



CABINET REPORT

JANUARY 12, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Winkler, District D1 Representative, WI Lions Missions

The Wisconsin Missions group has been very active during the second half of 2024.

The group met in Reedsburg in August 2024 to review current status of members, welcomed the new district representatives from around the state and discussed some planned trips and others that were still in the development stages.

I have attached the most recent article that was submitted to the Wisconsin Lions Newsletter, Jan/Feb 2025 issue, by Bill Taubman, the Wisconsin Mission Chairperson. He details the recent involvement by our group to assist the hurricane affected areas in the southeast part of the United States.

The group has also completed a mission to Guatemala and has additional trips planned to Guatemala specifically to address the vision concerns in that country.

WI Lions Missions will have a session, to further explain the work of the missions group, during the D1 Convention that will be held in Madison on March 28-29.

I will be attending the next WI Lions Mission meeting on January 11th at the WI Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI.

Wisconsin Lions Missions Hurricane Relief

BY PCC BILL TAUBMAN, WLM CHAIR

In the past 15 years Wisconsin Lions Missions has responded to several natural disasters in the gulf coast states and this year is no exception. Past efforts have included donating trailer loads of needed supplies, food and furniture as well as giving local Lions cash to help out those in need. Past missions have taught us much about what is needed, how to acquire it and how to effectively work with local Lions to distribute the donations. Those lessons are being tested again this year.

In September Hurricane Helene, and then Hurricane Milton, ravaged the southeast part of this country with almost unmatched destruction in parts of four states. In early October a decision was made to do what Wisconsin Lions could to provide relief. It was initiated by an email to all Lions on the State Lions Office email list and it mushroomed from there to an unprecedented size. The request was for monetary donations as well as other typically needed supplies. Checks from clubs, districts and individuals flowed in at the rate of \$5,000 to \$17,000 per day bringing the total as of November 20th to about \$150,000 and checks continue to trickle in. The challenge ahead is to source the needed items and identifying the places of greatest need for monetary donations.

When launching this mission it was decided to focus on parts of the disaster area closest to us. With that as a plan contacts were made in Greenville, TN, Erwin, TN and Burnsville, NC. Conversations were had with local Lions, District Governors, State Council Chairs and the State Lions Office. Armed with information learned early, decisions were made. All agreed that the most extensive, and overall, the worst damage was in North Carolina. These conversations guided what WLM has done thus far and the general direction it will continue. The unexpected large amount of money received also changed some plans. Knowing the amount of money available WLM has begun work with Georgia. Lions there have a distribution center set up and are working in most parts of their state that have been damaged. Florida suffered major damage also and conversations have begun with Lions there.

What has actually happened as of November 26th?

- Cascade Paper company was contacted for a donation of paper towels. It turned out they were not presently making paper towels but did donate 72 cases of toilet paper.
- The Presto Company was contacted and we were able to purchase over \$20,000 worth of electric griddles, frying pans, grills etc for less than wholesale prices.
- The Serta Simmons Mattress Company in Edgerton, WI donated 11 new mattress sets.
- The Roch Tenn Box Company from Beloit was asked to donate 100 cardboard boxes for packing and they sent two pallets of boxes!
- A semi loaded with used furniture, Presto products, toilet paper, general house supplies, 11 new mattress sets and more was divided between Greenville and Erwin, Tennessee.
- One hundred fifty \$50 visa cards were purchased and will be divided among the Lions Clubs for them to give to people who are in need. These gift cards will all be put in envelopes along with the following printed message *Man can do little about Mother Natures occasional wrath, but when it does happen Lions worldwide rise up to help those harmed. The Lions of Wisconsin hope this small gift will help to restore comfort and peace to your life.* The service fee on all the cards was donated by the bank.
- A check in the amount of \$15,000 was given to the North Carolina Lions Foundation Helene Fund to be used to buy building supplies, food and other things requested by Lions clubs where damage occurred.
- The NC Lions Foundation is preparing a Thanksgiving dinner for small mountain towns that were destroyed. Cooks volunteered their services and Wisconsin money bought the food, including Wisconsin cranberries.
- On December 6th the WI Lions trailer filled with more of everything plus large quantities of purchased food and over 400 1# LP tanks. LP tanks have been requested as they are needed for cooking and heat.

What more is planned?

WLM will continue to do the things done up to this point and will make more large cash donations in each state. In months ahead as homes are repaired and/or replaced there will be a need for furniture and WLM may launch a campaign to collect good used furniture to take down there. We will continue regular conversations with the Lion leaders in each state to monitor the changing needs with hopes that we can meet some of them.

The Wisconsin Lions Clubs response to this disaster has been extremely generous. Without that generosity none of the above could have happened. This is "We Serve" at its best. Be proud!