

Wisconsin Lions Missions Spring 2021 Newsletter

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809 Fox Hills Drive
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Wisconsin Lions Missions Summer Meeting and Lunch is scheduled for Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 12:00 pm. We will gather Almas's Café in Allenton, Wisconsin. The social gathering will be the evening before, 4:00 pm, at the the home of Lions Terry and Laura Peters.

Wisconsin Missions Summer Picnic

Cookout: Saturday August 14, 2021

At: Lions Terry and Laura Peters' House (Thank you , Lion Terry and Lion Laura)
4431 Trillium Lane, Slinger, WI

(If Possible, please park on the road and walk up the driveway)

4:00pm - ??

We will be doing a make your own taco bar

Please, bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair

Meeting and Lunch Sunday August 15, 2021

At Alma's Cafe

751 Church Street, Allenton, WI 53002

Meeting at 12pm

Lunch at 1pm - Burger Bar will be around \$10 per person

Due to Covid we will need to have a later than usual Meeting and lunch

RSVP for Cookout and Sunday Lunch By : August 1st

To Lion Brenda Rumppe 27A2 Missions Chair

Cell- 262-305-1101 Please text or leave a message or

email:lionbrendarumppe@yahoo.com

Places to stay near Slinger/Allenton:

Super8 by Wyndham

1539 Sumner ST, Hartford

262-709-8209

Cobblestone Inn and Suites

101 Park Ave, Hartford

262-670-6010

Comfort Inn and Suites Jackson

W227 N16890 Tillie Lake Court, Jackson

262-423-6036

Country Inn and Suites by Radisson, West Bend,

2000 Gateway Court West Bend

262-334-9400

Hampton Inn and Suites, West Bend

1975 South 18th Ave West Bend

262-438-1500

MISSION TRAINING

Bill Taubman

Working at an eyeglass mission is such a worthy and generous deed. We should all be proud of ourselves and others for the willingness to do it. What we do for the lives of the people we serve is often unreal! I know that each of us that sits down across the table from a visually impaired person wants to make that person's sight perfect. But all too often we are not prepared to do it and the person walks away not seeing as well as he/she could have if the "picker" was better prepared.

I'm being pretty harsh saying that, and I'm sure not everyone agrees with me but I have seen way too much of it and I think the problem is getting worse, not better. Why? I am a Harry Truman kind of guy, "the buck stops here". This is an issue that should have been broached some years ago but I didn't push it, until now.

Everyone wants to do good but how can they if we don't give them training opportunities? Sitting with an experienced picker (who may or may not be great at it!) and being coached for a few patients isn't enough. There is so much background knowledge that is important, some of which will come with enough experience, but how many patients will be "cheated" before that experience is gained? One is too many.

Dr. Alan has a great presentation to help us understand the eye and the process for selecting glasses but that is just the recipe. And how much time do we give him to do all that, 45 minutes, an hour? Whatever amount it isn't enough. And even then it is mostly us old-timers in attendance. It is my observation that in the last few years most of the first-timers on missions come without any training at all. So what is my proposal?

It is my suggestion that all new people be REQUIRED to attend a special training session prior to going on a mission. This special training session would be open to everyone and I would say that people who have only been on one or two missions should be required to attend as well. We would organize a major, perhaps half day, training session somewhere in the state; maybe two of them. We would bring in resource people, certainly Dr. Alan if available, to teach this session. We would have patients for pickers to practice on. We would make it a thorough experience of learning.

This means missions would have to be planned well in advance and that people would have to commit to going on a mission in time to get the training. This also means people would have to give up a day at some point to attend the training, to travel some distance to participate. I understand all this but I've always thought going on a mission is a privilege worth making some sacrifices for. We mission leaders and the participants are always so proud of the big numbers we serve. We have to be even more proud of the quality of our work. That is more important than how many!

