

International Convention Committee

Report by: PZC George Sim, Chairperson

Date Report Sent: October 3, 2022

We will be going to Boston July 7-11 and we hope to have many MD19 Lions in attendance.

Registration is now open and I suggest you book soon to get the Early Bird deal. Go to the Lions International website and click on LCIcon and it will take you to registration.

For Canadians that require a passport to travel make sure it is up to date and if you need to renew, do it ASAP as it could take 3 to 4 months.

Our MD19 host hotel is the Boston Marriott Copley Place in the "Back Bay" area. The rate for this hotel is \$252 US\$/night. Let me know if you want a roommate and we will try and put people together so you can save on the rooming costs.

Also please advise me or the MD19 office when you have registered so that we know who is going to Boston. (LCI will not provide that information to us). Please include your cell phone number so that we can add you to the WhatsApp list for communicating and to ensure that we can get the necessary information to you.

We have created a Facebook page "MD19 is going to Boston" so please search it out and "like" it so you can keep up to date with things to do, places to eat and general information about Boston.

Register Now!

Please see my report on the Montreal convention below.....

MD19 report on the 104th Lions International Convention held in Montreal, June 24th to 28th, 2022.....by International Convention Chair PZC George Sim.

79 people registered from MD19. LCI will not provide the names of those that registered to the MD19 International Convention Chair due to privacy laws. We were able to identify approx. 60 of these and some we found out about by running into them in Montreal. For next year, I suggest that we have everyone that registers for Boston inform the MD19 office so that we can add them to the communication list to enable us to keep them updated with information.

The "**MD19 Visits Montreal**" Facebook page was a good source of information but again...not everyone knew about it. The "**MD19 is going to Boston**" Facebook page is now up and running so we should promote this as much as we can over the coming year. We also created a WhatsApp group for those that we knew were attending and it seemed to help keep people updated on the ground in Montreal.

Our first event was the International Parade of Nations on Saturday, June 25. We had 56 Lions in their MD19 green shirts march behind the incoming CC and DGs. Fortunately, the weather was very cooperative for the parade and it was not too hot and did not rain. We were group 7 at the front of the parade so were finished early. Next year we will also be at the front section of the parade due to our connection to incoming International President Patti Hill.

The Plenary sessions were held at the Bell Center which was a short bus ride away. MD 19 gathered in section 122 each day and it was great to see our DGE's have the "elect" ribbons pulled off and be installed as District Governors by our new IP Brian Sheehan.

I should mention that the bus service was well organized and efficient. Each day they left on time across the street from our hotel and it was a short walk back to the bus from the Bell Center to get us back to the hotel and or Convention Center.

After many discussions with E.D. Peter, we concluded that there was enough risk of catching Covid just by being at the convention. So, we wanted to minimize that risk as the safety of all of our MD19 Lions was our first priority. We decided not to have any indoor hospitality events in small crowded rooms. And as it turned out, this was the correct decision as a number of MD19 Lions tested positive for Covid when they returned home. The plan was to have some MD19 gatherings on an outdoor deck close to the hotel similar to the way we did it in Milan (which was extremely successful). When we were scheduled to be in Montreal in 2021, I was able to find a restaurant that was willing to do this for us but they did not survive Covid and were not in business this year. We searched for a deck in Old Montreal but due to the fact it was a busy holiday weekend in Montreal and most places were already jam packed...we could not find anyone that was willing to work with us so unfortunately, we were not able to have any MD19 gatherings. In hindsight that might have been in our best interest due to the Covid outbreak at the convention that was announced on the final day.

Now we are off to Boston in 2023.....