

# DISTRICT 412

## PASSION IN SERVICE



MAY 2015

LIONS DISTRICT 412 GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



Lion Melody escorts some of the beneficiaries of the eye clinic convened by Redcliff Lions in Kwekwe.

## KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND

‘Service with Passion’  
‘Strengthen the Pride’



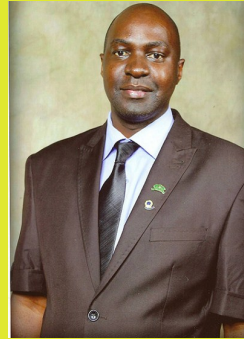
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### Editorial Comments



Fellow Lions,

The year of passion has come to an end, BUT the passion to serve still burns within the Lions of District 412! Its been a busy year full of service.

My gratitude goes to the D412 family for all their contributions to the monthly newsletter.

The magazine has been awesome and informative. We have coordinated well as the editorial team. A GREAT TEAM EFFORT!

Hats off to the Editorial Team.

- Lion Doreen Mponela [Sub Editor - Malawi]

The editorial team has done a wonderful job with the magazine but the Lions in our District have really disappointed me. Despite repeated requests only a handful have responded by sending in articles/photos. There is so much going on in our District but it stays within the Club/Zone. No one else get to hear about it or seen any photos' of what was happening – projects/ socialising etc. Despite all these obstacles you have really shown us great articles and photo's to encourage everyone to dig deeper with positive results. Well done to the Editorial Team!!!!

- Lion Lynette Le Roux [Sub Editor - Botswana]

With Passion We Serve!

*Lion Piraishe Mabheka, RLLI*

D412 Newsletter Editor

Visit our Website: <http://www.e-district.org/sites/412/index.php>

Contact the Editorial Team: [piraishe@gmail.com](mailto:piraishe@gmail.com)



## FROM THE DG's DESK



Fellow Lions,

It gives me immense pleasure to contribute to the last issue of our 2014-2015 District Newsletter. It was a privilege to serve as your District Governor in the year gone by. 2014-2015 was a year of growing our District to its Constitutional Status; Engaging in meaningful service and letting the communities know our work. It was a year of "Service with Passion".

It was very fulfilling to visit Lions at work. As I travelled around the District, my pride as a Lion grew stronger. I became more convinced that the service we're into is the best. I saw Lions as a beacon of hope for many; I saw Lions as a solution for many challenges; Lions are indeed a Pillar.

It was a privilege to visit Lions in Botswana: a visit to a resuscitated Club of Serowe where I witnessed Lions ready to recommit to service; to Selebi Phikwe... Lions providing blankets to the elderly; to Tonota, Lions motivating Youth; to Francis Town...Nyangabwe...Jubilee...Tati...Lions busy at work. Gaborone; Maun and Lobatse continued to excel in service.

My spirits were also lifted to see Lions at work in Zimbabwe...Lions of Mutare and Gweru, taking care of the elderly; Lions of Marondera; Rusape, Nyanga; Bulawayo; Sebakwe; Kwekwe; Hatfield; Harare West; Harare City.... making a difference in their communities in various projects. One could not stop being fascinated by great works of Harare the Phoenix; Red cliff; Triangle; Chiredzi, ranging from saving the environment, building our Youth, health to relief items among many.

A visit to Malawi Clubs that were struggling, was another pleasure. Dedza; Salima; Mtnthama; Kasungu; Chichiri; Limbe. Lions in these Club's recommitted to service. Great works by Blantyre; Capital City; Lilongwe and Mzuzu were an inspiration.

The climax of the visits was into Mozambique. Presentation of a Charter to Tete and Gondola were memorable events. A visit to Beira and eating together with children in an orphanage was another to remember.

Lions in many cases publicized their service by use of the Media; hanging of banners and billboards among others. We also shared these great works amongst ourselves through our monthly newsletter. To Lion Piraishe, our PRO, I say thank you.

