



Spring

## Welcome - to the Spring Newsletter!

This is being written over the weekend of the Spring Equinox, whilst I am traveling to and from Bournemouth for the 105D Convention. How quickly the year rolls by.

I never cease to be amazed at the work Lions do and the difference we make to our communities, be they local or global. I would like to make reference to some of the initiatives and projects that are taking place. However, before looking forward let us look back at one or two highlights that I may not have had the opportunity to include in my blogs.

I am sure everyone remembers Typhoon Haiyan that struck the Philippines in November 2013 causing massive devastation and disruption. As a Multiple District we came together and raised a significant sum to provide water purification units to those who's water supply had been interrupted.

IPIP Barry Palmer recently visited the Philippine community of Talcoban and sent me this photo of 'our' 'jerry cans' still in use 15 months after the typhoon.



My involvement did not end with the success of the 2014 Europa Forum and in early February I travelled to Augsburg, Bavaria in my capacity as Vice President of the 2015 Europa Forum. My role this time was to provide continuity and advice and it was a pleasure to be able to contribute to the excellent work being undertaken by our German Lions' colleagues under the guidance of my good friend PID Manfred Westhoff. Augsburg, the venue for the Forum, is a beautiful city and the event as a whole promises to be well worth attending and I would encourage as many Lions as possible from the MD to visit the Forum, Augsburg but also Bavaria.

One of the first Lions' events that Heidi and I put in our diaries is the MD Young Ambassador finals and this year's finals seemed to simply pick up where 2014's had left off. The individuals may change, the projects will be different but the quality continues to be exceptional. This year's winner was Orla Jackman, sponsored by Carlow Lions Club, 1051.

In mid-March I again had the privilege of saying 'welcome' to International President Joe Preston who was the guest of the MD at the UN Day at the Palace of Westminster: it was good to see him again after his excellent contribution at the 2014 Europa Forum.



Looking forward there is a wide range of projects and initiatives that I am involved with and working on.

## The Newsletter for PID Phil's Campaign for International 2nd Vice President

The Association has asked me to lead on a pilot membership programme - Join Together - in the MD: we are one of 5 countries to be asked, and I have given presentations to the DGs, VDGs and others to discuss the initiative. I am aware that the first such Clubs have been formed: this is a growth option we must explore carefully as a means of increasing our membership.

As Chair of the Central & Eastern European Initiative I am working with the CEEI team to develop and build the Association's membership and planning the Second CEE Conference, to be held in May, in Sarajevo. In April, I will be attending a combined CEEI/GLT/GMT taking place in conjunction with the International Board Meeting.

Despite our significant achievements over 20 years in the countries of the Former Yugoslavia, much remains to be done, especially in Bosnia, where the economic effects of the destructive and divisive civil war are a long way from being resolved. Our Gift for Living project will continue.

Special Olympics, another partnership close to the heart of Lions, will be gearing up for the next national games, in Sheffield, 2017 and I look forward to being involved in the planning and preparation with the other members of the Board. The Council of Governors have agreed that partnering with 'Special Olympics' will be one of the main elements of our service programme during the Centennial celebrations.

In 2017, we celebrate our own Centenary, 100 Years of Lionism. As the MD Committee Chair I look forward to working with the District Officers, specialist officers and the Committee as we look to place Lions Clubs International at the forefront of public awareness with a range of activities and events that will occur throughout 2017. There will be a lot of information coming!

I have been asked to lead a tripartite partnership between MD105, LCIF and The Loomba Foundation, helping empower widows by providing sewing machines and training, making widows self-sufficient economically through marketable skills training. Through these, widows are able to provide for their families, including the education of their children. It also has an important impact on psychological well-being, allowing them to become self-confident and to develop self-worth.

In essence we have agreed an arrangement whereby for every sewing machine we provide, at a cost of merely £50, the Loomba Foundation will provide matched funding and LCI will match the combined funding. One becomes two becomes four.

Away from what I do as a Lion, I was, professionally, asked by the Cabinet Office to represent the stockbroking industry as a member of the Prime Minister's task force into what are called IPOs (Initial Public Offerings). The task force met at 'No. 10' and I, along with colleagues, was allowed the opportunity for a formal photograph in front of 'that' door.

As you can see, my commitment to the Association is on-going and I continue to be asked by our Senior Leaders to take on roles for the benefit of the Association and the communities it serves.

May I thank you all for your continued support and encouragement, it is greatly appreciated.



**For the latest news on PID Lion Phil, please look at his website [www.lionphilnathan.co.uk](http://www.lionphilnathan.co.uk)**