

# The International Association of Lions Clubs

**DISTRICT 105A**



Welcome to  
Lions



[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)  
[www.lions105a.org.uk](http://www.lions105a.org.uk)

## **Patron of the Lions Clubs of the British Isles**



**HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
The Countess of Wessex G.C.V.O.  
who became Patron of  
The Lions Clubs of the British Isles  
in 2004**

## LIONS – AN INTRODUCTION

This information is intended to be a background introduction to Lions Clubs International.

It has been produced for the benefit of new members who wish to know about Lions.

The Association of Lions Clubs developed from an idea of Melvin Jones, a community-spirited Chicago insurance agent. From the organisational meeting held in June 1917 the new group took the name of one of the groups attending, the "Association of Lions Clubs". At that time 22 Clubs were represented, all within the United States, and it was at this Convention that the Association's constitution and by-laws were adopted.

### Lions Club's journey through time

<b>1917</b>	Association of Lions Clubs formed in Chicago
<b>1919</b>	Association's Slogan – Lions adopted – this stands for "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety"
<b>1920</b>	Lions became International with a club in Canada
<b>1927</b>	Clubs organised in China, Mexico and Cuba with 60,000 members and 1180 clubs
<b>1950</b>	Our motto "We Serve" was selected
<b>Present</b>	Clubs established in over 200 countries with over 1 million members

Gradually, the concept of Lionism has spread throughout the world, until the present day, with clubs established in over 200 countries, and with approximately 1.4 million members.

In Britain there are over 600 clubs with approximately 10,500 members.

### Our Name, Emblem, Motto and Mission Statement

The official name of our Association is The International Association of Lions Clubs. Most of us, however, prefer the abbreviated form '**Lions Clubs International**'.

This is our Emblem, which is found on our pins, badges, flags, correspondence, etc.



The Lions facing away from the centre represent the past and the future. Proud of the past and confident of the future.

Our motto is simply **WE SERVE**.

## Mission Statement

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.

## Our Organisation

**Lions International (LI)** is organised into Districts and these are grouped together into Multiple Districts. The British Isles is known as “Multiple District 105.

Each District is identified by its Multiple District number followed by one or two letters. Our clubs lie in District 105A. The District is then divided into Zones. Most Zones comprise between four and eight Clubs.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Headed by</u> (Annual appointments)
International: LCI	International President
Country: MD 105	Chairman of Council
District: A	District Governor
Zone	Zone Chairman
Club	President

District 105 came into being on December 29th, 1949 with the formation of the London (Host) Lions Club, now merged and known as London Central Host.

In 1961 District 105 split into two Districts, A and B, making District 105 a Multiple District. Further divisions have taken place over the years, and we now have 8 Districts.

## District 105A

The District comprises the Boroughs of Greater London north of River Thames and the counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, excluding some areas.

There is a Palace of Westminster Lions Club, comprising of Members of Parliament as members.

105A has over 50 Clubs with a membership greater than 1100. This District has unique District projects like the Senior Citizens Annual Party for the disadvantaged elderly and a District Youth Celebration for the disadvantaged young. District 105A has a proud past and a bright future and is a leading District in British Isles.

## Milestones of District 105A

- Lionism came to the British Isles in 1949
- District 105A came into existence in 1961
- United Nations day is held annually in London at the Houses of Parliament

The Districts within Multiple District 105 are shown on the following map








District 105a



All Multiple Districts

### Lions Projects and Activities

While each Lions club has its own service focus, there are five global causes which present significant challenges to humanity. These are areas of need identified, and voted on, by members and supported by our association and foundation.

	Diabetes	Educational programmes designed to promote awareness of the warning signs of diabetes.
	Childhood cancer	Lions are increasing awareness for childhood cancer as a global priority.
	Environment	The Earth sustains human life. Lions take on large-scale projects that will create a sustainable and healthy future for generations to come.
	Hunger	<b>Hunger</b> is a problem without borders and battling <b>hunger</b> is a huge undertaking by Lions
	Vision	An international programme dedicated to controlling and preventing blindness worldwide. Improving quality of life for people who are blind

These are just a few examples of some of the better-known national and international projects and activities.

**Closer to home:** Lions clubs raise funds to support worthy causes appropriate to the needs of their local communities. The need could be quite modest, such as toys for a playgroup, or more ambitious, such as motorised wheelchairs for the disabled. There is no set agenda, and much depends on the way the club develops, and the support extended by the local community.

