



105A News



Incorporating the District Governor's Newsletter

Mission: To inform, update and entertain

Issue 5, February 2005

LIONS WORKED DAY AND NIGHT

Lions of District 105a and others who attended the LCIF Gala held in London to mark the birthday of our founder Melvin Jones were given an up to the minute account of the work done by Lions in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami disaster by the chairman of LCIF, Immediate Past international President Lion Dr T S Lee.

Said President Lee: Lions have responded to this terrible tragedy in tremendous fashion. Lions in the affected countries are working day and night to bring life-saving supplies to victims and LCIF has mobilized the financial support needed to make this relief work possible. Thanks to Lions and LCIF, lives are being saved and communities will be rebuilt.

Supported by LCIF, Lions in the affected countries have worked incredibly long hours organizing relief. They've distributed food, water and clothing, provided medical treatment and worked with government officials and other relief agencies on basic needs at relocation camps. Let me give you just a few examples of the relief provided by Lions.

- In Sri Lanka, Lions are working 16 hours a day organizing relief and are a key partner of the government's relief agency and the nation's president. District 306-C, for example, sent 60 truckloads of food and supplies to relocation camps and is organizing the installation of tents at a new relocation camp in western Sri Lanka.
- In India, 20 Lions' ambulances and a team of 80 Lions volunteer medical doctors are providing first aid near Chennai. Nearly 70 clubs fanned out in the

region from Parassalla to Haripad to distribute food and clothes at the relief camps. Lion-doctors conducted free treatment at relief centres.

- In Thailand, Lions in Bangkok have sent water tanks and trucks loaded with supplies to Phuket. Lions are working with government officials and relief agencies to provide for basic needs at relocation camps.
- In Indonesia, 30 clubs near Medan provide logistical support for air shipments of aid to Bandh Acheh and send out four trucks of materials daily. They are also providing shelter, food, and clothing to refugees; Lion-doctors from Jakarta and Medan are providing medical treatment. Lions also are making preliminary plans to support the educational needs of orphans.

Lions throughout the world have made or will make such relief possible continued President Lee. Hundreds of clubs and individuals have sent funds to LCIF. Lions of Sweden pledged US\$120,000 for relief and the the Lions of Korea pledged US\$200,000.

As you know, LCIF provides immediate relief and long-term reconstruction after a

disaster. LCIF is not only helping people stay alive after the tsunami but it also will rebuild communities for years to come. The real impact of LCIF's assistance to South Asia will be fully realized in the next several years as LCIF partners with Lions to rebuild homes, schools and community centres. This long-term approach plays to the strength of LCIF and Lions, who belong to their communities, understand local needs and know how to get things done.

So great things are being done thanks to Lions and LCIF. But these countries in South Asia will need assistance in rebuilding their communities for years to come, and LCIF needs your continued support.

The picture shows President Lee with senior Lions at the LCIF Hospice (another example of the Lions/LCIF partnership at work) which he attended during his visit to London.



ARE YOU ON TARGET?

When I wrote in the last issue that it is Convention Time I had not grasped how close we were to that great annual event that most of us look forward to being part of.

You will probably be reading this a few days before this year's Convention or even at the convention where extra copies will be distributed.

Even though the Lionistic year is not over Convention inevitably marks the point when most Lions start plan-

ning for the following year. I hope it will also remind us of the goals we need to achieve and the targets we have to meet before the current year ends on 30 June!

Whether it is to do with membership numbers or the completion of our activities there is always a lot to accomplish between now and when the new team takes over in your club or at the district level.

In the meanwhile make the most of the opportunities afforded by Con-

vention to forge new friendships and to renew old associations with fellow Lions you may not have seen for some time. Join in the debates and try and make a positive contribution to the future of our Association and in your deliberations do remember "to be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy".

Here's to a wonderful Convention and your continued commitment to the ideals of Lionism. - THE EDITOR

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Viresh Paul
District Governor :
Max Mongia

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EGG-CELLANT IDEA!

Harpenden Lions have pubs across Harpenden area each running a raffle to win a massive Easter Egg and to raise money for the Life skills Education programme for local school children. Pictured below is a local landlord with club PRO Steve Gledhill who said: "We have been fund raising by raffling Easter eggs in Harpenden's Pubs since 1992 and have donated over £80,000 to the vital life skills schools education programme. Picture by Pete Stevens, courtesy of the *Harpenden Observer*



Young Ambassador 2005

The District Young Ambassador Final, writes Lion Doreen Carr, was held on 23rd January at the Quality Hotel Hatfield at which three candidates were presented:

- Carina Topham sponsored by Harpenden,
- Michael Austin sponsored by Redbridge
- Neeraj Kohli sponsored by Enfield

Our Judges this year were Chairman Nicholas Smith (Business), Karen Harrison (Youth /Volunteers) and Alan Pilcher (Education) who, although we only had three candidates, still found it difficult to select the representative for 105A.

