

Time for Change?

The District Convention has come and gone! The Lionistic year hastens to its inevitable close. Clubs will be holding their elections and plans will be made for the year, which will start in three month's time.

Some things, however, never change. Clubs carry on operating as they have. The same projects, the same ideas and the same objectives. Whilst no one in their right mind would advocate wholesale change, there are times when changes can help maintain members' interest and enthusiasm in our organisation. Change could help avoid 'burnout' in some.

Hence, in this issue, we highlight some ideas and tips for doing things slightly differently – with the singular aim of helping clubs retain members. I hope some, if not all, of these suggestions will appeal to you.

The current year is by no means over. In these crucial three months, we need to keep bringing new members and keeping the current members involved and satisfied with their lot – a true challenge for all leaders.

Another event we all need to attend before the year is out is the MD Convention. We need to go in large numbers to support our candidate. The MD Convention provides us the opportunity to elect who will represent Europe on the International Board in the years 2003-2005. I hope it will be our man, PCC Geoff Leeder. It will depend on you, the Lions of this district. By electing Geoff, we will achieve another long overdue change: an International Director from this premier District!

- Editor

The Editor welcomes contributions from all Lions for the 105A News.

Write about your club's activities or projects and send photographs suitable for printing to:

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21 RETENTION TIPS

By Club Development Officer, PCC Viresh Paul

Retention is DG Ram Jaggi and International President Frank Moore's main objective this year. Here are 21 tips and suggestions for simple solutions to common retention problems. Some of these ideas you have seen before, and some are new. Try one; try several – whatever works best for your club!

1. Always create an agenda – and stick to it – for every meeting you plan. You can rearrange your agenda and try a new order for items – just make sure you communicate these changes to your club.
2. Communicate your goals to club members, and periodically update members on progress. These can be goals for making your club more effective, or a goal related to a club service project, such as how many people in need your club would like to reach for a particular project.
3. Try something new! Add a new twist to an existing service project or fundraiser to try to help more people in need. Hold a brainstorming session with club members to come up with some new ideas for existing projects.
4. After a project is completed, sit down with all team members involved and review its successes and improvements that should be made for next time.
5. Mix up seating at club meetings by having club members draw table numbers as they enter the club meeting.
6. Use your club's newsletter to thank members when they have gone above and beyond the call of duty.
7. Periodically check with your members to see if their committee assignments are meeting their present skills and interests. If not, move them to a committee that is better suited for them.
8. Challenge enthusiastic members by giving them an important responsibility – such as chairing or co-chairing an event or committee.
9. Personally call members who have missed two consecutive meetings to make sure there isn't a problem.
10. At the end of a club meeting, ask members to write three things they like about the club and three things they think could be improved. Review results and discuss at the next meeting. The findings might be surprising – and will certainly open up discussion on a variety of issues.
11. Create a special award for new member sponsors who have been done an exceptional job being positive mentoring influences on their recruits.
12. Delegate responsibilities appropriately. You cannot do it all yourself – or should you? Successful clubs are the result of teamwork.
13. Mix committee assignments to keep things fresh. Strive for a mix of experienced and new members on each committee. If someone is bored with his or her committee assignment, change it.
14. Have your public relations chairman share your club's publicity successes with the members. Seeing positive community reaction to your club's efforts is a big morale booster for members.
15. Don't be afraid to use your gavel to deal with disruptions during meetings. Members expect you to lead.
16. When you make changes, report the change to club members and ask for their feedback. Celebrate successful changes that you've implemented.
17. Give praise freely and often. A genuine "thank you" for a job well done is an excellent motivator. Pay special attention to those who have gone beyond their general responsibilities.
18. Participate in district activities. Your district offers a great support system and projects – take advantage of them.
19. Ask for member input – whether during a club meeting, one on one, through the newsletter or a suggestion box. Asking for your club members' opinions shows that you value what they think.
20. If you make a mistake – and everyone does at one time or another – take responsibility for it. Your members will respect you for it.
21. Your attitude is infectious. Stay upbeat, positive and motivated. Your club members will respond in kind.