### **Opportunities for Youth:**

[Leo Leadership Opportunities | Lions Clubs International](#)

Our Leo clubs provide youth volunteer opportunities that inspire leadership. Young people travel around the world to learn about cultures, customs and friendship through our Youth Camp and Exchange program. Lions Young Leaders in Service and Young Ambassador awards allows Lions the opportunity to give formal recognition to young volunteers with in their community.

### **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF):**

[LCIF Mission | Lions Clubs International](#)

Through donations made to LCIF from the Charity accounts of Lions Clubs and individuals, it helps to meet the needs of people and communities by funding humanitarian service projects, giving immediate help following natural disasters such as flooding or earthquakes.

LCIF is an efficient and effective charity with 100% of the donation directly supporting LCIF's global causes.

### **The Club Structure**

The members of the club appoint between 3 and 12 Trustees who are responsible for running the club subject to the membership. All funds for the club are part of the income for the charity and must be recorded as such. Membership subscriptions are able to attract Gift Aid if registered with HMRC.

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

The **Lions Year** runs from 1st July to 30th June, with elections held each March to appoint the following year's officers. These are

<b>President Ex-Officio Trustee</b>	Chief Officer of the Club. Presides over all Club meetings and Director's meetings.
<b>First Vice President</b>	Conducts meetings in the absence of the President.
<b>Secretary Ex-Officio Trustee</b>	Maintains Club records and produces official Club correspondence. Submits monthly reports to LCI and circulates information to members.
<b>Treasurer Ex-Officio Trustee</b>	Takes care of Club finances.
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Responsible for the recruitment, orientation of new members, retention, and the Club Membership programme.
<b>Lion Tamer</b>	The keeper of the Clubs' regalia.
<b>Tail Twister</b>	Ensures members to conduct themselves responsibly and brings fun to meetings by fining them if they don't. All money collected goes into the Club Administration Account.

In addition to the officers, below are a few committees (these should be led by a trustee)

- a) **Activities (fund-raising)**
- b) **Welfare (service to the community)**
- c) **Public Relations**
- d) **Social (fun for the members)**

Members usually choose which committee they would like to serve and thus every member has a job.

### **The Club Finances**

A club that is a CIO does not need to have more than one Bank account, however if not a CIO then two bank accounts are advised: **Charities/Activities** and **Administration**.

The Charities account is strictly reserved for money raised from the public, and Lions are very proud of the fact that “every pound raised from the public goes back into the community”. In other words, we do not claim administration costs from the money we collect.

**The Administration account** contains the money through club dues, holding raffles and other fundraising activities amongst ourselves.

### **Cost of being a Lion**

Every member contributes to the administration costs of the organisation at Club, District, Multiple District and International levels. This also covers the cost of the bimonthly 'Lion' Magazine, posted to every member as well as our personal accident insurance premium. The dues are set by the individual club. Additional costs are for attending Charter Nights this is to celebrate the “Club’s Birthday” or attending social functions.

### **Regular Meetings**

Meetings are held at regular intervals. Some Clubs meet twice per Month for Business meetings, others only once for Business with a Social evening later in the Month.

The Lion Tamer prepares the meeting room prior to the arrival of the other members.

The President conducts the proceedings, the Secretary and Treasurer are asked for their reports, followed by the Committee Chairperson, and finally all members are asked to contribute to the “any other business” item on the agenda. Throughout the proceedings, all members are encouraged to express their views and ideas. The Tail Twister collects the fines, reminding members of the mistakes they have made.

### **Club Activities**

#### **Service**

This is the primary purpose of a Lions Club, there is always an individual or group needing a helping hand and the extent to which the Club contributes depends upon the decisions of the members and possibly the time at their disposal.

#### **Fund-Raising**

The Club’s activities depend solely on the preferences of the members. Usually, the Fund-Raising committee is responsible for finding, putting forward and the execution of projects for the raising of charity funds.

#### **Social**

This is when members get together and simply enjoy being Lions. The Social Activities Committee plans a programme of entertainment in consultation with all club members.

## **Regalia and Fund-Raising Equipment**

Regalia used by most clubs include the President's collar of office, gavel, bell, Tail-Twister's collection bank, visitor's book and bannerettes. (All clubs have their own individually designed bannerettes, which they exchange with other clubs during inter-club visits and on other special occasions.)

## **District Organisation**

A District should consist of at least 35 clubs and 1250 members, as laid down in the International Constitution. For administrative purposes it is split into smaller units called Zones.