Their decision was unanimous, after a great deal of discussion, in favour of Michael - who impressed them immensely with his sustained, persistent commitment to his community.

Michael is 16 and a vocational student at Harlow College, an elected member of the Young Essex Assembly and a founder member of Abridge Village Youth Partnership. He instigated public awareness of the need for a local play area and has acquired the land and raised funds – to the tune of £45,000 to date. Over the last five years, Michael

has succeeded in creating a forum to improve the facilities for young people locally by bringing together and building bridges between all factions of his community. He writes articles regularly in the Village and Parish magazines to inform residents of the progress, has canvassed support and successfully uses his involvement in the annual Village Weekend to encourage and support his peers to become involved and make a difference. His School nominated him for the prestigious Princess Diana Memorial Award for his Community Service, which honour was presented to him in 2003. Michael is a keen environmentalist and enjoys cookery, archery and bird watching (of the feathered kind !!). DG Max congratulated and commended the three candidates for their contribution to improving life and community for so many people. He was very impressed by the quality of their commitments and hoped that they would continue in this vein. He was delighted to present each candidate with a certificate, a gift token and his personal pin.

As our representative we wish Michael a wonderful weekend at the MD Final and I look forward to presenting him at our Convention in March.

MEDIC ALERT CHAMPION

Lion Alan Bonfield, writes Lion Dennis Wright, PRO, Amersham & Chesham Lions Club, has been the Medic Alert Officer of the Amersham & Chesham Lions Club from time to time during his 33 years membership of the Club, and continuously over the last 10 years during which time, through his untiring efforts, the Amersham & Chesham Lions Club has been awarded the Lions Clubs International Shield on 3 yearly occasions for making the greatest contribution to the Medic Alert Foundation.

Lion Alan has been instrumental in organising (and arranging for our Club or, where appropriate, other Lions Clubs to finance) the provision of over 150 Medic Alert necklets /

bracelets to residents / patients of the National Society for Epilepsy, based in Chalfont St.Peter.

After these 10 successful years, Lion Alan Bonfield is handing over his Medic Alert Officer responsibilities to Lion Mike Boxshall, the latter having just completed his Lionistic Year as President of the Amersham & Chesham Lions Club.

Our photo shows Lion Alan on the left of picture and Mike at the Sir William Gowers Centre in the grounds of the National Society for Epilepsy.



Fellow Lions, Lionesses, Leos....

Il attended the District Convention meeting on the 18th February 2005 and was pleased to note the unprecedented number of Lions who had booked early for the Convention Day, Lunch and the Banquet and Ball.

From the response so far we are expecting a bumper number for each and every function and festivities. I thank you for your generous support in what is going to be your convention to remember.

Convention

The purpose of the Convention is for members to get together for a re-union to update themselves and promote debates and discussions for the betterment of our association.

The program details have now been finalised and I can share with you some of the key aspects.

The arrangements have been made for an informal Dinner with light entertainment on the evening of the 4th March in the company of International Director Howard Lee and his wife Claire to unwind everybody in the mood for *Convention*.

Opening Ceremony will be performed by the Mayor of the Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Barry Phelps on the 5th morning at 9.00am.

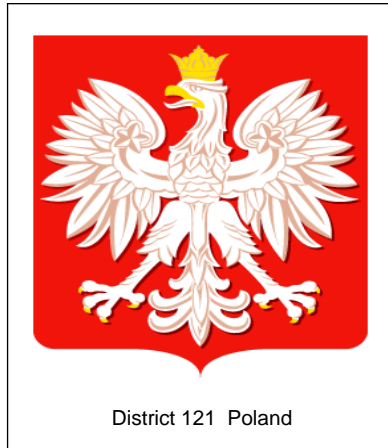
The Flag ceremony will be performed by none other than the Leos of 105A.

A partner's trip is organised to Windsor Castle a little early for the Royal Family Wedding, but in time for the preparation.

The Coach will leave at 9.30 am from the Hotel and will return around 1.30 pm in time for lunch.

We hope to complete the Lionistic business in the morning session with a coffee break at 11.00am -11.30 am. Some of the highlights for the afternoon session:

- As announced we are expecting some 24 lions from Poland with whom our district is proud to Twin. A formal Twinning ceremony will be performed thereby linking us to Lions of extended Europe.



