

2017 MD5M Convention Final Report to the Council of Governors

The 98th Annual Multiple District 5M Lions Convention was held at the Sanford Center in Bemidji, MN, on April 21-22-23, 2017. Thank you to the Council of Governors for allowing the opportunity to The Bemidji Lions Club, The First City Lions Club of Bemidji, and Lions Clubs in 5M10 to be the hosts for this great event. We were honored to host this celebration of Lions in LCI's 100th year. Congratulations to the host Lions for their commitment and dedication for a successful convention.

Thank you as well to the City of Bemidji, the Sanford Center, and Visit Bemidji for the excellent partnership in making the 2017 MD5M Convention a huge success. The City of Bemidji looks forward to hosting future Lions events. We had a large attendance and registration from the community and district. There were 455 full registrations for the convention. Counting partial registrations and guests, **the total number attending was 602.**

The convention program emphasized three themes: Celebration, Service and Generosity. Lions Clubs International and its 1.45 Million members are passionate in service, as emphasized with the seminar speakers and programs. Seminars were presented on LCIF, Leader Dog, Guide Dogs of Canada, Can Do Canines, the Minnesota Lions partnership with the University of Minnesota. There were additional positive comments about the convention opportunities such as: the Friday night entertainment—the best in years (as you would note by the number of Lions dancing right up to the end); the food and service; the organization and easy access to the seminar facilities; the Awards presented to the recipients of the Hall of Fame, Peace Poster, Environmental Photo Contest, and LCI Essay Contest; PIP Wayne Madden's presentation at the Governor's Banquet and business meetings were outstanding, the signing of intent for the Minnesota Lions Eye Institute, and the Kid Sight screening for youngsters in the Bemidji community. These are just a few.

The Lions of MD5M take great pride in our support of PID Brian Sheehan his quest for election for 3rd Vice President of LCI. What an awesome experience to be part of the LCI endorsing process!

A new activity was introduced this year with the Zero K Walk/Run for Diabetes with 284 participants. Right after the Saturday Noon Awards Luncheon, walkers, runners and striders raised \$3,520 to Minnesota Lions Diabetes and \$480 to Diabetes Canada with their exit and entry into the Sanford Center for a good cause.

The Raffle Room provided an excellent opportunity to raise needed funds for Camp Confidence. The live and silent auction raised \$3,159.00, while the Red Ticket Raffle raised \$6710.00. **Total \$9869.00.** Thank you to the clubs and individuals who contributed.

The 98th Annual MD5M Convention had an income of \$84,451.50, which included grants from the Lions of MD5M, Visit Bemidji, and Sanford Health. The committee has been planning and working on this "project" since 2014. We are grateful for this opportunity. We are the **Lions of the North.**

Respectfully Submitted---PDG Mel Milender and SVDG Wayne Tieman, Co-Chairs