

DISTRICT GOVERNORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Zone and Region meetings)

It is felt that not enough use is being made of the District Governor's Advisory Committees by some Clubs. Possibly this is because Club Members are not fully aware of the function and purpose of an Advisory Committee, which constitutes a very important section of the District Governor's Organisation

This committee, composed of the Zone Chairman together with the President, Secretary, Membership Chairman (and Treasurer, where appropriate) of the clubs within the Zone, constitutes an advisory body to the District Governor and Cabinet. It holds regular scheduled meetings called by the Zone Chairman - of which there are at least three and possibly four, during the financial year. Lioness and Leo Officers and other interested club members may attend all meetings, at the express permission of the Zone Chairman.

The Zone Chairman is required to arrange for the first meeting to be held within thirty days of the adjournment of the International Convention, a second in November and the third in February, with a fourth in either May or June. In some Zones, the District Governor's Advisory Committee meetings have been called to follow the ordinary dinner meeting of a club in the zone. This practice should be avoided, as the meetings tend to be hurried, and subjects do not receive the full and careful consideration warranted, consequently the prime objective of the meeting is defeated.

It is through the framework of the advisory committee, that clubs are enabled to level constructive criticism or express opinions, and in so doing establish a closer relationship with the District.

It must not be forgotten that the committee is an advisory one, and that it provides the means for resolutions from clubs, to be brought under the notice of the District Governor. It is not suggested that it is only through the advisory committee, that clubs are able to communicate with the District Governor. If a resolution from a Club becomes a resolution from the Advisory Committee, it will be seen to represent the feelings of the majority of clubs within the Zone.

Part of the District Officer's duty is to advise clubs to the best of their ability, nevertheless they must at all times be prepared to accept suggestions and criticisms from clubs. The District Governor will welcome any and all comments from Clubs through the Advisory Committees, however it is the District Governor's prerogative and not Cabinets, to accept or reject a recommendation. This emphasises the fact that the Committee is an Advisory One Only.

On the Advisory Committee report issued by Lions Clubs International, answers are given to stereo-typed questions relating to the Zone. District Governors also appreciate learning just how clubs in the various Regions are thinking, what they desire, what they prefer, and above all, what they don't like. The Zone Chairman will be only too willing to transmit all resolutions and comments from clubs to the District Governor.

Some topics to be discussed at Advisory Committee meetings are set out in the Zone Chairman's Manual, from Lions Clubs International :

First Meeting :

Duties of President, Secretary and Membership Committee. Club Orientation Program, Education.

Membership Development, Retention and Extension.

Objectives for the year - Club, Zone Chairman, District Governor.

International President's Programme.

Leadership Development, Inter-club Meetings, Public Relations.

Protocol for the District Governors visit.

World Lions Service Day.

An analysis of real community needs.

100% Club President Award Rules and objectives.

Second Meeting :

Progress review of Club President's goals.

New Member Induction and orientation, Sponsors responsibilities.

Club Finances, The Rules pertaining to Incorporation.

Club Evaluation Questionnaire (International, District).

Review of club bulletins, inter-club visitations and public relations.

District Membership Development program.

Review of club membership committee - attendance, program, membership.

Third Meeting :

Appointment of club nominating committees.

Preparation of PU-101 Reports on Club and Membership Officers.

Proper Club Installation ceremony.

Audit of club funds to satisfy the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The selection of convention delegates for District, Multiple District and International conventions.

The importance of attendance at Club Officer Schools.

The foregoing by no means covers the full capacity of the Advisory Committee. Some of its additional important duties are :

At each meeting it takes an inventory of the condition of all Zone Clubs.

It assists the Zone Chairman, in an endeavour to have every club within the Zone operating efficiently, under the Lions Clubs International standard club form of Constitution and By-Laws.

It promotes attendance from zone clubs at the annual District and National Conventions, with particular emphasis on the club's duty of providing a full quota of delegates.

It assists the Zone Chairman, in promoting attendance at Charter Nights of newly organised clubs, trainer workshops and club seminars.

It discusses ways and means of promoting good fellowship, throughout the zone by making plans for inter-club visits and social activities.

It is a forum for the open discussion and exchange of ideas on club service projects, as undertaken and reported by clubs.

It promotes assistance to weaker clubs.

Upon accepting office, Club Presidents, Secretaries and Membership Chairmen are contracted to attend all meetings of the District Governors Advisory Committee. The attendance of these three club officers counts towards their club's chance of gaining any club efficiency award the District Governor may present. Therefore it is the duty of Presidents, Secretaries and Membership Chairmen to make sure, that their club is not placed at a disadvantage, because of poor attendance at advisory meetings. (Proxies are not acceptable).

The District Governor's Advisory Committee is a most important body, and its proper function contributes greatly to the efficient administration of the district, with a resulting benefit to all Clubs.