There, you know what I am thinking. It all needs a lot of thought and perhaps some massaging and if you really don't like the idea remember, there will be an election at the summer meeting! :)

Wisconsin Lions Missions Chairman's Chat

Bill Taubman, President
715-468-2910

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N3391 Pine Tree Lane
Shell Lake, WI 54871

MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS

It goes without saying that this has been an unusual, and in some ways, difficult year. But there have also been some pluses and that is what we should focus on. For me and many others it was a somewhat quiet year with less travel, fewer meetings, more down time to do your own thing and time to clean the closets and drawers (didn't do it but there was time!). Though the Covid was rampant in the U.S. we should be grateful that we live here and not in some of the countries that we Lions have worked in where poverty prevails and social safety nets don't exist. Despite it all we are blessed!

Wisconsin Lions Missions took a hiatus from pretty much everything since Covid 19 became a threat. We did do a mission in Guatemala and returned to this country just ahead of the outbreak. One tangible activity was that we took two loads of "stuff" to the Pine Ridge Reservation in the late fall and it was well received. We also did a statewide solicitation for money to support the backpack program on the Reservation and ended up sending upwards of \$10,000 to the Families Working Together Foundation for that purpose. That was substantially less than the \$25,001 that we sent in 2019 but it was still a big help to them.

When are we going to do more Lions eyeglass missions? I hear that question quite often and all I can say is "I don't know". Elsewhere in this newsletter I think you will read of another mission to Guatemala that is tentatively being planned for April of 2022 but is by no means a certainty yet. Maybe by that time we will be able to go back to Haiti again. Maybe someone will find a safe country somewhere that needs our help. Lot's of questions, few answers.

Yes, perhaps we can go with a team of people that have all had their Covid shots and are well protected but it isn't likely the people in the country we are working in will be well protected. I don't want us to be the reason those people are all brought together and spend hours standing in line and sitting in a crowded room waiting for glasses. We all just have to be patient and if we err, do it on the side of caution.

Last year we had to cancel the summer picnic and meeting but not this year! Thank you to Brenda Rumppe and PCC Terry Peters for agreeing to do it this summer since all their plans for last year were canceled. Look elsewhere in this news letter for all the details.

Enjoy the summer, but be careful and we will see you all at the summer meeting.

Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Haiti

Rudy Kessler, Coordinator
715-468-4496

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24032 Poquette Lake Road
Shell Lake, WI

HAITI MISSION UPDATE

I am working on doing an eyeglass mission as part of a medical mission with Mountain Top Ministries (MTM) in Haiti about March 2022. Whether this actually happens will all depend on Covid and the unrest in Haiti. We hope to have a better idea of these situations this fall in September or October. Some of you will remember that we have done two missions with MTM as well as several others in Haiti with the groups Love For Lozandier and Change A Person's World.

To give you a little background on MTM It was started in 1999 by Willem Charles, an independent missionary and natural-born citizen of Haiti, with the purpose of providing for the spiritual, physical and educational needs of his countrymen. His work to meet their physical needs included connecting with various groups in the United States which over the years have sent hundreds of volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists to MTM's Haitian home base in the village of Gramothe. A Minnesota Lion involved in these medical missions learned about our group and after several discussions and careful research, we held our first eyeglass mission in Gramothe in December 2015. Our second (and last) eyeglass mission thru MTM was in May 2017. We have been invited back a number of times but circumstances have prevented our doing so - primarily political unrest and Covid. Gramothe is in a beautiful mountain area about 45 minutes from Port-au-Prince. Temperatures are quite comfortable there.

Our missions in Haiti are a bit more physically demanding than in some of the other countries we have served, but the need there is great and our work very satisfying. **If you are interested in participating in this mission, please contact me.** I am happy to discuss our Haitian missions with you in more detail and will keep you updated. We need about 8 people for this Mountain Top mission to ensure it will be successful.

Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Wamblee, SD

Erling Isely, Coordinator
608-846-4571

aneisely@aol.com

617 Russell St.
Deforest, WI 53532

First, let me say that for health reasons I will have to give up leading this project. I would hope someone would step up and take on the position of Coordinator.

