

Fellow Lions,

The La Crosse and Onalaska Lions cordially invite you to attend our State Lions Convention where we are celebrating our Lions Centennial - our 100 years of service to mankind and to our communities. This is a special convention and we are encouraging each Lions Club in Wisconsin to be represented at the convention. It will be a little different from past conventions and promises to be a great time for all attendees.

There are several changes and special events planned for the convention this year. To begin with we are moving the convention to the first weekend of May, May 4 -7, 2017. It will be held at the La Crosse Center which has proven to be a great venue for several past conventions. It is on the Mississippi River right in the center of historic La Crosse. Did I mention "Centennial" and "Historic La Crosse?" Well we want to add a little history to our centennial celebration by introducing you to some of the historic sights of our city through the tours and extra activities that are available. We also are looking to kick off the convention with a speaker you will enjoy who talks about life in a river city at the turn of the century, and a few seminars relating to La Crosse history. One will be a special presentation by Melvin Jones and Helen Keller that you won't want to miss. We will also highlight the centennial convention in Chicago which will be held at the end of June.

We are honored to be hosting the Lions Centennial Torch at our convention. Only a few multiple districts in the U. S. will have this honor. Plan to join us for the opening of the convention to see the Torch's arrival.

We want to invite the community in to see what we do as Lions and to have them help us celebrate, so we are having an ice cream social on Friday late afternoon featuring one of our own local ice cream parlors, the Ranison Ice Cream Shop.

Our Centennial project this year is to collect 1 million pairs of glasses and we will be recognizing each district for the amount of glasses they collect during the year, and presenting the district with the most glasses special recognition. So plan to bring a box or two of glasses with you to the convention.

Instead of the traditional program book we are going to make this convention book a collector's item and we want you to be a part of it. We are asking each Lions Club in Wisconsin to share your club history with your fellow Lions by taking out an ad to tell your club's history. The book will be 8 ½ by 11 inches and also will feature some of Lions International and Wisconsin Lion history. Full page ads by your club are reduced from \$250 to \$150 for clubs wishing to take out a full page ad, or you can use a half page ad for \$100 and toot your horn as a proud Wisconsin Lions Club.

We would like to honor your Lions Club by listing the longest serving member of your club in the program book. Please send us the name of your longest serving current member and we will recognize them in the book.

We will have a special Centennial Celebration on Saturday afternoon and an Anniversary Ball on Saturday night. Plan to be there to dance to the music of the West Salem Jazz Band. All attendees will receive a special commemorative gift. Amidst the celebration we will be introducing your new Council of Governors and thanking this year's District Governors for their service.

For those who will stay over on Saturday night we will have a special church service on Sunday morning, a riverboat ride and some special tours.

There will still be some familiar things. We are honored to have as our special guest 3rd vice president Choi from Korea. International President Chancellor Bob Corlew has also been invited to make an appearance. There will be some great seminars and of course we will be voting on some important items.

Please plan to join us this year. It won't be as special of a celebration without your club being represented. Attached are a registration form, draft agenda, ad forms, and hotel information. To encourage early registration we are offering a discounted registration fee of \$10 until January 15.

Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you in La Crosse in May.

Lion Art Marson, PID
Convention Chair