Chinatown Golf Day

23 April will see the launch of a Charity Golf Day, which the Lions Club of London-Chinatown hopes will become an annual event.

The event has been organised to raise funds for the Project of Hope, which involves building a school for deprived local children in one of the poorest parts of China, Qinghai Province. The club's target is to raise £50,000. Our picture (on the right) shows the state of the school buildings that need attention.

The Golf will be played at the Stockley Park Golf course. This will be followed by dinner at a Chinese Restaurant in Ruislip. Golfers and others wishing to support this excellent day out should contact Max Lim at 020 8343 0788 or 07770 298888



each award.

Books Galore

For more than ten years Abingdon Lions Club have organised a grand gala on the August Bank Holiday writes *Ernest Kohn, Club PRO*. In 2001, blessed with perfect weather they attracted a record crowd and made £10,000 for Tacade.

In this way the club was able to achieve its main objective of supplying every one of the 22 schools in the Abingdon Partnership in Education with a complete set of the four Tacade books at a cost of almost £5,000.

The books were presented at a meeting of the Head Teachers of the Partnership in the presence of Martin Buczkiewicz, the Chief Executive of Tacade who declared it the biggest single donation of

Tacade material ever made by a Lions Club.

Just my luck!

Lion Raghbir Deol from Redbridge Lions recently completed a six-day Trek in Madagascar to raise funds for the Deaf/Blind Charity SENSE. To coincide with the World Sight Day the Trek has raised well over £2,700 with money still being collected.

Almost true to Redbridge form

Lion Raghbir did not get lost but his luggage did! He began the Trek with just the clothes he was wearing and his camera. Luggage and Raghbir were reunited sometime during the week only to be separated on the homeward journey with Raghbir home in London and his luggage in France!

Honour for Luton

Lion

Margaret Lathwell, a member of Luton Lions Club, has been invested as a member of the Order of St Johns writes *Club President, PCC Geoff Leeder*.

Lion Margaret, a volunteer for St John's Ambulance for 29 years, was admitted as Officer and presented with the insignia by the Prior of the Order of St John, Lord Slynn of Hadley, at a ceremony in the historic Grand Priory Church, Clerkenwell, London.

About 100 other people were also invested as members of the Order. The Queen, head of the Order, which celebrated its 900th anniversary in 2000, approves

Here is the text of a letter received by the DG from some of the Lions from the District who attended the Leadership Institute in Munich

Dear Ram,

As you are aware a number of members of District 105A recently attended the Leadership Programme in Munich. We are collectively writing this letter to provide you with feedback.

We found the programme very stimulating and rewarding. It has greatly helped us to:

- recognise our own abilities and talents,
- improve our interpersonal communications skills and
- understand how to facilitate team working.

Most importantly it has changed our way of thinking with regards to helping humanity and applying the principles of Lionism.

All of us are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend this programme, and would like personally to thank you, our District Governor, for recommending us. We are also very appreciative of the warm hospitality extended by the Faculty Team, and found them to be very professional and supportive.

We plan to keep in touch with many of the fellow Lions we met on the programme, who have now become our good friends. This friendship will greatly assist in sharing ideas of Lionism, and help us to continue to improve the way we work locally. We are also keen to be considered for other future programmes which will complement what we learnt on the Leadership Programme.

Yours sincerely,

Kailash Mistry (Kenton), Darsna Vekaria (LC Kenton), Vijya Patel (Kenton), Bharat Mistry (Hendon) and Neel Shah (Golders Green)

Musical Ruislip

Ruislip Lions Club organised a very successful Charity Christmas Concert at the Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip just before Christmas writes *Lion Peter Trott*

The first such concert in 1998 was inspired by the annual concerts of Christmas music and carols which take place at the Royal Albert Hall each year. Since then, "A Musical Greeting for Christmas", as the concerts are called has been increasingly successful year by year and the demands for tickets so overwhelming that, this year, the club organised two performances – one in the afternoon and the other in the evening! As a number of people were disappointed because both shows were sold out, the club has now built up a mailing list of more than 300 names and addresses in preparation for the next concerts!