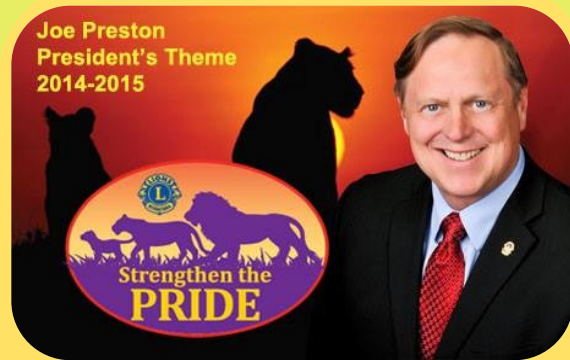
Our joy could not be complete without sharing it with others by inviting them to join us. Four new Clubs were chartered; two branch clubs were organized. Organization of three more new clubs is underway, Chitungwiza by Harare the Phoenix; Mulanje by Blantyre and Karoi are working on another.

Lion subscribed to the need to re-cultivate our Passion to Service and rededicate ourselves to our pledge to be of service to mankind. Thanks to the Leadership in our Clubs; Zones; Regions and the District. We also are thankful for the individual efforts of members. All these efforts resulted into meaningful gains in membership and a strong participation in service activities.

I thank you all for the opportunity you afforded me to be your leader in 2014-2015. Please do not put out the passion to service.

Yours in Service

DG Jean



Dear Lion,

When I asked Lions to Strengthen the Pride last year, I had no idea just how strong we would become. It's been an incredible year thanks to you.

I asked you to strengthen your club, and we're stronger than ever. We have surpassed 1.4 million members because you made a commitment to growing your club to better serve your community and those who need us most.

We challenged Lions to help 100 million people through the Centennial Service Challenge, and you responded. More than 30 million people have benefitted from your service, which has strengthened communities and brought hope to millions around the world.

We've achieved so much together...and I hope you'll keep working to achieve even more. Keep inviting new members to position your club for success. Keep serving so we can reach our Centennial Service Challenge goal. And keep working to make the world a better place, which is what we do as Lions.

It has been an honor to lead dedicated, compassionate men and women like you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2014-15 international president.

Together in Service  
Lion Joe Preston





## MEMBERSHIP



Lions Clubs International is the largest charity organization with a proud history of humanitarian services. At the core of its success are dedicated club members who devote their time and attention to serving their communities. It is a large family with over 1.4 million members in over 46,000 clubs in 207 countries worldwide.

### Check list for Club Account Status Review

- ◆ Club balances outstanding beyond 120 days can cause clubs to be placed on suspension if balances are equal to or exceeding US\$20/member or \$1,000, whichever is less over 120 days.
- ◆ Anticipated high risk of suspension in November and May can be avoided with prompt club payments.
- ◆ High cancellation rates can be avoided in December and June if payments are received prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month following suspension.
- ◆ Clubs can be reactivated within 12 months following cancellation, if eligible. Full payment along with a Re-activation Report is required, signed by you.
- ◆ Club Treasurers can view statements online and avoid mailing delays. Please encourage club treasurers to check the opt-out option on the association's website to discontinue receiving mailed club statements.
- ◆ Clubs in Good Standing are eligible to participate in local elections. The current dues billing must be paid leaving no International dues and fees greater than US\$10.00 unpaid and balances over 90 days must not exceed US\$50.00.
- ◆ **Beginning July 1, 2015, clubs will automatically be placed on Financial Suspension if balances beyond 90 days are equal to or exceeding US\$20/member or \$1,000 or greater, and cancellation will occur after the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month following suspension if full payment is not received. As a result, anticipated high suspension will be reported in October and April. Also, clubs cancelled more than twice will be ineligible for reactivation.**

### Membership Retention & Growth Tips

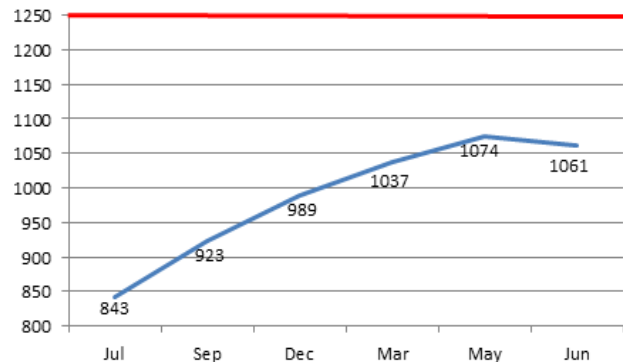
1. Proper orientation of new members
2. Carry out your club ratings survey assessment and community needs assessments
3. Make comfortable dues payment plans
4. Get the members involved
5. Take advantage of incentives offered by LCI on former LEOS joining Lions; Women and Family membership units & Student membership.

