

January 15, 2024



Hello M6 Lions,

"A Universe of Service" M6 District Convention will be held March 22-23, 2024, at The Branson Towers (236 Shepherd of the Hills Expy) in Branson, MO. The Convention Committee has been working hard to provide an experience that will expand the Governor's theme "A Universe of Service" with Lions and beyond...throughout the community of Branson. Below is a list of highlights of the convention. Please come share this experience with your District Governor team!

On Friday, March 22, the convention begins with a service project at Elevate Branson:

"Elevate Vision Eye Mission-Branson"

Ever thought about going on an Eye Mission to help those in need of eye care? Have you ever wondered about what happens to all those eyeglasses we diligently collect? Are they merely stored away in some forgotten box somewhere? Well, brace yourselves for fantastic news! Lions Leon Hove, PDG and Devin Struttman, PDG from the Missouri Lions Eye Mission Foundation will unravel the mystery and provide you with a firsthand experience of where those glasses go and how they make a difference in the lives of those in need.

We are thrilled to introduce the "Elevate Vision Eye Mission-Branson" as this year's Convention service project. In collaboration with the Missouri Lions Eye Mission Foundation and Elevate Branson, we aim to extend vision screenings, exams, and eyeglasses to individuals who require assistance. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 22, 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm at Elevate Branson, 310 Gretna Road, Branson, MO.

A special shoutout to Hannah Witcher of Elevate Branson for her outstanding community outreach, meticulous transportation arrangements, and collaboration with an optometrist to provide essential eye exams.

LIONS, you've already embarked on the first step by contributing your eyeglass collections. Now, it's time to take service to the next step and elevate the vision of Branson! Reach out to Lion Wendy Jackson and inform her of the times you are available to volunteer for this impactful mission. We need your help; this experience WILL change your life.

Contact Lion Wendy Jackson at wjackson@missouristate.edu or via text/call at 417-844-5636. Let's join hands to make a significant difference in the lives of those in our community!

See more information about Elevate Branson at this link.



Friday, March 22, 2024 - Hospitality night begins at 6:00 PM at The Branson Towers (236 Shepherd of the Hills Expy, Branson, MO 65616). Hospitality night is always a fun, relaxing time: meet our guest ID Anthony Paradiso, fellowship with other Lions, and share some delicious food. PDG Kevin Cantrell and 1VDG Frank Lambrecht will be frying up some fish and fries. Additional appetizers and desserts will be available throughout the evening as well.

Going once, twice...sold! Another traditional event is the annual **District Convention Silent Auction!** Get ready to grab your Bidding Number to bid often on your favorites among the many anticipated items. To be successful we need **HELP** from our clubs; also any individual Lion who would like to donate an item or two for the auction, we appreciate all items we receive; nothing is too big or too small to donate.

Items can be brought with you Friday to Hospitality Night and given to the silent auction chair's, Lion Tommy Claxton or IPDG Bart Tibbs. Please email either Lion Tommy or Lion Bart a brief description of any auction item(s) to help them prepare for the event. Lion Tommy Claxton – claxtontommy259@gmail.com or IPDG Lion Bart Tibbs – BartTibbs@MissouriState.edu

Dress code for Friday is comfortable with your jeans/pants, a lion's shirt, or vest.

Saturday, March 23, 2024, District Convention will begin at **8:30 am** at the Branson Towers with the **Memorial Service**; the **First Plenary Session** immediately follows. Bring your club banner, pole and stand to showcase your clubs' achievements during the day. Important information will be shared throughout the day for you to share with the rest of your club. Our guest, ID Anthony Paradiso, will provide a special message from Lion's International President Dr. Patti Hill and update us on what is happening around the world with LCI. District Officers will be elected, Lion's Project representatives will be on hand with information about their service area, we will hear special presentations regarding service areas, and we will continue our fellowship with Lions across the district and beyond. A delicious lunch will be catered by Shelia's from Marshfield, MO.

Dress code is "Show your best Lion".

Saturday evening Rather than attending a banquet this year, you have the opportunity to experience one of the many dining opportunities in Branson, there are so many to choose from! **BUT, return to the hotel by 7:30!** This year, we are hosting a **SPONSORED Magic Show!** You can't visit Branson without attending a show! M6 Lions are proud to host Mike Bliss's Award - Winning Comedy, Magic, and Pick-Pocketing Show for a night of fun at the Branson Towers Hotel. We will be accepting donations, which will go to Elevate Branson to help serve the homeless in Branson.

Branson Towers Hotel Information

We are pleased to partner with The Branson Towers Hotel; they have been phenomenal to work with and are excited to host our Lions Convention. Hotel rooms available are Standard Double Queen for **\$96.00 a night**; just a few Standard Single King rooms are available for **\$96.00 a night**, but these will go fast, so book early. It is **essential** that you book your hotel stay using



JUDGE ANTHONY W. PARADISO
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Judge Anthony W. Paradiso from Rockville Centre, New York, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 105th International Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 7 through July 11, 2023.

