

Jim Erwin "Road to the Top"

Past District Governor James E. "Jim" Erwin received his endorsement as a candidate for International Director on Tuesday May 14, 1991 by the Albany Lions club. Lion Jim Erwin has been a member of the Albany Lions club since October 1977.

Lion Jim has served the Albany Lions club as Director for 5 years, as Tailtwister, as Vice President and two terms as President.

He was Chairman of various committees and projects. He installed and orientated many new Lions members into the Albany Georgia Lions club.

He served the Albany club as General Chairman for two multiple District Conventions held in Albany, GA (1985 and 1989).

The Albany Lions club honored him a Lion of the Year two times for his hard work and dedication to Lionism.

Lion Jim Erwin has served District 18C as Zone Chairman, District Convention Chairman for 3 years. He served District 18C as District Governor in 1986-87. He was Cabinet Advisor in 1987-88. He has been associate Director for the Camp for the Blind and served on the Camp for the Blind Award Committee.

He has served as a USA/Canada Lion Leadership Chairman. He has been a Lighthouse Director and a Lighthouse Trustee. He served on the Lighthouse employee and group donations Committee as well as the Lighthouse Golf Committee. He was a Director for the Pepsi Senior Challenge, and an International Convention Chairman. He served on the International Understanding and Cooperation Committee. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau, AARP/Lions Pilot Project, as well as Georgia Lions Eyebank District Vice President.

Lion Jim served multiple District 18 as Council Chairman, Council Advisor, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. He served as campaign Chairman for past International Director Myers Banisters campaign at the time of this endorsement as a candidate for International Director. He ~~had~~ attended 5 International Conventions, 6 USA/Canada Lions Leadership forums to increase his knowledge of Lionism and leadership ability.

He was named Lion of the Year in 18C. He has received Extension Awards, Guiding Lions Awards, two International Certificates of Appreciation Awards, International Presidents Awards and is a Melvin Jones Fellow.

~~From~~ this resume, one can see that Lion Jim Erwin prepared himself to be the next International Director.

Lion Jim Erwin received the endorsement of multiple District 18 for International Director and was elected International Director at the International Convention in Hong Kong, June 22-26, 1992.

Lion Jim served with distinction, doing what he could to promote Lionism where ever he went. International Director Erwin and his wife, Betty, served as the official host for President Professor Dr. Giuseppe "Pino" Grimaldisluisit to Georgia on July 26, 1994.

President Grimaldi spent 2 days in the Atlanta area visiting the Carter Center and meeting some 150 Lions at a banquet at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel. President Grimaldi presented past International Director George Crumbly and his Leadership medal to past International Director Dr Don Schmidt. Presidential Appreciation Certificates were presented to past District Governor George Honey and Lion Elizabeth Dixon of the Atlanta Lions club in which she has served as Secretary for many years.

Lion Jim was a special appointee to the Board after his term as International Director.

In the spring of 1995, the early stages of the campaign to elect past International Director Jim Erwin as third Vice President, with the appointment of a campaign Chairman past District Governor Buddy Ouzts of Winder, GA as Chairman, 18C District Governor Clark Lamb served as the campaign Secretary/Treasurer. The advisory committee consisted of the past International Director Myers Banister, John Pearce, George Crumbley and Don Schmidt. The District coordinators were past District Governor Bill Tanner (A) past District Governor Stan Bazemore (B) District Governor Clark Lamb (C) Lion Bobby Reynolds (D) past District Governor Charlie McDaniels (E) and District Governor Bill Shurling (F). District C was endorsed for 3 VP Erwin by 18C on March 11, 1995 in Americus, GA.

Then the 74th Annual Convention of the Lions of MD18 in Columbus, GA on May 26-28 endorsed past International Director James E. "Jim" Erwin as Georgia's candidate for 3rd Vice President of Lions International.

Everyone was encouraged to join the "Peach Brigade" for a donation of \$25.00, a Lion could receive a green shirt with Lion Jim Erwin's campaign logo on it. All of the Georgia delegation to the Montreal Convention wore the shirt. Those marching in the parade did also.

A lot of hard work by many people in Lionism was put forth in Montreal, Canada for the campaign of Jim Erwin for third Vice President of Lions International. This would be a first for GA, a Georgia Lion being set up to be the President of Lions International.

Past District Governor Stan Bazemore helped in the campaign in many different ways.

Each year many Lions attended the International Convention in Philadelphia, Penn in 1997; Birmingham, England in 1998; and San Diego, California in 1999, where Lion Jim went in as President of Lions International.

At the Convention in San Diego, California there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Some 17,000 Lions led by 266 roaring Georgians and the colorful Georgia All State Band, cheered on as Jim Erwin became the first Georgian ever to serve as President of Lions clubs International.

