

**Wisconsin Lions Missions  
Spring 2017 Newsletter**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The Annual Summer Meeting will be held on Sunday August 20, 2017 at 9:43 am.  
We will gather at the Lake Camelot Park Pavilion in Nekoosa, with details to follow.**

**Wisconsin Lions Missions Annual Meeting Minutes**

January 7, 2017

WLM President Bill Taubman opened the meeting at 9:44 a.m.  
Introductions were made all around.  
No secretary's report was given.  
Treasurer's Report was made by Lion Rudy Kessler.

**DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORTS**

A-1 Owe \$500 for dues. Working with W/NP to donate an ambulance to Nicaragua.  
A-2 No report.  
B-1 No report.  
B-2 No report.  
C-1 Got fire truck to Nicaragua. Looking for an ambulance for Leon.  
C-2 District is in good shape. Took supplies to McAllen, TX.  
D-1 Collecting supplies. Have taken supplies to W/NP. Funds are good.  
D-2 District is in good shape.  
E-1 District is in good shape. Ambulance is going to Mexico. Lots of medical & fire truck supplies being collected.  
E-2 No report.

**EQUIPMENT**

Districts E1 & E2 went together to get an ambulance. They hope to send to the Yucatan Peninsula.  
A fire truck is being sought after for Matamoros.

**MISSION REPORTS**

Steve McCabe - 2017 mission is to Leon, Nicaragua. Dates are from 2/10 - 2/17  
Rudy Kessler - Missions to be in March and May. Always looking for more volunteers.  
Tom Bredesen - 2017 mission to be held in from 2/19 - 2/26  
Pat Knier - No Honduras mission planned at this time.  
John Albert - Possible mission to Yucatan. Looking for a few people to go to Playa del Carmen for a 2-3 day planning meeting.  
Bill Taubman - No mission to Belize as of now. Possible plans to go to Cuba.

## OLD BUSINESS

There is a need to spread the word about Wisconsin Lions Missions. Please talk to your District Governors, have a table at your convention, Like us on Facebook and post pictures, You Tube, presentations at your club. Any kind of PR would help.

If you need a hat or shirt for your mission, please see Lion Erling after the meeting.

Lion Jim Schiferl said that new batteries for the auto refractors have been purchased. All equipment is working.

## NEW BUSINESS

Summer meeting place to be determined.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion approved.

Dr. Ehrhardt will do his eyeglass instructional after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Val LeJeune

### **Wisconsin Lions Missions President's Ponderings**

Bill Taubman, Director  
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### **WHATS NEW WITH WLM**

Since we met last January we have had two very successful eyeglass missions, one in Nicaragua, one in El Salvador and a third one will be happening in Haiti later this month. That is a great accomplishment for our group. The two already concluded put glasses on about 7,500 people. The mission in Haiti will be smaller but may add another 1,000 people. Be proud!

Lion Marcia Knapp has volunteered to take the leadership on our summer picnic and meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be some details about it but do mark it on your calendar now and plan to attend. Try to bring with you some folks who haven't yet been involved with our program so they can learn more and perhaps become involved. We do need to recruit more, particularly younger, people to join us in this mission work. Talk it up!

It seems the possibilities for more missions are endless and that reinforces the need for more volunteers. As I have written before, in June of 2016 I went to Belize in response to their request to explore doing a mission there. While it hasn't happened yet, I think it well may in the next year or two. Lions in Guatemala want us to come there and we have done some exploring of that possibility. A few weeks ago I traveled to Cuba at their request to look at that possibility. A lot of red tape surrounds working there but I think it may become a reality. It would be an interesting experience for everyone. Lion Gary Donaldson, who has led several missions into Mexico in the past, has agreed to lead a Cuban one if it becomes a reality. So there are plenty of opportunities for us to do our thing, to carry out our "We Serve" motto.

Since January we have taken a fire truck and an ambulance to Mexico. The Lions in E-1 and E-2 jointly purchased a very nice ambulance and donated it to medical services in Villahermosa located down in the Yucatan peninsula. I worked with Lion Pat Knier and the B-1 Lions to purchase a nice fire truck that went to the Lions of Matamoros. They requested one more than a year ago and it finally happened. They are

extremely grateful to the Wisconsin Lions as they had just two old fire trucks that we gave them many years ago and were barely useable anymore. Be proud!

Have a good summer and I look forward to seeing everyone August 20<sup>th</sup> in Nekoosa.

### Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Haiti

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Shell Lake, WI 54871

**Mountain Top Ministries (MTM) Haiti**—Seven of us will be heading to MTM the end of May to do a five-day eyeglass mission there in conjunction with a medical group. This is the second time we will be at MTM - the first being December 2015. So far all our missions in Haiti are small as it is very difficult to get the Haitian Lions on board to help coordinate and also hard to get a big supply of glasses there. We hand carry everything we need in with us in our luggage. Our Haiti missions so far are also quite a distance from large cities so the total number of workers is dependent on how many the "mission houses" at each location can accommodate. Hotels are not an option at this point.

