



MISSOURI LION



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STATE CONVENTION TO FEATURE LION JIM ERVIN, LIONS INTERNATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, AS SPEAKER



Vice President Ervin is a past director and trustee of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind. He has also served on the 1996 Georgia Lions Paralympic Committee and represented the association at the 1993 and 1997 International Service Clubs Leadership Conferences in West Virginia and California.

Vice President Ervin has been a presenter, moderator and discussion leader at 10 USA/Canada Leadership Forums. He has received the Extension Award, Guiding Lion Award, two International President's Certificates of Appreciation, seven International President's awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Vice President Ervin has 26 years of ownership and management experience in transportation and employee leasing companies and is a member of numerous professional organizations.

Lion Jim and his wife, Lion Betty, have four children and four grand-children.

Vice President Ervin will become the 83rd President of Lions Clubs International at the 82nd International Convention to be held in San Diego California, June 28 - July 2, 1999.

Lion James E. "Jim" Ervin will be the featured guest speaker at the 76th Missouri Lions State Convention. The convention will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Kansas City, April 29 through May 2, 1999.

James E. "Jim" Ervin, of Albany, Georgia, was elected first vice president of the International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 82nd International Convention, held in Birmingham, England, June 30 - July 3, 1998.

He served as an international director during 1992-1994 and as a district governor and council-chairman.

He is a member of the Albany Lions Club and has been District Leadership Development chairman, Speaker's Bureau chairman and Multiple District Long Range Planning chairman.



The Joplin Host Lions Club mascot visits with a patient at Freeman Hospital. The costume was purchased three years ago and has been used in numerous parades and corporate picnics (catering corporate picnics is their #1 fund raiser), in addition to calling on children in the hospital. As you can see from the smile on the lad's face, it is a program which has many rewards.

MID-SOUTH PEDIATRIC CLINIC OPENS

The following article was excerpted from an article by Laurel Campbell that appeared in the April 1st issue of The Commercial Appeal in Memphis.

A new center to diagnose and treat genetic eye disease opens today at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. The specialized clinic - a first for the Mid-South - was equipped primarily through the Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service, a 57-year-old nonprofit agency based in Memphis.

"An estimated 10,000 people in the Mid-South are affected with retinitis pigmentosa, a group of genetic diseases that cause degeneration of the retina," explained Dr. Barrett Haik, ophthalmology department chairman at University of Tennessee, Memphis. "Until now, there has been no center for this disease in the Mid-South; the closest was St. Louis. We're proud we can take care of this here."

Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing is supported by more than 750

local Lions clubs in West Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri. The group's revenues last fiscal year topped \$1 million for the first time, and \$809,000 was spent on sight and hearing services.

The new Le Bonheur center cost the hospital more than \$250,000 to build. It was equipped with a \$75,000 grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, plus \$25,000 each from the Methodist-Le Bonheur Healthcare Foundation and the Memphis Downtown Lions Club. Another \$82,000 came from individual clubs, which, Baker said, "raise it \$1 at a time" through car washes, rummage sales, golf tournaments and other fund-raisers.

"You could never justify this expense based on clinical revenue," Haik said about the new diagnostic center at Le Bonheur.

**MISSOURI LIONS STATE
CONVENTION – April 29 - MAY 2**