Lion Jim's family was in attendance. His granddaughter, Carrie, gave one of the most impressive introductions ever at an International Convention. Her heartfelt words drew tears from most of the crowd. In his acceptance speech, Lion Jim stressed his theme of "a new century of Service and Action", and said his mission to accomplish this was with four "ships" of Lionism; Membership, Fellowship, Leadership and Partnership.

He appointed as one year Director, two friends who helped greatly in his campaign for President, past International Director George Crumbley and past Council Chairman Buddy Outz.

Lion James E. "Jim" Erwin of Albany traveled to many countries on his quest to lead and help humanity and make the world a better place to live. He had great influence of the program in Lionism and continues to influence the program of Lionism even 6 years as he served the great association of Lionism.

Accompanying pictures illustrate and show the happy moments in Jim Erwin's campaign to become Georgia's first International of Lionism's President.

JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN
International Third Vice President
Albany, Georgia, USA
1996-97

July 12-14	Montreal, PQ, Canada	Board of Directors Meeting/ First Year Director Orientation
July 25-26	Montgomery, Alabama	Montgomery Lions International Youth Camp
July 26-28	Tucson, Arizona	C. Kirby Smiths Lions International Youth Camp
August 2-3	Waycross, Georgia	Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind 20th Anniversary
August 4-8	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Latin America & Caribbean Leo Clubs Meeting
August 10-12 August 12-13 August 14-16	Oak Brook, Illinois	Executive Committee Meeting Long Range Planning Committee Meeting SightFirst Advisory Committee Meeting
August 16-18	Atlanta, Georgia	Para-Olympics Awards Presentation
September 11-12	Atlanta, Georgia	Carter Center Meeting
September 14-15	Trumbull, Connecticut	Bridgeport Lions Club 75th
September 20	Brentwood, Tennessee	Brentwood Noon Lions Club Charter Night
September 26-29	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	USA-Canada Leadership Forum
October 5-8	Oconee, Georgia	Oconee Lions Club 25th
October 6-14	Naples, Florida	SightFirst Advisory Committee Meeting/ Board of Directors Meeting

Revised 5/14/97

JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN
International Third Vice President
Albany, Georgia, USA
1996-97

December 14	Delhi/Frankfurt/Atlanta/ Albany	Travel
January 4-6 January 6-7 January 8-9	Oak Brook, Illinois	Executive Committee Meeting Long Range Planning Committee Meeting Headquarters
January 11	Lyons, Georgia	Lyons Lions Club 50th
January 17-19	Decatur, Alabama	MD 34 Midwinter Conference
February 1	Warner Robbins, Georgia	MD 18 Council of Governors Meeting/ Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind Meeting
February 10-12	Oak Brook, Illinois	Headquarters
February 14-15	Fort Pierce, Florida	Fort Pierce Lions Club 50th
February 25-28	Pointe A Pitre, Guadeloupe	Official Officer Visit
February 28- March 3	San Juan, Puerto Rico	MD 51 Spring Conference
March 7-9	Albany, Georgia	District 18-C Convention
March 12-14	Atlanta, Georgia	Board Meeting Site Inspection
March 14-16	Carterville, Georgia	District 18-A Convention
March 17-19	Oak Brook, Illinois	Meeting with Former US President Jimmy Carter regarding Carter Center
March 22-24	Madison, Georgia	District 18-F Convention
March 25	Atlanta, Georgia	Quest International Board Dinner

Revised 5/14/97

JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN
International Third Vice President
Albany, Georgia, USA
1996-97

October 17-20	Syracuse, New York	USA-Canada Leadership Forum Planning Committee Meeting
October 26-29	Guatemala City, Guatemala	Official Officer Visit
October 29-31	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Official Officer Visit
October 31- November 2	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	Official Officer Visit
November 2-6	Managua, Nicaragua	Official Officer Visit
November 6-7	Las Vegas, Nevada	Layover
November 7-10	Salina, Utah	MD 28 Fall Conference
November 10-16	Oak Brook, Illinois	THE LION Magazine Editors Meeting
November 15-17	Kearney, Nebraska	MD 38 Fall Rally
November 20-24	Desert Springs, California	Service Club Leaders Conference
December 1-2	Albany/Atlanta/Frankfurt/ Mumbai	Travel
December 2-5	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Official Officer Visit
December 5-7	Coimbatore, T.N., India	Official Officer Visit
December 7-9	Madras, T.N., India	Official Officer Visit
December 9-12	Calcutta, W.B., India	Official Officer Visit
December 12-14	Delhi, India	Official Officer Visit

Revised 5/14/97

JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN
International Third Vice President
Albany, Georgia, USA
1996-97