Ask One Today!

PDG Ray Sibanda  
Global Membership Team  
District 412 Chairman



### District 412 Membership Growth 2014-15



**50** is the number of Clubs in District 412

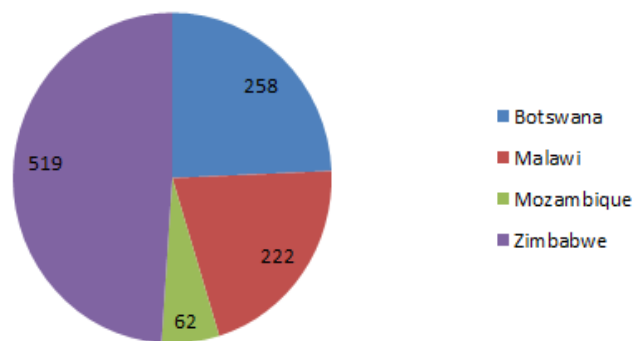
**1061** is the number of Lion members in District 412

**7** clubs were lost in District 412 in 2014 - 15

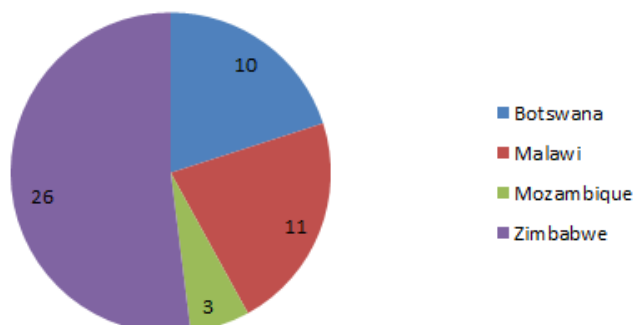
**3** Clubs were chartered in District 412 in 2014 - 15

**14** is the number of prospective Clubs in District 412

### District 412 Member Distribution per Country



### Number of D412 Clubs per country





# LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



## Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

Dear Lions,

I have recently spent some time reflecting on this past year. As Chairperson of your Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), I have had the privilege of traveling the world, meeting Lions and witnessing the projects to which you devote your hearts.

It has been a great honor to serve as your Chairperson. I am so proud of everything we have accomplished, and I know that with your continued support, our Foundation will continue making the world a better place for years to come.

Without your kindness and generosity, there would be more children at risk for drug use; fewer children would have access to life-saving vaccines; the fear of blinding disease would be a reality for more people; and there would be less support for people in need following disasters.

Whether in small, rural villages or in our global community, you are changing lives every day. I would like to share with you just a few of the incredible accomplishments from the past year, below. Thank you for your dedication to our Foundation.

Sincerely,  
Barry J. Palmer  
Chairperson - Lions Clubs International Foundation

### Combating Measles

A big part of our successful fight against measles is something called social mobilization. Lions knock on doors, sponsor radio and television advertisements, take out newspaper ads and take to the streets to reach the families of young children. Lions are making sure that parents and entire communities understand the dangers of measles and the importance of vaccination. This puts Lions on the frontlines in the fight against measles.

### Providing Disaster Relief

Lions have generously donated over US\$2 million to the LCIF disaster fund following the earthquake in Nepal. Local Lions are still hard at work meeting critical needs and rebuilding. They have organized countless blood donation drives, distributed food, blankets and clean water to victims, and continue to put aside their own needs to assist their neighbors. The Lions of Nepal are providing hope in the wake of disaster.

### Saving Sight

SightFirst focuses on two neglected tropical diseases, onchocerciasis and trachoma, and continues to make significant advances. The World Health Organization (WHO) verified the elimination of river blindness from Colombia in 2013 and from Ecuador in 2014. Now, the Chinese government has announced the elimination of blinding trachoma from China. As recently as 1999, over 350 million people were thought to be at risk of contracting this disease in China, but it is no longer a public health threat in that country. This goes to show what can be accomplished when governments, volunteers and NGOs commit to eliminating a preventable disease. With help from the Lions of Hong Kong/Macau and China, this announcement **marks a milestone** on the road toward official verification of elimination of yet another blinding disease.

