



DG'S NEWSLETTER

District Governor Lion - James O'Sullivan

Lions Clubs International - The International Association of Lions Clubs - District 105-I Ireland



ISSUE 3 - February 2010

Welcome to my February Newsletter



Fellow Lions a belated happy New Year to one and all, and welcome to my third newsletter, my term is moving on quickly.

First of all can I congratulate Lion Terence Mangan of Ennis Lions Club on his election as my fist Vice District Governor. Terence's experience will no doubt add greatly to our district and I look forward to working with him in the coming months.

The Flood Appeal

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the magnificent response to my appeal. The figure the District Treasurer tells me at the time of going to print is in the region of €80,000. Over €55,000 has already been dispensed to the disaster area through my flood appeal finance committee. Should any Lions club member know of any family or person affected by the flooding and in need of assistance please do not hesitate in contacting me. May I take the opportunity to thank the Flood Finance committee under VDG Terence for all their Trojan work with this project.

Haiti Appeal

Again there has been a magnificent response from the Lions of the District. The Lions Clubs of 105I have been to the fore in their communities fundraising for this enormous tragedy. Lions Clubs have again shown fantastic leadership. The district treasurer tells me the figure of the pledges is fast approaching in excess of €50,000. Tralee Lions in cooperation with the local secondary schools recently presented me with a cheque for €18,000 for the Haiti fund. I would also like to congratulate Rodger Harty and his team for their dedicated response to this tragic event. \$1.5 million has already been dispensed from LCIF to the grief stricken area under the watchful eye of past International President Lion Al Brandell and his wife Dr. Maureen Murphy who have just returned from the disaster region. There are three Lions Clubs in Haiti and it is sad for me to report that we lost 2 fellow Lions in the earthquake. Please keep the donations coming as we are committed to the rebuilding the country and intend to remain involved in long-term projects.

Lions Club District Convention

The Lions Club District Convention is fast approaching and will be held in the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim, Belfast on the 12th-14th of March. I am glad to report that Sir Hugh Orde retired chief constable of PSNI has very kindly agreed to be my guest speaker at our convention. He is a man I have admired for many years and I look forward to him sharing some of his experiences with us. In addition I would like to report our international guest is past International President PINO Grimaldi, who I also look forward to hearing from. Well done to PDG and Convention Chairman John Mooney and his team for their professionalism, friendship and courtesy shown to me in the lead up to the convention in Antrim. They are a credit to our great district and associations.

Leeds Multiple District Convention

I would appeal to Lion Members to consider attending the Multiple District Convention in Leeds. Two candidates PID Phil Nathan and PID Howard Lee are both standing for the post of International Director. One of these gentlemen will be in the running for 3rd Vice World President. The last time and only time we had a World President in our multi district was our own Bert Mason. So I think district 105I should have a say in this election. The vote will take place on Saturday the 1st of May at the 60th Convention in Leeds. See you there!

Congratulations!

I would like to congratulate our winner of the peace poster competition. Representing Cavan Lions Club Joanna

Galligan's. Joanna's poster was inspiring and she has a great deal of talent. I know she has a great future ahead of her and I look forward to meeting her at the convention in Antrim. Congratulations are also in order for Leo member Shane O'Brien of Roscommon Leo Club, our winner of the District Youth Award. He is going to represent our district in Dudley in the UK this February. I wish him the very best on behalf of our districts VPO and myself. I am glad that the VPO forms are steadily flowing in and to the VPO team, keep up the good work.

Suicide Awareness

Over 30 clubs have already or are currently in the process of signing up for the Assist programme and I would encourage all clubs to consider running this worthwhile programme. PDG Pat Connelly and his team met with The National Office of Suicide Prevention recently. 10,000 suicide support hand out cards are to be printed soon thanks to Frances Hannon of Roscommon Lions. Well done to all involved, keep up the good work.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all the Lion members for the support and friendship shown to Cathy and myself during our travels around the district. I look forward to meeting many of our Lions Clubs friends at the convention in the Dunadry Hotel.

James O'Sullivan
District Governor

District Governor's Spouse Appeal



I am glad to say that my wife Cathy's chosen charity for her spouse appeal is the Jack & Jill Childrens Foundation. This is a very deserving charity & is currently looking after 300 sick children in Ireland. Cathy's letter and brochures explaining the working of the charity will be with all clubs shortly and further details can be obtained on the web site www.jackandjill.ie. While being only too aware of the recent demands on club resources I would appreciate you giving some consideration to this very worthy cause.

James O'Sullivan
District Governor.

Lion Terence Mangan elected as First Vice District Governor



Members will be aware that Lion Alan Halford resigned recently as First Vice District Governor, due to ill health. This meant that it was necessary to elect somebody to that position. I am delighted to announce that Lion Terence Mangan, Ennis Lions Club allowed his name to be put forward and he was unanimously elected at our Cabinet Meeting last Saturday. This means that Lion Terence will be standing for election as next year's District Governor at our forthcoming Convention in Antrim.

Terence has many years experience at Club, District and indeed International level and is greatly respected by the members. I wish to thank both him and Maureen for "stepping into the breach" at such short notice, and wish him well in his new office.