March 31- April 1	Albany/Atlanta/Miami/ Rio de Janeiro	Travel
April 1-11	Rio de Janeiro, R.J, Brazil	SightFirst Advisory Committee Meeting/ Board of Directors Meeting
April 11-13	Foz do Iguacu, Parana, Brazil	Official Officer Visit
April 13-15	La Paz, Bolivia	Official Officer Visit
April 15-17	Quito, Ecuador	Official Officer Visit
April 17	Quito/Miami/Atlanta/ Greenville	Travel
April 17-20	Greenville, South Carolina	MD 32 Convention
April 24-27	French Lick, Indiana	MD 25 Convention
April 27-30	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	The Presidents' Summit For America's Future
May 2-3	Hazard, Kentucky	Hazard Lions Club 75th
May 3-5 May 6 May 7-9	Oak Brook, Illinois	Executive Committee Meeting International President's Luncheon Headquarters
May 10	Savannah, Georgia	Savannah Lions Club 75th
May 12	Waycross, Georgia	Waycross Lions Club 75th
May 13	Thomson, Georgia	Thomson Lions Club 50th

Revised 5/14/97

JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN
International Third Vice President
Albany, Georgia, USA
1996-97

May 14	Albany, Georgia	Albany Evening Lions Club 10th
May 16-18	Fredericton, NB, Canada	MD 41 Convention
May 19	Rincon, Georgia	Rincon Springfield Lions Club Charter Night
May 21-25	Macon, Georgia	MD 18 Convention
May 26-27	Shelbyville, Tennessee	Shelbyville Lions Club 75th
May 27-28	Cookeville, Tennessee	Cookeville Lions Club 75th
May 29- June 1	Grand Junction, Colorado	MD 6 Convention
June 5-8	Emporia, Kansas	MD 17 Convention
June 12-16	Sioux City, Iowa	MD 9 Convention
June 22- July 7	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Board of Directors Meeting/ International Convention/ Board of Directors Meeting/ First Year Director Orientation



Office of the Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 1999

Lion James E. Ervin
International President
Lions Club International
300 22nd Street
Oakbrook, IL 60521-8842

Dear International President Ervin:

Congratulations on your election as the International President of Lions Clubs International for 1999-2000. As a member of the Yorkville Lions Club, I am personally aware of the great work local Lions club members do nationally and around the world. Through the support of various service-based activities, local Lions clubs serve the needs of the very young to senior citizens. I know that under your leadership, Lions Clubs International will continue to be recognized as the world's largest service club organization reaching out to those in need. Through the joint efforts of local Lions clubs and their respective members, Lions Clubs International will continued to demonstrate the importance of the volunteer spirit in helping to make this nation and world a better place to live.

I commend you for your personal commitment to our young people. Today's challenges that must be faced by our youth are often stressful for those at-risk, leading to destructive types of behavior including substance abuse and violence. Supporting the Youth Outreach initiative, including the sponsorship of Leo clubs and the Lions-Quest programs, are key to help deter these kinds of negative behaviors.

I look forward to hearing from you and sharing ideas on how we in the government can work more closely with Lions Clubs International and other caring civic volunteer-based organizations to address our common concerns. This includes building a meaningful partner relationship with the "Prevention Through Service" Alliance movement that Lions Clubs International helped found and has taken a leadership role in. May this coming year be a historical year for Lions Clubs International.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert".

J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House



JIMMY CARTER

June 14, 1999

To Jim Ervin

Congratulations on becoming President of the International Association of Lions Clubs. As a fellow Georgian who also served as a Council Chair from the same district as you, I take special pleasure in noting that you are the first Georgian to serve as international president.

We at The Carter Center are proud of our partnership in the Lions' worldwide efforts to prevent blindness and improve health. We look forward to building on this relationship as we continue to work with you in the coming years.

Rosalynn joins me in sending our best wishes for a productive tenure as President of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the center of the page.

Mr. James E. Ervin
President
International Association of
Lions Clubs
300 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois 605230-8842



City of Albany

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TOMMY COLEMAN
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June 15, 1999

Mr. James E. Ervin
Albany, GA

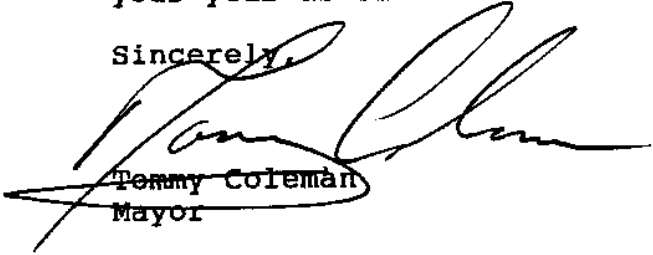
Dear Jim:

On behalf of the City of Albany, I wish to congratulate you on your induction as President of Lions Club International. To attain such a position is certainly admirable, and I know of no one who is more deserving.