## DISTRICT 412 CONTRIBUTIONS TO LCIF 2014 - 15

### US\$2345 – Botswana

[2 x MJF – Lion Anthony Mathias - Gaborone Lions Club]  
[1 x PMJF – PDG Lion James D Honold, 4<sup>th</sup> Diamond, Gaborone Lions Club]  
[1 x MJF complete installment – PDG Lion Anil Patel, 5<sup>th</sup> Diamond, Selebi-Phikwe Mokomoto Lions Club]  
[1 x US\$20 Contributing Member – Lobatse Lions Club]

### US\$1000 – Malawi

[1 x MJF – Lion Henry Mathanga, Capital City Lions Club]

### US\$920 – RLLI, Bulawayo – Contributing Memberships

### US\$160 – Contributing Memberships, Gaborone Lions Club

**TOTAL: US\$4425**

### Way Forward

1. To serve as “role models”, each DG & PDG & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> VDGs is encouraged to contribute to LCIF – MJF & PMJF & Contributing Membership.
2. D-412 MJFs are encouraged to consider contributing for a PMJF
3. D-412 Lions Clubs are encouraged to honour & recognize Club Members & contribute either full or installments toward MJFs – and PMJFs for Lions already having MJFs.
4. D-412 Lions Clubs are encouraged to contribute US\$20 and/or US\$50 and/or US\$100 Contributing Memberships to honour & recognize Club Members – not just at year-end Change-Over Dinners, but throughout each Lionistic Year.
5. D-412 Lions Clubs are encouraged to allocate a percentage of each & every fund-raising project – say 5% or 10% - as contributions to LCIF.
6. MOST IMPORTANTLY – D-412 Lions, each member, is encouraged to personally contribute to LCIF – be it MJFs or PMJFs or Installments for MJFs/PMJFs or Contributing Memberships.

LCIF is global. We are LCIF – each SightFirst Grant & each Disaster Grant & each Lions Quest Grant & each Measles Immunization is made possible by contributions to LCIF by Lions Clubs & individual Lions.

D-412 is awakening . . . D-412 is realizing that for LCIF to strengthen Lions Community Service activities it requires Club & individual Lion contributions.

Lionistic Year 2015-16 is the next GREAT opportunity for D-412 to demonstrate CARE & COMPASSION through CIF contributions.

**WE CARE! WE SERVE! WE ACCOMPLISH!**

PDG James Honold  
D-412 LCIF Chairman





## REDCLIFF SIGHT CAMPAIGN

### Saving Sight

The Pride of Redcliff organized eye camps in Gokwe and Kwekwe to assist the general public with free eye screening and cataract operations. On the 2nd of June the pride was in Gokwe, a remote part of Zimbabwe where they conducted their sight campaign at the local general hospital.

On the 3rd of June they moved closer home to the city of Kwekwe. There was immense contribution by Lions members to make this project a success with was led by the District Health Chairperson, Lion Dr. Patricia Mapanda and her spouse PDG Pateson Mapanda.



Lion Senzo and Lion Dr. Mapanda shows smiles of satisfaction for a job well done!



WE SERVE!!!



The Lions of Redcliff in a 'medical mood'



## CATCH THEM YOUNG

### Sponsor A Leo Club

Does your Lions club want to sponsor a Leo club?

Follow the six simple steps below to organize a new Leo club in your community and begin mentoring future leaders.

#### Step 1 Establish a Framework

Determine if the new Leo club will be community or school-based, Alpha or Omega.

#### Step 2 Identify Potential Leos

Obtain the names of Leos from schools, universities, colleges, houses of worship, youth groups, friends and relatives.

#### Step 3 Invite Prospective Leos to an Informational Meeting

Explain the philosophy of the Leo Club Program and answer questions concerning: requirements for Leo club membership, the relationship to the sponsoring Lions club and Leo service activities. Distribute the Alpha Application for Leo Club Membership (Leo50-A) or Omega Application for Leo Club Membership (Leo50-O) and invite interested youth to join the Leo club.

