Dear Lion John,

Our Centenary Guide Dogs Project, which was started during Past District Governor Marion’s term of office is now entering it’s third year. Cabinet agreed to ask each Club to commit to raise €1,500 over three years. The sums could be paid as suited the Clubs best but it was suggested that the payment could be made in full or in annual instalments of €500.

Any monies raised in the Republic of Ireland will be donated to the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and funds raised in Northern Ireland will go to Guide Dogs Northern Ireland. The Irish Guide Dogs have undertaken to use the money for their breeding programme and Guide Dogs Northern Ireland will use their funds for training guide dog owners. Both organisations have undertaken that none of the funds will be used for administration purposes.

Lions are proud to boast that they are Knights of the Blind. In the past our District has been extremely generous regarding both Campaign Sight First programmes. The vast majority of the funds raised in those programmes was spent in Third World countries where the need was greatest. However, we now have the opportunity to serve people with sight problems and also those who need assistance dogs in our own District!

What next?

If your Club has given the full amount of €1,500 I thank you most sincerely. You can be very proud of yourselves, you have met the challenge put to you.

If your Club has paid by instalment we now need you to try to bring this up to €1,500 as soon as you can. Thank you also for being part of our Centenary Guide Dogs Project.

If your Club has not donated yet, I am appealing to you to consider this project again. We really do need every club to participate and your Club is a vital part of the District 133 team.

This project will not finish until next June but I hope that we will have made our target by our District Convention in March.

I do understand that there are many demands on Club funds but to be fair, €1,500 is an achievable amount for such an important project. A Table Quiz or some other simple project would make that much. This is a project with tremendous public appeal.

We have collected €80,900 in the Republic and £7170 in Northern Ireland. We are on the home stretch now, let’s not fall at the final jump!

I am attaching a spreadsheet of Club donations to date so that you can see your Club’s position. Please read it and be part of this wonderful Centenary Project.

All cheques should be made payable to Lions Club International, with Guide Dogs on the REAR of the cheque. Please forward cheques to District Treasurer Liam Lyons, Cabragh Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Republic of Ireland.

Yours in Lionism,

Pat

Pat McCoole

District Centenary Guide Dogs Project Leader

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Distribution List: All members