

## **Report of the International Relations Projects Coordinator PDG Lion Barrie Richardson.**

### **1. Europa Forum.**

As a result of the Caronavirus Pandemic **Europa Forum 2020** was cancelled and the **66<sup>th</sup> Europa Forum** has been re-scheduled to take place in **Thessalonica** on **7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021** hosted by our colleagues in **MD117 Greece**.

The official forum website at <http://www.europaforum2021.gr/> is slowly being updated to reflect the new situation but please be aware that some of the pages/documents still contain references to the previous 2020 dates. Individual costs for registration, social events and three nights accommodation at the various designated forum hotels are provided. The previously advertised package for registration, all-social events and lunches (excluding accommodation) for 465€ per person that was a saving of 110€ over the combined individual costs appears to have been withdrawn.

Whilst registration is only available online via the forum website this is not active at the time of writing this report. It appears that accompanying persons are expected to pay the full registration fee but I am still seeking clarity on this point. I will keep our District website updated as the situation develops.

### **2. Lions United Nations Day at the Palace of Westminster.**

Nine members from our District attended the **United Nations Day at the Palace of Westminster** on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It will certainly be remembered as the last "public" Lions event before the coronavirus lockdown occurred! Even so some of the presenters from afar had to cancel at the last minute including our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice International President Lion Patti Hill, resulting in a slimmed agenda.

We heard from guest speakers representing UNHCR the UN Refugee Agency and the United Nations Association UK. The MD winners of the Peace Poster and Essay competitions were presented and a partnership with Global Brigade was signed followed by a presentation.

The Palace of Westminster is due to close for extensive renovation works so this will probably be the last such event at this venue for many a year. Following the event we enjoyed the fun and fellowship at a District 105SC Dinner before departing on the homeward journey.

This year a virtual event is proposed taking place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 commencing at 5:00pm. Attendees will have to pre-register as per details already circulated by the MD International Relations Officer and there is no limit on numbers able to attend.

### **3. MD Initiated International Projects.**

Last year I had to report that there has been no effective communication since the retirement of the previous MD IRO resulting in a complete disconnect between MD and District that is of great concern. Whilst I have heard rumours of changes initiated by Council to some of the MD supported International projects I have received no official confirmation or detail as to what is proposed or has changed.

Sadly this situation has continued this year.