Our District Governor

The District Governor is the District's Executive Officer and is directly responsible to the Board of Lions Clubs International. The election to serve for one year takes place at the Annual District Convention and office is taken at the close of the ensuing International Convention.

The District Governor and two Vice District Governors are the ONLY elected officers on the District Cabinet. The District Governor appoints all other Cabinet Officers to assist during the year. Whilst in office it is expected that the District Governor will visit each Club in the District at least once, and in addition, preside over four meetings of the District Cabinet and the annual District Convention in an official capacity. The District Governor's Visit may be an individual visit or combined visit or Zone Visit.

The District Governor must represent the District at four executive meetings of the Council of Governors, with the other 18 Governors from around Australia. The first of these meetings is held in the host city of the International Convention, two are held during the year and the fourth in the Host City of the Multiple District 201 Convention. For the past several years the two meetings held during the year have been held in Sydney and our District Governor performs the duties of the Host.

Prior to each three day council meeting the District Governor is expected to study the Agenda and often some 300 pages of associated reports and the like. At these meetings the Governors will deliberate on as many as 1,500 items of business during the year.

In addition to this the District Governor is expected to attend Formation and Charter nights of new Lions Clubs, special Anniversary nights, special Club functions, meetings of Foundations, District and State Youth of the Year judging functions and Clubs needing assistance. Daily, the large volume of correspondence, paperwork and telephone calls necessary to deal with items of an urgent nature must all be attended to. A written report is to be submitted for each Club that is visited. The Governor must oversee the payment of all dues at all levels. Goals are set for the year and contact is maintained with District Officers to ensure that those goals are achieved.

What kind of person would take on such an important post as District Governor? Generally speaking, they are the ones who have worked their way up the ladder, are unafraid of responsibility and have the willingness, ability and dedication to serve. Their high devotion to our Association is matched only by their enthusiasm and capacity for hard work.

All too often, we take for granted, and too often we fail to give these dedicated Lions the respect and esteem which is their due. In the world of Lions the successful District Governor is indeed a central figure - a key person, one of intelligence and wisdom who handles the large responsibilities in a vigorous and energetic manner. Many hours of time are devoted, without any monetary reward, to the cause of Lions and our Association.

Truly, the fourth paragraph of our Lions Clubs International Purposes is made a reality - TO UNITE THE MEMBERS IN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

When the District Governor Visits - A guide for Clubs

Except when zone functions are organised for the purpose of having the District Governor visit, each Club in the District usually enjoys an annual official visit from the District Governor. The District Governor whom we elect at our District Convention is our link with Lions Clubs International and is responsible for our District Lions Activities.

During the term of office a District Governor is obliged to visit all District Clubs, either on a zone basis or individually for the purpose of:

- **Making known the District goals and aims of the International President.**

- **Encouraging and motivating Clubs to achieve their Club objectives and the aims of Lions Clubs International.**

Your Club will want to show proper courtesy when the Governor visits. For, this occasion is not merely a social one, despite the many very pleasant functions arranged by Clubs for this visit. Both the District Governor and partner have a year of arduous and challenging service to this great District of ours. Your members will want to honour this dedication by making the visit a highlight of your Club year.

The Cabinet Secretary will advise each Club of the date selected by the Governor. Each Club should complete the Visitation Questionnaire confirming all details of the visit and any other relevant aspects such as Civic Reception details, presentation of awards, anniversaries, induction ceremonies and the like.

The District Governor and partner will generally be accompanied by the Cabinet Secretary and partner. Also, it is usual to invite the Region Chairman (if there is one) and the Zone Chairman as guests of the Club.

Our District Governor would like a **member of the Club to formally introduce him/her** at the appropriate time.

The Club President or Presidents on combined visits, and partner should be ready to welcome the Governor and other official guests as they arrive at the venue. The District Governor will expect to be introduced to Club Members and to mix informally with them prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The entire programme should focus on the Official Visit. **Certainly there must not be another guest speaker on this occasion.** At the conclusion of the Governor's address your Club may wish to show its appreciation by presenting a small gift or souvenir. The Governor will expect to exchange his/her personal bannerette for a Club bannerette.
Protocol and Seating

Protocol is dictionary defined as “a code of diplomatic etiquette and precedence”. It has also been humorously termed “the science of seats”.

Seating at the official table should follow the Lions table of precedence, with the host Club President and partner at the centre and the District Governor and partner seated to the immediate right. Next in the order of precedence should be seated to the left of the host President and partner and then alternately right then left.

The table of precedence normally applicable is:
- District Governor: seated at official table
- Host Club President: seated at official table
- Visiting Club Presidents: seated at official table
- Past District Governors: seated at official table
- Vice District Governor: seated at official table
- Cabinet Secretary: seated at official table
- Cabinet Treasurer: seated at official table
- Region Chairmen: seated at official table
- Zone Chairmen: seated at official table
- District Chairmen: seated at official table

Programme

On the occasion of a combined visit all of the Clubs involved should be included and be able to participate in the programme. Visiting Presidents should be afforded the honour which is their due.

As a guide, the programme for the District Governor’s visit should be printed and distributed and broadly take the following format:

- **Call to Order** by the Host President / Chairman
- **Invocation**
- **Loyal Toast**
- “**ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR**” (optional)
- **Introductions and Welcome**
- **Apologies**
- **Lions Clubs International Purposes** (see note below)
- **Toast to Lions Clubs International**
  - (If this toast is proposed by a capable and distinguished Lion, it does not require a formal response. If the toast is proposed by a non-Lion, a response would be normal)
- **Response to the toast to Lions Clubs International**
  - (if applicable) by the highest ranking Lion in attendance
- **Lions Code of Ethics** (see note below)
- **Announcements by Visiting Club Presidents**
  - **District Governor - presentations, inductions and the like** (as previously arranged by the Clubs)
    - (If the District Governor is asked to conduct a ceremony to induct new member/s the Purposes and Ethics may be included as part of the induction ceremony - please consult with the District Governor)
- **Tail-twisting** (If a combined or Zone Visit a restricted session to include twister from each Club)
  - **RECESS**
- **Introduction of District Governor** by a Club Member
- **District Governor’s Address**
- **Vote of Thanks to the District Governor**
- **Draw Raffle** if applicable
- **Close of Meeting**
- **Fellowship**

Hosting Expectations - The Official Party

The Official Party on the occasion of the District Governor’s Visit will normally be the District Governor and his/her partner and the Cabinet Secretary and his/her partner. It is expected that the Club/Clubs will meet the cost of the meal for the Official party. Should the Zone and/or Region Chairman attend, the Club/Clubs would normally be expected to meet the cost of their meal. However, as their attendance is not expected as a part of their official duties, meeting the cost of their meal will be at the discretion of the Club/Clubs. The cost of the meal for any other Official Guests is to be met at the discretion of the Club/Clubs.

Further Information:

More helpful information is contained in the Multiple District 201 Administration and Constitutional Manual and the booklet “Australian State, Civic and Lions Protocol” available from the Multiple District website.