

## **What a TOUR!!!!**



The Missouri Lions Band "Tour of Missouri" went off with a Blast. This was the first time that the band traveled to local clubs and performed for their communities instead of going to Disney World on a year when the Lions Club International Convention was out of the country.

This band consisted of 72 musicians from high schools all over the State of Missouri.



Their tour started at Cape Girardeau. From there they went to Branson, and then on to the northwestern section of the state. While in the St. Joseph and Kansas City area they visited several historic places. As the band moved toward the central section of the state they performed for the Higginsville Lions Club's 80th Anniversary, they visited the State Capitol in Jefferson City, and performed for the Jefferson City Clubs. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> the band headed east to Owensville for a noon performance and that evening to the Webster Groves Lions Carnival for an evening performance and fun at the carnival. On July 4<sup>th</sup> the MO. Lions Band marched in the Fair St. Louis Parade. On many occasions the band performed two concerts per day and visited with more than 25 Lions clubs.

This was a great opportunity for Lions and our youth; most of the clubs where they visited prepared a meal for them and entertainment. The students made new friends with the Lions and had great fellowship.

One band member stated that they made a lot of new friends and found out what the LIONS were about.

This year the band is going to Minneapolis, MN, where they will perform for the MO. Delegation and march in the International Parade. There are also a few venues the state committee is looking into for a few extra performances. The cost for the students is \$650.



This year the band will be under the direction of a new band director, Ms. Gretchen Pohlman, Director of Bands at Owensville High School. Ms. Pohlman is a very dedicated and energetic person with new ideas. She cares for our youth and wants them to have every opportunity to experience music at a new level and what greater way to experience this, than the MO. Lions Band.



If your club would like a more information, please contact your district band chairperson or me Lion Ron Koppelman, Jr. 573-764-2953..

Also check out the Mo. Lions web page for a link that will be coming soon.

Respectively Submitted,  
PDG Lion Ron Koppelman, Jr.  
Mo. Lions State Band Chair.



**Band Photos by Dave Marner/  
Gasconade County Republican**