

Lions' Golden Era of Service to the needy

3rd Annual District Convention of 306C2

The District Convention of 306C2 was held on May 18, at the BMICH, Past International President Dr. Tae-Sup Lee from Republic of Korea was the Chief Guest.

The theme of this year set by District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitana was "Dawn of a Golden Era" to signify celebration and re-dedication of 50 years of Lionistic service in Sri Lanka with the International President, Mahendra Amarasuriya's theme "Challenge to Change."

Lions supported the District Governor's mission to usher a "Golden Era of Lionism through altruistic service focused on the most deserving segments of society. A top ten priority programme was formulated by the District Governor to add value to lives of the needy. Lion Ladies Association led by First Lady of the District, Lalani Baddevitana supported the Child Development and Women's empowerment with a fundraiser to build and develop a Child Care Centre within the premises of the Eastern University Campus Lions Club which is in progress.

Gift of Sight was the number one priority and the District has served members of the clergy, children, women and public servants with the most comprehensive eye screening camps ever to be conducted with Sri Lanka Optometric Association whose President Lion Sandaka Lenegala was the Leader of the Programme. Under "Gift of Sight" more than one hundred eye screening projects were carried out by Clubs of the District. Lion Lenegala was adjudged Lion of the Year.

Lions Club of Homagama Central, which won the Best Club of the District award, had launched a major initiative to uplift educational facilities for children affected by the North-East conflict. The club's President Lion Wirantha Hettiarachchi was adjudged Best Club Officer of the District. The Best Club in Caring Award went to Lions Club of Mahiragama Central led by Club President Lion Indika Kuragama, and the Club also produced the Best Club Secretary of the District Lion Sarath Peera and Best Club Treasurer Lion Sarath Desmatipitiya.

Two of the biggest medical events sponsored by Lakhanda were organized



From left - First Lady Lion Lalani Baddevitana, DG, Dr. Priyanka Baddevitana, Dr. Tae-Sup-Lee, Immediate Past District Governor and Convention Steering Committee Chairman, Lion Lasantha Goonewardene and Lion Lady Layani Goonewardene.



Lion Ladies of District 306C2, being recognised by First Lady of the District, Lalani Baddevitana (extreme left).



DG Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitana presents an award of recognition to District Governor elect, 306C2 for 2008/2009, Lion Buddhini de Z. Gunasekera.

Pix: Beverley Jansz

by Lions Club of Pannipitiya Metro with a Volleyball Tournament where 35 schools participated, and a nationally ranked bicycle race promoting peace and harmony. A football tournament with the participation of over 70 schools was organized by Lions Club of Pannipitiya Central. They were best and first runner-up respectively in the awards category for Youth Welfare and Sports. A special Olympics Programme was organized jointly by Lions Club of

Homagama and Pelmadulla. Lions Club of Uva Capital organized an Inter-Orphanage Sports Day for the Physically Challenged Members of Eight Orphanages winning the first place in Caring for Physically and Mentally Challenged in Society. Another highlight recognized at the convention was the walk for the Deaf, a colourful, eight kilometre parade by the District to support the Sri Lanka Federation of the Deaf in their efforts to gain acceptance to speech action and vocational training.

Under services in Healthcare, Lions club of Dehiatankandiya conducted kidney clinics in nine villages for 8820 persons and won the Best Project in Healthcare Category. Lions Club of Kalawana renovated and refurbished the General Hospital.

The District that began with ninety five Lions Clubs and three thousand three hundred members added four clubs, 300 regular and 75 family members by 30th April 2008. Some of the other highlights were Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) assisted Homagama Eye Surgical Unit and one thousand cataract operations in the District. LCIF assistance for flood relief in the Eastern Province and the Sabaragamuwa Province was made possible by way of two grants in January and May 2008.

The Annual District Convention drew to a close with handing over of the District Flag by District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitana to the incoming Governor Buddhini de Z. Gunasekera who will begin her year on July 1, under the theme Service Beyond Borders.

30th Annual Multiple District Convention 306 - May 25

Elaborate plans have been made to hold the 30th Annual District Convention of Lions District 306, on a grand scale, tomorrow Sunday May, 25 at BMICH.

International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya and First Lady Kushlani will be the chief guests at this glittering ceremony. Chairman of the council and International Board Appointee - 2007/2008, Lion Sarath de Fonseka said that elaborate plans have been made to mark the event, on a grand scale.

The Business session of

the convention in schedule to commence at 4 pm on Sunday May 25, followed by the ceremonial session.

The highlight of the event will be the presentation of awards to Lions of the six sub-districts for their outstanding performances. In addition, the council will recognise around one hundred Lions who have contributed to the Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) one thousand US dollars each.

This fund is used for humanitarian service projects and to assist those who have been affected by Natural calamities, around the



International President Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya and first Lady Kushlani



Lion Sarath de Fonseka



Governors of the districts from left - Lion Kamal Seneviratne 306 A-2, Lion Mahesh Hemasiri de Silva - 306C-1, Lion Lester Aponso - 306 A-1 Lion Selvaratnam Raghavan 306 B-1 and Lion Priyanka Baddevitana - 306 C-2.

Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya Best International President - Dr. Tai Sup-Lee



Past International President Dr. Tae-Sup Lee from South Korea being welcomed by DG Lion Selvaratnam Raghavan.

Sri Lanka should be proud to have Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya leading the world's Lions as International President for 202 countries around the globe, said Past International President, Lion Dr. Tai Sup-Lee from Korea.

Lion Dr. Tai was participating as the chief guest at the 3rd Annual District Convention held at Holiday Inn Hotel, Colombo last week. Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya has been classified as the best International President. This indeed is a great honour to Sri Lanka, Dr. Tai said.