Most of the success of the concerts is due to the marvellous support the club gets from the Ruislip Operatic Society each year. Indeed the blend of performers provide such a variety of choral and instrumental music – not forgetting the mini pantomime performed by Ruislip Operatic Society – that the show has built up a following amongst patron of all ages.



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 105A
DISTRICT GOVERNOR: RAM JAGGI

DG'S NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10: APRIL 2002

Greetings fellow Lions, Lionesses and Leos

DISTRICT CONVENTION

I wish to begin this newsletter by expressing our immense pleasure and deep gratitude to everyone who attended the 37th Convention at Sopwell House, St Albans on the weekend of 2nd to 4th March 2002. Shashi and I were delighted to greet you all and the weekend will always remain a memorable one.

We started with PDGs lunch followed by the pre convention Cabinet meeting and then the Ladies' Tea Party. The Ladies tea party was well organised with four huge cakes baked especially for the occasion, with four different logos, savouries, biscuits, crisps and peanuts. What a wonderful display. My thanks to Lion Manish Chotai for organising the cakes and my wife Shashi for organising this party. The steel band highlighted the theme of the Caribbean evening (which followed) spectacularly. It was supplemented with Limbo dance who managed to get a number of guests performing with them!

The business session on the second day went smoothly. We had a number of presentations, which kept the session lively. My thanks go to all the presenters (Lions Geoff, Neel, Darshan, Colin, Viresh). The high light of the day was our Immediate Past International President Lion Dr Jean Behar, whose speech was very informative, educational and motivating. A lively band and the very young cabaret dancers complemented the Banquet and Ball, which rounded off the weekend on a very positive note.

I have received numerous, positive comments by letters, email and telephone. I am thankful to all for their comments. Many thanks to the members of the host club, Lions Club of London-Finchley; who were involved in making this a perfect and excellent convention. I am extremely proud of my club.

I would also like to thank Sergeant at Arms Lion Vanmali, Convention Officer Lion Ron, Registration Officer Lion Cecil, IT chairman Lion Geoff, Host Committee Chairman Lion Viresh for their invaluable input in making the weekend a big success. Extra special thanks to Lion Martin Jenner for keeping the business session lively with his unique approach and entertaining humour.

Congratulations to Lion Mike Baldwin (Bletchley Milton Keynes) and Lion Elliot Shubert (London Host) for being elected DG and VDG respectively for the year 2002-2003, and PCC Geoff Leeder for his nomination as District 105A candidate for the position of International Director 2003-2005. We wish Geoff the very best at the MD convention in Torquay.

MD 105 CONVENTION

We are already now thinking of our MD Convention in Torquay on 3rd to 5th May 2002. This is an opportunity for members from MD District 105 to get together, and enjoy friendship and fellowship. It happens to be a long weekend so why not to take your family for a holiday as well. You will share ideas and meet with old friends and hopefully make some new ones too. This year is somewhat special, as the delegates will choose the candidate from our MD for the position of International Director. Every club in the District is entitled to a certain number of votes that can decide the candidate. Please don't waste your votes. Forward your yellow delegate forms to District Secretary Lion Parveen and try and attend the Multiple District Convention.

The Host Night theme is "Television Programmes". Our District has decided to go for the TV Show "Casualty". I hope all our delegates will be able to participate in good spirit and be part of the contingent. For further details, please contact DG Elect Lion Mike Baldwin, Lion Andrew Allen or Lion May Leeder.

ZONE CHAIRMEN'S WORKSHOP

The Zone Chairmen (2002-2003) Workshop will take place at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hatfield (formerly The Comet) on Sunday 28th April. The workshop will run from 9.30am to 1.00pm. This seminar is a must for incoming Zone Chairmen. The programme is designed for complete guidance, training and motivating skills. For further details, please contact DG elect Mike Baldwin or me.