**Lozandier Haiti**—We will be doing a small eyeglass mission in November here along with a medical mission. We will have only 2 to 3 people doing this as we will be a small part of the bigger medical mission being planned. There is a small room we can work out of in the clinic where I have set up shelving for easy access for picking glasses. This is also our second time in Lozandier - the first being November 2014.

### Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Nicaragua

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Thirty-one Wisconsin Lions served on a Lions Eyeglass Mission in León from the 11th through the 17th of February, 2017. León is a city located about a hundred miles north of Managua and has a population of about 160,000 inhabitants. We had an opening ceremony on Sunday the 12th where we were formally hosted by the Metropolitano Lions Club of León and were greeted by the Benemerito Cuerpo de Bomberos Volunteer Fire Department of León. I was made an honorary fire chief for delivering a Pierce Pumper Fire Truck last August to these firemen.

On Monday through Friday, we hit the floor running and were able to serve approximately 3,500 Nicaraguans with eyeglasses. We also served a fair number of



indigenous people the last two days of our eyeglass mission. Above and beyond screening vision and dispensing eyeglasses, the Wisconsin Lions also provided the materials for a Diabetic Screening run by Nicaraguan medical personnel. We were blessed to have had an ophthalmologist and two optometrists along to help with any serious optical problems that our patients had.



We have a tentative Lions Eyeglass Mission site for February of 2018 in the City of Chinandega located about 150 miles north of Managua and about an hour's drive north of León. The exact dates are not written in stone, but for now we are looking at leaving for Chinandega on Saturday, February 17th and returning to Managua on the 24th and flying home on the 25th of February, 2018. Chinandega is a wetter area of Nicaragua where melons, peanuts, and sugarcane are grown. Chinandega is also the home distillery for Flor de Cana Rum. Because the area is wetter, we are advised to take meds to prevent malaria. There is also a slight chance for the Zika Virus, but we are coming in the dry season. So please take mosquito spray along!



I will see you all in August at our Annual Summer WI Lions Meeting and Picnic.

### **Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to El Salvador**

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The second eyeglass mission to El Salvador was completed at the end of February 2017. Eyeglasses were shipped by UPS ocean freight at the end of 2016. The Recycling Center was instrumental in assisting with the palleting and wrapping of the 12,000 pair of glasses in preparation for pickup. The eyeglasses arrived at the Port of Acajutla, El Salvador in December and were collected by Angeles Salvadoreños to be stored until the time of the project.

Diego Ulloa was our coordinator on the ground in San Salvador. When Wisconsin Lions arrived at the airport he coordinated transportation to the comfortable Beverly Hills Hotel. There were 27 volunteers from Wisconsin that participated in this project.



A large meeting room on the military base was used as the mission site and people were bussed in from various small communities, as well as coming in from the local neighborhood. Thursday morning was reserved exclusively for military families.

Each day we ate breakfast at the hotel and all the other meals were catered to a separate room on the base. A half-day city tour was held before the project started and a half-day break mid-week was taken to the fishing pier at La Libertad and to another beach restaurant for refreshments and sunset viewing.

Everyone on the team got along really well and exhibited flexibility when reality conflicted with the proposed plan for each day. Amazingly, our relatively small group screened over 4300 people and fit just over 4000 with glasses!

Diego Ulloa has agreed to assist us again in 2018 and is in the process of meeting with various Lions Clubs in El Salvador to determine our next location. At this time we are planning to run the El Salvador project the week following the Nicaragua project. This is important in order to get equipment, and people who are

serving in both projects, to the next location. The tentative dates are: Sunday, February 25 through Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Those interested in serving on the 2018 mission should send an email to me at [tbrede49@hotmail.com](mailto:tbrede49@hotmail.com).

### Pass It On



When Tom and Miriam Bredesen sold their hobby farm in Wisconsin on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 they learned that the buyer had served on a medical mission to El Salvador in the 1990's. When the buyers' 9 year old daughter heard about the Lions Eyeglass Project she went to find her used pair of glasses that she no longer needed. Instead of throwing this pair of glasses in the mix with the thousands of other glasses, Tom and Miriam carried them separately to El Salvador in their luggage. They had the prescription read on the first day of the project, and informed Dr. Alan and Val that if these glasses fit another child, they should let Tom know so he could get a picture. Days passed and there was doubt that the prescription was going to get used. On the last day, and a mystery according to Dr. Alan, a school girl who by all indications should have been happy with a different prescription, found that these glasses worked just right for her! Tom took a photo and will share it with the grade school donor in Three Lakes this summer!

