



DG's Journal



Newsletter of District Governor James Stigant
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Edition 8

Message from DG James

February has come and gone and the last couple of months of this fiscal year are upon us. During my visits to all the clubs I have become aware that there are so many members who still do not have a full understanding of what Lions are all about, the various programmes offered, why we pay dues and how these monies are allocated. It is therefore imperative that every effort is made to make all this information available to each and every member, maybe by personal contact as I do find that most members just do not read what is sent to them. It is therefore the duty of each and every President and Secretary to make sure that their members are correctly informed. As the year is running out, the various workshops for incoming officers will be held and it is **MOST IMPORTANT** that all attend → if you do not go you will not know!!!! The face of Lions changes every year and there are many new methods, etc that you need to be aware of. I have also therefore seen it fit to include an abbreviated fact sheet that I found on the LCI website for your perusal. Read on and enjoy the newsletter.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. We have more than 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs worldwide.

Lions are everywhere. We are men and women active in 208 countries and geographic areas.

Lions serve. Our motto is "We Serve." Founded in 1917, we are best known for fighting blindness, but we also feed the hungry, aid seniors and the disabled, and care for the environment. Lions are a global service network of volunteers that make a difference in their local communities.

Lions give sight. By conducting vision screenings, equipping hospitals and clinics, distributing medicine and raising awareness of eye disease, Lions work toward the goal of providing vision for all. Through programs such as Sight First, Lions have helped provide more than 147 million treatments for river blindness, 10 million doses of a sight-saving drug to prevent trachoma, and eye screenings for more than 15 million children.

Lions serve youth. Our community projects often support children and local schools through scholarships, recreation and mentoring. Internationally, we offer many programs to empower youth, including the Peace Poster Contest; youth camps and exchanges; and Lions Quest, a positive youth development programme.

Our Leo clubs help young people develop leadership skills while impacting their communities through service. There are approximately 157,000 Leos and 6,000 Leo clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas worldwide.

Lions receive grants and the world receives benefits. Since 1968, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has awarded more than \$811 million in grants to support Lions' humanitarian projects.

As the official charitable organization of LCI, LCIF helps Lions improve the lives of millions of people through 4 pillars of service: saving sight, supporting youth, providing disaster relief and meeting humanitarian needs.

Through the Foundation's generous support of large-scale humanitarian initiatives, Lions are able to extend their reach from local communities to the global community in order to serve those who need us most.

Membership concerns

Membership figures stand at 857 relating to a drop of 14 for February. These clubs have recorded drops: Bredasdorp & Calvinia (2 each); Cape Town, Ceres & Gansbaai [Hermanus](1 each); Somerset West (one transfer); Tokai and Worcester (3 each).

Fellow Lions, we all need to attend to this matter and make every effort in retaining and increasing membership in our District. Sadly if this trend continues we shall not be the District with the most members anymore, which indeed will be a sad day. Please bear in mind that you are not doing this for me but for your District and for the communities that you serve. You therefore have a huge responsibility regarding this matter. Thank you to those clubs who did show a positive growth. Thank you also to Calvinia for the most amazing membership drive that you had. There were close to 60 prospectives present with an average age of in the thirties. Thanks also to ZC Jan Truter who assisted with information and various programmes. I most certainly would have been there but due to other commitments which I could not change this was not possible.

MMRs & Activities

40 clubs submitted MMRs for February and I thank you for your efforts. I do appeal that ALL clubs do submit these reports as we do need them to ratify membership trends, etc. 44 clubs submitted their activities online—thank you.



IT Matters

This is on-going and up-to-date and I once again urge all clubs to make use of the facilities provided. Our Webmaster is prepared to assist clubs with websites, FB, etc—please contact him for information.

Club Officer Bearers 2014

Please remember that this is the time of the year to get your club officer nominations in order for those who have complied. Thanks for those who still need to...OPSKUD!!!
Deadline for online submission is 31st March.

3rd Cabinet Meeting

A very successful 3rd Cabinet meeting was held at Tulbagh with 27 members attending.
Thanks to Tulbagh LC for hosting this event.
Relative information will be given to all clubs via your Zone Chairperson.

Upcoming Events

22/03: Tea Party for Sight (Table View LC)
29/03: Charity golf day at Royal Cape Golf Club
29/03: Autumn Dinner Dance (Sea Point LC)
April → Family & Friends Month. Contact 2nd VDG Sue for more information.



4/04: Lions World Lunch Relay is a 24-hour international event that brings families and friends of Lions together in their local communities with families and friends of Lions around the world.

It's a great opportunity to share a meal and celebrate your club's success, the value of service, and the rewards of being a Lion. It's a day of good food, fun and fellowship. **Register now!**

Here's how the Lions World Lunch Relay works: Participating clubs will schedule a lunch for their family and friends on 4/04. The Lunch Relay will begin in New Zealand at noon. As clubs around the world host lunches in different international time zones, the Lunch Relay will move from time zone to time zone as Lions steadily pass the event around the world, forming the Lions World Lunch Relay!

23-27/04: MAD Convention in Windhoek

To date, 410A is leading with registrations of which I am very proud. For those who have not yet registered, please make an effort to attend—don't be last member to register...

Club Visits



6/02: Ceres
 PRESIDENT GIEL ROSSOUW
 Baie dankie vir n aangename aand.
 Onthou die woorde soos daar gesê "just do it". Sterkte vorentoe.

PP Andre receiving his 2012/13 Club Excellence Award—congrats



Club Excellence Award: Clubs receive a distinguished banner patch to proudly display on their banner and the President receives a Club Excellence pin to proudly recognize his/her outstanding leadership.

10/02: Milnerton
 PRESIDENT JIM ANNISON
 We held a very good meeting and discussed many issues that members had.
 Good luck on your rebuilding programme and your planned membership recruitment drive.
 DG James with LP Jim and Lion Alan Gould



03/02: Vredendal
 PRESIDENT DERICK LOCHNER
 Dankie vir 'n goeie vergadering



19/02: Brackenfell Leos
 PRESIDENT MICHAILE
 Thanks for a pleasant visit and good luck with your growth plans



8-9/02: I was cajoled into working for the annual Gansbaai Lighthouse to Lighthouse mountain bike event which I highly recommend. These cyclists face a gruelling race starting at Gansbaai lighthouse, going through game reserves and cycling in thick loose sand on the beach ending at Cape Agulhas Lighthouse. They were treated to a most amazing potjiekos supper, went to sleep some or other time and had to cycle the same route back (party mense hou van pak kry). Needless to say the journey back to Gansbaai via tar road was very comfortable. This club really worked hard and the rest of the Zone 8 clubs helped out - Spanwerk!!!



Start & End—Gansbaai



Agulhas campsite