#### Step 4 Host a Formation Meeting

Organize a Leo club formation meeting to elect Leo club officers, discuss potential projects, accept The Leo Club Constitution and Bylaws and determine the place and time for club meetings.

#### Step 5 Complete Required Paperwork

Complete the Leo Club Organization Report (Leo-51) with proper signatures. Attach a list with the names of the club's founding members and return it to the Leo Club Program Department. The entire certification process can take four to six weeks.

#### Step 6 Plan an Installation Ceremony

Once the Leo Club Organization Report form has been approved, the sponsoring Lions club should organize a meeting to present the Certificate of Organization and install Leo club officers. Launch the Leo club with an installation ceremony.

#### Financial Obligation

The Leo Club Organization Fee is US\$100 or the national currency equivalent. This one-time fee includes:

- ◆ The costs involved in processing the Leo Club Organization Report
- ◆ A Certificate of Organization
- ◆ A Leo club officers' kit
- ◆ A Leo club sponsor kit
- ◆ Leo lapel pins for each original Leo club member
- ◆ Leo Club Sponsor Levy

Lions clubs are also billed an annual Leo club sponsor levy of US\$100 or the national currency equivalent. The levy pays for Leo Club Program materials, mailings, club record maintenance, communications, awards and program resources.

If a Leo club is canceled, the Leo Club Termination Form (Leo-86) must be received by the Leo Club Program Department by October 31 to receive levy credit for the current year only.

- See more at: <http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/leos/leo-club-sponsors/start-leo-club.php#sthash.mMfZvD6N.dpuf>

### SERVICE

The key to greatness is service.

The deeper your service, the higher your standing.

The world sees dominating others as the mark of greatness. But in reality, we receive exaltation when we humble ourselves to serve others.

Humility is not timidity or cowardice. Humility is valuing others...It is seeing others as important...It takes confidence to be humble.

We are destined to get to the top; but the way to the top begins when you humble yourself to service to others.

I implore you to build your path to greatness.

Commit to serve. Be selfless. Solve that problem.

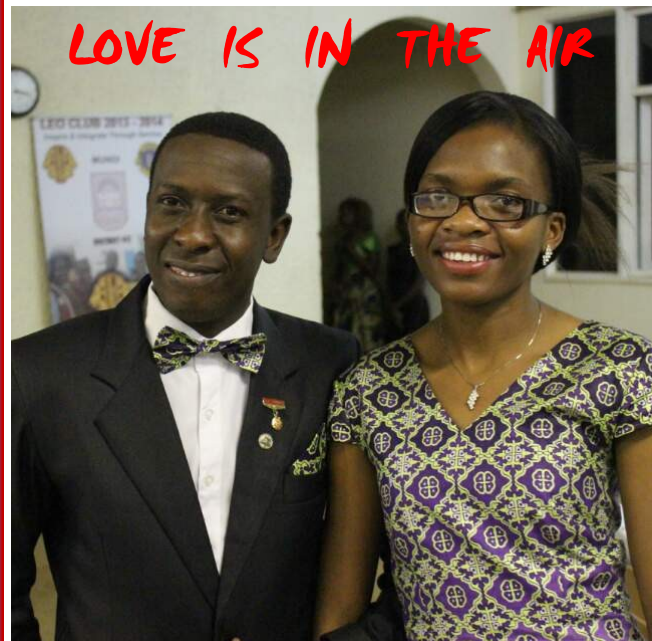
Make someone's life better. May the life of others in the world improve through you!

BE A LION!!!

BE A LEO!!!

A SERVING COMMUNITY IS A RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY!!!

WE SERVE!!!!



*Leo Wilson to wed Leo Tatenda*

*On August 10, 2015 At 1100hrs*

*At Richville Lodge, Kwekwe*





## REST IN PEACE LION HENRY

### THE BLUE JACKET ON A WHITE CASKET IN MEMORY OF LION DR HENRY

It was good to see the Lions at the late Dr Henry's funeral. Thanks for your eulogy on the occasion and the idea of Lions paying homage in the first place. The good old doctor could indeed be quite blunt in a way that was humorous but tickle your imagination and yet bring you down to the naked reality of things. Always jovial! I don't ever remember seeing him angry or sullen or show the slightest cloud in the sunshine of his mien! When we boldly placed the blue jacket on his casket in my view we were paying tribute to his acts of charity as a Lion but more importantly as a unique individual in his professional capacity serving and saving the community as he knew best. All captured in that huge frame with a light skinned face, a greyish white beard, an affable infectious laughter and an imposing composure!

