

Dear Lions and Leos:

Our Forty-fifth Annual Mid-Winter Convention will be held at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud on January 28-30, 2023. The address is: 100 4th Ave S, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Reservations are being accepted online or by telephone. The reservation form for the convention is in this booklet, and the hotel reservation information is on the convention registration form. You will also find all convention documents on the 5m7 website at www.5m7.org. Clubs must designate one person from their club to pick up the name tags and meal tickets for all that are attending from their club.

This will be an exciting convention for all as we are now in person for the 2nd year for convention. The convention committee is excited to be together again with our members. This convention will be a new experience for us in a new hotel. Clubs are again able to host hospitality rooms but only in the individual sleeping rooms around the pool area where there will be a bean bag tournament. We will have a cash bar on Friday night and on Saturday night. After the banquet we will have socializing and games and entertainment. You will find the tentative schedule on www.5m7.org. For clubs who desire to have a hospitality room and be automatically entered into the hospitality room contest please call DG Mark at (612) 366-1331 to reserve your hospitality room. The theme for the hospitality rooms this year is Boston, Massachusetts, where the next Lions Club International Convention will be held.

Please read: This year will begin a bit differently, but rest assured we will fit all of our usual programming in. The convention will begin on Friday afternoon with the cabinet meeting, a reception for our visiting International Director, opening ceremony and much socializing and fun in our hospitality rooms around the pool area and the bean bag tournament.

Saturday morning will begin with six seminars, one from MN Childhood Cancer Research Foundation, a Leo Program, Diabetes Foundation, Can-Do-Canines, Vision Foundation and a Homeless Youth Speaker.

This will be followed by lunch, tail-twisting and Parade of Green! The Service of Remembrance, Leo's Project, Town Hall and the Business Meeting will follow lunch. The Banquet on Saturday evening will be another highlight of the convention and will be very enjoyable for all. There will be special entertainment following the Saturday Banquet.

Sunday morning will include the Ecumenical Fellowship Service, followed by the buffet breakfast with guest speaker Lion David Thoen, islet cell transplant recipient. It is requested that each club bring one door prize (\$20 value) to be given at the close of each meal. Please drop the door prizes off as soon as possible at the registration area. Hospitality books (meal tickets) may be ordered immediately by using the registration form which is in this booklet and on the 5M7 website. This is the ONLY form that is acceptable and your check MUST accompany the order. **□ THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU CAN GET TICKETS FOR THE MEALS □ THERE WILL BE NO MEAL TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE CONVENTION.** Your convention committee is doing everything possible to ensure that the convention this year will be the BEST! Your attendance and participation will make it just that. Start making your plans NOW!

Your 2023 Convention Committee