

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President, Immediate Past President, up to three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Lion Tamer, Tail Twister, Membership Director and any other Directors constitute the Board of Directors. It is the Executive Board of the Club and is responsible through the Club Officers for the implementation of policies approved by the Club, and can override or rescind the action of any Club Officer.

The President makes the following appointments and the appointees hold office for the fiscal year 1 July to 30 June:

ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Chairs the committee which is responsible for the fundraising programme of the Club.

WELFARE CHAIRMAN

Chairs the committee which investigates all requests for help received by the Club.

Where a Club has adopted its own Constitution, the above may be varied.

There may be other members of the Club who are responsible for certain specialist activities of the Club and can reflect the activities of Lions Clubs International at District and Multiple District level. There is a list of these in the Members Directory.

DISTRICT, ITS ORGANISATION AND OFFICERS

A District consists of at least 35 Clubs and 1,250 members, as laid down in the International Constitution, but usually consists of more. Although there is a minimum number of Clubs, there is no maximum at the moment.

For purely administrative purposes, the District is split into smaller units called Regions and these are then divided into Zones. The maximum number of Clubs in a Region is 16 and in a Zone 8. When drawing up a Region or Zone, due regard is given to the geographical location of the Clubs which will compose the Region or Zone.

The following is a list of some of the Officers and matters connected with District that you will come across and hear referred to at various times:

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Chief Administrative Officer of the District. Elected annually at the District Convention, takes the Chair at District Convention, Cabinet Meetings and any District Meeting. Represents the Association within the District and represents the District at Council of Governors Meetings. Acts under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors, which includes furthering the Purposes and Objects of the Association and supervising the organisation of new Lions Clubs. Aims to make at least one visit to each Club within the District.

1ST AND 2ND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Elected at the annual District Convention, they carry out such duties as are given by the International Board of Directors or the District Governor and are under the supervision of the District Governor. Although not automatic, the 1st Vice District Governor usually progresses to the office of District Governor. Members of the District Cabinet.

DISTRICT SECRETARY

Responsible for all official correspondence relating to the District. Takes the minutes of all Cabinet and District meetings, including District Convention. Acts under the supervision of the District Governor and Cabinet. Appointed by the incoming District Governor.

DISTRICT TREASURER

Responsible for the financial affairs of the District. Passes on the funds from Clubs to projects. Recommends the level of dues required to ensure that the District remains in financial good standing. Appointed by the incoming District Governor.

REGION CHAIRMAN

Appointed to serve for one year. Main responsibilities are to supervise the activities of the Zone Chairmen in the Region, play an active role in the formation of new Lions Clubs, help weak Clubs, further the Purposes and Objects of the Association. Must visit each Club in the Region once during the year.

THE CLUB, ITS ORGANISATION AND OFFICERS

The **MOST** important part of Lions Clubs International is the Club and its Members.

Below is a brief description of the duties and roles of the Officers of a typical Lions Club.

PRESIDENT

Chief Executive Officer of the Club, presiding over all Club meetings and the Board of Directors. Holds the post for twelve months. Is a member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee (Zone Meetings).

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Offers experience and guidance to the President and is responsible, along with the other Past Presidents, for officially greeting guests of the Club.

VICE PRESIDENTS

If for any reason the President cannot carry out the duties of his office, the Vice President next in rank occupies the position. He/she also usually progresses to President.

SECRETARY

Deals with the official correspondence of the Club, maintains Club records and submits regular reports on Club membership and activities to those who require them.

TREASURER

Maintains the Club's accounts, issues receipts for members' dues. Gives an up-to-date balance to the Club of all accounts in his charge at Club meetings.

Clubs must have at least two accounts. One is the Administration Account of the Club, with its income coming from fines, raffles and members' dues.

This is not a complete list of District Cabinet Officers and quite often Specialist Officer roles reflect the projects and activities of Lions Clubs International; a list of these appears in the Multiple District Directory.

THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT, ITS ORGANISATION AND OFFICERS

When there are more than two Districts in the same geographical area they can become a Multiple District. Here in the British Isles and Ireland we have a Multiple District referred to as MD 105.

It consists of the thirteen Districts which cover the British Isles and Ireland (Ireland is just one District). Its affairs are conducted by a Committee comprising a representative from each District - the District Governor. This Committee is called and referred to as The Council of Governors (COG) and meets four times a year.

The chairman of COG is elected from the preceding two years' District Governors by the District Governors Elect at their meeting at the MD Convention.

There are others besides the District Governors who sit in on the meetings of COG. They are the MD Treasurer, the Secretary to the Council, and Sergeant at Arms. Usually also invited to attend are current International Officers and Past International Officers from this Multiple District.

The term International Officers refers to those who have been elected at the International Convention to either the post of International Director or International President.