In retrospect I found the gesture of placing the blue jacket on his casket of some significance. Dr Henry's positive impact acknowledged in the numerous testimonies and the conspicuous presence of the Nyanga community. ..and beyond. ..is what the Lions can and should do! In this respect we have a challenge! A tall order! Can we as a Lions pride or individually create that kind of impact? Do we have the will and wherewithal collectively and individually to revive and reinvigorate our zone and clubs with the passion of the golden jubilee hosted by the Lions of Nyanga with Lion Mary as President and Lion Willie as coordinator? And the Zonal pride pursuing! Can we relive and recreate the romantic and exotic atmosphere captured in that little convention brochure dubbed "magic and mystery in the mountains?" I still cling tenaciously to my copy as I was proud to have had a hand in its production. And His Excellency President Anesu Rangwani delivering a speech that left a lump in our throats and enthralled his audience young and old to a spontaneous standing ovation. And the Watershed Band blues and jazz!

For me the blue jacket on the white casket set my mind wandering and wondering. My thoughts began to see beyond the visible... a sentimental nostalgic retreat into the past, a cruel fateful reality of the present in the loss of a loved one and a rather hazy and nebulous Lionistic future in our Zone 2A. My thoughts made me fearful and forlorn. Declining numbers...not in good standing... little activity. ..lethargic! Yet the blue jacket lives on- a trigger, a coiled spring, an inspiration to never ending acts of goodwill.

The blue jacket on a white casket. A tremulous moment of rare significance!

L i o n      M o s e s      M u k o y i

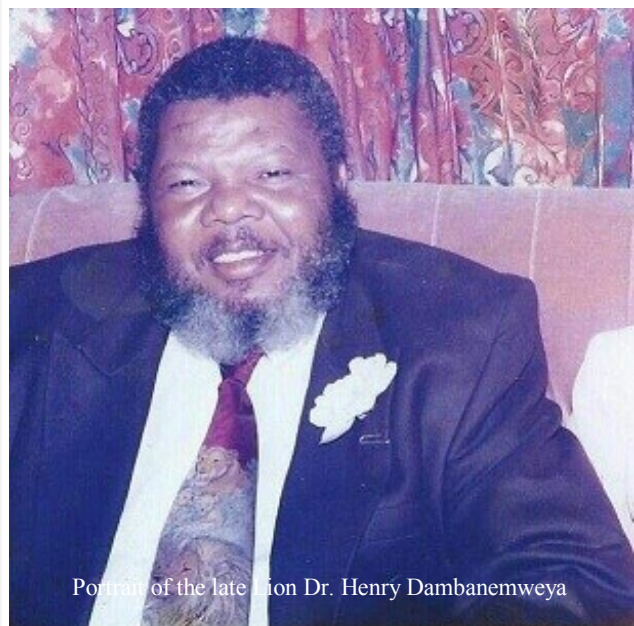


Family, Friends and the Nyanga community pay their last respects to the Late Lion Dr. Henry Dambanemweya

**REST IN PEACE**

**LION DR. HENRY DAMBANEMWEYA**

**WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR  
ACTS OF SERVICE IN THE COMMU-  
NITY OF NYANGA AND BEYOND.**



Portrait of the late Lion Dr. Henry Dambanemweya





## ZONE 2D WRAP UP

The Lions of Zone 2D led by Lion Cathrine Marapira wrapped up the year in style. On the 13th of June 2015, they held their last zone meeting at Multichoice Clinic in Kwekwe. All clubs were represented i.e. Kadoma, Kwekwe, Redcliff and Sebakwe at the meeting hosted by Lions Club of Kwekwe.

All outgoing presidents had the chance to report on their successes and challenges for the 2014 - 15 year. The newly elected incoming Presidents presented their plans and goals for the new Lionistic year.

