

**WISCONSIN LIONS MISSION TO MEXICO NEWSLETTER**  
**FALL - 2009**

**Mission to Victoria, Oct. 2009**

**Bob Showers, coordinator**      **P.O. Box 637, Packwaukee WI 53953**  
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The October mission to Victoria will run from October 23 - 26. All participants should be in McAllen Texas on Oct. 22. We have room for 25 - 35 Lions.

We will have the plans for the February mission after we arrive in Victoria for the October mission.

Any questions or for an application contact Bob Showers.

**Mission to Veracruz, January 2010**

**Gary Donaldson, coordinator**      **16330 Thelen Road**  
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The Mission to Veracruz will occur in the city of Papantla from January 23rd or 24th until January 30th or 31st. Exact dates will be announced when plans are finalized. There will be a maximum of 40 people going due to the limitation set by the number of seats on the type of bus used for our transportation in Mexico.

Early communications with Abe indicate we will be staying in the same hotel as last year and utilizing the same facility for the mission.

Hotel reservations in Chicago will be arranged for the night before we leave and the night we return for those who are interested. I will be in contact with the volunteers about this in the future.

We have been told by the Lions Camp Recycling Center that we will have a shortage of readers and men's singles this year. Please check with any contacts you may have who might donate some glasses. The Dollar Store also has a large array of readers if you would be willing to purchase some. Perhaps some of the Lions Clubs would be willing to donate money to buy readers.

For complete information about this particular mission, you can visit the web site at <[www.missiontoveracruz.com](http://www.missiontoveracruz.com)>

**February 2010 Border Mission**

**Bill Taubman, coordinator**      **N3391 Pine Tree Lane, Shell Lake, WI 54871**  
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Plans are by no means complete for our mission, but as things stand now we will be going to either Reynosa or Rio Bravo and working there on Feb. 4 - 7. This will be finalized prior to our January meeting. Once again we will plan to meet at the McAllen Inn at 5:00 P.M. on Feb. 3rd for last minute details. There will be a small caravan leaving northwest WI on January 29th and we welcome anyone who wishes to join us for the trip.

I will be sending a letter out in late October along with registration forms. Once again I would like to keep the group down to 40 or fewer people. If you know of others who would like to join us, either ask them to contact me or share the information with them. Just be sure they understand that it may not be possible to include them this year.

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Training at Lions Camp in Rosholt will be at the Eyeglass Center at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, January 9th.

There is a possibility of a couple of new missions for the Wisconsin Lions, but nothing is definite for 2010. Keep tuned for future information!

Take primary consideration of having both the seasonal flu shot and the H1N1 flu shots before going on a mission. Medical facilities in many of the smaller Mexican cities are less than adequate. We suggest taking hand wipes and antibacterial hand soaps. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about what to take if you come down with H1N1 in Mexico.

Check the expiration date of your passport and renew now if necessary.

### **TRAILER INFORMATION**

Bill Taubman

At the summer picnic I said that there were some issues with insurance on the trailer, but it appears that everything is resolved and we can go forward just as we have in the past. I was able to learn that we do have liability insurance in addition to the physical coverage on the trailer. That was good news. Other good news is that the loan on the trailer has been paid in full!

### **MISSION TO MEXICO 2009 SUMMER PICNIC**

Christine Anderson of Cadott has volunteered the Jim Falls Lions Club to host the annual picnic and meeting in August of 2010. Details will follow in the Spring newsletter.\

### **AN EXPLANATION OF "MEXICAN TIME"**

Those of us who have spent time in Mexico have undoubtedly come across examples of "Mexican Time". According to the book NTC's Dictionary of Mexican Cultural Code Words- The Complete Guide of Key Words That Express How the Mexicans Think, Communicate, and Behave by Boye Lafayette De Mente, much of this attitude was a legacy of Mexico's Indian past. The early Indians of Mexico were master astronomers and created calendars for keeping track of the seasons, but they did not segment time into hours, minutes, or seconds or look upon it as something that was moving at a great speed.

North Americans think of time as moving in a straight line at a constant speed which is literally measured in seconds ticking off inexorably, and are concerned about filling every bit of time to prevent it from being wasted. Mexicans, on the other hand, do not look upon "idle" time as time wasted, but as something to be enjoyed. Mexicans have never attempted to keep activities or events separate, in their own precise time slots. Exact schedules were not part of their lifestyle. There were time frames, but they were flexible. Because time was not measured in tiny increments and the length of time it took to do things was not qualified, there was no sense of being late or of time being wasted.

Spanish language dictionaries say that mañana means "tomorrow", but that is not the true cultural meaning of the word. In its normal cultural context mañana means "sometime in the near future, maybe, if I feel like it, if I have time, or if nothing unexpected happens."

As guests in Mexico, we need to respect their idea of time as different but not wrong. But for things that need to be done at a specific time, it is OK to specify, with a smile, "Tiempo Americano."