Yours in Lionism,

James



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Haiti Disaster Appeal

Since I last wrote you, we have all learned more about the extent of the devastation in Haiti. At Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), we have also learned more about the situation on the ground from the Lions of Haiti. My heart goes out to all the Lions in Haiti, who have been personally affected by this disaster, losing at least two club members as well as many close relatives. Yet they have put aside their own needs to help their community. LCIF is working non-stop with Lions of that area to support "Lions Hope for Haiti."

Lions Hope for Haiti has mobilized more than US\$350,000, to date. Lions around the world are responding generously and quickly to the LCIF designated fund for this disaster. Donations are continuing to pour in from individuals, clubs and districts, and I thank all of you who have already pledged your support.

LCIF is working directly with Lions of Haiti as well as Lions in neighbouring countries to assess the immediate needs and also develop a long-term reconstruction plan. Maureen and I will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in the next few days to lead a team delivering urgently needed supplies into Haiti.

Lions around the world are also assisting:

Lions in neighbouring Caribbean countries are sending cargo containers of requested supplies through connections with transportation companies.

Lions in Sweden are sending large tents through the Swedish government to provide housing for those who are now homeless as well as relief workers, as they did for the China earthquake.

Lions from District A-9, Ontario, Canada were in the area when the earthquake hit, helping to establish a clean water system for an orphanage, and responded by establishing a make-shift medical clinic, treating 600 people.

Lions are contributing generously, some examples include: US\$86,000 pledged from Lions in Norway; US\$20,000 from Lions in China; US\$14,000 from District 105-I, Ireland.

Like other previous disasters, LCIF is not only committed to meeting the immediate needs of the people, but will be working through the Lions in the region to provide relief for years to come. After other relief organizations have moved out of the area, Lions will still be on the ground, overseeing long-term reconstruction projects. Similar to previous disasters, Lions will be discussing the possibility of rebuilding homes and hospitals, redeveloping the eye care delivery system, providing human resource support, and assisting the disabled, including those disabled as a result of this disaster.

Lions who are able to offer services or individual skills can post this information on the Lions 2 Lions page.

As we continue to work with the Lions and determine needs, we will update the information online with our plans and any news. We also hope to have photos to share soon, that we will post online. Lions can promote their efforts locally by sharing this information along with any local efforts with the local media, and I encourage you to repost our videos and other postings on your individual and club Web pages. LCIF is also working to promote our actions within the media. Our Foundation has been added to several lists of reputable organizations assisting the area.

If you haven't already done so, I ask you to consider making a donation to LCIF to support this disaster. You can donate in confidence to LCIF, as 100 percent of every donation will go directly to Haiti relief, as administrative costs are paid by interest earned on investments. LCIF just recently received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating possible from the independent charity evaluator. In 2007 LCIF was named the #1 non-governmental organization with which to partner, a title our Foundation still holds today.

The needs are great, but we can make a positive impact on the people of Haiti for years to come.

Together We Serve,

Al Brandel
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

For the most up-to-date information about LCIF's ongoing relief efforts in Haiti, please visit www.lcif.org.



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Multi District Convention

The 60th 105 MD Convention takes place in Leeds on the first weekend of May this year. Normally this District is represented by the DG, VDG and a nominal handful of travelling Lions, while the other 12 Districts average almost 80 attendees each.

At this year's MD Convention a critical vote takes place on Saturday that will determine a possible future International President of the organisation, and without delving into the 'politics' of that vote, it is vital that the votes cast by members of 105-I reflect to some serious extent the fact that this District is the largest in the MD, and that we proudly put forward the only MD representative to have previously been elevated to the post of International President, the late Bert Mason OBE.

We need to target to have 100 travelling Lions in Leeds by 11.00am, registration time, on Sat 1st May. Each Lions Club in the MD has a vote per 10 members, and certification of possible votes should be carried out at the latest by District

Convention in Antrim in March.

PDG John Mooney has committed to having 16 voters brought over, as Belfast is hosting the 2011 MD Convention. I am asking each of the PDGs to endeavour to generate 8 travelling voters and each Region Chair to generate 2.

For those who travel over, arrangements will be made to collect from either Leeds/Bradford or Manchester Airport and drop back, if needs be on the Saturday.

If you require any further clarification or assistance, please feel free to ask.

Yours in Lionism,

Terence Mangan V.D.G.



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Around the Regions

Youth Award



Youth Award District Winner Shane O'Brien with Youth Award Leader Brian Noble and 2nd Vice-District Governor Sean Sandford.

The District Final of this year's Youth Award was held in the Red Cow Hotel on Sunday 24th January.

The Lions Youth Award scheme acknowledges the work of young people working as volunteers and gives them the recognition they deserve boosting their self-esteem, their confidence in themselves and highlighting the charities and volunteer groups with which they are involved. The concept was first organised in 1974 and has grown in stature over the years. It has long been acknowledged as one of the foremost recognition schemes for young people and has enjoyed substantial sponsorship from some of the world's major corporations.