The Zone Chairperson gave her valedictory speech and passed the button to Lion Sophia Senderayi, the incoming Zone 2D Chairperson. The Lions had the chance to evaluate their zone, pointing out successes and the challenges they face as a zone and discussed how best these could be overcome as the strife for excellence in service kick in.

The DGE, Lion Dr, Alva Senderayi took the opportunity to induct the Incoming club officers and board members of Lions Club of Kwekwe in a colorful ceremony.



The DGE Lion Dr. Alva Senderayi extending the induction to the dance floor!

### BWAILA LIONS CLUBS ATTRACTS 4 NEW MEMBERS



It is crucial for Clubs to continue furthering the interests of Lions Club International by attracting and sponsoring new members. Bwaila Lions recently inducted four new members into the club at an impressive ceremony.

The new members inducted were;

1. His worship, the Deputy Mayor of Lilongwe City, Mr. Akwame Bandawe
2. Ms. Margaret Kokha of European Union
3. Ms. Brenda Msiska of the Reserve Bank,
4. Mr. Boniface Banda, the Executive Director of Catholic Health Commission.

The induction ceremony was presided over by Lions Past District Governor (PDG) Clement Ndala assisted by the Club President Maxwell Phiri and President Elect Mike Tembo.

On behalf of the newly inducted Lions the Deputy Mayor thanked the club and promised to work closely with the fellow Lions in assisting with the humanitarian needs of the City and rural communities.

Lion PDG Ndala encouraged the old and new members to continue inviting service minded people to join Lions to extend service.



Welcome o Lionism: The new members (holding their certificates) are congratulated by members of Bwaila Lions Club

**BWAILA LIONS on Monday inducted four new members into the club at a ceremony held in Lilongwe. Lilongwe City Deputy Mayor Akwame Bandawe who was among the inducted lions hailed the club and promised to work closely with fellow Lions in assisting with the humanitarian needs of the city and rural communities. In the picture, the new members [holding certificates] include His worship Akwame Bandawe, Margaret Kokha of European Union Delegation, Brenda Msiska of Reserve Bank and Boniface Banda Executive Director of Catholic Health Commission.**

— Picture by Ntchindi Meki





## SERVING THE NEEDY



The kids enjoying the goodies



### Feeding Program in Gaborone

There was a sense of satisfaction in the Lions of Gaborone to see around 35 kids and some family members of Mamhiko settlement come together for the Lions Feeding Program. Mamhiko is a settlement situated a few kilometers away from Metsimotlaba Village in Botswana. At least twelve Lions, Prospective Lions and a guest made the trip to Mamhiko to share the joy of giving the little children some goodies and fruits.

On a monthly basis groceries are sent to these children through sponsorship from Nashua through Lion Sundar. Sister Angel helps in coordination of providing cooked Meals every weekend for these children.

Kind Regards

Lion Sangeeta Aswin (Club President 2014-2015)

### Bicycle and Groceries Donations

Simply The Best - Triangle Lions completed their year with a project to serve a needy family in the Chiredzi Community.

The Club has throughout the year been rendering support in form of clothes and groceries to the Stevens, a retired couple who stay on the outskirts of Chiredzi town.

In their final act of the year, on Friday the 26th of June 2015, the Lions of Triangle accompanied by the Lions of Chiredzi went to the Stevens homestead to donate a brand new bicycle and lots of groceries.

Speaking during the presentation, an overjoyed Mr. Stevens expressed his gratitude to the Lions and thanked them for their continued and unwavering support to his family.



Lions of Triangle and Chiredzi make the presentation to the Stevens



## YEAR END IN STYLE

- ◆ *Charter Celebration*
- ◆ *Changeover Dinner*
- ◆ *Induction of new members*
- ◆ *MJF Recognition for Outgoing President*
- ◆ *MJF Presentation*

The Lions Club of Capital City held their charter and changeover dinner on Friday 26th June 2015 at Capital Hotel. This was the 37th Charter dinner for the club that was chartered on 18th June 1978.

The outgoing Club President Lion Chisomo Gunda outlined the achievements of the club that ranged from supporting student needs, orphans, old soldiers, service to inpatients at Kamuzu Central Hospital, redecorating an HIV Counseling and Testing Centre and indeed the signature project of planting 5,000 trees along Lingadzi river.