### Wisconsin Lions Emergency Response Team

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Our Lions Emergency Response Team has done nothing so far and I guess we should be grateful that there haven't been any natural disasters for us to respond to. Maybe this will be the summer!

### Wisconsin Lions Missions

7-1-16 Thru 6-31-17

Checking & Savings Accounts 7/1/2016			Start Bal. \$16,372.22
<b>Income</b>			
7/7/2016	6-30-16 Interest	Interest	\$27.25
7/8/2016	Donation	Sheboygan Noon Lions	\$50.00
7/21/2016	Donation-for kid sight	Faith Lutheran VBS	\$225.18
9/10/2016	Donation-for kid sight	Eau Claire VBS	\$15.60
9/22/2016	Donation	Mississippi Lions	\$100.00
9/22/2016	Donation	Vicki Bond	\$100.00
9/30/2016	9-30-16 Interest	Interest	\$30.29
10/14/2016	Contribution	27-D2	\$500.00
10/14/2016	Contribution	27-C1	\$500.00

10/24/2016	Contribution	27-D1	\$500.00
11/16/2016	Contribution	27-E1	\$500.00
11/16/2016	Donation	Marshfield Lions	\$200.00
11/18/2016	Contribution	27-B2	\$500.00
12/1/2016	Donation	Spooner-Trego Lions	\$400.00
12/19/2016	Donation	Siren Lioness	\$100.00
12/27/2016	Donation	Schiferl	\$250.00
12/30/2016	Contribution	27-A2	\$500.00
12/30/2016	Donation	27-A2	\$1,500.00
12/31/2016	12-31-16 Interest	Interest	\$29.71
1/9/2017	Contribution	27-C2	\$500.00
1/9/2017	Deposit	Shirts & Hats	\$258.00
1/9/2017	Flow Thru	Haiti 17 Mission	\$1,900.00
1/13/2017	Flow Thru	Haiti 17 Mission	\$900.00
1/24/2017	Flow Thru	Haiti 17 Mission	\$850.00
1/30/2017	Deposit	Shirts & Hats	\$145.00
1/30/2017	Donation	McFarland Lioness	\$100.00
2/17/2017	Flow Thru	Haiti 17 Mission	\$205.12
2/28/2017	Donation	Loyal Lions	\$200.00
2/28/2017	Deposit	Shirts & Hats	\$10.00
3/6/2017	Contribution	27-E2	\$500.00
3/6/2017	Flow Thru	Haiti 17 Mission	\$200.00
3/6/2017	Deposit	Shirts & Hats	\$27.00
3/16/2017	El Salvador	Budgeted	\$797.55
3/16/2017	Donation	Shell Lake Lions	\$200.00
4/13/2017	Donation	Vicki Bond	\$100.00
4/13/2017	Donation	Christian Mothers	\$50.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$12,970.70</b>

## Expenses

8/29/2016	2353	Steve McCabe	Batteries-Auto-Refractor	\$282.29
8/29/2016	2354	Jim Schiferl	Tape-Auto-Refractor	\$42.81
8/29/2016	2355	White Birch Printing	Envelopes-Stationary	\$165.00
9/2/2016	2356	Grinnell Mutual	Trailer Insurance	\$190.00
9/22/2016	2357	VOID	VOID	
9/25/2016	2358	Tom Bredesen	Shipping-El Salvador	\$1,016.57
10/9/2016	2359	Acuity	Equipment Insurance	\$508.00
10/18/2016	2360	WLF	Room Rental	\$35.00
		Registration Fee		
11/14/2016	2361	Trust	Trailer License	\$104.50
12/15/2016	2362	Steve McCabe	Nicaragua Supplies	\$505.46
12/23/2016	2363	USPS	Stamps	\$9.40
1/16/2017	2364	Void	Void	
1/16/2017	2365	Wolverine	Trailer tire	\$122.46
1/18/2017	2366	Tom Bredesen	El Salvador Supplies	\$140.77
1/24/2017	2367	Rudy Kessler	State Annual Report	\$10.00

1/25/2017	2368	Sharon Kessler	Camera Strap	\$7.98
1/26/2017	2369	Print Wear	Shirts	\$434.00
3/5/2017	2370	MTM	Haiti Mission 17	\$700.00
3/13/2017	2371	Sharon Kessler	Haiti Mission 17- Airfare	\$3,239.22
3/13/2017	2372	Jim Kreisel	Haiti Mission 17-overpayment	\$115.45
3/15/2017	2373	Nicaragua Partners	Glasses Shipment	\$500.00

**Total Expenses** **\$8,128.91**

**Balance as of 4-30-17**

**Checking & Savings Accounts** **\$21,214.01**

**Dollars Budgeted**

**Kids Sight** **\$240.78**

**Accounts Receivable**

27-A1 \$500.00

27-B1 \$500.00

**Total** **\$1,000.00**