



September 17-19, 2020

Louisville, Kentucky

www.lionsforum.org

June 2020 Newsletter

From our General Chairperson, PID Harvey Whitley

The disappointment of having to cancel our 2020 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Louisville will not soon go away. Since our announcement, I have received numerous calls, cards, and e-mails from Lions who support our decision. I have also been monitoring social media and once again the response has been one of disappointment but understanding that the safety of our attendees is the number one concern. One of the things that stood out to me as I looked at responses was the number of first-timers who had registered and were excited about coming to their first ever Forum.

There was also a lot of response from our attendees who were looking forward to receiving their recognition for completion of various certificate levels of Lions University. Included as a separate article in this newsletter is a word from PCC Gary Steele, Dean of Lions University, as to the plans regarding receipt of your certificate.

Many have asked if we can return to Louisville. The short answer to that is YES. The Forum would love to return to the beautiful city of Louisville as soon as we can. We have enjoyed working with the Louisville Host Committee in planning the 2020 Forum. Under the leadership of Host Committee Chairperson PCC Chuck Carlson, they have worked hard to make what was going to be one of the best Forums ever. As General Chairperson of the Forum, I could not have asked for a better Host Committee than these Kentucky Lions.

For those who had already registered for 2020 Louisville, it was previously announced that we would offer a choice of a full refund or a rollover of your registration fees to the 2021 Forum. Many have already exercised your choice but if you have not already done so, you must make your choice in writing by e-mailing our Registrar at registrar@lionsforum.org or by mailing your choice request to PO Box 723, Rapid City, SD 57709. Please do not call the Forum office to request a refund or transfer of funds to 2021. We will process any refund requests through July 10, 2020 and any registrations for Louisville remaining after that date will automatically be rolled over to the 2021 Forum.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words and encouragement to me as the 2020 General Chairperson. I was honored to have been selected to serve in this capacity and look forward to working to continue to make the Forum an event we all look forward to attending, for not only the educational opportunities, but also the camaraderie of being together with other Lions from near and far.

PID Harvey Whitley

2020 Forum General Chairperson

PID Harvey Whitley



The Forum Planning Committee met virtually to provide input to the Executive Committee prior to the decision to cancel the Louisville Forum. Thank you, Planning Committee, for your dedication and, Executive Committee, for making such a difficult decision.



LIONS UNIVERSITY

Lions University

Year-Round Training Provided by the
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum



The Lions University team met recently and started making plans for how to address the cancellation of the Louisville Forum. After some discussion the following decisions were made. This information will also be sent via emails to prospective graduates.

All Lions who have attended enough Forums to qualify for graduation from their respective programs will be able to graduate this year if applications requesting and documenting credit are submitted from the member's Lions University account by **July 15, 2020**. We will send a PDF copy of the certificate to the graduate and maintain the hardcopy certificates and the pins and make them available at next year's Forum. If you are unable to attend the 2021 Forum you can have someone from your state/district pick them up for you. You will be considered a 2020 graduate of the appropriate Program and will not be included in the 2021 graduation.

Some of you are taking courses in the different Programs with the intention of using this year's Forum for graduation requirements. We are working on a plan that may permit graduation on a one-time basis due to the extenuating circumstances of 2020. We haven't finalized these plans yet as we are waiting to see about other opportunities that the Forum Planning Committee is exploring. As soon as the Forum Planning Committee finalizes these plans, we will make another announcement that will clarify this approach.

Gary Steele
PCC, MD31
Lions University Coordinator

Roll Over or Refund?

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