Building on the vision incoming President Lion Kelvin Mmangisa spelled out the theme of the club in the new Lionistic year as "Serve and Inspire". He urged Lions to serve with commitment that will inspire others to join in the cause.

The Guest of Honour was General Manager of Ethanol Company Limited Mrs. Lusubilo Chakaniza commended the club for the environmental conscious project that is in line with the focus of her company currently working on the reduction on carbon into the air as an environmental management strategy. She highlighted that her company has over the past year planted 30,000 trees to contribute to the cleaning up process of the air alongside production of cleaner fuels to lessen air pollution.

The Guest of Honour made a donation of USD 1,000 to Lions Clubs International Foundation in honour of out going Club President Lion Chisomo Gunda for the award of the MJF. An MJF Award was presented to Lion Henry Mathanga by the DG, Lion Jean Mathanga MJF.

The Lions of Capital City welcomed 4 new Lion members who were duly inducted on this 'great' night in the history of the Club.



The Guest of Honour Mrs. Lusubilo Chakaniza addressing the Lions.



New members and their sponsors take the oath to serve



The audience enjoying the proceedings!



The high table!!



The new President Lion Kelvin Mmangisa (at the centre) wear his chain of office proudly.





## GONDOLA CHARTER IN PICTURES



Group photo with Lions of Region 2 Lions after a successful Club Officers Orientation workshop in Gondola



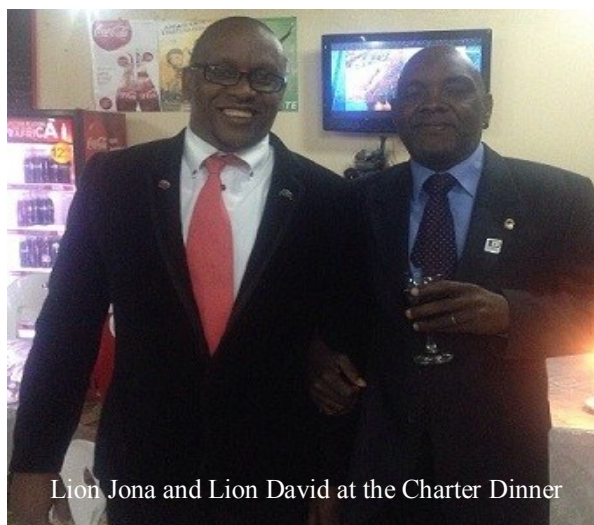
Some of the Charter members of Gondola Lions Club



The DG Lion Jean delivering a presentation at the COOL workshop in Gondola



SVDGE Lion Jona and Assistant GMT Leader Lion David present a certificate to the Charter President of Gondola



Lion Jona and Lion David at the Charter Dinner





## On a Lighter Note

### THE DONKEY

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

#### MORAL OF THE STORY:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

**I HATE FRIENDS WHO  
CANT HANDLE ALCOHOL**

The other night they dropped me thrice  
while carrying me back home



### Ducks Quack, Eagles Soar

I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me.

He handed me a laminated card and said: 'I'm Wasu, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk I'd like you to read my mission statement.' Taken aback, I read the card. It said: Wasu's Mission Statement:

To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment. This blew me away. Especially when I noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wasu said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.'

I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.'

Wasu smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, Lassi, water and orange juice.'

Almost stuttering, I said, 'I'll take a Lassi.'

Handing me my drink, Wasu said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have The Hindu, Times of India, ET and India Today.'

As they were pulling away, Wasu handed me another laminated card, 'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.'

And as if that weren't enough, Wasu told me that he had the air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for him.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know that he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

'Tell me, Wasu,' I was amazed and asked him, 'have you always served customers like this?'

Wasu smiled into the rear view mirror. 'No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard about power of choice one day.'

'Power of choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle.'

'If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself.'

'Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'

'That hit me right,' said Wasu.

'It is about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more.'

'I take it that has paid off for you,' I said.

'It sure has,' Wasu replied. 'My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on it.'

Wasu made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles.

**"You don't die if you fall in water, you die only if you don't swim."**