"The year 2007/2008 was a wonderful year for Lionism - the Golden Jubilee celebration was made even more significant by our own Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya, leading the world's Lions as International President, said District Governor, 306B1, Lion Selvaratnam Raghavan in his keynote address at the 3rd Annual Convention of Lions District 306B1, held at Holiday Inn

Hotel Colombo last week. District Governor, Lion Selvaratnam Raghavan MJF kept the flag of Lionism flying truly high in District 306B1 and had a wonderful and dedicated year proving his excellence as a leader.

District Chairperson Membership Retention, Lion Clubs of Wattala, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe MJF, who was elected by the delegates as Vice District Governor, 306 B-1, 2008-2009, was accorded a rousing welcome by his home club members and members of the District, when Lakshman and his family were conducted to the venue of the convention in a colourful procession.

Addressing the gathering, Lion Lakshman paid a tribute to his club members and district members who had extended their fullest support to him to be elected as Vice District Governor 306 B-1, which automatically entitles him to be District Governor 306 B-1 for the year 2009-2010. Lion Lakshman who is a popular fig-



Presenting an Appreciation Award for services to Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe, District Chairperson, Membership Retention who was elected by the delegates as Vice District Governor 306B1, at the 3rd Annual District Convention, by District Governor, Lion S. Raghavan.

Lion Dr. Malcolm Stanislaus, Zone Chairperson, receives the award of appreciation for services rendered as Chairperson, Ceremonial Sub-Committee from District Governor, Lion S. Raghavan.



Dr. Tae-Sup Lee, Past International President from South Korea presents the award for "Lady of the Year" and the award for services rendered as Secretary, District Lion Ladies Committee 306B1, to Lion Surani Jayamaha, Looking after DG 306B1, Lion S. Raghavan and First Lady Ranjini. Pix: Beverley Jansz

ure in his district, outlined his plans for a very successful year as Vice District Governor. Presentation of

awards to Lions and others who had rendered remarkable service to the needy, was the highlight of the con-

SL Royal Commonwealth Society marks Commonwealth Day

The Royal Commonwealth Society, Sri Lanka observed the Commonwealth Day 2008, at a function held at Galle Face Hotel, with British High Commissioner Dr. Peter Hayes and Mrs. Hayes as Chief Guests.

The function was attended by a host of Ambassadors and Counsels General of almost all the Commonwealth countries represented in Sri Lanka. A message from Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, was read by Dr. Hayes, Secretary of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Sri Lanka, S. Yoganathan, who organised the event, emphasised on the Commonwealth theme for this year "The Environment - Our Future". He noted how it has been highlighted in Queen Elizabeth's message to the 53 Commonwealth countries worldwide.



British High Commissioner, Dr. Peter Hayes and Mrs. Hayes being welcomed by (from left) Tissa Jayawera, Past President, Joe Alayasu, Vice President, Fred Medis, President, S. Yoganathan, Secretary Mrs. Kirsay Hayes, Ashroff Hussain, Treasurer and Shelly Nonis, Council Member.

Dr. Yoganathan then introduced the guest speaker Dr. W. Sumathipala who delivered a lecture on this topic. A toast to Queen Elizabeth II, was proposed by President of RCS, Sri Lanka, Fred Medis, British High Commissioner, Dr. Peter Hayes proposed a toast

to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Past President, Tissa Jayawera proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Royal Common-

wealth Society. Formerly known as Jaycees, JCI in Sri Lanka was first inaugurated at Galle in 1956 under the leadership of Chris Visvasam and has grown to over 10 affiliated

3rd Annual District Convention - 306C1 today at BMICH

The 3rd Annual District Convention of Lions District 306C1 will be held at the BMICH today with International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya and First Lady Kushlani as Chief Guest.

District Governor 306C1, Lion Hemasiri de Silva's main theme "Vision for All" the 2000 cataract operations project.

A significant feature here is that the district has already performed 2650 cataract operations and this humanitarian service is still being continued.



For the past one year clubs in District 306C1 have donated over 31,000 spectacles after eye-screening.

Around 102 Diabetic Awareness programmes and clinics have been conducted during Lion Hemasiri de Silva's tenure as District Governor 306C1. Some of the projects carried out during past year are the donation of over 800 wheelchairs, fifteen houses have been built for the poor, and many more meaningful projects that have an impact on society, and a massive fund-raising and image building project "Miss Sri Lanka-2008" was held at the Colombo Hilton in March this year. District Governor 306C1, Lion Hemasiri de Silva can now look back with satisfaction on his achievements

JCI (SL) National Mid-Year Conference

Jaycees from all over the island will gather at Amaya Reef Hotel, Hikkaduwa to mark the 31st National Mid Year

Conference of Junior Chamber International Sri Lanka (JCISL). This event will be held today and tomorrow and promises to ensure the fullest participation of all

Jaycees. This conference is just one of those events where many have worked very hard to put together. Junior Chamber International is an organization for young professionals that

focuses on contributing to the advancement of the global community by providing opportunities for the young individuals in the areas of leadership, social responsibility, entrepreneur-

ship and fellowship. Formerly known as Jaycees, JCI in Sri Lanka was first inaugurated at Galle in 1956 under the leadership of Chris Visvasam and has grown to over 10 affiliated

chapters all over the island. JCI SL has contributed immensely towards the development and recognition of youth talent in Sri Lanka. Projects such as "The

Outstanding Young Persons of Sri Lanka (TOYP)", Career Guidance Fair and Leadership in Action seminar series have received much local and International recognition.

It is also acknowledged that JCISL is at an important stage by establishing its relevance to all society considering the programs and projects they offer to the society at large.