The MD Treasurer is appointed by COG at their first meeting and carries out similar duties to those of a District Treasurer, but the duties are a little more complex and the sums involved are, of course, larger. The MD Treasurer must have certain professional qualifications, as laid down from time to time.

Later, the Association adopted an emblem and colours. The emblem, our badge, is composed of the letter L with a lions head on either side, one facing the past and the other the future.

The colours chosen were Purple and Gold - Purple for loyalty and Gold for sincerity and generosity towards mankind (a recent re-branding exercise has changed these colours for marketing purposes).

Under the leadership of Melvin Jones, the Association doubled its membership in three years and extended into Canada. The first Club formed outside North America was in China in 1926. Lionism did not spread to Europe until 1948, when a Club was formed in Stockholm, Sweden. The formation of the first Club in this Multiple District, London Host, was in 1949.

It was not until the 1950's that the motto "We Serve" was selected as the result of a contest won by a Canadian Lion.

HISTORY OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 105 (BRITISH ISLES AND IRELAND)

Lions started here in 1949 when a Club was formed in London following a visit to Canada by the late Lord Leconfield. During the Second World War the Lions of Ontario sent a substantial sum of money to the late Queen Mother to use on behalf of children who suffered in the Blitz. As Patron of the "Waifs & Strays" (now The Children's Society), the then Queen Elizabeth donated the money to that Society.

After the war. Colonel Wyndam (later Lord Leconfield), President of the Society, visited Toronto to express his personal thanks to the Lions. The chance of visiting Lions Clubs International Headquarters was offered to him, on the understanding that upon his return to London he would try to form a Lions Club.

With assistance from Lions Clubs International Special Representative Murray Huggan and others, the London (Host) Club was formed on 29 December 1949 and received its Charter on 29 March 1950.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This is the executive committee of our Association and is made up of elected (unpaid) Lions. It consists of: The International President, Immediate Past International President, 1st International Vice President, 2nd International Vice President and thirty-four (34) International Directors. All these are elected at the International Convention.

To give continuity, the thirty-four directors are elected on the basis of seventeen (17) being elected each year.

There are also ten (10) non-voting appointees who serve for one year in an advisory capacity.

The structure of the Board is such that the Directors represent all parts of the world where there are Lions Clubs. In Europe, each Multiple District has a turn in providing an International Director.

An International Director is elected to serve a two-year term and commits him/herself to attending Board Meetings and Committee Meetings wherever they may be held, and to visiting Lions Meetings, especially District Conventions.

ABBREVIATIONS

COG	Council of Governors
DG	District Governor
DO	District Officer
ID	International Director
IPDG	Immediate Past District Governor
IPIP	Immediate Past International President
IPP	Immediate Past President (Club)
IVP	International Vice President (1st or 2nd)
LCI	Lions Clubs International
LCIF	Lions Clubs International Foundation
M & A	Membership and Activities Report
MD	Multiple District
MD 105	Multiple District 105
PDG	Past District Governor
PID	Past International Director
PIP	Past International President
PP	Past President (Club)
RC	Region Chairman
ZC	Zone Chairman

DUES

The running costs of Lions Clubs International at all levels MUST come from the membership and not from funds raised from the general public.

CLUB DUES

They must include sufficient to cover District, Multiple District and International Dues and are set by the Club, taking into account the running costs of the Club and the expenses that it wishes to meet of the President, Secretary, or others who might represent the club at various functions or meetings.

DISTRICT DUES

These are set and agreed by the voting delegates at each District Convention. The District Treasurer must take into account the level of expenses that he might be called upon to pay to cover the legitimate expenses of District Officers in carrying out their duties and the expense of the business session of the District Convention.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT DUES

Again, these are set by the delegates at the MD Convention on the recommendation of the COG. Taken into account is the expense of the running and upkeep of our MD Office and the payment of its staff, as well as the expenses of meetings etc that are necessary for the efficient running of the MD. Again, a sum is included to cover the business session of the convention. Also, significant amounts are included to cover such items as insurance and publicity.

NEW MEMBER:

DATE OF INDUCTION:

WELCOME to The International Association of Lions Clubs - or Lions Clubs International, to use our everyday name.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest and most active service organisation with total **membership exceeding 1.3 million** in over 45,000 clubs in 205 nations and geographical areas.

Here in our part of Lions Clubs International, the British Isles and Ireland, there are over 900 clubs with a total membership of nearly 18,000.

The intention of this booklet is to provide you with some background information on Lions Clubs International, the abbreviations we use, how things are organised, and a very brief history of Lions Clubs International and how Lionism started in Great Britain and Ireland.

CLUB VENUE:

MEETING DAY/TIME:

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES

- TO ORGANISE, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions Clubs.
- TO COORDINATE the activities and standardize the administration of Lions Clubs.
- TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- TO TAKE an active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community.
- TO UNITE the Clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- TO PROVIDE a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by Club members.
- TO ENCOURAGE service minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.