



Past International President Judge Howard L. Patterson
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Howard L. "Pat" Patterson, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has passed away. He was elected to the association's highest office at the 80th international convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1997.

Judge Patterson, a member of the Hattiesburg Lions Club, had been a Lion since 1958. Prior to his election as a chancery judge in 1966, he served as city prosecuting attorney and as a city judge.

In addition to numerous civic and professional honors, Judge Patterson was also a president of the Mississippi Lions Sight Foundation and a director of the Lions World Services for the Blind.

In Memoriam

Past International Director **Daniel W. "Dan" Cole**, of Marietta, Ohio, a member of the Marietta Noon Lions Club, was a Lion since 1947. He was elected to the International Board of Directors at the association's 69th international convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1986.

Dr. Henry L. Smith, of Louisville, Kentucky, was elected to serve on the International Board of Directors at the association's 84th International convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2001. A member of the Fern Creek Lions Club, Dr. Smith was a veterinarian and was active in numerous professional and civic associations.

Jarbas Oiticica, of Maceio, Alagoas, Brazil, was elected as an international director in 1988 at the international convention in Denver, Colorado. He was a member of the Maceio-Centro Lions Club and had been a Lion since 1955.

New Country Joins Association

The Republic of Montenegro, located on the Balkan Peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, has become the 201st

country to join the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The Budva Citadela Lions Club is the first Lions club in the country, which has a population of around 650,000.

Convention Coverage

As a reminder, Lions Clubs International does not provide medical insurance coverage to its members for travel to and from or during the international convention. Please carefully examine your own situation, and that of family members, to be sure you have sufficient medical insurance coverage.

Passports and Visas

All visitors entering Thailand must have a passport valid for six months beyond the planned departure date and adequate finances for the duration of their stay in Thailand.

Travelers from more than 40 countries are not required to obtain a visa when entering Thailand for tourism purposes for up to 30 days. Citizens from other countries can apply for a visa upon arrival at designated immigration checkpoints for the purpose of tourism for a period not exceeding 15 days.

For a list of countries and additional information, visit www.mfa.go.th and select "Visas and Travel Documents." Please note that visa restrictions change regularly so it is extremely important to check with your travel agent, or preferably with the Thai Embassy before departure.

Nationals of certain countries are required to apply for a visa at the Thai Embassy or Thai Consulate-General in their home/residence country only and must meet additional requirements. Information on locations of Thai Embassies is available at www.mfa.go.th/web/10.php.

The Royal Thai Embassy and Royal Thai Consulate-General are authorized to issue visas to foreigners for travel to Thailand. The authority to permit entry and stay in Thailand, however, is with immigration officers.

Vaccinations and Immunizations

No vaccinations are required for entry into Thailand, except for individu-

als residing in or arriving from countries that are declared Yellow Fever Infected Areas (parts of Africa or Latin America), in which case an International Health Certificate must be presented.

Immunizations for tetanus, polio, rabies, typhoid, tuberculosis and hepatitis are advised but not essential. It is strongly recommended that you check with your own doctor or health care provider at least six weeks before your trip.

For additional information, visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov and select "Travelers' Health."

Dog Guides Entering Thailand

Service dogs trained to provide assistance can be admitted into Thailand by presenting an Animal Health Certificate for disability assistance dogs and an application for a special permit upon arrival of the dog. The animal will be exempt from quarantine, provided it is free of all quarantine restrictions imposed by the government authority.

Rabies is prevalent in Thailand and you must have your pet vaccinated against rabies prior to departure. A certificate of vaccination must not be older than 10 days at the date of arrival.

A health certificate from a veterinarian at the point of origin must not be older than 30 days at the date of arrival. Please consult your veterinarian, your airline carrier and the Thai embassy in your area to ensure that your animal will comply with all requirements.

Please note that when taking your pet home again, some countries may require a period of quarantine or may not allow the pet to enter directly from Thailand.

For the Record

As of September 30, 2007, Lions Clubs International had 1,296,843 members in 45,112 clubs and 751 districts in 200 countries and geographical locations.

As of October 31, 2007, there were 266,399 Melvin Jones Fellows and 47,692 Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows. ■