Six finalists, Rebekah Bingham (sponsored by Antrim Lions Club), Terry McCartan (Banbridge), Aideen Fleming (Carlow), Shane O'Brien (Roscommon), Jillian Carr (Tralee) and Ricky Freeman (Waterford) each represented their Region having first won at Club and Zone level.

After in depth interviews and much thought the Judges, Elizabeth Jess, Jim Enright and Daragh Bailey decided that Shane O'Brien was the District Winner and would go forward as Ireland's Young Ambassador of the Year to represent 105-I in the Birmingham Multi-district finals in February. Shane is a member of Roscommon Leo Club and is one of the driving forces behind Roscommon Lions Magazine "4 U".

Chairperson of the judges Elizabeth Jess commented on the extremely high standard of this year's candidates and the difficulty in selecting a winner.



Region winners, Rebekah Bingham, Terry McCartan, Aideen Fleming, Jillian Carr and Ricky Freeman, with District winner Shane O'Brien.

Lion Brian Noble from Banbridge has been District Youth Award Officer for the last seventeen years. The professionalism and standard of the competition in 105-I is due entirely to Brian's work and dedication. This year Brian intends stepping down from this position having achieved so much, which included many Multi-district wins. It would be a fitting tribute to Brian if Shane O'Brien wins again at Multi-district level and it is felt that Shane, being the extremely strong candidate he is, may well achieve this.

Cavan Lions Club 25th Charter



D.G. James & Cathy with Cavan Lions at their 25th Charter Night

Street Children



District Officer Paddy Cahill and 2nd Vice Governor Sean discuss the Street Children Project

Over the past few years we in District 105-I have made determined efforts to ease the plight of Street Children throughout Ireland North & South.

Because of your support in the past and being guided by such organisations as Simon as to the greatest needs of those whom the Celtic Tiger has passed by, we focus on what we see as achievable goals. We have been able to provide hats, scarves, sleeping bags, haversacks etc., which were sourced at the most competitive prices available while at the same time not accepting inferior products. The project has been so successful that it was adopted by Multi-District 105 with guidance from our District.

Clubs generously responded to appeals, which were sent to them with the approval of Cabinet to finance this very worthwhile project.

A distribution system with main centres in Belfast, Cork, Dublin & Galway has been set up to ensure that everything purchased went to those most in need as speedily as possible. For instance sleeping bags collected from the supplier on Wednesday afternoon were being slept in that night on the streets of our cities.

The atrocious weather conditions over December and January emphasised the need for this project. A special appeal was sent out by District officer Paddy Cahill to Clubs to help where they could. Needless to say Lions of 105-I were not found wanting and among the returns were a €2000.00 grant from the An Post Project and a personal donation of €1500.00.

This is a project which brings a little comfort to those most in need and it is useful to remember that some of the homeless children we try to help are on the streets because they feel safer sleeping rough than in their own homes.

So far this Lionistic year we have purchased and distributed €9,500.00 worth of goods and money is still coming in.

Thank you for your generosity in the past and thank you for your continued support. The bigger problem of street children needs addressing at national level. In the meantime we endeavour to do what we can to ease the distress and indeed the horror some find themselves in.

Killarney Lions Life Saving Programme



Siobhan Linehan, Paul O'Brien (Trainer) and Hannah Linehan

Early in 2009 the Killarney Lions Club had the idea of setting up a public access defibrillator programme in their home-town. A sub committee was set up to examine the possibility of such a programme and soon made contact with other interested local parties.

The committee quickly began to make plans for the locations of the defibrillators, training large numbers of the public to use the units and fundraising for a number of defibrillators, which they aimed to start placing around the town throughout 2010, they aim to train up to 400 people to perform CPR and use a defibrillator throughout the year.

The programme received an incredible boost in October when, a committee member, Siobhán Linehan, who was holding a fund raiser prior to running the New York Marathon for the cause, received an anonymous donation of €20,000. Siobhan's efforts raised a total of €26,000.

Killarney's first public access defibrillator was placed in the centre of town just before Christmas. It is in an easily accessible location, in a "break glass" cabinet, which makes it a truly public access defibrillator. A number of local people were trained including a large number of Killarney taxi drivers.

The Killarney Lions Club is proud to have initiated this programme, look out for more defibrillators in Killarney in 2010.

Carrick on Suir Lions with D.G. James



Howth Sutton Lions respond to Haiti Appeal



The scenes of devastation in Haiti spurred Howth Sutton Lions into arranging a Sponsored Walk to raise funds. The response from the local community was wonderful enabling the Club to donate €15,000 to the LCIF Haiti Appeal



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Notices

B&I Lion Magazine

Neil Butler, Editor of the B&I magazine is stepping down due to family commitments.

We wish Lion Neil well and look forward to Lion Neil contributing to the District again in the future.

In the mean time, Lion Jim Bradfield, who is the currently our newsletter editor has kindly agreed to also take on the mantle of acting editor of the B&I magazine. Should you wish to contact Lion Jim with your BNI or newsletter stories, his email is:

jimbradfield@eircom.net

James D.G.