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More Than 20,000 Lions Are Roaring Into Toronto, Canada, July 4-8

OAK BROOK, Illinois, USA, June 1, 2014—More than 20,000 members of Lions Clubs International and their families will gather in Toronto, Canada, as part of the association's 97th Lions Clubs International Convention. Convention events will be held Friday, July 4 through Tuesday, July 8 in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC).

Highlights of the convention will include:

- A spectacular Parade of Nations with 10,000 Lions from 120 countries and geographic areas, many in native dress, along with bands and colorful floats. The parade will begin at 10:00 on Saturday, July 5 and will take place in downtown Toronto on University Avenue. The parade route is approximately 1 mile (1.5 km) long.
- Recognition of the young winners of the 26th Lions International Peace Poster Contest and the Our World, Our Future Essay Contest for blind and visually impaired students.
- A colorful flag ceremony with the flags of Lions nations from around the world on Sunday, July 6.
- Presentation of the 2014 Lions Humanitarian Award, the highest honor of the association, to award-winning composer, singer, songwriter and record producer David Foster, founder of the David Foster Foundation, on Tuesday, July 8. The award includes a US\$250,000 grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation for continuing humanitarian activities. Previous recipients include former U. S. President Jimmy Carter and Mother Teresa.
- Election of Joseph Preston of Dewey, Arizona, USA, as the 2014-15 Lions Clubs International president on Tuesday, July 8.

Presiding over the convention will be 2013-14 International President Barry J. Palmer, from Berowra, New South Wales, Australia. President Palmer has led the association through a year of increased community service, including world-wide campaigns to engage youth, preserve sight, feed the hungry and protect the environment.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Our 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs are serving communities in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit lionsclubs.org.

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