

Golden year of Lionism

There was a firm resolve by all Lions of Sri Lanka to change our society for the better as the golden rays of first light fell on July 1, 2007 signalling the "Dawn of a Golden Era". Annual convention is an important milestone of an eventful year, perhaps the most exciting in the lifetime for celebrating 50 Years of Lionistic service in Sri Lanka with the support of Sri Lanka's own President of Lions International, Lion Mahendra Amarasingha leading the World's best service organisation with his theme, "Challenge to Change".

Lions of District 306C2 supported the District Governor's mission to usher in a "Golden Era of Lionism" through altruistic service focused on the most deserv-

ing segments of society. Service is the only way one could add value to one's own lives and to the lives deserving humanitarian assistance.

The founder of Lionism, Melvin Jones whose philosophy of life, "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else," is the guiding principle of Lion's motto "We serve."

District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana said that he and Lady Lion Lalani had the most memorable year leading the largest District in Sri Lanka with ninety seven clubs covering a wide and varied landscape spanning five provinces.

According to District Governor, Lions, Lion Ladies & Leos of the Eastern, Central, Uva, Sabaraga-



DG Lion Dr. Baddevithana with Lion Lady Lalani

muwa and Western provinces worked effectively as beacons to brighten the lives of deserving people with the light of community service under the District

Lions of District 306C2 will hold their Annual Convention at BMICH tomorrow Sunday May 18

Governor's Top Ten Priority Programme.

Lions are the Crusaders against darkness and Knights of the Blind having prevented blindness in more than 27 million people world over in the last forty years. Gift of Sight is the number one priority of District 306C2 and they have served more than one thousand five hundred service projects this

year, with a total value exceeding Rs. 500 million. District 306C2 is the only District in Sri Lanka this year to have three applications approved for Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) funding with project values exceeding Rs. 100 million.

Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana paid a glowing tribute to his parents. Dr. Mahinda and Neliya Baddevithana for their inspiration from early life towards become a productive citizen with high morale and social values.

Lions of District 306C2 will hold their Annual Convention at BMICH tomorrow Sunday May 18 with Past International President Dr. Tae-Sup Lee and his wife Haing-Ja from the Republic of Korea, as chief guests.

Y's Men International Paul William Alexander Oration 2008



Elmo Jayawardene (3rd from left) and Mrs. Jayawardene (extreme right party covered) being welcomed by RSD - ASF Veraan de Mel, Menette Dilani de Mel, YM Ranjith de Silva & RD Enrico Brown.

The Paul William Alexander Oration, which is conducted annually by Y's Men International Sri Lanka Region, took place this year at the Methodist Church, Hotel Road, Mt. Lavinia.

This oration is held each year to remember and commemorate the life of the founder of the International Y's Men Movement, Judge Paul William Alexander who along with a group of young men founded the first club with the purpose of supporting their local YMCA in Toledo, Ohio. Today Y's Men International is oriented to serving the world wide YMCA and community at large and has over 1500 clubs with around 30,000 members in 72 countries in all continents.

The keynote speaker for this year's oration was Capt Elmo Jayawardene an Aviator who was Chief Pilot of Sri Lankan Airlines and instructor Captain with Singapore Airlines for a long period of time.

He is also a renowned novelist having written two award winning novels namely "Sam's Story" which won the Gratiaen Award for the best book in Sri Lanka in 2001 and "The Last Kingdom OF Sinalhay" which won the State Literary Award for the best book in Sri Lanka in 2005.

Elmo is also the Founder/President of AFLAC International, a humanitarian organization working to alleviate poverty.

Elmo in his oration gave a down to earth message to all present on issues such as how to remember your past and not laugh at others who do not have material goods to keep up with their neighbours and that each one has a race to run in this life.

The oration this year was



Toastmasters Convention - 2008 (A Division) was held at Water's Edge, Battaramulla, with Canadian High Commissioner, Angela J. Bogdan as the chief guest. At the welcome ceremony (from left) Area Governor, Area 4, Division 'A' Padmini Samarasinghe, Project Chairperson Canadian High Commissioner, Angela Bogdan and Mr. Bogdan, Governor Division 'A' Darshana Weikala and Toastmaster Ramesh Shaffer.

