105D Times newsletters, ably edited by Peter Tabb, are uploaded to the website each month and appear on a 'Lions year' page with thumbnail images of each month. The latest issue is featured on the Home page with a thumbnail image and link to the full colour version and another link to a reduced colour version for printing without backgrounds to save your ink!

The Clubs page of the website is a database of club information such as the names of the officers, meeting dates/venues and links to the club website/contacts together with Zone and Region data. Club secretaries may log-in and update 'their page' to add/edit details of meetings and venues etc.

We have a great resource in our website and I urge you all to get involved in using it, promoting it and improving it.

**Tom Sayers – [it@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:it@lions105d.org.uk)**

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### **District Insurance Adviser – [Jo Hamblin](#)**

I continue to use the District Mailing to issue insurance guidance notes to Club Presidents throughout the year. These notes are uploaded onto the District website and occasionally included in the District Newsletter.

I have continued to update the links on the insurance webpage to the Multiple District website together with that of our Insurance Brokers, Miles Smith.

I have continued to answer calls and emails from Clubs relating to insurance queries and continue to be available to provide assistance to Clubs and Members as required.

There have been recent changes to our insurance arrangements during the year. The first is that we now have an element of medical negligence cover in place to cater for Clubs who undertake Prostate Cancer Awareness and screening events and require cover for the phlebotomists/persons taking the blood samples.

The second is that insurers have revisited their 'flood mapping' and as a result a number of Clubs in the Multiple District that have specialist property insurance in place for owned/leased premises have been advised that the flood risk is now excluded. Each Club affected has been advised directly by the Brokers, Miles Smith.

**Jo Hamblin – [insurance@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:insurance@lions105d.org.uk)**

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### **District Health & Safety Officer – [Jo Hamblin](#)**

I continue to update Clubs on Health & Safety matters using the District Mailing, the District website and occasionally the District Newsletter.

I have attended two Region/Zone meetings to hold a question and answers session on Health & Safety. Both were well received.

I have continued to answer calls and emails from Clubs relating to Health & Safety queries and continue to be available to provide assistance to Clubs and Members as required.

**Jo Hamblin – [insurance@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:insurance@lions105d.org.uk)**

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## **Marketing & PR Co-ordinator – [Richard Keeley](#)**

Regular PR advice requests are being received from Clubs throughout the District. The majority of requests have been for social media advice.

It is heartening to witness Clubs making greater use of online tools such as social media and websites. Likewise clubs are utilising local radio and television stations on an increasing basis. This coverage is further expanded through social media.

The MD PR monthly Newsfeeds have been published in the “members” area of the District 105D website.

The PR Equipment Pool continues to be well used. Previously recorded difficulties with unrecorded equipment transfers between clubs have improved significantly. My thanks go out to the Clubs who have gone out of their way to maintain lines of communication to ensure the smooth transfer of equipment between clubs at busy times.

In the final weeks of 2016 the finishing touches have been made to the new online PR Equipment Booking Page for the District 105D website. Minor bugs delayed its release in December but during January final tests are being carried out before its release in early February.

This new system maintains records of all District PR and training equipment and enables clubs to book PR Equipment directly through the web page. This in turn creates automatic email alerts to clubs using the equipment during nearby time frames. Also email booking alerts will go to the system administrators and the central PR Equipment Pool in Durrington near Amesbury. VDG Ken Staniforth is kindly storing, booking-in and issuing the PR equipment items.

Full details of how to access and use the online booking system will be published in the District Mailing and 105D Times.

Our thanks go to District Webmaster Tom Sayers and his Team for creating this comprehensive database and booking system. Sincere thanks also to VDG Ken for running the central PR equipment point.

The centralisation of PR Equipment assets will enable continued monitoring of the condition and serviceability of these assets. In the case of the Roadshow Gazebo the frame bag has already been replaced as fair wear and tear had rendered the original bag unusable. Also anchor weights have been purchased to enable the gazebo to be used on tarmac surfaces etc where it can't be anchored down with guy ropes.

PR training will be reviewed with Zone Chairmen in early 2017. The offer of regional training last Lionistic Year created little interest so an assessment will be made to whether structured regional tutorials should be set up or if the continuation of one-to-one telephone and email support is more suitable.

