



Annual Report

For the period 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

I am pleased to present this report to members on behalf of the Board of Directors which composition for the fiscal year 2010/2011 is listed below. I am deeply grateful for their contributions that enabled the Board to fulfill its obligations to the membership.

Chairman: PDG Eric J P Ng (West)
Vice Chairman: IPDG Anthony K S Tay (Eunos)
Secretary: PP Peter S S Chua (Ji Yang)
Treasurer: PP Soh Kam Giap (Evergreen)
Directors:
2nd year - PCC Dr Winston C H Koh (Central)
PP Chou Hua Chen (Lotus)
PP Chua King Wah (Nee Soon)
PP Laurence C C Chin (Metropolitan)
1st year - PP Lo Swee Wen (Katong)
PP Andrew C H Tan (East)
PP Benny A K Goh (Khatib Mandarin)

District Governor: Steven S K Seah (Tanah Merah)

Vice District Governors: Singa Retnam (Goldhill)
Irene J E Tan (Emerald)

Representatives:

Lions Home for the Elders: PDG Isabel Y M Cheong (Vice Chairman)
Lions Befriender Service Association: PP David P H Lee (Chairman)

At the last AGM Lions Chim Hou Yan (North) and Tan Kah Hoe (Jurong) were elected to serve as Trustees of the Foundation. They were invited to attend regular Board of Directors meetings.

Executive Summary

During the year reported on, the scope of activities of the Foundation was extended to include

- (a) bursaries for more levels of education covered by the Lions Education Fund
- (b) tax exempt donations for the Lions market project

- (c) assistance to Indonesian Lions to start Lions Quest projects in District 307-A1
- (d) support in fund raising for victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami
- (e) financial support to other Singapore charitable causes nominated by member clubs as well as for skill development and leadership training opportunities for Lions volunteers
- (f) assistance in fund raising for projects such as the highly successful Car rally project organized by Lions Befrienders

More important though is the fact that more member clubs namely Lions Club of Singapore East, Compassvale, Arcadia, Khatib Mandarin, Katong, Shangrila and Pheonix made their maiden donation to the Foundation, either to designated charities, specific funds within the Foundation or to its Endowment Fund. To date a total of 25 clubs in the district have raised funds specifically for or apportioned part of their fund raised to the Foundation.

During the year, the Foundation enjoyed the continued support of the Estate of the Late PID Eng Ah Koon through its donation to Lions leadership training and skill development.

Through a grant from NCSS, the Foundation developed its new website which will provide comprehensive information to and interactive link with potential donors, Lions Clubs and other fund raising volunteers and beneficiaries of the Foundation. When completed it will be the first Lions website in the district with online donation facility.

Activities of the Foundation

(1) Lions Education Fund – scope of bursaries extended

This Fund was initiated by the District and transferred to the Foundation by a resolution approved by members at a district meeting during the term of PDG Bobby E P Eng. A total sum of \$191,935 has been raised for this fund to date. The major donor to this fund has been Overseas Academic Link (OAL) an education business operated by Serene Yong, from LCS Ladyhill. Lion Serene Yong and OAL had donated as well as raised a total sum of \$122,335 for Lions Foundation specifically designated to the Lions Education Fund as part of her organization's anniversary program. Despite the disbursement of \$95,100, the Fund still has a healthy balance of \$96,835 at as date of this report.

The Foundation is grateful to Serene for her generosity and active support for it has enabled the Foundation to extend the scope of its bursary awards beyond the original scheme aimed at deserving students attending NUS and SMU. In this fiscal year besides renewing the original 2 year grant of \$2,000 x 10 students at NUS and fulfilling the 3rd year of \$2,000 x 5 students at SMU, education bursaries were extended to deserving students at Temasek Junior College and discussions are ongoing with a Polytechnic with a view to extending bursaries to nursing students in line with the Lions major service activities to the poor aged sick in Singapore.

Through a specific donation from LCS Katong, bursaries were also extended to primary and secondary students from welfare receiving families in Singapore this year.

