

Midland News



INC The District Governor's News Letter

District 105M The International Association of
Lions Clubs

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SURESH CROWNED AS DG FOR 2007-2008



On Sunday July 15th at The Village Hotel Coventry, Lion Suresh Gohil was sworn in as District Governor 105M 2007 – 2008.

After a pleasant meal, it fell to Past International Director Howard Lee to perform the ceremony.

190 Lions from all over the District were in attendance to witness the occasion.

Lion Suresh presented his team with ties, pins and cufflinks for the men and scarves and pins for the ladies.

In his role of Sergeant at arms, Lion Harry Fry (as it can be seen from the picture below) took the occasion very seriously although the passing resemblance to Ali Baba was quite off-putting.



DG s News Letter

Fellow Lions

Thank you for electing me as your District Governor for 2007/2008.

Melvin Jones had said" I am finding out that you don't get far until you start doing something for somebody else"

I had said at the district convention that:

LOVING IS GIVING

LOVING IS FORGIVING

LOVING IS NOT GETTING

LOVING IS NOT FORGETTING

My motto for the year is Loving is Giving

Let us in the true spirit of Lionism give to the community, and our to ourselves the hope, kindness, and service, and build up the fun and fellowship.

Let us serve together to foster a spirit of understanding, and compassion.

I have just returned from the International Convention at Chicago. It has been a very rewarding experience to be an ambassador for our District. Oakbrook have recognised the need to change, having implemented the necessary steps to become more approachable to Lions, working together to help us achieve our goals.

Past International President Jimmy Ross, was outstanding as an excellent President and human being. He has been appointed to lead the Lions in setting up new clubs in 2007/2008 round the world. Our new International President, Mahendra Amarasuria's slogan is "Challenge to Change" He is expecting an increase of 20000 new members. Teams have been appointed to help realise this goal.

He has realised that to attract new members, specially the young ones, we all need to change the way the meetings are conducted, the timings of the meetings, bringing fellowship, and fun in the meetings, using the new technology to communicate and getting rid of the beaurocracy.

Fellow Lions, my aims are very similar. The membership has decreased from 1020 to 970 in the last lionistic year.

There are currently 6 clubs with under 5 members. Let us find ways and means of increasing the membership in these clubs. I am personally planning to set up 4 new clubs, namely in Leicestershire, Coventry, Wellingborough, and Birmingham.

Gordon Ryder Memorial Seat

On Sunday June 17th, after the 10am Family Service at St Nicholas Church, Warwick, the vicar, Reverend Roger Garratt, blessed a new seat in memory of the late Lion Gordon Ryder in the presence of his widow Betty, Lions & friends.

Gordon, who died in Warwick Hospital in August 2004, was the last remaining founder member of Warwick Lions Club.

He was born in Worcester and met Betty at the Rowing Club there. They married in 1939 and during the war went all over the country, Gordon constructing new airfields whilst Betty worked as a land girl.

After the war, he became an Assistant City engineer first at Hereford then at Stoke-on-Trent where he took up golf.

He moved to Warwick District Council as Deputy to Kenilworth Town Engineer, a job he held until he retired. He joined Kenilworth Golf Club.

In due course became Captain of the Elderly Gents Group commonly known as the EGGs.

In October 1960, he became a Charter Member of Warwick Lions Club, becoming President in 1966 and later Vice District Governor.

He held every post in the club and is perhaps best remembered as Welfare Chairman, a post he held for many years.



LCIF Update from IPIP Lion Jimmy M Ross

D e a r F e l l o w L i o n s ,

I enjoyed visiting with many of you during the International Convention and I look forward to continuing our service together this year as LCIF Chairperson. We have much to accomplish this year in order achieve our Campaign SightFirst II goal as well as spread the word about LCIF. In this message, I would like to update you on a number of LCIF items

LCIF Ranked Best NGO Worldwide

In a special report released Thursday, July 5, 2007, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) ranked best among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide. From 34 global organizations, LCIF came in first for its execution of programs, demonstrated accountability, communications internally and externally, program adaptability to the surrounding community, and understanding the goals of its corporate supporters. The assessment was published in the Financial Times' Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy special report. The full story can be read online at http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lions_lcif_times.shtml.

Grants Awarded at June Board Meeting

More than US\$2.4 million in grants were approved at the June 2007 LCIF Board Meeting. Lions Clubs from all over the world were granted funds to assist many humanitarian projects, such as partnering with Lions in Malaysia for a clean water project (Korea), equipping a rehabilitation center for the disabled (Italy), upgrading the kitchen and dining room at an Easter Seals camp (Canada) and constructing a clinic and vocational center for the disabled (Honduras). Read the complete story and view the entire list of approved grants at http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lions_lcif_newgrants.shtml.

There are number of new materials, including a new DVD and CD of LCIF publications available to you to help promote LCIF in your club and district. A list of these materials can found at http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lcif_pr_tools.shtml. I look forward to this year and thank you for your continued support and dedication to LCIF. LCIF is able to fulfill its mission of helping Lions serve worldwide through your support.