District 121 Poland

- The Guest of Honour will be International Vice President Ashok Mehta who will be inducted in Hong Kong Convention as the International President.
- David Maidment, Co-Chairman of the Consortium of Street Children will give us some interesting insight into the plight of Street Chil-



Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that **Barclays Bank** are one of the core sponsors for our events thereby enabling us to defray some of our admin costs. I thank the management of Barclays on behalf of the District for their generous support. We also thank the "London **City Bank NRI Business**" for their ongoing support.

District Quiz Final

I witnessed the closing sessions of the exciting district quiz final which was won by the team from Ampthill Lions Club pictured above with me and the district competitions officer Lion Louvain Allen. My congratulations to all the clubs that took part and to Lion Louvain for organising the event. The District Quiz was introduced many years ago by PDG Lion John Smith with a view to promoting fellowship at zone,

region and district level.

Tsunami Disaster

Following an appeal form our foundation Chairman Dr.T.S.Lee for the *South Asia Tsunami disaster 2004* funds clubs and individuals up and down the country have generously donated to-



wars this cause. As of now we have collected in excess of £450,000 as a Multiple District. District 105A has to date recorded a receipt of under £20,000. I have been advised that further funds are in the pipeline and will be deposited with the district treasure.

I would urge you to expedite the payment of such funds so that they can be made available for the intended purpose soonest. Should you wish to claim the concession of Melvin John Fellowship Award such funds should be deposited well before of the end of March 2005.

I thank you all for your generous support for the worst disaster of our times.

Mini Bus Appeal

Hundreds of poor people in Malawi are suffering from preventable eye diseases and need to be transported from remote locations to a LCIF sponsored Sight First Hospital for treatment in Blantyre. The Multiple District has approved a project to buy a mini bus for this work which will cost some £18,000. The Lions Club of Blantyre has undertaken to keep up and maintain the mini bus.

Your generous sponsorship is now needed to complete this project. Please send your cheques to our district treasure with the endorsement, "Mini Bus Appeal" on the back of the cheque. For further details contact PDG Ram Jaggi International Relation officer MD105 or PDG Rati Shah District IRO 105A.

Medic Alert Needs Your Help

The Medic Alert Community Education Pack contains materials specifically designed to remind medical professionals how to react to Medic Alert emblems and to inform them how best to respond to the Medic Alert 24-hour emergency telephone system.

Medic Alert needs the help of our Club members to deliver posters and handouts to the local Ambulance Stations, Police Stations, Fire Stations, or Hospitals A&E Departments.

Members, who would like to become involved, please contact the District Medic Alert Liaison Officer Lion Surinder Aujla or ring Catherine

Hainsworth at Medic Alert on 020 7923 6478.

Medic Alert needs your help – to help others



Message in a Bottle

The Lord Mayor of Leeds launched "Message in a Bottle" initiative at the Leeds Civic Centre on 10th February 2005 in associations with Lions Club of Leeds and five primary care Trusts. This generated media attention both across the Region and Nationally. VDG Eric Amaria represented our district at the launch. Message in a bottle has become a very successful program saving lives and creating PR opportunities for Lions.

Multiple District 105 Awareness Weeks

Our Multiple District PR team have equipped us with posters and leaflets to undertake projects in our local community. Lion's awareness



week promotes various services and projects undertaken by Lions at local and international levels. Club Presidents who attended the DG's breakfast meeting and update meeting collected the PR material.

The promotion of our activities when undertaken at local level by each Club will resonate and magnify to a mega promotion at a National level. Please plan an activity of your choice at your convenience with your members. Should you need more material, I will facilitate to obtain the same for your Club. We are confident that the awareness will result in not only helping us raise much needed money for charity but also recruit more members.

It will act as a preparation ground to the Lion Club Induction Day on the 16th April 2005. The Clubs will have received communication from David Frith Multiple District PR Chairman giving the Clubs a template for press release for your programs. Please adopt and use to create a better awareness of our organisation.

Presidents 100% awards

A number of presidents have been awarded 100% for their performance during 2003-04. I have advised the names of the recipients to the current presidents accordingly.

The International board of Directors wishes to extend their congratulations to these immediate past club presidents for the contributions they have made to further enhance the image of the association.

I had the pleasure to hand over three such awards personally to the following presidents during my visits last week.

- ◆ Lion Ravi Somaiya of Lion Club London Finchley
- ◆ Lion Maggie Gardner of Lion Club Berkhamstead
- ◆ Lion John Roxby of Lion Club Ruislip (pictured on the left)

See you at the Convention on the 4th & 5th of March

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