(2) Endowment and other designated funds

Clubs participating in the Ang Mo Kio and other market projects were informed that funds raised for this activity if channeled through the Foundation would be eligible for double tax deduction. There has been a slow take up rate for this fund as most of the donations to this project are in kind rather than cash. Further publicity would be accorded participants in the other Lion market projects of this opportunity so that their donors may also benefit tax wise from their generosity.

During the year member clubs also raised funds for the Foundation with a view to support the activities of Lions and non Lion charities in Singapore such as the Mission for Vision. Lions Foundation also secured the largest single donation to the Car Rally fund raising project which raised more than \$200,000 for Lions Home and Lions Befrienders.

The Estate of the Late PID Eng Ah Koon donated a further \$53,000 to the Foundation to enable it to fund leadership training and skill development programs for Lions. A sum of \$41,450 has been disbursed to the MD 308 Council of Governors for this purpose. The balance amount is available for the district leadership to draw down as and when they are organizing such activities.

Fund raised for the Foundation that are not specifically designated are booked in the Endowment Fund which purpose is to derive long term income to finance Lions charitable activities including its Lions Nursing Home and Lions Befriender services.

The aim of the Board is to continue to extend the scope of the Foundation activities so that more member clubs would find it meaningful to raise fund for the Foundation.

Promotion of the Foundation

A major focus of the Board when it took office was to further promote the awareness among member clubs of the Foundation's objectives and activities. To this end presentations were made by members of the Board to Lions at their regular club meetings, district functions such as Lions Orientation seminars and Zone or Region meetings during the year.

The response has been encouraging as seen from the increasing number of member clubs making their maiden contribution to the Foundation either through a specific fund raising activity or channeling a portion of the proceeds from their fund raising activities to the Foundation. Besides the member clubs mentioned earlier in this report, the **Lions Chorale**, a group of enthusiastic Lions singers, staged a concert to raise fund for Lions projects, including the Foundation's Endowment Fund.

In addition the Board took the opportunity of a grant from NCSS to develop a comprehensive website for the Foundation that would familiarise our 3 main stakeholders of our objectives and activities. The website would enable

- (a) the disadvantaged in our community who need help to reach the Foundation so that assistance may be accorded them if they fall within the ambit of the Foundation's existing programs and if not, whether the Foundation can assist through its network of member clubs. Even member clubs will discover from the website how to tap the Foundation's resources to support their charitable projects;
- (b) Lions Clubs, their members and members of the public, individually or collectively who would like to volunteer their services to help raise funds or organize fund raising projects for the Foundation or any of its designated fund or other meaningful charitable undertaking;
- (c) individual members of the public, business corporations or associations or other bodies and institutions who seek an avenue for their generosity to donate to a worthy cause within or through the Lions Foundation.

Recognition of benevolence

In line with its policy to recognize the benevolence of those who donate to the Foundation, the Board of Directors will present its annual awards to Lions Clubs, individual Lions, corporations and individual members of the public that donated to the Foundation during FY2010/2011 at the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation. Details of the Award Scheme are available from the Foundation website.

In recognition of the \$100,000 donation from the Estate of the Late PID Eng Ah Koon, the Board of Directors named the award for Lions who donated at least \$1,000 to the Foundation Endowment Fund, the Eng Ah Koon Fellow. It would be presented for the first time at this year AGM to 17 Lions from 5 clubs, namely LCS West, East, Nee Soon, Metropolitan and East Coast.

Fund Balance

As at the end of this fiscal year in June 2011 the total fund balance of the Foundation would be around \$750,000. This balance represents a significant progress from the \$232,691 we inherited from the District 308-A1 Foundation when the Lions Community Service Foundation Singapore was registered with the Registrar of Societies and Commissioner of Charities in June 2006. This balance is more noteworthy considering that to date donations totaling in excess of \$150,000 has been made to deserving causes by the Foundation through its activities.

Eric J P Ng, PDG
Chairman, Board of Directors FY2010/2011