

2007 NM State Lions Convention A Great Success

The 79th annual New Mexico State Lions Convention was held at the Pojoaque Pueblo, NM, at the Cities of Gold Hotel and Casino on 31 May-3 June 2007. It was a great success and all who attended had a fantastic time. The Convention began on 31 May 2007 with various training courses and seminars being provided during both morning and afternoon sessions. The Golf Scramble occurred Thursday afternoon at the Towa Golf Course with golfers enjoying a warm but beautiful afternoon of golf. Many Lions took time to enjoy the gambling facilities at the Pojoaque Cities of Gold Casino which was close to the hotel. The Past District Governor's Banquet was held at Towa Thursday evening.

Friday morning began with the NM Lions Eye Bank Meeting which provided a buffet breakfast. The NM Lions Honor Band Foundation and NM Lions Eye Foundation also met during the morning sessions. Training courses and seminars were provided Friday after lunch as were meetings for the Lions Crane

Reading Foundation and a presentation by the Lions Quest Program. The first D40N and D40S Cabinet Meetings (end of year business) were held Friday afternoon after the training and seminar sessions. At 5PM, the NM Lions Honor Band provided a concert at the Pojoaque Plaza. Friday was topped off with the Lions Feast at the hotel with PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery as MC, which included dinner music provided by the Cajun Trio of Los Alamos and a very enjoyable program with entertainment by the Pojoaque Pueblo Tribal Dancers and a presentation on the NM Lions Survivor Camp by Jennifer Dahlgren. After Jennifer's presentation, the hat was passed with over \$1700 raised for the Camp.

Saturday commenced with the opening MD40 Council working session with MD40 CC LeeRoy Milton, PDG, presiding. ID Director Kenneth Schwols, Convention Keynote Speaker, provided a short talk about how we can be more effective Lions. There was considerable discussion on the five proposed Constitution & By-Laws changes.

The Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon commenced at 11:30AM with PID Gordon Post as MC. Special Olympics Executive Director Randy Mascorella was the guest speaker who provided a very touching and moving program on some of her experiences with the Special Olympics. During her program, she introduced a young lady who has participated as an Olympian and she related some of her achievements.

During the first part of Saturday afternoon, the final D40N and D40S Cabinet Meetings occurred with primary focus on the presentation of awards. A special NM Lions Band Foundation Meeting was held to draw the winning ticket for the Ford truck. Lion Johnty Cresto from the Gallup Lions Club was the lucky winner! The Band provided a short concert after the drawing. The 2nd MD40 Council Meeting then occurred.

The DG's Banquet began at 6PM Saturday with happy hour. During the evening, the NM Lions Honor Band performed several selections under the direction of Dr. Greg Fant and his staff.



The 2007 New Mexico Lions Honor Band posing with the truck that helped secure their trip to Chicago.

Dr. Fant handed the baton to PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery to lead the Band for one selection. The Band members were seated with two at each table so Lions could spend some time with these talented young folks. After dinner, ID Ken Schwols provided an inspiring presentation on leadership and its importance to Lionism followed by the drawings for the NM Lions Eye Bank Raffle. The remainder of the program was used to present awards to Lions who had made a special contribution during 2006-07 year. The Banquet concluded with Lions converging on the hospitality rooms.

After breakfast on Sunday morning, the Los Alamos Lions conducted the Memorial Service for Lions who passed away during the last year. The final MD40 Council meeting followed with recognition of several Lions. MDCC LeeRoy Milton presented all MD Council members with Medals of Achievement and the DGs with Lions belt buckles. The DGs presented MDCC LeeRoy with a plaque for his service as MD40 Council Chair. The voting on the proposed amendments then occurred. The meeting adjournment signified the end of a most successful Convention. (Pictures courtesy of Lion Frankie Mahannah unless otherwise noted)



The 2007 New Mexico Lions Honor Band performing a concert at the Pojoaque Plaza.



The 2007 New Mexico Lions Honor Band percussion section.



Jennifer Dahlgren, Director, NM Lions Survivor Camp Director, provides a presentation at the Lions Feast on Friday night.



Jennifer Dahlgren (L) demonstrates the cup exercise to Lions Miriam Stucker and Shirley Milton.



ID Ken Schwols and his wife, Lion Karin. (Picture by PDG Bill Davis)



Lion Bernie Holzapfel talking with two of the Lions Honor Band members during the Lions Feast.



Lion Frankie Mahannah posing with two of the Lions Honor Band members during the Lions Feast.



The Pojoaque Pueblo Tribal Dancers perform during the Lions Feast on Friday night.