Children - our hope, our future New DG Lion Jeyarajan's vision

"My vision is to be the global leader in community and humanitarian service. I do not consider my appointment as District Governor 306B2, prestigious, but simple to serve the underprivileged,

"Through Lionism".

These sentiments were expressed by Lion Periyassamy Pillai Jeyarajan after being appointed Lions District Governor 306B2 2008-09, at a colourful ceremony held at the BMICH last week. The ceremony

was attended by a host of VIPs, Lions, Lion Ladies, Leos and other leading personalities in service organisations.

Explaining his mission, DG Lion Jeyarajan said "we will strive for excellence and actively foster a caring

environment through our commitment to serve.

Speaking on "Child care and Youth," DG Lion Jeyarajan said "Children, our hope, our future.

We shall address the unmet needs of the children with special emphasis on teaching life skills and groom them as competent citizens.

We shall make a special effort to spare the destitute street children from the clutches of evil elements, and will educate and guide them to be useful civic minded citizens of tomorrow.

Referring to Community Service and Public Relations, Lion Jeyarajan said that it was important to assess community needs, identify meaningful service areas, establish clear goals, work out a budget, organise a work plan, utilise the resources and efficiently implement the project to gain maximum impact.



DG 306B2, Lion Mahesh Pasqual (right) presenting the International President's Appreciation certificate to Vice District Governor, Lion P. Jeyarajan prior to being appointed District Governor 306B2.

"Let us put our community activities into the lime-light. Visibility leads to credibility and credibility to increased membership, great fun out from the public at fund-raisers, higher morale

among Lions, and a better image for Lionism. Lion Jeyarajan paid a tribute to DG Lion Mahesh Pasqual MJF and all past District Governors, leaders of his district, specially his home club, Lions Club of



The New DG Lion P. Jeyarajan being conducted in procession with his wife First Lady Lion Sharmala and family to the venue at BMICH. Pictures by Beverley Jansz

Lions on Pantoon

Lions Club of Galkissa North conducted their monthly meeting on a Pantoon at Bolgoda Lake. This was something unique.

Members of the Club were taken on a cruise at 12 midnight with a magician entertaining the Lions. A live band provided scintillating music on board the pantoon. It was a night to remember for all Lions of the Galkissa North Lions



Club and their family members, said the organiser, Project Chairman Lion Deshabandu Rohan Fernando.

Kandy Rotary to alleviate Diabetes

Diabetic retinopathy - damage to the blood vessels in the retina - is the most common eye disease amongst people with diabetes and is the 4th leading cause of blindness worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Kandy, International Resources for the Improvement of Sight (IRIS) and Rotary International have donated to the Centre for Sight, a Zeiss Laser Delivery Unit and have ordered a Fundus Camera - costing almost Rs. 10 million - that will enable the Centre to diagnose and perform surgery on people with diabetic retinopathy. Also included in the donation are 170 magnifying glasses and telescopes to be provided to

poor people with low vision. It is expected that well over 3,000 patients an year will be treated with the Laser and the Fundus Camera which have been donated.

"The Rotary Club of Kandy is delighted to support work being done by the Centre for Sight to tackle diabetic retinopathy and low vision and we very much hope that our unique partnership with IRIS and Rotary International will benefit many thousands of poor people in the coming years", Shamil Peiris, Vice President, Rotary Club of Kandy, said. "The Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition has identified the treatment of diabetic retinopathy as a priority in the National Programme for Prevention and

Control of Avoidable Blindness 2007-2012. As such, IRIS is glad to offer support towards achieving this objective", Roger Biggs, IRIS Field Manager, said.

"The Centre for Sight very much appreciates the partnership created by the Rotary Club of Kandy, Rotary International and IRIS that has made today's donation of equipment possible. As patients with diabetic retinopathy are referred to the Centre from many parts of the country having this equipment will allow us to offer an improved service to many poor people", says Dr. Tissa Senarathne Consultant Ophthalmologist Focal Person for Diabetic Retinopathy, National Programme for



At the donation ceremony standing - from left - Rotarians Sabry Abuthahir, Arden Cramer, M T A Zain (President - RC Kandy), Mohan Samarakoon (Chairman - Hospital Development Committee), Dr. N G P Samarasinghe (Director - Kandy Hospital), Shamil Peiris (Vice President - RC Kandy), Roger Biggs (Field Manager - IRIS), Dr. Tissa Senarathne (Consultant - Ophthalmologist), Seated - Dr. Saman Senanayake (Consultant Surgeon)

Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe MJF to serve needy with a vision

Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe began his Lionistic career in 1989 when he joined the Lions Club of Wattala as a member. Within a short space of six months, he was appointed secretary of the club.

