

WISCONSIN LIONS MISSIONS REPORT

The winter meeting for The Wisconsin Lions Missions was held on Saturday January 4th at the Lions Camp in Rosholt.

A number of ongoing activities and new initiatives were discussed.

Mexico is still off the table with the exception of vehicles, medical and school supplies being delivered to McAllen, TX to be taken across the border by Mexican Lions. Two trailers and a bus filled with supplies will be delivered later this month.

33 Wisconsin Lions will leave on February 21st for an eye glass mission in Santo Tomas, Nicaragua, an agricultural community in the foothills east of Managua. We will be assisted by area Lions members and members of the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners. There are now a couple of small Nicaraguan teams doing mini eye missions. With a grant from Lions International and assistance from Wisconsin Lions they now have a rebuilt auto refractor for their own use.

A Wisconsin Lion has traveled to Haiti with a church group to explore setting up a mission there. It is in the planning stages at this time and would need about 10 Lions. No date has been set. Gary Donaldson who is a Mission Co-ordinator was in Nicaragua in November working with the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners in a small village with no electricity fitting glasses and helping build a school. He is planning a mission with about 10 Lions and hopes to grow it from there. Another. Three Wisconsin Lions will be going to Honduras in early February to work on an old building being converted to a medical facility. The hope is to develop a combination medical-eye glass mission there in the future.

At one time there were about 130 Wisconsin Lions involved in eye missions on an annual basis and because of the Mexican situation it is less than 40. These smaller missions hopefully will afford opportunities for more Lions to be involved.

Wisconsin Lions Missions Director Bill Taubman asked us to consider an additional project. Wisconsin Lions collected and delivered needed supplies to New Orleans, Alabama and Joplin, Mo. when disaster hit those communities. He would like to see a discussion on how we could enhance the ALERT program being developed in the districts at this time. We have the trailer and other resources that could be used in time of need. There is no desire to duplicate the ALERT initiative but to see if there are ways to give more Lions an opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted:

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District Co-chair
WLM1/14