**Richard Keeley – [pro@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:pro@lions105d.org.uk)**

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## **Newsletter Editor – [Peter Tabb](#)**

Since taking on the role of Editor of the District Newsletter at the beginning of the 2014 Lions year, I have consistently tried to make the newsletter visually interesting and readable. Thanks to consistent input from a number of Clubs – a small and articulate minority – I have sought to create an inspirational publication that reflects the dynamism of the District and the Clubs that comprise it.

As stated in my report to the 2016 Convention, despite there being in excess of 60 Clubs in the District, I receive reports for publication on a regular basis from less than a dozen and consequently it is those that achieve the most coverage and while I try to vary the content as much as possible, there have been editions which might seem to have been for the benefit of very few Clubs. Having established within the past 12 months that eight pages are capable of relatively easy transmission, that number of pages has now become the norm, allowing me to publish larger articles where they are merited although I still receive many articles that are far too wordy. When giving a talk to District PROs and press officers in April last year, I stressed the need to keep articles brief and punchy and am still disappointed to see that articles sent to me (a sympathetic recipient) are the same as those being sent to other media when I know that the 105D Times will be the only medium to publish their efforts. My publication “Engaging the Media” (the result of my 50 years’ experience) is available from the District website once logged-in.

Having initially been accused of making excessive inroads into Club Secretaries’ ink stocks – a much less colourful version continues to be available on the 105D website and my thanks once again to our webmaster Lion Tom Sayers for his consistent help and advice.

My thanks also to all those press officers who take the time and trouble to prepare articles for publication and while I retain the editorial eyeshade I will endeavour to present the Lions Clubs of our District as the innovative, enthusiastic and hard-working organisations they are, ably fulfilling in this Centennial year, the ethos of our founder that ‘we serve’.

**Peter Tabb – [news@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:news@lions105d.org.uk)**

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS PORTFOLIO HOLDER - PDG Lion Judith Goodchild**

### **Community Relations Portfolio Holder - PDG Judith Goodchild**

As ever this has again been a very exciting and challenging year and I thank DG David for giving me the opportunity to continue this role and for having confidence in me to carry it out. It is a very big portfolio and I am very grateful to my Deputy Iain Pudney, who is looking after MIAB and MedicAlert, to the Vulnerable Persons Officer Marilyn Skennerton; to the Paultons Park Projects Officer Richard Owen and to PDG Pat Nixon who has continued in the role of District Alzheimer & Dementia Awareness Officer for taking on some of the responsibility.

I have educated myself, and continue to do so, in all aspects of the portfolio. I maintain web pages as needed. I continue writing a bi monthly letter in the District Mailing.

I have the following comments to make on the various aspects of the portfolio:

#### **Competitions**

This year the Travelling Lion Competition has not had sufficient entries to make it viable. As I write this I await entries in the Environmental Poster and Photographic competitions. The rules at International level for the photo competition have changed and the rules for the MD Competition and thus our District competition were also altered to reflect this. Of the remaining competitions some will both have been announced and reported on elsewhere, e.g. Peace Poster and Young Ambassador, but the remaining winners will be announced at Convention.

#### **Environmental Projects**

This year the emphasis has been on the Centennial projects as many are related to the environment and I am pleased to see that clubs are planting bulbs and flowers and trees, recycling batteries and clearing paths.

#### **Diabetes Awareness**

Diabetes remains a serious health problem. I advertised the fact that World Diabetes Day was on November 14<sup>th</sup> and asked if clubs were doing anything for it but I have received no information to date.

#### **Disabilities, Speech and Hearing**

Our DG Lion David has made Special Olympics his charity for the year. This is a very worthy cause and I hope clubs are supporting it.

Paultons Park was again a great success. Lion Richard Owen has submitted his report on this. My thanks to Richard for taking this task on.

If anyone is looking for a local charity to support then I recommend CSSEF. Karen Jackson has spoken at past conventions and her team is working hard to help children who cannot hear. Many Lions suffer from hearing loss as they get older and it is frustrating for both those who cannot hear and those close to them who have to repeat what they are saying. Just imagine how much more difficult it is for a child who has never heard anything?