The Lions Club sponsors so many worthwhile programs around the world, and your record of service speaks for itself in the many hours that you have volunteered to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

Your taking over the helm of Lions Club International brings honor to the entire state, but especially to Albany. May your year as President be a successful and fulfilling one.

Sincerely,



Tommy Coleman
Mayor

TC/sw

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1999

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in San Diego for the 82nd convention of Lions Club International. I am pleased to join you in welcoming your new President, Jim Ervin.

If we are to make our world a better place, each of us must take responsibility for solving the problems around us. We must be interested not just in getting but in giving, not just in looking out for ourselves but in looking out for others. For the better part of this century, Lions Clubs members have led the way in this endeavor.

Whether working for education and opportunity for our youth, providing vital services to the blind and visually impaired, or carrying out other humanitarian projects, you are making a real difference in the lives of countless people. You can be especially proud of your efforts to fight drug abuse by young people through the Prevention Through Service Alliance. By uniting leading civic and youth development organizations in a common effort to fight substance abuse, this alliance is helping to strengthen our families and communities.

I commend all of you for working together to solve the problems of today and to meet the challenges of the future. Best wishes for a productive convention and continued success in the years to come.

Bill Clinton

A First Person Report On International Lionism

I have just returned from one of the most memorable experiences in my 70 years on this earth—the 79th convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Matrice, our daughter, Gayle, and Matrice's two sisters, Mavis Walker, Margie Dexter and her husband, Jim, of Montgomery, had a most enjoyable time in this quaint old city.

It was a highlight for me because I handled public relations for Jim Ervin, who was elected International third vice president of the 1.4 million member service club in 181 countries—the first Georgian ever to serve as an executive officer for Lions International. Ervin was elected last Friday along with Augustin Soliva of Brazil, who is succeeding Bill Wunder of Wichita, Kansas, as international president.

In supporting the Albany Lion, my job was to produce a two-page newsletter Monday through Friday. It was distributed to each of the 300 Georgia attendees' hotel room the evening before the events. These Georgians put on 15-minute demonstrations at Ervin's nomination Thursday and election Friday, led by the Winder-Barrow High School Band, which was voted the No. 2 marching band in the gala international parade last Tuesday.

While I was pounding away at my laptop computer, Matrice and her family were sight-seeing, visiting the various shopping malls and the casino. They all had a ball.

Although I didn't get a chance to personally meet President Jimmy Carter, I heard him give one of the best testimonials on Lionism I had ever heard. His opening remarks said it all—"It's a long way from Tail Twister to President of the United States."



Carter had served as a district governor in 1968-69. He had held every office in the Plains Lions Club, including that of Tail Twister. A Tail Twister plays tricks on members and loosens up the meeting. He raises funds and has fun at the same time.

President Carter was given the 1996 Humanitarian Award and a grant of \$200,000 from Lions International for Habitat for Humanity, of which he is a director, and the fight against river blindness in third world countries.

In addition to President Carter's award, Georgia's Winder-Barrow High School Band, 200 strong, was judged the No. 2 marching band in the gala international parade, rated the largest and noisiest in the history of Montreal.

The long international parade was rated the largest and noisiest in recent history in Montreal. The Montreal Gazette said, "Some 20,000 Lions paraded through the streets, bedecked in colorful attire from 181 different countries, loaded with pins and medals and roaring like kings of the jungle."

Nowhere have I been treated as well as in Montreal. The town folks opened their doors and their hearts to some 35,000 Lions and

their wives. They loved our candidate, Jim Ervin, who will be installed as international president at the convention in 1999 in San Diego.

Georgians worked hard and long for Ervin's candidacy. Only two Lions from Warner Robins were there, Bill Craig and myself of the Warner Robins Lions Club. Bill is the state Leader Dog Chairman and I am the state newspaper editor and a past district governor. We worked most of the time in Jim Ervin Campaign Headquarters at the swanky Inter-Continental Hotel. And if you question my choice of words describing of the hotel, it cost \$178 a night in Canadian dollars (\$155 U. S.) and meals were anywhere from \$12 for breakfast to \$40 for dinner. One night Matrice and I spent \$78.60 (Canadian money) for a petite filet mignon.

But aside from the high prices of food and other items, it had to be the best international convention I ever attended. The ones in Phoenix and Minneapolis the last several years paled in comparison with Montreal. Everyone had a friendly smile and a kind word for you. They spoke English better than I did.

One day, a Georgia lady, speaking in her syrupy Southern drawl, asked the shuttle bus driver if he would "leave her off at the next stop." The driver gave her a puzzled look. I explained to him that she simply wanted to get off the bus at the next stop. "Oh," he said. "Why didn't she say that in the first place."

It was a great trip, but believe me, there's no place like home and I am truly grateful that I live in such a wonderful place as Warner Robins, Georgia.