Lions "digging in" on some buffalo meat and all the trimmings during the Lions Feast .



Lion Ralph Richards auctioning off a T-shirt to help raise money for the NM Lions Survivor Camp.



Carroll Jackson and his dog Jack were the representatives from Leader Dogs for the Blind.



DG John Sakasitz 40N (R) presents Lion Rose Himrod with the 2007 Hap Beyer Scroll of Honor Award.



Keynote Speaker ID Ken Schwols and his wife, Lion Karin, opening their gifts at the DG's Banquet.



ID Ken Schwols and Lion Karin being "pestered" by PID Don Reese.



PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery congratulates Lion Johnty Cresto for winning the Ford truck.



VDG Tom Himrod with his parents who are Lions from Los Angeles.



PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery reflects on all the trips he made with the truck this year to sell raffle tickets. Lee Boyd is to be commended for his dedication to this fundraiser which made it possible for the NM Lions band to attend the Convention in Chicago.



DG John Sakasitz (R) presents Lion Frankie Mahannah with an award for doing a fantastic job this year as Chair of the D40N Public Relations Committee.



A special LIONS' ROAR for PDG Mary Jane Shannon who was the 2007 State Convention Planning Committee Chair.



PDG Stan Bode, PID Don Reese, and PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery taking a breather between meetings.



VDG Jim Brannon accepts an appreciation certificate for his Club from the NM Lions Band Foundation for selling a significant number of truck raffle tickets.



PDG Ruben Vigil getting ready to watch the Lions Band perform. (Picture by Lion Claudia Jensen)



Left: the NM Lions Band preparing for the concert at the Pojoaque Plaza. (Picture by Lion Claudia Jensen)



Right: Los Alamos Lions in their Club's Flagship. (Picture by Lion Claudia Jensen)



MDCC LeeRoy Milton (Center) presents DGs John Sakasitz (L) and Jeff Kriz (R) with their DG Certificates. (Picture by Lion Melissa Washburn)



ID Ken Schwols (Center) presents Lion Bryson McCool with the International President's Certificate of Appreciation as DG Jeff Kriz (R) looks on. Lion Chuck Galusha received the other International President's Certificate of Appreciation for D40S. (Pic by Lion Melissa Washburn)



Maestro Lee Boyd Montgomery directs the NM Lions Band for one selection. (Picture by Lion Melissa Washburn)



Carroll Jackson, the Leader Dog representative, presents a program during the DGs Banquet as his trusting friend Jack keeps watch. Note that Jack is 11 years old and will be retiring in a year.



PDG Rick Jensen (R) receives the Hap Beyer Scroll of Honor Award from DG Jeff Kriz. (Picture by Lion Melissa Washburn)



One of the recipients of the D40S Hap Beyer Scroll of Honor was Lion Jeanette Lang who could not be present because of illness. Lion Ruth Wilkes (R), President of the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions, accepted the award for Lion Jeanette from DG Jeff Kriz (L) as fellow Club members look on. (Picture by Lion Melissa Washburn)



Lions Don Moen (L) and Joe Jaramillo (C), Las Cruces Sunrise Lions Club, receive D40S Most Improved Club Award from PDG Jim Jones. (Picture by Lion Kitty Callender)



Lions Kitty and Bob Callender pose with one of the members of the NM Lions Band. (Picture by Lion Kitty Callender)



Lions at the registration desk (top) and at the NM Lions Survivor Camp display. (Picture by Lion Kitty Callender)



The head table at the Lions Feast. (L-R) DG Jeff Kriz, Lion Shirley Milton, MDCC LeeRoy Milton, Lion Karin Schwols, ID Ken Schwols, PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery (MC), PDG Mary Jane Shannon, PDG Bill Davis, PDG John Sakasitz. (Picture by Lion Kitty Callender)



Lion John Miller & DG Jeff Kriz
(Picture by PDG Jim Jones)



ID Ken Schwols, PDG Bill Davis, PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery, and Lion Christel Post waiting for the NM Lions Band concert to start. (Picture by PDG Jim Jones)



Lion Anna Marvel with her famous hat.



DG 40S Jeff Kriz (L) and DG 40N John Sakasitz (R) present MDCC LeeRoy Milton a plaque in appreciation for his service as MD40 Council Chair. (Picture by PDG Bill Davis)



PID Don Reese and ID Ken Schwols. (Picture by PDG Bill Davis)



MDCC LeeRoy Milton and his wife, Lion Shirley, enjoying breakfast. (Picture by PDG Bill Davis)