



NSR Coordinator Report Boston 2023





Introduction

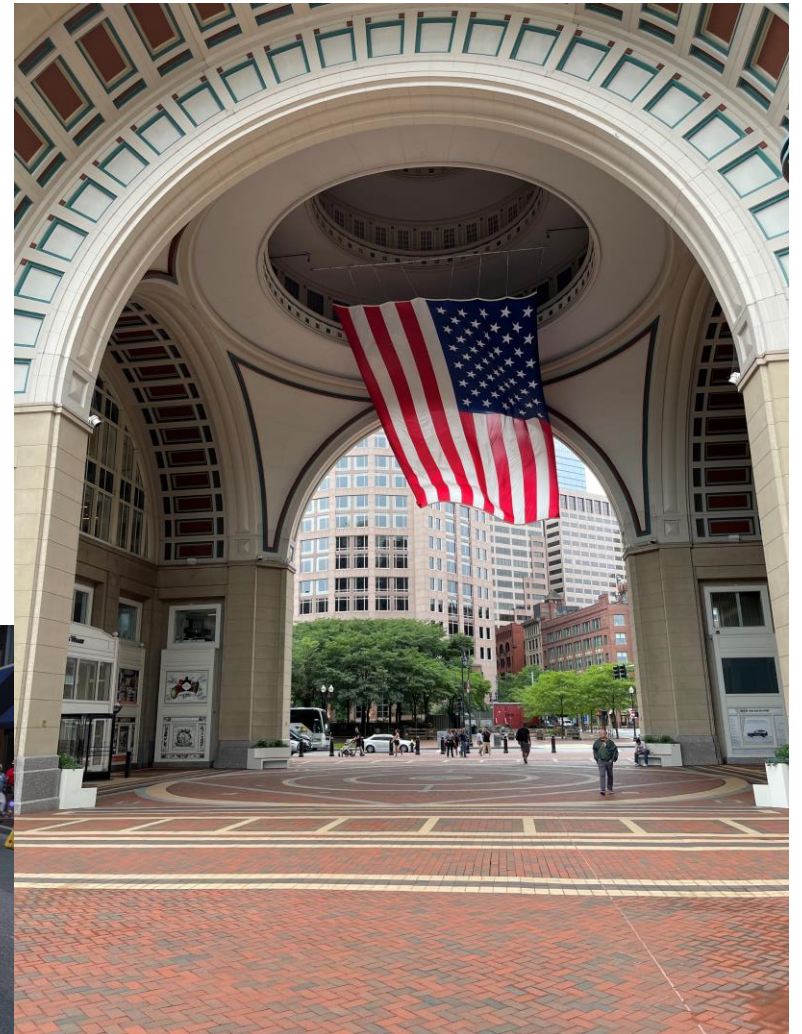
Introduction

Lions 105th Convention was held in Boston, Massachusetts, from 7 July to 11 July 2023. The Nordic delegation that attended the congress was 116 persons big.

It was a great raise of delegates from the recession of post Covid situation in Montreal where we was only 73 Nordic delegates, so a big improvement.

The city itself was a great location with a lot of historical landmarks and a coast city with many kilometers of fantastic harbor piers and walking strolls by the shoreline that melts an islanders' sea-heart.

The city and their citizens are most welcoming, I wish I have had a few more days for sightseeing and explore other experiences outside our Lions convention that was well executed in most areas.



NSR Get together dinner

**Thursday
6th of July**

Our NSR delegation started our program already 6th of July with a get together dinner at the Brazilian steakhouse Foca de Chao. The food was fantastic and to a reasonable price. Boston is a very expensive city to live in, why I and my assisting coordinator went through over 20 options before the steakhouse was accepted with a higher price than earlier budgeted. The GTG dinner was attended by 99 delegates, some had not yet arrived, and some Lions officials were tied up with other obligations.

My reflection: Maybe change to a less formal happening, like cocktail where you can walk around and mingle more, also less expensive and easier to arrange. Our problem is always to find a suitable time in the start where it does not interfere with our DGe obligations. Another problem is that we are a big delegation that all restaurants want to have a prepayment and some people register, but don't show up.





