

THE GOLDEN CONVENTION

**Lions Clubs International District 105SW
District Convention 2020
Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 March 2018**

NEWS SHEET No 2

In our first News Sheet I said that our International Guest would be International Director Lion Geoff Leeder; unfortunately Geoff can not now make it. Instead we have a Past International Director well known to this District, PID Lion Howard Lee and his wife Lion Claire.

Lion Howard became a member of Farnham Club in 1976 at the age of 25 and has been an active member ever since. He has been involved in District Cabinet for many years and was District Governor in 1998/99. His interest in International affairs must have started then as, amongst many other things, he has been hands-on chairman of the Lions Belarus Trust for over 15 years. He chairs the District SE appeal which raised £250,000 to facilitate night flying by the Air Ambulance for Kent, Surrey and Sussex (AAKSS). Howard also now serves as District 105SE Membership Team Leader.

As a respected leader in MD105 Lion Howard has been asked to take on many different roles: the first MD Diabetes Co-ordinator, four years on the board of Medic Alert, six years as MD Treasurer, three years as MD Constitutions, Nominations and Resolutions Officer.

Now to Lion Howard's most well-known project. In 2007, MD105 teamed up with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London to make an LCIF Sightfirst grant application to build an eye hospital in Ghana that will bring sight services to an extra 50,000 people per year, as well as training ophthalmologists for the whole of the West Africa region. After leading the negotiations for a grant worth \$2m, Howard was elected by the trustees as their chairperson to head the team that is making the project a reality. The Lions International Eye Centre, Korle Bu, is now open and is proving to be a ground breaker in new training methods for ophthalmologists in developing countries.

As an International Lion Howard served as a member of the LCI Nominations Committee in Hong Kong in 1992, and he was International Fiscal Agent for many years. During his term as

International Director in 2003/2005, he was appointed chairperson of the Public Relations committee. From 2006 to 2008 he was head of Europe on the International Campaign Sightfirst II Committee, where his target of \$32m was well exceeded, and eventually raised \$46m, making a massive contribution towards the worldwide total raised of \$205m. In 2008/09 he served on the LCI Board as an appointee on the Long-Range Planning Committee and on the Finance Committee, both very prestigious appointments. He also served for seven years as a Global Membership Team Leader for part of Europe, for which programme he has developed materials and presentations for use by the whole team across the world. He is now bringing his experience to bear as LCIF Campaign 100 Area Co-ordinator for part of Europe.

Since its formation in 1945, Lions Clubs International has been associated with the United Nations, and it enjoys consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. In view of his long experience and great success in international matters, Howard has been appointed to the highly prestigious position of LCI's representative to the UN in Geneva, and joins a team dedicated to enhancing the relationship between the two great organisations, and increasing the work LCI does together with UN. As an extension of this work, Howard has now been appointed to a Europe-wide committee to advise LCI, LCIF and Lions on the ground on the assistance we can give for the 70 million refugees and migrants across the world.

Howard has acted as presenter and/or coordinator at forums and workshops globally over many years. Three times, he has been appointed by the incoming International President as a faculty member for the DG Elect School at the International Convention.

Howard is a five-diamond, progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and his many recognitions for service include sixteen International President Awards, and the highest award given to Lions, the Ambassador of Goodwill.

He was senior partner of an accountancy practice, and he is now retired. He lives in Farnham, Surrey, with his wife Lion Claire. who is also a Melvin Jones Fellow. They have two grown-up children, and two grandchildren.

As you can see PID Lion Howard is aptly qualified to be invited as our International guest and I for one look forward to hearing from him.

As before Thursday evening will be very informal and will be a games night. Entertainment for Friday and Saturday night will be John Atyeo and his disco. John is a member of Paignton Club and Zone F Chairman. At last year's Convention John and his wife gave a show of unprecedented vitality, unfortunately this may not be forthcoming this year as John had an accident back along and is somewhat restricted in movement this year. However, he will provide us with a variety of music that young and old will want to dance to.

Registration will be on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and should be in the reception area as before. PDG Lion Dave Rosson is CNRO and will oversee registration.

There will be two speakers from Multiple District, Lion Stuart Young, who will talk about the Lions Eye Camera and Lion Fran Stary who will give a presentation explaining Lions involvement with Childhood Cancer and Brain Tumours. As both MDOs are also giving their presentations at District SC in the afternoon their presentations to us will be early on Saturday morning, before the Business session starts, to give them time to get to Swindon. In the afternoon our own PDG Lion David Atkins will be updating and expanding on Campaign 100.

To help in cost reductions it has been decided not to have a ladies programme and once again THERE WILL BE NO CREAM TEA

Please could I ask all holders of a trophy to return them in good time to your respective Zone Chair so that they can return them at the next Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2020.

There will be a change to the Sunday morning session in that four Clubs will be asked to present for 15 minutes on their pet service project. This will be followed by 15 minutes of questions/discussions from the floor. The session will be chaired by PDG Alan Good and times will be strictly adhered to. I have two Clubs ready to present; obviously I need two more any volunteers!

Finally, and most important of all WE NEED A NOMINATION FOR SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR. It is not an onerous task and is made easier by it stretching it over three years. Constitutionally candidates need to have been at least a Zone Chair, but you also need a passion for Lions and a great sense of humour. As we are a new District, Past District Governors can apply/be nominated.

PDG Lion John Sims
Convention Chair