

Lions Clubs International leaders welcome Sugar Grove Lions club

Sugar Grove, IL - Lions Clubs International leaders from Iceland, South Korea and Tennessee helped celebrate charter night for Waubensee Community College's new Lions Club.

About 100 persons attended the dinner program May 9 at WCC's Sugar Grove campus.

Lions International dignitaries included Chancellor Robert "Bob" Corlew, Milton, Tenn., international president; Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir, Gardabaer, Iceland, second vice president; and Jung-Yul Choi, Busan City, South Korea, third vice president.

The event opened when Maria Andrews, Lions District 1J governor, issued a call to order. After WCC President Christine J. Sobek welcomed guests, Andrews made introductions and Karen Gumino, District 1J chaplain, led the pledge of allegiance and gave an invocation.



In after-dinner remarks, Corlew shared the impact Lions Clubs have made worldwide and his vision for the future. He said, "Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Some 1.35 million Lions in more than 46,000 clubs serve communities in 207 countries and geographical areas around the globe."

Corlew noted that WCC's Lions Club is a centennial club since Lions International is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in Chicago. Lions worldwide will converge on Chicago for a centennial convention from June 30 to July 3 at McCormick Place.

After his comments, Corlew and international vice presidents inducted charter members and installed club officers.

International third vice president Yngvadottir presented the WCC club's charter to Erin Almady of Sycamore, WCC club president. Brad Arnold, president, Geneva Lions Club, presented Almady with the WCC club's flag, banner and bell.

Sponsoring club presidents offering welcomes were Michele Needham, Aurora Noon club; Maranda Schenk, Elburn club; and Brad Arnold, Geneva club.

In closing remarks, Almady thanked sponsoring clubs since last fall and assisting in the charter-night program.

She added, "We look forward to partnering with these clubs to serve our local communities to live out the Lions' mission: To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs."

In addition to Almady, charter officers installed were Emily Hinton, first vice president; Julie Peck, third vice president; Amanda Eberlein, secretary; Jan Stedman, treasurer; Mary Edith Butler, tail twister; Paty Brueschke, Lion tamer; and Tim Betustak, meeting coordinator.

Other new members inducted were Bonnie Budzynski, Darla Cardine, Gale Holladay-Baxter, Lydia Janick, Michele Kellen, Imelda Koehler, Christine Michaud, Madelyn Michels, Myrna Nunez, Daniel Ortiz, Laura Ortiz, Mary Rogers, Kristopher Smith, Carlos Suarez, Grace Wahler, Stephanie Wennmacher and Brian Wetters.

PHOTO-Sycamore resident Erin Almady, left, receives her Lions Club pin from Jung-Yul Choi, South Korea, Lions Clubs International third vice president, at charter night ceremonies for Waubensee Community College's Lions Club May 9 at WCC's Sugar Grove campus. Almady is the WCC club's first president. (AI Benson photo)