

# **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**



## **GUIDE FOR MD 37 CONVENTION DELEGATES**

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
2010**

Our Lions Clubs International Constitution and By-Laws provide that our Association shall hold an annual Convention at a time and place to be determined by the International Board of Directors. The Convention site can be selected no more than five years in advance (except in the case of the 2017 “Centennial” Convention, which shall be selected seven years in advance).

At our annual International Convention – or in conjunction with the Convention – our District Governors-Elect (i.e. those who will officially take office at the close of the Convention) receive orientation and instruction concerning their duties and obligations. This orientation and instruction is in addition to that received here in our own Multiple District. Each District Governor-Elect has also been requested by Lions Clubs International to complete several assignments prior to leaving for the International Convention.

The Convention itself is held from Monday through Friday. This year it will be held June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sydney, Australia

The main official purposes of the Convention are three-fold:

- (a) to receive a report from the outgoing International President;
- (b) to elect a new Second Vice-President and one half of the International Board of Directors; and
- (c) to vote on any proposed amendments to our International Constitution and By-Laws.

By tradition, we also:

- (a) parade (by delegation) through the center of our host city;
- (b) honor Past International Officers who have died since the last International Convention;
- (c) present formally (and individually) the flags of every nation in our Association;
- (d) honor an individual or organization that has made a positive impact on humanity with our Humanitarian Award;
- (e) listen to one or two world-famous speakers; and
- (f) present a series of seminars on Lions subjects

The Lions Clubs International Convention is the largest service club convention and one of the largest of all conventions in the world. It usually has a total attendance (Lions, Lioness, Leo, and family members) of between 15,000 and 25,000. It is intensely sought after by cities that have the hosting capacity for that number as it is estimated to have an economic impact of between 30 and 40 million U.S. dollars into hotels and businesses at the convention city in one week.

The International Constitution and By-Laws provides that each Lions club in the world is entitled to have one voting delegate plus one “alternate” delegate for every 25 members in the club (or major fraction thereof, which is defined as “13”) as shown on the club membership records for the first day of the last month preceding the month of the International Convention.

Each of the Multiple Districts in the world is allotted a specific number of hotel rooms based upon their average attendance at the five previous International Conventions. The larger delegations naturally get preference for the hotels closest to the Convention venue.

The District Governors-Elect are all housed in one (or two) centrally located hotels. They are required to arrive several days earlier for an intense three-day leadership and orientation seminar.

The current and past International Officers are housed in what is known as the “Headquarters” hotel.

Prior to leaving home, you must ensure that you have a valid passport (and visitor’s visa, if required). You should also ensure that you have sufficient funds and/or credit cards to cover your expenses. It is wise not to carry too much cash or other valuables with you. It is recommended that you use your hotel’s safety deposit boxes (or the one that may be in your room) for any items such as jewelry. In fact, it is wise to not bring expensive jewelry with you. It is recommended that instead of cash, you carry travelers’ cheques or cards by which you can access cash from an ATM.

It will be the winter season in Sydney and the average daily high temperature in early July is 61 degrees F (approximately 16 degrees C) and the average daily low temperature is 47 degrees F (approximately 8 degrees C). However, those temperatures are only an average...could be warmer...could be cooler.

Multiple District 37 has adopted an official Convention dress code and it is expected that all delegates should wear this attractive and identifiable garb throughout the Convention (subject to laundry and hygiene concerns).

If you are taking any prescription medication, you should pack an ample supply in case you are unable to obtain what you need in Sydney. It may be helpful to have your pharmacist provide you with a print out of those medications. With today's emphasis on airline security, unless you absolutely need to use medication during the flight, it is suggested that you pack the medications in your checked luggage. However, luggage does get lost, even temporarily, so you might want to consider having two days medication dosage with you in case your luggage is late in arriving.

An International Convention is difficult to describe. It is probably the most exciting gathering of people of common purpose anywhere in the world. You will experience the cultural, language and racial mix of delegates from numerous countries and geographic areas of the world. Take the time to meet and talk with these people...all of whom share your commitment to serve...and all of whom confirm the consistency of service activity and of Club and District operations around the world.

One of the most effective ways to meet other Lions at the International Convention is to trade pins. Contact your District Governor to enquire about the official MD 37 trading pin. If you have a business card you will find that exchanging business/Lions cards is, particularly for our fellow Asian Lions, the most acceptable form of introduction.