Director Paradiso has more than 30 years of law experience and is currently a district court judge responsible for the adjudication of criminal cases in Nassau County, New York.

Looking for an opportunity to give back to his community for the scholarships that allowed him to attend college and later, law school, he was drawn to the service that Lions were providing. He joined the Rockville Centre Lions Club in 1996 where he has continuously served ever since. In addition to his leadership at the district level, he has held a number of offices within the association including multiple district council parliamentarian. He also served as the Lions Clubs International's representative to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime from 2010 to 2023. He has been a group leader for multiple DGE seminars, a panel moderator for LDUN and a forum presenter.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including the Brandel-Murphy Miracles Through Service Award and Robert J. Uplinger Award. He is also the recipient of multiple International President's Awards and International President's Leadership Awards. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Paradiso is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He is an executive director and past president of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Nassau County, a past director for the Nassau County Bar Association and past president for the District Court Judges' Association.

When not engaged in Lion service, Director Paradiso enjoys traveling, art appreciation and sharing good food and wine with friends.

Join us Saturday evening for a Sponsored SHOW



Presenting



March 23,
2024

7:30 PM

"I've been performing my Award-Winning Comedy, Magic, and Pick-Pocketing Show for over 30 years all across the country from Miami, FL, to Fairbanks, AK, to the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, to Cancun, to Honolulu, to Tahiti, to Headlining my own show in Branson, MO. I've performed at 39 Air Force bases all across the US for our Troops and their families. I've also entertained 1,000s on cruise ships around the world.

I was voted "Branson's Specialty Act of the Year" and "Best Stage Act" for the Midwest Magic Jubilee!

My TV credits include Fox's 30 Seconds to Fame, The Game Show Network, America's Got Talent, The Huckabee Show, and Penn & Teller: Fool Us!"

Lions, please join us on Saturday evening, March 23rd, after our Convention for tons of fun with Mike Bliss!

We have Sponsors for this Show, so there is NO cost to you!

We will be accepting donations, if you choose, that will go to Elevate Branson to help with the homeless and those in danger of homelessness.



Special thanks to our Show Sponsors:

DG Phil & CC Phyllis Krebs, Marshfield Lions, Marshfield Lumber, Marshfield Motors, Logan Corwin, PDG's Kevin & Debbie Cantrell-Debbie for International Director, Springfield Host Lions, Lebanon Host Lions, El Dorado Springs Lions, Branson Hollister Lions, Lion Tommy Claxton, and Miller Lions



Lions Clubs International of Missouri

District 26-M6 Convention

March 22-23, 2024 – Branson Towers Hotel
Special Guest ID Anthony Paradiso



Convention Link



Convention Registration Form

~ **Convention Registration Deadline: Postmarked by Monday, March 1, 2024.**

~ **Hotel Reservation by February 21, 2024 (More info at the bottom)**

~ Complete form, print and mail with payment. ~ More information on www.molionsm6.org (under the "Convention" tab).

Name of 1st Lion/Guest Registration

____ Lion ____ Leo ____ Guest Name (as wanted on badge): _____

District: ____ Home Club: _____ Current Lion Title: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Is this your 1st District Convention as a Lion? Yes ____ No ____

Please note any special food allergies, needs, notes or comments: _____

Name of 2nd Lion/Guest Registration

____ Lion ____ Leo ____ Guest Name (as wanted on badge): _____

District: ____ Home Club: _____ Current Lion Title: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Is this your 1st District Convention as a Lion? Yes ____ No ____

Please note any special food allergies, needs, notes or comments: _____

Registration & Meal Plans

Plan	Description	# of Persons	Cost	Total
A	Full Registration/Lunch		@ \$55.00 ea.	\$
	Registration after 3/1/2024 add		@ \$10.00 ea.	\$
No refunds after March 1, 2024			TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	= \$


Make Checks Payable to: District 26-M6 Convention **Your Check Number:** _____

Print & Mail too: PDG Toni Morris – 23443 Highway H, Lebanon MO 65536

We are excited to announce there will be a Magic Show by Mike Bliss Saturday evening (after the convention) starting at 7:30 pm in the Hotel Convention Room. This will be a SPONSORED show, a chance to have fun and relax! To assist our planning, please indicate if you plan to attend.

Yes, we are coming (how many) _____ **No, sorry, we have other commitments** _____

Although the show is sponsored, we will be accepting donations to benefit Elevate Branson.



Make hotel reservations with Branson Towers Hotel

236 Shepherd of the Hills Expy, Branson, MO 65616 (417) 336-4500

Convention rate of \$96.00 (+Tax), Register before February 21, 2024

Reserve your room with either scanning the link on the left OR call the hotel.

If calling, you **MUST** mention you are with the Lions to receive the discounted rate.