Hearing aids that are no longer needed can be recycled along with specs and handed in at Spektrek.

#### **Sight Programmes**

Once again, Spec Trek 2016 was very successful with a large number of spectacles collected. Thanks to both Petersfield Club who organised the day and to all Clubs that collect spectacles for re-use. Spec Trek 2017 is on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April. It is gratifying to see that so many clubs are taking part in the Centennial challenge to collect 1,000,000 pairs of used glasses.

A good local charity to support is Living Paintings based at Kingsclere who provide special "living books" for the blind to enjoy.

A number of Clubs took part in World Sight Day and several Lions enjoyed visiting Chichester Lions Open Day. The Lions Eye Health Programme is a very important public awareness opportunity, reminding people to have their eyes tested to combat glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. This is achieved by distribution of literature and poster displays. Thank you to all the Clubs within our District continue to promote the programme.

#### **LIBRA**

If anyone wants up to date newsletters from LIBRA, please contact me.

If anyone requires further information on any of the above topics then please contact me

PDG Judith Goodchild

[welfare@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:welfare@lions105d.org.uk) or [judith.goodchild@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:judith.goodchild@lions105d.org.uk)

Tel: 0118 981 2260

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## **MedicAlert Officer & Message in a Bottle Officer - [Lion Iain Pudney](#)**

MedicAlert are proud to have been working with Lions since 1962 and we should all strive to maintain the links we have built up over the years.

Their various programmes are structured to provide an excellent level of service to all their members and the transfer to a new Database, whilst having a few teething problems, is due to provide an enhanced level of service and payment options to make it easier for people to afford to be members.

The main benefits of MedicAlert are: -

- 1) 24/7 cover for 365 days a year regardless of where you are in the world
- 2) The only information carried around is the bracelet or pendant with a phone number and minimal information on main medical conditions
- 3) There is a membership number giving a unique identification to each Member
- 4) The relevant personal data is held on a secure database at the London Ambulance Service
- 5) There is a medical professional on the end of the phone line whenever it is called
- 6) Training is available for medical professionals
- 7) On the front of the bracelet or pendant is a universally recognised medical symbol
- 8) MedicAlert provide Training for the Emergency Services as part of their normal operations

If you wish to have a presentation for your Members we have PowerPoint presentations, posters and leaflets. I am also available at any time to come and give a talk to any group in your area, just contact me.

Remember, the scheme works well with Message in a Bottle if you stress that Message in a Bottle is for Inside the Home and MedicAlert is for Outside the Home.

The Message in a Bottle scheme has now settled down with the new one-stop shop from the Prison Service and is geared up for an almost instantaneous delivery of bottles upon receipt of an order and payment. South Central Ambulance Service are looking to have a supply of bottles in every Ambulance and this is being pursued with a view to getting some sponsorship if possible.

Message in a Wallet may well be very localised, and that sole attendees to an individual may not be happy looking in someone's wallet in case they are accused of something. Also, it may not be recognised outside the immediate area. The only way to ensure that individuals receive the appropriate treatment anywhere in the world 24/7 for 365 days a year is for them to have a MedicAlert Bracelet, Pendant or Watch. MedicAlert will also ensure that the individual is reminded to check the details being held at least once a year, which might not be the case with either Message in a Bottle or Message in a Wallet, unless the individuals concerned regularly update their forms for significant changes in their circumstances.

Finally, when distributing leaflets to the Public, please ensure that the Club name at least is on the leaflet either in the form of a sticker or stamp. That way Lions will get the recognition we deserve both at MedicAlert, in respect of MedicAlert Leaflets, and with the Public at large with respect to any leaflets we are distributing.

Lion Iain Pudney

District 105D Deputy Community Services Officer

[depwelfare@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:depwelfare@lions105d.org.uk)

Tel: 01628 665019

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## **Vulnerable Persons Officer Report [Lion Marilyn Skennerton](#)**

There have been no government changes to the DBS in the last year. However there are still problems arising from the interpretation of the official government web site and this will continue whilst the checks are voluntary.