And second, another load of clothes and items will be going out in June. Schools are closed so the main focus is on food and gardening at this point.

(As Editor of this newsletter, I am asking everyone to continue to lift up Erling and Ann in prayer. And we sincerely thank them both for many years of service, and for volunteering to lead this project! You are both dearly loved!)

"Needs For Families Working Together" on the Pine Ridge Reservation

<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
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Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Mission to Guatemala

Gary Donaldson, Coordinator
920-634-6030

gdonaldson42@mac.com

635 Winding Waters Way
DePere, WI 54115

The proposed mission to Guatemala in April 2022, in collaboration with the Minnesota Lions, has unfortunately been postponed. This is due to the COVID-19 status in Guatemala. Less than 1% of the population has been vaccinated to date - and this group mostly consists of the military, healthcare workers, and police. The general population has yet to be vaccinated. At the current rate, it will take over a year to vaccinate just 10% of the population. We cannot put ourselves, our fellow volunteers from Guatemala, and the Guatemalan people at an increased risk by creating a massive COVID spreader event at the mission site.

Over the last few months, much work has been done to establish necessary logistical channels and partnerships in Guatemala to carry out an eyeglass mission. We will work to maintain these contacts and continue to put other pieces of the puzzle in place to ensure a successful eyeglass mission to Guatemala in the future.

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

As you can imagine, the pandemic concerns in less developed countries are just as impactful on everyday life as here in the United States. I do have two contacts to assist us with a future project in El Salvador, but because of covid it is still too early to make specific plans. I am just as anxious as some of you to restart these service projects, but as of this moment I have no specific timeframe to report.

Wisconsin Lions Missions Financial Report

Wisconsin Lions Missions

7-1-20 Thru 6-30-21

Checking & Savings Accounts

7/1/2020

Start
Bal. **\$30,386.37**

Income

8/10/2020	Donation	Boulder Junction Lions	\$250.00
8/10/2020	Donation	Winona University	\$50.00
9/1/2020	Donation	Sugar Camp Lions	\$100.00
9/1/2020	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$1,000.00
11/5/2020	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$500.00
11/5/2020	Annual	27-A2	\$500.00
11/9/2020	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$2,600.00
11/30/2020	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$2,850.00
12/16/2020	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$700.00
12/16/2020	Donation	Dr. Ben	\$100.00
12/16/2020	Refund	UPS	\$116.95
1/7/2021	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$100.00
1/7/2021	Annual	27-D1	\$500.00
1/20/2021	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$1,400.00
1/20/2021	Annual	27-D2 & 27-B1	\$1,000.00
1/27/2021	Annual	27-E2	\$500.00
2/17/2021	Donation	Pine Ridge food-20	\$100.00
2/17/2021	Annual	27-E1 & 27-C1	\$1,000.00
2/24/2021	Donation	Coon Valley & Hillsboro lions	\$200.00

Total Income

\$13,566.95

Expenses

7/24/2020	2453	Bill Taubman	Nebraska glasses pickup	\$959.26
10/14/2020	2454	Grennel	Trailer Insurance	\$190.00
10/16/2020	2455	Acuity	Equipment Insurance	\$532.00
11/9/2020	2456	Fee Trust	Trailer License	\$104.50
11/15/2020	2457	Bill Taubman	Pine Ridge Food-20	\$2,500.00
11/15/2020	2458	Rudy Kessler	Pine Ridge Trip	\$809.16
11/17/2020	2459	Welch Allyn	Screener Contract	\$1,496.00
12/10/2020	2460	LCIF	memory of Dr. Jacobs	\$250.00
1/26/2021	2461	FWT--Pineridge	Pine Ridge Food-20	\$6,650.00
2/1/2021	2462	Rudy Kessler	Annual Report	\$10.00

Total Expenses **\$13,500.92**

Balance as of 6-30-19 5/1/2021

Checking & Savings Accounts **\$30,452.40**

Accounts
Receivable

27-A1 \$2,500.00
27-B2 \$500.00
27-C2 \$500.00

Total **\$3,500.00**