MD5M Convention Report

May 3, 2017

Lions of the North

The 2017 MD5M Lions Convention was held at the Sanford Center in Bemidji, MN, on April 21-22-23, 2017. Lions from the Bemidji Lions Club, the First City Lions Club of Bemidji, and the Lions Clubs of 5M10 were the hosts for this great event.

Thank you to the past Council of Governors for giving the Lions of 5M10 the opportunity to host the MD5M Convention this year. We were honored to host this celebration in LCI’s 100th year. We thank all Lions of MD5M for attending and volunteering.

Congratulations to the Bemidji Convention Committee on the planning and delivery of a very successful MD5M Convention. Also, congratulations to the Bemidji Lions and First City of Bemidji Lions for their hospitality and work “behind the scenes”. Also, thank you to the Sanford Center and staff for the excellent support given to the committee throughout the implementation process.

The top ten reasons for the convention’s huge success include:

1) The Sanford Center, with easy access to meeting rooms and the arena;
2) The Hotels;
3) The Friday night entertainment as noted by the large number of Lions and guests in attendance right up to the end;
4) The Food;
5) The Brian Sheehan endorsement and fund raising for 3rd International VP;
6) PIP Wayne Madden as our International Guest Speaker and LCIF Seminar presenter;
7) The Awards program;
8) The “new” Zero K walk/run, which raised over $6000 for Diabetes;
9) Seminars on LCIF, Leader Dog, Can Do Canines, Dog Guides of Canada, Minnesota Lions Eye Institute;
10) Training opportunities for Kidsight USA.
Additional positive outcomes voiced to the committee included: the easy access to registration and credentials, the general business meeting and conducting Lions business, the Raffle Room run by Camp Confidence, the Pin Traders, the BSU Jazz Band entertainment on Saturday Night, the BHS String Quartet entertainment, the Service of Remembrance, the excellent programs and convention booklet done through Arrow Printing, the Lions of the North pins, pens and notebooks, the shuttle bus service between the hotels and Sanford Center, the excellent cooperation between the convention committee with the City of Bemidji and Visit Bemidji, the Opening Ceremonies with the BHS Color Guard and welcome by the Bemidji Mayor, the informative table displays in the hallway, the excellent spring weather, plenty of fun and laughter, and the great reunion of Lions friends and supporters.

The 98th Annual MD5M Convention will show a profit.

Total registrations were 602, with full hospitality books at 455.

The Zero K Walk/Run for Diabetes had 284 participants, which raised over $6000 for the foundations in Minnesota and Canada. Not bad for a first year!

Total Income for the convention was $83,281.50; the expenses (so far) were $74,575.30.

The 99th MD5M Convention will be April 13-15, 2018, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The Winnipeg Committee already has over 200 Lions registered.

It’s great to be a Lion. We change lives.