Serving Through LCIF,

Jimmy M. Ross

Campaign Sight First II

This is the last year of Campaign Sight First II therefore, your full support and contributions this year will help to ensure the achievement of our global targeted goal of \$150 million and most importantly our District allocated quota of £100,000.

We need every Club Involved.

With CSF1 (1991-94) Lions changed the world for millions; with CSF II Lions can change the world for millions more by (i) controlling and eliminating the major causes of avoidable blindness,.

ii) combating emerging threats to sight and
(iii) providing 'Vision for All' through research, rehabilitation and reaching out to vulnerable populations.

· **Our District 105M has been set a target of £100,000** for the three Lions years ending 30th June 2008. As at 1st July 2007 we have raised approximately £35,000 or 35% of target. We have a lot to do in one year to raise the remaining 65%; I believe we can achieve this.



Thank You for My Sight

HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR TARGET?

MODEL CLUBS

Clubs can still commit to be Model Clubs who only pledge to raise an average of \$400 or about £200 per member. This commitment should be taken as a goal and not an absolute must. Won't it be good if your Club can achieve this or near to it !!! Only one Club is registered in our District

4-WAY FUND RAISING SYSTEMS: The following four suggestions will help you raise funds towards your CSF II contributions:

- Organise Special Club CSF II Fundraising activities. This can be achieved through your Clubs' normal activities ie. Skittles, Fun Fairs, Charity Walks, Quizzes, etc.
- Approach Businesses and Corporate Sponsors in your communities.
- Encourage each Individual Club Member to raise funds through printed leaflets and personal contacts or personally commit to some contribution no matter how small.
- Commit your Club to contribute from your Charity Account. If you wish Melvin Jones awards for deserving members of your Club, you will achieve both with just one payment to CSF.

Above all, please give publicity to CSF II in your community media; there are many people out there interested in supporting humanitarian projects through reliable and trusted organisations. Remember that 100% of donations go to CSF II allocations.

Your Group Coordinators will be in touch with you soon.

Please make cheques made payable to Lions Clubs International CSF II and sent directly to me.

HAVE A GOOD YEAR

District Co-ordinator

Lion Femi Onabolu

More DGs News

Continued from page one

It is a challenge ! We all need to work together to revive our district. Come forward with your suggestions, and save the family of lions from disintegration!

My aims and objects for the year are:

- 1) Provide training for the Region, and Zone chairmen to help the clubs with training on new incoming officers, provide seminars for new members locally,
- 2) Create fun and fellowship between clubs by having skittles competition, on a knockout basis. The finals to be held at district level with the trophy for the finalist, provided by myself.
- 3) Have a social evening for Lions in the district, less formal, low cost. Hopefully this will encourage more members to attend and enjoy Lionism
- 4) Develop greater liaison between the Clubs and District by encouraging the District Officers to visit as many clubs as possible, sharing the information.
- 5) The District Forum will be held on 21st October. This will include seminars on:
 - a) Campaign sight First 11, and free eye check up
 - b) Diabetes clinic with Yoga to reduce stress.

- c) how to obtain grants .
- d) how to be an officer
- 6) Lord Dholakia from House of Lords will be the chief speaker. He is a patron of over 100 charities.
- 7) Charity Ball for Campaign Sight First 11 on 7th June 2008. Past International Director Jay Patel from USA will be chief guest



I am looking forward to working with you my family of LIONS.

District Governor,

Suresh Gohil



“THE FUTURE IS NOW”

So said District Registrar, Lion Mike Jobbins when your Editor followed up on his interview in the March issue. Lion Mike went on to make three points: -

- 1) I recently sent out a “CONNECT” News Sheet updating all continuing/incoming Club Secretaries on the change to Electronic Reporting, etc, but I would like it to be in Midland News as well so that all Members can be more directly aware what is going on.
- 2) The great majority of Clubs have already accepted the dynamic change to Electronic Reporting and only a handful have yet to, “bite the bullet” so a 100% situation should be achievable over the next few months.
- 3) The support and guidance from LCI Oak Brook has been very good, which is just as well, because the Multiple District has from the outset been strangely silent on this whole subject. Fortunately however, foresight and the will to win is strong in 105M, District Officers are leading by example and the response by Clubs is improving all the time.

Asked what next, Lion Mike replied that his chief objective is to work himself out of a job, which could soon be achieved if every one of our Clubs quickly realise that the future is indeed now, and that responding to the challenge now will actually ease their future workload in terms of admin time and cost.”

The Lords prayer has 56 words.
The ten commandments has 297 words.
The American declaration of Independence has 300 words.
The EU directive on the import of Caramel and caramel products requires 29,911 words.
The moral is obvious.

If you can't teach an old dog new trick
you probably need to turn up the voltage.

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

It's easier to get forgiveness than permission.

Abandon the search for truth – settle for a good fantasy.