Usually, the maximum number of Clubs in a Zone is 8.

## **District Officers**

### **District Governor (DG)**

Chief Administrative officer of the District. Elected annually at the District Convention. Chairs Cabinet meetings, District meetings and District Convention. Represents the Association within the District and on the Multiple District Council of Governors, acts under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors.

The District Governor has a responsibility to further the Purposes and Objects of the Association, supervise the organisation of new Clubs and make at least one visit to each Club and Branch Club within the District during their year of office.

### **1st Vice District Governor (1stVDG)**

Elected annually at District Convention and chief administrative assistant to the District Governor, serves on District cabinet and progresses to the office of District Governor.

### **2nd Vice District Governor (2ndVDG)**

Elected annually at District Convention and an administrative assistant to the District Governor, serves on District cabinet and usually progresses to the office of 1st Vice District Governor.

The District Governor makes the following appointments and those appointed act under the supervision of the District Governor and Cabinet.

### **District Secretary**

Responsible for all official District correspondence. Takes and circulates minutes for all Cabinet and District meetings, including District Convention. Serves on District cabinet

### **District Treasurer**

Responsible for the financial affairs of the District, passes on the funds from Clubs to projects. Budgets the District's finances and submits recommendations to ensure the District remains financially sound. Serves on District cabinet



### **Zone Chairman**

Member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee. Must visit each club in the Zone at least once and hold a minimum of 3 Zone Meetings per year. Works closely with all Clubs in the Zone and has a responsibility to promote growth in membership and retention of members. Serves on District cabinet

### **District Cabinet**

Meets 4 times per year, chaired by the District Governor, and comprises those posts listed above plus other Officers appointed to co-ordinate the District activities in Lions projects.

### **District Convention**

The Annual General Meeting of the District. Elections for District Governor and Vice District Governor are held. Resolutions put forward by clubs for changes to District Constitution or Dues are discussed and voted upon.

There is a strong social aspect to Conventions, and all Lions are encouraged to attend. The Convention for District 105A is usually held in the beginning of March each year.

### **Multiple District Organisation and Officers**

The eight Districts in Britain comprise the Multiple District of 105. Each District's District Governor serves on the Council of Governors, who conduct the affairs of the Multiple District, meeting four times per year.

The Council of Governors appoints Officers and Committee Chairperson in a similar format to that explained for District Cabinet.

The Lions of Multiple District 105 own premises in Kings Heath, Birmingham, which are the Headquarters for Britain. From these premises are distributed all Multiple District documents, supplies and Directories. It is also the centre for dealing with membership enquiries

### **International Organisation**

Our Association has its International Headquarters office at Oak Brook, Chicago, USA. There is a paid staff dealing with membership records, administration, translating and distributing documents world-wide, taking and sending orders for supplies and organising International Directors meetings.

The 33 Directors on the International Board are elected at International Conventions, together with the International President and the 2 International Vice Presidents. The Directors represent all parts of the World where there are Lions Clubs.

**Some abbreviations you may find useful: -**

<b>BMH</b>	<b>Bert Mason Humanitarian</b>
<b>COG</b>	<b>Council of Governors</b>
<b>DG</b>	<b>District Governor</b>
<b>1stVDG</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor</b>
<b>2ndVDG</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor</b>
<b>DO</b>	<b>District Officer</b>
<b>ID</b>	<b>International Director</b>
<b>IP</b>	<b>International President</b>
<b>IPDG</b>	<b>Immediate Past District Governor</b>
<b>LC</b>	<b>Lions Club</b>
<b>LCI</b>	<b>Lions Clubs International</b>
<b>LCIF</b>	<b>Lions Clubs International Foundation</b>
<b>MD</b>	<b>Multiple District</b>
<b>MD 105</b>	<b>Multiple District 105 (British Isles)</b>
<b>MJF</b>	<b>Melvin Jones Fellow</b>
<b>MMR</b>	<b>Monthly Membership Report</b>
<b>CAR</b>	<b>Club Activity Reporting</b>
<b>PDG</b>	<b>Past District Governor</b>
<b>PID</b>	<b>Past International Director</b>
<b>PIP</b>	<b>Past International President</b>
<b>PP</b>	<b>Past President (Club)</b>
<b>ZC</b>	<b>Zone Chairman</b>

### Lions International Purposes

- **To Organize**, 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, cultural, 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.

### Lions Code of Ethics

- **To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
- **To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- **To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- **Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- **To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- **Always** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, as to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.
- **To Aid** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- **To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

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