The problem is compounded because other outside agencies such as schools, community centres, youth clubs, organisations that deal with the elderly etc can introduce their own requirements. e.g. some schools require anyone going into their building to assist with reading to the pupils to be checked and cleared others take the view as the Lion member is not on their own with a pupil therefore this is not required. Similarly a Lion member driving a mini bus for the elderly in some regions will need to be checked whereas in another this is not required. The only way to be sure is to check with the organisations you are involved with in your area and work with them.

More and more clubs are now automatically registering all new members and this seems the obvious way forward. To those people who complain it is an infringement of their privacy I think the question is why. The information given on the forms is readily available to a number of other agencies.

It is better to be safe than sorry and at the end of the day if we are to serve our community then we have to be seen to be open and honest.

Lion Marilyn Skennerton [vulnerable@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:vulnerable@lions105d.org.uk)

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#### **Paultons Park Day Outing - Lion Richard Owen (Warminster)**

Following the successful visit in 2016 when some 1,700 guests were entertained by 34 Clubs from the District, arrangements have now been confirmed for this year (2017), and details will be circulated by the District Secretary in January.

After consultation with the DG and Paultons Park we will be able to visit again on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, and have been offered the hugely discounted price of £11.00 per ticket, further reduced to £10.75 by means of a subsidy from the District Paultons Fund.

Paultons Park management team are very keen that we should again be paying them a visit, and we are indebted to them for offering us such a wonderful opportunity to offer our guests a fantastic day out.

Lion Richard Owen (Warminster).

[disabilities@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:disabilities@lions105d.org.uk)

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#### **District Dementia Awareness Officer - PDG LION PAT NIXON**

It is very difficult to write anything very different to the report I gave at this time last year when I urged all clubs to look at the Dementia project and to find a way of becoming involved and at the same time raise their own profile within their community.

To date I have spoken with representatives of thirty-one of our clubs in 105D. All those clubs have had information packs with suggestions on possibilities for involvement. I just wish that the remainder through their Zone chairs had made contact! It is my aim to have packs available, for those I have not reached, to collect at Convention.

As you are aware this project came about because seven years ago, my husband Lion Eric, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Over the past 18 months Eric has been with me as I have spoken to clubs. He has openly spoken about what has happened to him and shared his feelings. He has proved that life goes on after diagnosis.

However it is now becoming more difficult for us to travel and stay away from home. I will not therefore be continuing in this role, in its present form, after the end of this Lionic year, although I will always be available to offer advice.

There is so much more that Lions Clubs can do !.....With knowledge you can all help!

PDG Lion Pat Nixon

[adao@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:adao@lions105d.org.uk)

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – PDG Lion Barrie Richardson.**

### **Europa Forum.**

What is Europa Forum? Quite simply it is the Annual General Meeting of all the Multiple Districts in Europe, our Constitutional Area, very much as our District Convention is the Annual General Meeting of all Clubs within our District. Business takes place over three days with added social events. Voting on any Resolutions proposed is on the basis of one vote for each Multiple District present.

My job as I see it, is to encourage participation by members of our District, disseminate information as it is received, encourage Clubs, Zones and Regions to prepare and submit reports of successful activities which could be considered for inclusion in future Forums and to investigate Group travel facilities for members attending where this is practicable.

The **62<sup>nd</sup> Europa Forum** was held in **Sofia, Bulgaria** on **28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016** hosted by our colleagues in **District 130, Bulgaria** and followed the theme **“United to Serve”**. Due to unforeseen circumstances I had to withdraw from attending at the last minute but I am aware that at least one member from our District did attend.

I have to report that contrary to the Rules of Procedure only a very few of the minor meeting Agendas were published on the Forum website prior to the event taking place, which is most unsatisfactory. In addition I received no information from the newly appointed MD Europa Forum Chairperson and there was no information evident on the MD website. However, I note from the Council Minutes that consideration was given to Proposals received that leads me to assume that at least some information had been received at MD level by whatever means, that was not disseminated to District level!

At the time of writing I am still awaiting feedback to be able to report further.

