

**Wisconsin Lions Missions  
Fall 2019 Newsletter**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The Annual Winter Meeting will be held on Saturday,  
January 11, 2020 at 9:43 am.  
It will be held at the Lions Camp in Rocholt, Wisconsin.**

**Summer Meeting Minutes - Three Lakes, WI - August 4, 2019**

President Bill Taubman called the meeting to order at 9:43am.

PDG Collette Sorgel welcomed everyone to the meeting and to enjoy Three Lakes.

Introductions were made.

Lion Val LeJeune said the meeting minutes had been printed in the summer newsletter. Lion Rudy Kessler gave the treasurer's report. Lion Bill Fenger motioned to have the reports accepted. Lion Jim LeJeune seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thank you to the Three Lakes Lions Club for hosting the Friday night picnic and today's activities. Notice will be given to when and where the January meeting will be.

Nicaragua - No missions until further notice.

El Salvador - The 2019 mission was cancelled. No missions scheduled in the future.

Haiti - Lion Rudy had a slide presentation from the last mission. Plan to go in September to look for some new mission sites.

Guatemala - Chimaltenango will be the site of the February 2020 mission. Lion Steve McCabe and PDG Jim Mulroy from Minnesota will head the mission. Please send all pertinent information to Lion Steve before the end of September. Make sure you arrive by February 15, 2020.

PID Lion Ron Duffe said the future of the mission group looked good. Great opportunities to continue to do good work. Spread the word about the Wisconsin Missions at your district conventions.

Pine Ridge - About 35 people went to Pine Ridge, Kyle, and Wanblee in May 2019. 1200 people were seen. Looking to go again in October. If interested, contact Lion Erling Isley.

Dominican Republic - Lions Tom and Miriam Bredesen worked with a group in Santo Domingo in January 2019. Possible mission site.

PDG Bill Taubman said there is still a need to find new mission sites. If you are interested in being a part of the Emergency Response Team, please contact him.

Glasses are still being picked up in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. Last year around 150,000 pairs were collected. There is still a need for glasses at the Recycling Center.

Lion Steve McCabe made a motion that a label printer be purchased for the District A2 camera. The motion was seconded by Lion Alan Ehrhardt. Lion Rudy Kessler will buy the printer and a router. Motion carried.

Election of officers was held. Lion Pat Knier nominated PDG Bill Taubman for president. A second was made by Lion Rudy Kessler. A motion was made by Lion Bill Fenger and seconded by Lion Lorraine Dalberg to cast a unanimous ballot for the same slate of officers that currently were serving. Lion Pat withdrew his motion. Motion carried.

Lion Miriam Bredesen will continue to write the newsletter.

Lion Alan Ehrhardt made a motion to keep the District Assessments at \$500.00. PDG Collette Sorgel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lion Bill Taubman said the trailer was in good shape. No need for a new one yet.

Dr. Brad Martin, who was instrumental in the Nicaragua Mission and the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners, passed away in July. Lion Dick Dalberg made a motion to give \$500 in Dr. Brad's name to Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners. Lion Steve McCabe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Lion Steve will talk to W/NP to see where they would like to designate the money.

Lion Bill is hoping to find a place (Lions Camp or WI Eye Bank) to display plaques, etc. which have been given to our group.

Lion Rudy Kessler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lion Jim LeJeune seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Val LeJeune

Secretary Wisconsin Lions Missions

### **WISCONSIN LIONS MISSIONS POLO SHIRTS and CAPS**

Anyone wishing to order a shirt can do so by contacting Erling Isely:

aneisely@aol.com

608-846-4571

617 Russell St., Deforest, WI 53532

These are the gold polo shirts with the Lions logo and your name on the front and

WISCONSIN LIONS MISSIONS silk screened on the back

Cost: Sizes Small thru XL \$27.00 men's and ladies' sizes

XXL and above \$29.00 men's and ladies' sizes

Order the size you would buy in a department or clothing store. State the name you wish to have printed on the front.

