

The District Governor and your Club

Introduction

Whilst we as Club members elect our District Governor at our Annual Convention, their appointment to office usually takes place at the International Convention. At which time they become an International Officer of the association with a number of responsibilities within their own District and Multiple District 105, British Isles and Ireland. They are then a member of the Council of Governors for the year in office.

Please note the term "he" is used in this document for no other reason than the convenience of the writer. It could just as easily be "she".

All District Governors have an annual budget, set by International Office and based on the figures from the actual expenses of two of the previous Governors and the estimated expenditure of their immediate predecessor. Unless there are exceptional circumstances this budget cannot exceed the average expense of the preceding three. It is there to provide a contribution towards travel, subsistence, postage, stationary and telecommunications in attending Club visits (one per Club), Multiple District meetings and District Cabinet meetings.

Rules of audit are strictly enforced. Expenses are calculated in US dollars with a mileage rate in the region of \$0.30 cents per mile.

It should be noted that there is **no** contribution to any of the expense involved in attending Charter Anniversary Dinners/Lunches, Fetes, Fundraising activities and the myriad of other events we run in the District. If you ask the DG to attend, it is always very much appreciated if expenses are offered.

Expenses are allowable for visits to Clubs in the process of organisation, Charter presentations to new Clubs, 25th, 50th and 75th Charter Anniversaries of existing Clubs. Again the Rules of Audit are enforced.

Club Visits

The District Governor is required to visit each Club at least once during the year in office, and can claim travel expenses for these. Clubs are notified of the proposed date, and should respond to confirm the date, venue and time as well as the dress code.

Some clubs offer hospitality prior to the meeting: please let the District Governor know this in good time. Minutes of the previous meeting are helpful. If there are any issue you would like to raise, please be fair and give warning, so that the issue can be checked for information and updates that may be relevant. Do not invite other speakers on the night of the DG's visit.

Charter Anniversaries

The District Governor, or whoever deputises, is your guest representing the International Association of Lions Clubs and should respond to the toast, "Lions Clubs International". It is polite to ask if the District Governor and his spouse require overnight accommodation. **The cost is the Club's responsibility** and on some occasions Club members offer to host them. Give prior notice if you have additional guests, i.e. local civic dignitary or other special person. Provide full details of the venue. Advise whether it is formal or informal. Treat him the same way as any other visitor, checking there are no special dietary requirements.

Due to the number of Clubs and the condensed period for many Charter Anniversaries, the DG as much as he would like to, will be unable to accept every invitation. Confirm your invitation in writing or by e-mail, a casual comment after dinner at another Charter or event is not sufficient.

In conclusion

In and amongst their District responsibilities the DG will be attending meetings of the Council of Governors, meetings with Multiple District and District Officers, National events and the MD Convention. In other words busy, busy people, so please be patient if you do not receive an immediate response to your message. Remember – any District Governor is the same as the rest of us, a Club Lion but for one year, is prepared to give extra time to our Clubs, District and Association.