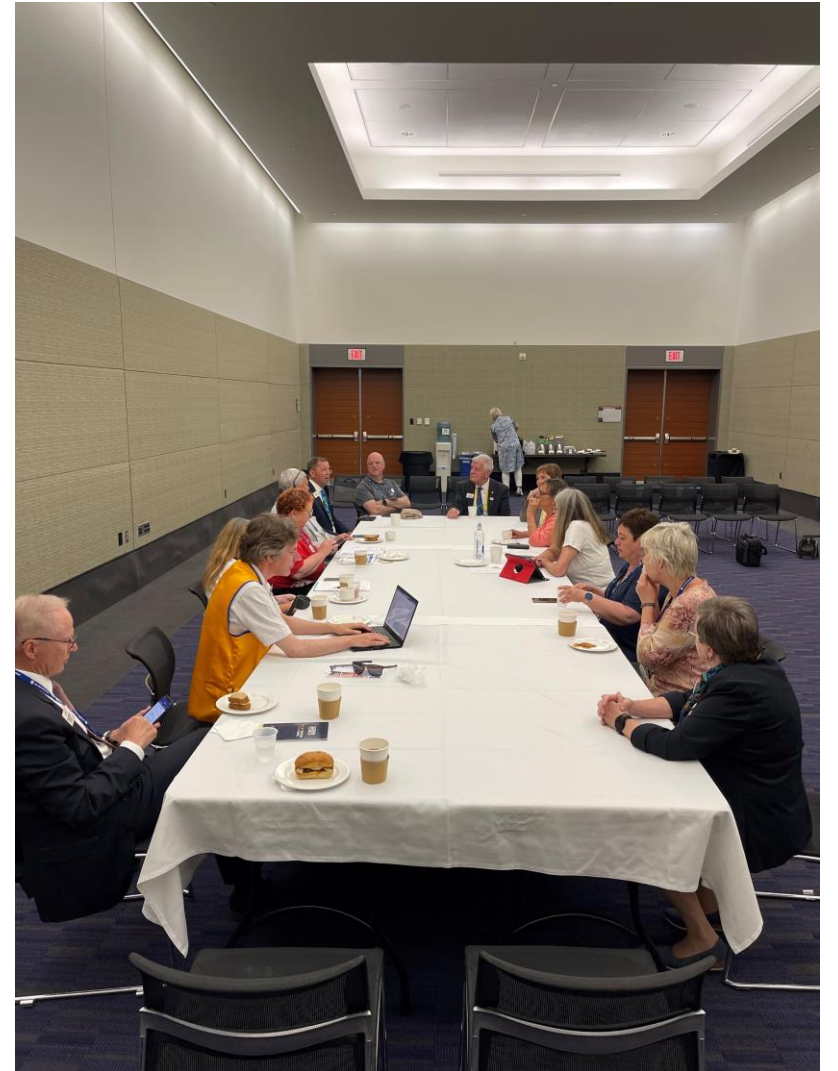
**Friday
7th of July**

NSR Parade and CC-meeting



Both Parade instruction and CC meeting was held in a conference room in the convention centre BCEC. The parade meeting was well attended and all MD representants were informed about where and how to get all material and also where assemble point was and other important information. After the meeting all went to coordinators near located hotel to get all equipment for the parade and everything went smooth. One hour later the CC meeting was held with coffee and sandwiches as a lunch.

My reflection: Always be sure that the flag box is in an 24H accessible location and that it is easy for all delegations to get the material and give it back. Also be sure that all MD:s have enough persons to get and return the material. Finally be sure that the MD:s with a lot of flags, Denmark (10pcs) and Finland (10pcs) has enough flag bearers. If not they have to ask other MD:s for help, but their own responsibility.





**Saturday
8th of July**

International parade



This year's International parade was held in the heart of Boston, and as always, we needed to wait for 1½ hour before we was able to set off. This is an always upcoming issue but maybe impossible to avoid, if we start to come later than LCI has planned it might bee too late. This year most went fine even if the assembly are was a little bit confusing, since all groups was spread out in a park and not along a street clearly marked. The water was not so warm but not as hot as in Montreal.

My reflection: The newly developed country shirts with similar design, but different colors for the parade, seems to have been a huge success and very popular. This due to the modern design that all can wear with pride in other Lions occasions too. Many want us to have a new parade song, but no one has been presented so far. ;)



**Sunday
 9th of July**

Scandinavian Hospitality

Our Scandinavian Hospitality was even this year held in the LCICON conference location, now Convention centre BCEC. The invitations was earlier raised to 1500 pcs due to Gudruns Yngvadottirs International president period, but was now lovered back to 1000 invitations. The negotiations for getting the budget within the agreed frames was a nightmare since both catering expenses and all equipment in the hospitality room, was more than double from the last confrence in Montreal. That was a huge surprice for me and all other involved. One huge setback after long negotiations that was unnecesary in the end, becasse it turend out that the spirit "shots" (schnapps) glasses was forbidden to serve in public places. So a huge setback and many felt sad that our "special tradition" was not there anymore. Still the hospitality was a huge suces and said to be the best party as always in the coventions.



Last coordinator reflections

- One huge problem was that the costs in Boston was much higher than many earlier locations. That made it very difficult to get the traditional service and programs within the budget. Still both coordinator and assisting coordinator worked very hard with many options to try to meet the budget that I believe we have met over all even if some part went over, we saved some funds in other parts. The initial offers on catering and AW equipment for the hospitality was more than double compared with Montreal.
- We need to have one travel leader from each MD that is in charge for its group and in contact with the coordinator.
- We have had in the past a NSR delegate contact list that was very useful for the coordinator to reach each person if necessary. This list is also really interesting for all Nordic delegates, to be able to contact newfound friends. I strongly advise all MD:s to ask early if any own delegates don't want to be seen in this list. One big reason with our NSR work is to help to tie new friendships.
- We was initially designated to the Sheraton Hotel that was 15 minutes away from convention centre with taxi so we worked hard to get another hotel only 100 meters away from the convention centre.





“Keep me updated!”

NSR LCICon information channels



LCICon homepage:

www.lcicon.lionsclubs.org



NSR LCICon Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/nsrlions

facebook

Join our messenger group for real-time information at the actual convention: NSR LCICon 2023 Boston



Messenger

Contact: NSR Coordinator Björn Hägerstrand

+358 457 3135313 or bjorn@lions.ax





NSR Coordinator 2019-2023



I am so grateful to have got the honour to serve the worlds best organisation within the worlds best service organisation.

I am also happy that I got an extended year due to Covid. It is really a lot of matters to plan this huge NSR events, normally from the other side of the world. So it is important that we have our system. You work one year to learn, one year to execute and one year to teach your sucesor. The NSR cooperation we have is at most importance; to bulid bridges and work togehter in our great Nordic countries. When togehter, we are a huge force in Lions, that many others envy and we are a force to admire and respect.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

PDG/LCIP Björn Hägerstrand
NSR Coordinator 2019-2023

