

Alabama Lions All Star Band – part of the Centennial Challenge for 2017

Fellow Lions

The 100th anniversary of Lionism is approaching in 2017 and planning for the International Convention in Chicago is underway. The Alabama Lions Band Committee is making plans to send the Alabama Lions Band to this very important occasion in the history of our great Association.

History of The Alabama Lions High School All-Star Band

The Band began with the candidacy and subsequent term of our own PIP William (Bill) Chandler in 1980. Since that time the Band has participated in International Conventions, representing the Lions from our great Alabama Multiple District many times. In my own experience, I have been involved in planning, raising funds for and participating with the band in four International Conventions from 1999 through 2004, in San Diego, Denver, Indianapolis and Detroit. The Band has participated in many conventions before and since those named above. The Lions of Alabama, who have attended the conventions have always looked forward to seeing and hearing the Band in the parade and at our MD-34 and Regional Breakfasts later on in the convention's program. Our Band has been the "hit" of the parade many times garnering great applause and cheers from, not only Lions the United States, but also Lions from around the world. I know the Alabama Lions show great enthusiasm for our Lions Band every year.

Lion Dr. Ted Galloway was the first Director of the Lions Band, but many Band Directors have been involved throughout the years, including: Lions Alan Brookes, Mike Holmes, David Brewer, and Chris Moore, plus Sean Wommack. Several Band directors in our Alabama School systems are former Alabama Lions Band students.

The Band Experience

The Alabama Lions Band is much, much more than just a band representing the Lions of Alabama at the International Convention. In addition to demonstrating the enthusiasm and commitment of the Lions of Alabama in service, it is also a tremendous Youth and Leadership experience. Students selected by the Alabama Band's Music staff are drawn from all parts of Alabama, from Decatur to Dothan, Mobile to Opelika, Gadsden to Tuscaloosa, and everywhere in between. Rural high school band students join up with students from the "big city" to meet, form lifelong friendships and learn about Lionism. And they not only learn about Alabama Lionism, they get exposure to Lions from all across the country and, in fact, around the world. The students, many who have never been out of the county they live in, will gain and grow through the immediate team work from the Lions Band camp to the Convention parade, the Southeast Breakfast, pin trading at the end of the parade and much, much more. Notably, several of our LEO clubs in Alabama are a direct result of Alabama Lions Band students and the energy, enthusiasm and leadership they bring from the Convention and apply to their own communities.

Our Lions Band represents a unique multi-faceted opportunity for the youth who are chosen to participate, and each band student comes directly from YOUR community as a sponsoring Lions Club.

So what can you do to help.

Band students are sponsored by Lions Club, who contribute the cost of a sponsorship and thereby offer the opportunity to a band student from a high school designated by the sponsoring local club. The band director of that school provides a recommended panel of students matching the instrumental and musical needs of the Alabama Band as determined by our Band staff.

Once the student is selected and has agreed to participate, they are invited to join the band, participate in the band camp, typically 2 days. Then the band leaves directly from camp to travel to the convention. Once at the convention, the Band rehearse, marches in the parade to show Lions Spirit and support the Alabama Delegation and, if invited will play at the regional breakfast. In addition, there is typically a site-seeing experience and we also try to plan a "fun" day, if time permits.

Band Cost

First, what the Band student pays – The Lions Band student pays for their meals, and souvenir purchases and transportation to and from the Band camp. We also ask the student to contribute to the fun day experience if one is planned. That is all. The Band sponsors the cost of transportation, lodging, band camp, and any other costs of the experience. This is where your sponsorships and donations come in.

What does a sponsorship cost?

It is still too early to provide a firm cost. But we are still soliciting donations and sponsorships to help plan and size the band for 2017. As we develop the level of expected sponsorships we can begin looking at lodging, and the size and number of buses we will need. These are typically our largest cost items.

What do we need you and your club to do NOW??

In order to begin planning the 2017 Centennial Alabama Lions Band experience, we need to determine the size of the Band. Here is what your Band Committee is asking you to do RIGHT NOW.

Schedule and conduct a fund raiser for the Alabama Lions Band.

Whether a spaghetti supper, car wash, garage sale, or whatever serves your community best, we need your support and many of those I have already spoken have suggested a dedicated fundraiser to support the Band is one of the best ways to support your Band. Perhaps even a partnership with your local high school band organization?? Let us know about a fund raiser you are planning, when and where, so we can assist if possible. Once conducted, submit the proceeds to the Alabama Lions Band at the address below. We will track every donation by club, and, if an individual donation, by the club to which that person belongs, as well. Clubs donating to the Band will be noted in the ALABAMA LION every month.

If you cannot hold a fund raiser this year, go ahead and send a donation. Remember ALL donations are tracked by club and will be acknowledged. All donations are accumulated for the Centennial Band trip.

I hope you agree the Alabama Lions Band represents a huge opportunity for the youth of Alabama. I hope you are excited about the possibility of fielding the largest band of ALABAMA students from our Multiple District EVER to represent the Lions of Alabama at the 100th Anniversary of our Association. It will take a village, the village of ALABAMA LIONS to make this happen. The Band needs your support.

If you have any questions at all about the Band, please feel free to reach out to me via email at AlaLionsBand@aol.com, or call me at home at 205.979.6371. Or, we can discuss in person at your District convention in March, or at the Multiple District convention in May. I hope to see all of you there.

You may mail all donations (made out to: Alabama Lions Band) to:

Alabama Lions Band
c/o PCC Ken Vaudo
3337 Shallowford Road
Birmingham, AL 35216

In Lionism,

PCC Ken, Chairperson
Alabama Lions Band

WE SERVE



Denver 2003



Denver 2003



Detroit 2004



Detroit 2004



Detroit 2004