CAPS are \$10

Checks should be made out to: Wisconsin Lions Missions

Erling Isely

### **Wisconsin Lions Missions Chairman's Chat**

Bill Taubman, President

715-468-2910

wct38@centurytel.net

N3391 Pine Tree Lane

Shell Lake, WI 54871

### **MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS**

BILL TAUBMAN, State Chr.

**CHALLENGES** Most everyone is aware of the challenges we have been confronted with regarding locations for eyeglass missions. In the last few years we have had to quit going to El Salvador, Mexico, and Nicaragua. And Haiti is very tenuous, all of this because of the turmoil in those countries. Our return in the short term is quite doubtful and who knows what the long term will bring.

While location is the first challenge, the next one is getting our glasses through customs and into the right hands. Customs have wanted anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. Most

often we have been able to bargain the price down, but even then the cost is unacceptable. Logic would suggest that when we are coming to their country to help their people they would do all they could to accommodate us. But increasingly logic is pretty scarce in government, even here in the US.

**DEPRESSION** All of the above could cause those involved in the mission work to ask, why? Why do we work so hard at it? Why do we commit so much of our money and time to these missions? Well, we do it because we are Lions and Lions "SERVE". We do it because the need exists. We do it because it warms our hearts and brings joy to us when we give someone the gift of improved sight. We do it because we change the projectile of their life and that is what we have to focus on when all the "why's" start to depress us. We do it because it is the right thing to do.

**OPPORTUNITIES** We have learned through Lion Erling's efforts in South Dakota that there are opportunities in our own country. He has made some real progress at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and we have learned that the residents of Wisconsin are willing and anxious to support our efforts there. Lion Tom has been talking with contacts in the Dominican Republic. Lion Rudy continues to monitor activities in Haiti. Lion Steve has worked hard to make Guatemala a reality next February. In the months ahead I am going to be reaching out to the Lion leaders in Costa Rica and Panama. Where we go, who we help, what we do, and what we as an organization looks like all may change. But one thing that won't is that there will always be people that need us. We just have to be creative and open to new possibilities.

**JANUARY MEETING** Our winter meeting will be on the second Saturday of January, the 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the usual time, 9:43 AM. There will be some interesting reports and information regarding the Guatemala mission will be shared. Do try to join us.

### **Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Haiti**

Rudy Kessler, Coordinator  
715-468-4496

kessfarm@centurytel.net

24032 Poquette Lake Road  
Shell Lake, WI

Today Missionaries all across Haiti and the US are asking their support groups to join in a Worldwide prayer for Haiti.

Things are pretty rough there. Week 7 of protests are coming to a close and it was a rough week, especially in Port au Prince.

There are still road blocks and burning tires; most protests lately have been peaceful. Availability of supplies are still limited due to the fact that transportation has been shut down between here and Port au Prince.

Everyday there are armed gangs in the road, burning tires, and road blocks all over the capital. 2 million children are STILL out of school out of fear they will be attacked if they attend. Babies are dying at the hospital because hospitals can't find fuel to run their generators, or purchase supplies. Malnutrition is skyrocketing as families can't get to town to purchase food and can't afford the 22% inflation costs. People are now referring to Haiti as a War zone, and it's fairly accurate. Guns and money are being distributed daily to encourage people to take to the streets. Gangs are getting bolder and more active. The opposition is calling not only for things to continue, but for demonstrations to step up in brutality next week.

Please pray for Haiti. Pray for the millions of innocent lives who are being affected by this political crisis. Pray that the streets can once again become safe. That the government and opposition can figure out how to over come this. And that Haiti can once again become the safe stable country we have loved.

**Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Wamblee, SD**  
 Erling Isely, Coordinator 617 Russell St.  
 608-846-4571 Deforest, WI 53532  
aneisely@aol.com

The last week of October 25 Wisconsin and Minnesota Lions did an eye glass mission to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We spent two days in Wanblee and were able to give glasses to the many students who we screened last November. We also spent two days in Pine Ridge where we had been in May. We served about 800 people in the two locations.