The official Convention schedule of events, seminars, celebrations, etc. will be in the upcoming issues of the LION and is currently available on the website at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

In the February 2010 issue of the LION on Pages 19 to 25 there is a lot of information about the City of Sydney and the things to do and see while you're there. In that same issue....Page 37...is a registration form for the Convention. Also, on Page 43 of that issue is the Convention Delegate form and Alternate Delegate form. If you are a voting delegate for your club or an Alternate delegate, you will want to ensure that this information is sent to LCI by May 1, 2010.

As a representative of your Club and District at the Convention, please attend all official functions and Convention sessions. Please resist personal sightseeing time during the Convention periods– do that before or after. We would all like to have a report on your impressions of the Convention following your return from Sydney.

There will be a free shuttle bus system to take you to the Convention Center from our delegation hotel and return throughout Convention week. You can obtain information on routes and timing at the Convention Center. The shuttle schedule may also be posted at your delegation hotel.

In the Convention venue there will be a huge area where various Lions' activities will be on display. In particular, you should visit the Lions Official Club Supply area where you can purchase many of the items that are found in the Lions Supply Catalogue and from the on-line Lions Store. Please do not buy any Lions items from street vendors – if the Lions logo appears on such items, they are illegal!

On Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. the Exhibit Hall and Convention Services Center will be open. In the evening, the District Governors-elect Seminar Celebration Banquet will take place.

On Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the International Parade takes place and all delegations are encouraged to join in. It's a spectacular display of national dress from around the world, marching bands, and floats. The parade usually takes about five hours to complete. MD 37 delegates who march are asked to wear the MD 37 parade dress....the MD 37 shirt, white pants/slacks, comfortable white shoes, and a navy panama-style hat. The hats and MD 37 shirt material may be purchased from the MD 37 office. You might speak to other Lions who may have these items but are not going to Sydney and

they might let you borrow theirs. Following the parade, there is often a “Canadian Caucus” which is a meeting of all the delegates from Canada – we also invite our brother and sister Lions from Montana. At that caucus there is usually a presentation and discussion concerning Lions activities in Canada that are national in scope. Lions Clubs International Director Carl Young and his wife Lion Elizabeth may be there and if so, they will speak to the delegates. ID Young is serving as the Canadian Director on the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors for 2009-2011.

If this caucus is held, there is usually a social hour after the meeting....in the same room...for the caucus attendees. Then, we will all proceed to the International Show that will be held in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

There will be three Plenary Sessions at the Convention (Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>) and those will be held in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

At the Opening Plenary Session on Wednesday, International President Wirfs will address the Convention, the spectacular Flag Ceremony will take place where the flags of all nations where Lions clubs exist will be presented, and we will hear an address from a special speaker. Immediately following the Opening Session the Melvin Jones Luncheon will be held. If you are a Melvin Jones Fellow you are invited to attend; however you must purchase a ticket in advance – inquire at the Lions Clubs International Foundation booth in the display area. The Global Youth Music Competition will be held in Bayside Auditorium B starting at 7:30 p.m. on the Wednesday.

On Thursday, the Second Plenary session will be highlighted by the Memorial Service to remember Lions leaders who have died during the past twelve months. There will be a keynote speaker address and the formal nominations for Second Vice-President and International Directors will be done. On the Thursday evening the “Ginkgo Awards” Banquet will take place. This will likely be a formal event and you may need to purchase tickets. It’s recommended that you look on the LCI website as you may be able to purchase or order tickets on-line.

On the Friday, voting begins at 7:00 a.m. and continues until 10:00 a.m. The final Plenary Session will be from 9:30 a.m. – to 1:00 p.m. during which the Association will present its “Humanitarian Award”, introduce the Executive Officers and newly elected International Directors, and present the flag of the United Nations to our new International President. After this, the International President will do the formal installation of the 2010-2011 District Governors. After the District Governors have been installed the Convention will be declared officially closed.

On Friday there will be Lions Clubs Officers reception from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to which you are welcome to attend. *This event is not an official part of the Convention.*

**As is the case with all Conventions, the times for the events are subject to change.**

The bottom line for you, whether it's your first Lions Clubs International Convention or you are a returning delegate, is to get involved! Take advantage of the opportunity to meet fellow Lions from around the world; march in the parade with our MD 37 delegation and others in one of the largest and most colorful parades in the world; attend all general sessions of the Convention; visit as many educational Lions seminars as possible; trade pins, enjoy all that Sydney, Australia has to offer – in short, **HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!**