The **63<sup>rd</sup> Europa Forum** will be in **Montreux, Switzerland** on **28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017**. The official Forum website at [www.europaforum2017.org](http://www.europaforum2017.org) is up and running but with very little information at the date of preparing this report.

### **Music Competition.**

The District Competition is currently suspended pending the outcome of a review of the overall competition being undertaken by the COG.

Last years competition featured the violin but no entries were received with the result that the District Competition was abandoned and we were unable to field a candidate in the MD Competition that took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 at the Chethams School of Music, Manchester.

### **United Nations Day at the Palace of Westminster.**

Eleven members from our District attended last year's event that was held on Tuesday, 15th March 2016. A well organised event with many interesting topics presented with a good report in the Lion magazine. Some enjoyed the fun and fellowship at a Dinner following the event before departing on the homeward journey that in it-self, proved to be problematic for some! At that time of the evening it does help to get on the correct train to reach home!

Thirteen members have registered an interest in attending this year's event to be held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in our usual venue, Committee Room 14.

### **MD Initiated International Projects.**

There have been no changes since my report to Convention last year.

### **Dentaid Liaison Committee Chairman – PDG Lion Roger Huntley.**

Committee: Lions Ian Simpson, Richard Frost, Tricia Snook.

Three Liaison Committee meetings are held through the year at Dentaid offices. The year to date is progressing satisfactorily.

In the last year the Dentaid charity has continued to progress and re-shape. Staffing at Dentaid is currently two full time salaried staff plus seven part time paid and several volunteers in the office and workshop. They have a volunteer who builds the frames for portable chairs in his own workshop at home in Chippenham.



In addition to the support of the Lions and other charitable sources, a considerable amount of financial support comes from within the Dental profession itself.

A number of projects have been undertaken during the year, with Dentaaid expanding its operation in the UK with the use of the Mobile Surgery purchased from the Dorset Health Authority. This service is aimed at the homeless community and those in the community who are unable to afford NHS or private dental charges. The mobile surgery is also being used to attend schools and provide oral health education. Lions decals have been provided to be put on the vehicle, in appreciation of Lions support, in particular a generous donation of £1000 from Blackmore Vale Lions Club.

Dentaaid has also been working alongside the Red Cross at various European Refugee Camps mainly in Greece, and they have over 100 volunteers who work in rotation, although the amount of European red tape has proved extremely difficult to work with.

As in previous years it is hoped once again to be able to take a Dentaaid promotion stand to various District Conventions and the MD Convention.

We wait with interest the outcome of the Re-Districting process and how this will affect Dentaaid support as a 105D project.

Finally, I express grateful thanks to the members for the enthusiasm shown towards Dentaaid particularly with financial donations and the collection of recycled equipment, which is efficiently administered by Lion Richard Frost of Blackmore Vale Lions Club, much of which is perfectly serviceable and useable but simply does not meet with current EU/UK requirements. Thanks also to the staff at Dentaaid. Together we hope to improve dental care and education, particularly in areas of the world where it would otherwise be unavailable.

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### **LCIF AND DISASTER COORDINATOR – PDG Lion Patrick Hamblin**

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is our own international charity. The work of LCIF can be found on its website – [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org). To ensure that all funds are used wisely they are managed with local Lions Clubs' involvement. With your donations, Lions and LCIF will continue to fight blindness, support youth, provide disaster relief and meet humanitarian needs all around the world. Through LCIF Lions are addressing global health issues such as measles and diabetes.

Clubs in District 105D were very generous with their contributions in the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, with a total of £15,350 being donated. This accounted for 9.32% of the total donated by all Clubs in the Multiple District and we were the third largest contributor. The largest amounts were for disaster relief and the measles campaign.

This year Clubs have been even more generous with their donations. Since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 Clubs in the District have donated £19,539. As at 31st December 2016 District 105D was again the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest contributor to LCIF, with 17.74% of the contributions, with only District 105EA ahead with 18.11% of the total contributions. 39 Clubs in the District have made donations to LCIF so far this Lionistic year. To all those Clubs I say 'thank you' on behalf of both LCIF and the persons assisted by the donations.