The current District Governor in SD District 5SW, a PDG and one other SD Lion were with us in Wanblee on Monday, the Zone Chair and her husband worked with us in Pine Ridge on Thursday and a member of the SD Lions Foundation Board worked with us on Friday. All were impressed with our program and want to work with us to expand to other reservations. We will be making a presentation at the SD State Convention on January 18th.

At this time sites for our next mission have not been set.

Wisconsin Lions from all 10 districts have responded in an amazing way to the request for clothing, beds, mattresses, bedding, furniture, food and many other items. About 10 truck and trailer loads of items have been delivered to the Families Working Together warehouse in Wanblee for distribution throughout the reservation. In addition almost all volunteers traveling to Wanblee have taken van and car loads of items. Thanks to all. Lions Bob And Mary Epps are truly making a difference for these forgotten people and are thankful for our assistance.

**"Needs For Families Working Together"**

Single mattresses Sewing machines Fabrics Cotton Cotton/Polyester Fleece Denim Used Jeans Baby blankets Sewing supplies Simple patterns (all sizes—used is ok.) Threads (need not be full spools) Quilt pattern books (Simple ones) Mirror to use to check "fit" Kitchen supplies Dishes Pots and Pans Mixing bowls Canning jars and lids Canner with lid Cookie sheets	Cookie jars or tins Pitchers, glasses, and cups Dishtowels and dish cloths Clothing: Newborn Babies: Blankets, Booties, "Sleepers" Laundry soaps Towels Shower curtains (plastic with shower curtain hooks) Bedding: Twin and bunk: Sheets, blankets, Pillowcases, Pillows Infant/Toddler: Everything!! Kindergarten through High School! All ages and sizes for both Men and Women. Shoes and Boots: All sizes, gently used !!   Extra Shoelaces. Shoe Polish Winter coats and Jackets, mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, caps,etc. All sizes and types. Age appropriate toys for all ages:   Puzzles, books, Dolls, games, crafts, etc.	Kids Books and Videos Coloring Books Crayons: Fat and Skinny! School scissors (blunt and sharp) Pencils Chalk—White and Colors Pencil Sharpener Blackboard and erasers Clothing: All sizes: Women, men, kids, teens, and babies Hygiene needs: Hand soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Outside Needs: Rakes, shovels, hoses, hoes, hammers, hand saws, clotheslines, and posts 30 Gallon gas LP water tank Shower stools Canes Crutches Walkers Wheelchairs Canes
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## Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Guatemala

Steve McCabe, Coordinator  
715-384-4945

stevejmccabe@hotmail.com

806 South Apple Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449

Thirty Lions will be arriving into Guatemala City on Saturday, February 15th of 2020. PDG James Mulroy from Elk River, Minnesota is leading 15 Lions in his Minnesota Group and I will be providing 15 Wisconsin Lions for this Guatemalan Mission. Lion Jim's Minnesota Group is made up of mostly Minnesota Lions with a few open spots filled by fellow Wisconsin Lions. We are fortunate to have three eye doctors assisting us with this mission. The Wisconsin Lions are helping to train the Minnesota Lions on eye instrumentation and fitting of glasses. The goal is to eventually have the Minnesota Lions prepared to run the Guatemala Eyeglass Missions by themselves.

On Sunday, February 16th, all of the Lions will be bused to the City of Chimaltenango located about five thousand feet up in a mountain valley. The Mayan/Spanish population of the city is approximately forty-five thousand and the city has a moderate climate in the mid 70's F. The actual eyeglass mission will run from Monday through Friday and is scheduled to be held at a municipal building provided by the mayor. On Saturday the 22nd we will be bused back to our hotel in Guatemala City and return home on Sunday, February 23rd.



## Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to El Salvador

Tom Bredesen, Coordinator  
715-546-3735

tbrede49@hotmail.com

809 Fox Hills Drive  
Sun City Center, FL 33573

Hello WLM Friends,

We no longer have a contact person on the ground in El Salvador, so there is no mission planned to that country for 2020. Our previous in-country coordinator, Diego, sent me a message to say that he will be going to Europe as the ambassador to Belgium.