YOUTH AWARD 2002-2003

This is the time when you start looking for Youth Award Candidates. This is an extremely worthwhile activity. The Youth Award Officer for next year will be Lion Doreen Carr, who will be please to give you further details. Clubs should start now before the holiday season makes it difficult to contact schools.

PU101

Please submit your PU101 forms as soon as your new club officers are known. Your prompt action will be very helpful and appreciated. The forms should be sent to Lion Keith Tooley, our Administration Officer even though you are sending information on the lilac forms to MDHQ by e-mail.

MEMBERSHIP

My sincere thanks to the Presidents who have achieved membership growth in their clubs. I congratulate them for this achievement and commitment. I would like to have growth in quality membership in all the remaining clubs. This will bring strength within us and we will be able to serve our community better. Simultaneously retention is equally important and it can be achieved by keeping in touch with fellow Lions. *This year we will light a special path to membership growth by celebrating Lions Worldwide Induction Day on 29th April 2002.* Please try to induct maximum numbers on this day.

INTERNATIONAL

The District Governor of 411 Lion Dr Tabebe Berhan attended our convention and twinned with us on 2nd March 2002 in presence of Immediate Past International President Lion Dr Jean Behar, all the delegates, ladies and guests from other Districts. This has strengthened our ties with each other. This is the second District we have twinned with. The first is 111NB (Germany). Both these Districts have their Convention in April. Any Lions willing to go to Germany or Addis Ababa, please contact me.

LEADERSHIP

I welcome our new leaders who are back from Munich after attending the Leadership Institute. I am glad that they have gained immensely from this programme and will prove to be good leaders in future in our District. My congratulations to all the new leaders for their excellent efforts and results.

LCIF

I want 100 more contributing members and I want clubs and individuals to contribute \$20 per member and help us to meet our District target. Your efforts will be appreciated. Only three months left and we have to finish this task. Any club wishing to present MJF, please send your application as soon as possible as processing normally takes between 8-10 weeks.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

I am glad that the majority of the club secretaries are sending their monthly reports to our District Administration Officer Lion Keith Tooley on time. The few clubs who are still behind are urged to send their reports in time without chasers. Efficiency will earn your club extra points in the Excellent Club Competition.

DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN FROM INDIA

Ten handicapped children with four carers are coming to the UK to participate in the Disabled Grantham Games in April 2002 organised by the Disability Support Club of England. They have managed to raise funds for the flight to come to London but your help is required to raise £4,000 for local transport, accommodation, food etc for the period of the disabled games. I have watched a very touching presentation on these children's day-to-day life and hence this appeal. For further information, please contact Lion Kishore Pattni on 020 8204 0810.

TACADE AND HARPENDEN

I was delighted to attend the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Club's Life Skills and Drug Awareness Programme. The reception was well attended by Head Teachers and other prominent members of the community. The positive comments of school representatives about our Tacade programme were very encouraging. Well done, Lions of Harpenden, for your commitment since 1992.

OBITUARY

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of Lion Derek Armoury of the Ruislip Lions Club. On behalf of District 105A, I extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Patsy, family and friends.

NEW MEMBERS

I extend a very warm welcome to the following new members

Ron Benson	Aylesbury
Jim Kent	Aylesbury
Tri Ai Luong	London Covent Garden
Ellen Chin	London Covent Garden
Enroy Nugent	Hitchin
Wendy Johnson	Staines & Ashford
Hemant Thanawala	South Herts Moor Park
Rajesh Jabanputra	South Herts Moor Park
Kishore Masrani	South Herts Moor Park
Neel Sharma	Ealing

DG's Diary April 2002		
02	Luton	O/V
03	Wembley	O/V
04	Membership Meeting	
09	Kenton	O/V
10	London Host	O/V
11	Gt Missenden	O/V
14	Zone E	Swimming Gala
17	Southall	O/V
18	Denham	O/V
20	Southall	C/A
24	South Herts Moor Park???	
27	London Acton	C/A
28	Zone Chairmen's Workshop	