Having proved his mettle as a Secretary, Lion Lakshman continued to serve on the Board of Directors for the period of four years. Lion Lakshman reached a milestone in his Lionistic career when he was appointed President of the Lions Club of Wattala for the year 1995/96.

In appreciation of Lion Lakshman's dedication and



Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe (left) with International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasingha

commitment, he was invited to serve as a Deputy Cabinet Treasurer for the year 1997/98, under the leadership of Past District Governor, Lion K. Thillaiathan and as a Deputy Cabinet Secretary from 2000/2001 in the Cabinet of Past District Governor, Lion Rohitha Udawatte.

He was invited once again to take over the reigns of the Lions Club of Wattala. This year too, having excelled as a leader, he received high recognition from the District Governor. During the past years, Lion Lakshman has held every conceivable post from District Chairperson to

Region Chairperson, and has won for himself several awards. He was the first 1997/98, under the leadership of Melvin Jones Fellow from District 306B1. Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe MJF is in line to be the Vice District Governor, which will elevate him to the prestigious post of District Governor, Lions District 306B1.

Lion Lakshman is married to Lion Lady Dr. Anoma who is a leading medical practitioner in Wattala. She is an active and committed Lion who has taken an active part in several health camps, rendering free service to the needy.

Lions 306B1 District 3rd Annual Convention May 17, 18

Lionism came to Sri Lanka in 1958 with the Lions Club of Colombo being established on 15th April 1958 as a constituent of District 304 South India. The First Governor from Sri Lanka was the late Lion K. Sachithanathan in 1966/1967. In 1972 Sri Lanka achieved independent Single District Status.

Lionism in Sri Lanka started spreading gradually, mainly in Colombo Metropolitan, its suburbs and major provincial areas. By 1974, Sri Lankan Lionism recorded a rapid growth. It was time opportune for re-districting. Accordingly in 1978, the Multiple District 306 was born with two sub-districts 306A & 306B. In 1988 a further sub-division was made to form Sub-districts 306A, 306B & 306C and these three districts have been sub-districted to districts 306A1, 306A2, 306B1, 306B2, 306C1 and 306C2 in the year 2005. In 2007 the total membership



District Governor Lion S. Flaghavan

was around 10,000 members in about 400 Clubs.

We were represented on the International Board of Directors for the first time in 1982/1983 & 1983/1984 by PID Lion A. Chuck Wijenathene MJF and again for the 2nd time in 1991/1992 & 1992/1994 by IVP Lion Mahendra Amarasingha MJF and for the 3rd time in 2003/2004 & 2004/2005 by PID Lion Asoka Gunasekera MJF.

For the first time after 50

years Sri Lanka was proud to have Lion Mahendra Amarasingha MJF as the 2nd International Vice President for the year 2005/2006, and now leading the entire worldwide Lions movement as its International President in the year 2007/2008 when Sri Lanka is celebrating 50 years of Lionism.

Lion Mahendra Amarasingha hails from the Lions Club of Galle and will lead the largest service organisation in the world when Sri Lanka is celebrating Golden Jubilee in Lionism.

Lions District 306B1 under the leadership of District Governor Lion S. Flaghavan will hold its 3rd Annual District Convention on 17th and 18th of May at Holiday Inn Hotel and the BMICH.

Large numbers of Lions from Colombo, Negombo, Mannar stretching up to Mannar will take part in this convention.

Lion Dr. T. Kumaraweki, MJF

Somerset Lions refurbish Singithi Uyana



The Mahawatta Singithi Uyana, Narahenpita was fully refurbished by the Lions Club of Somerset, and the Chief Guest at the hand-over ceremony, being greeted by little ones on his arrival for the ceremony.

The entire cost of the project was borne by District