Miriam and I will participate in an eyeglass mission next January run through the Catholic Church in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to a contact from Lion Ron Duffe we have a meeting set up before we leave the Dominican with the District Governor to discuss details for a project there in 2021. There will be more information on the results of that meeting in the spring newsletter.

## Hellen Keller Videos

For some of you new to Wisconsin Lions Missions, perhaps you did not know that there are many YouTube videos of Helen Keller and her companion Anne Sullivan. Since we are her Knights of the Blind, check out 'Helen Keller in her Kitchen', 'Helen Keller Takes a Walk', or '1930 Footage of Helen Keller Speaking with the Help of Anne Sullivan'! Amazing!

## Wisconsin Lions Missions Finances

### 7-1-19 Thru 6-30-20

Start Bal.

Checking & Savings Accounts		7/1/2019	<b>\$29,811.51</b>
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### Income

7/2/2019	Pineridge	tents	\$1,159.00
7/2/2019	Donation	Sheboygon Lions	\$50.00
7/13/2019	Pineridge	tents	\$675.00
7/26/2019	Pineridge	tents	\$425.00
7/26/2019	Deposit	Shirts-caps	\$84.00
8/5/2019	Deposit	Mn. For Glasses shipment	\$1,200.00
8/5/2019	Deposit	Individual \$ for Guadamula	\$875.00
8/13/2019	Deposit	Nebraska for Glasses pickup	\$300.00
9/3/2019	Pineridge	tents	\$150.00
9/3/2019	Deposit	Shirts-caps	\$54.00
10/1/2019	Pineridge	donation-Rice Lake Lions	\$500.00
10/18/2019	Contribution	27-D1	\$500.00
10/22/2019	Contribution	27-A2--B2--D2	\$1,500.00
10/22/2019	Donation	DeForest Lions	\$1,000.00
11/1/2019	Contribution	27-E2	\$500.00
11/1/2019	Donation	Marshfield Lions	\$200.00

### Total Income

**\$9,172.00**

### Expenses

7/1/2019	2422	Bill Taubman	Trailer Expense to Pineridge	\$1,392.00
7/1/2019	2423	Sharon Kessler	Annual Report Filing	\$10.00
7/19/2019	2424	Bill Taubman	Pineridge--tents	\$3,325.00
7/19/2019	2424	Bill Taubman	Trailer	\$51.00
7/25/2019	2425	Rudy Kessler	Trailer-Light	\$5.48
7/26/2019	2426	Bill Taubman	Pineridge trip + glasses	\$1,180.96
8/4/2019	2427	Printware	Shirts-caps	\$165.00
8/4/2019	2428	Wisc. Nicaragua Partners	In memery Brad Martin	\$500.00
8/10/2019	2429	Sharon Kessler	Label Printer	\$200.98
8/10/2019	2430	Jim Mulroy	12 participants	\$1,500.00
8/17/2019	2431	UPS	Guatamala Glass shipment	\$586.26
8/25/2019	2432	Steve McCabe	Guatamala Customs	\$215.00
9/9/2019	2433	Steve McCabe	Guatamala Shipment	\$202.00
9/10/2019	2434	Printware	Shirts-caps	\$87.00
10/1/2019	2435	Grinnell Mutual	Trailer Insurance	\$190.00

10/18/2019	2436	Acuity Insurance	Equipment	\$516.00
10/21/2019	2437	UPS Supply Chain	Glasses--Guatamala	\$892.42
10/31/2019	2438	Rice Lake Lions	Donation Return	\$400.00

**Total Expenses** **\$11,419.10**

**Balance as of 11/7/2019**

Checking & Savings Accounts **\$27,564.41**

**Accounts Receivable**

27-A1	\$2,000.00
27-B1	\$500.00
27-C1	\$500.00
27-C2	\$500.00
27-E1	\$500.00

**Total** **\$4,000.00**