The worldwide fundraising campaign for measles elimination is continuing until December 2017. This is an LCIF involvement with the GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership whose mission is to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunisation in the world's poorest countries. The funds raised by Lions will be matched by the UK Government Department for International Development and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Melvin Jones Fellowships (MJFs) continue to be awarded by Clubs and many Clubs in the District have donated adequate funds to LCIF to be able to award this recognition without additional donations. Assistance has been given to a number of Clubs with MJF applications.

From July 2016 I have been pleased to have been granted a column in the '105D Times', which is a great way of reaching all members with both news, appeals and grants information. I am conscious that the LCIF website does not easily provide information on grants given and I am raising this at MD level.

The demand for presentations on LCIF has been very limited. The story of LCIF and what it has done and is doing is an amazing one and I urge Clubs and particularly Zones to request a presentation.

Many members are unaware just how major our own charity is in the world rankings of charities. I would remind members that all funds donated to LCIF are used for the provision of grants. Administration charges are funded from interest on investments. Investments are needed because it is never known when the next disaster will occur or the next need for a grant will arise and also to pay for the running costs with interest gained.

To date, there have not been any 'disasters' in the District where my involvement has been required in this Lionistic year.

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## **YOUTH COMMITTEE - [Lion Denise Stenner](#)**

### **LEOS – [Lion John Apps](#)**

Alpha Leos. Currently Windsor and Westbury remain the only Alpha clubs. Any clubs wanting more information with a view to starting their own club may contact the youth team at any time.

Omega Leos (18 – 30 Year old) are represented by Guernsey Leo Club and are now 7 years old. Guernsey Lions are a strong Club and this is reflected in their Leos. A presentation by these Leos took place at our last Convention. Sadly this did not encourage any Lions clubs to contact me with a view to forming their own Omega Leo Club.

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### **Youth Exchange. - [Lion John Apps](#)**

Inward. This year the camp is to be held at Worcester at the beginning of August. Once more I would like to make a plea for hosts to come forward so that we may offer places at the end of July 2017 prior to the camp.

Outward. Last year the majority of the 28 who went abroad were from 2 clubs in our district. This year there is every indication that there will be the same numbers with Ringwood & Fordingbridge together with New Milton providing most candidates.

All clubs could offer this wonderful experience to deserving youngsters in their areas, contact the youth team for more information.

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### **Young Ambassador of the 21st Century – [Lion Yorky Tuke](#)**

At the time of writing this Convention report I am pleased to report that we have three candidates for this year's district competition. There will be an update to Cabinet after the District final on the weekend of 7th and 8th January 2017. Update to the report will be given at Convention.

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### **Young Leaders in Service - [Lion Yorky Tuke](#)**

The Young Leaders in Service project is making steady progress in District 105 D. Awareness of this project within the district has increased and this is demonstrated by the increase in enquiries I have had. Facebook and Twitter are also being utilised much more. A number of changes have been made to the administration of this project. A simplified version of the forms can be downloaded from the District Young Leaders in Service website. These are the forms that must be used and when completed should be sent to the District Young Leaders in Service Officer. These changes are designed to streamline the admin work of clubs and district.

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### **Lifeskills – [Lion Denise Stenner](#)**

There has been virtually no interest in Lifeskills resources from clubs in this District and this is reflected in a lack of sales. Lifeskills information is now being sent out to all Lions Clubs through the new the monthly Newsfeed. An appeal for donations towards an identified need for Lifeskills teaching resources in Africa and in particular Malawi met with some support from Clubs. An updated resources catalogue is now available on the Lifeskills website at [www.lionslifeskills.co.uk](http://www.lionslifeskills.co.uk).

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### **Peace Poster, Essay and Poetry Competition – [Lion Frances Bond](#)**

Poetry is the last competition to be judged this year. This will take place in the February Cabinet, with a preliminary on 7th January at the Young Ambassadors weekend.

The winning entry will be posted on the web site.

There were no entries for the essay competition again this year.

Relevant websites have been kept up to date and any questions from clubs answered.

A new link has been entered on the Home page of the 105D website to see just the winning Peace Posters. The winning Peace Posters have been posted on the District web site.