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For Immediate Release

**NC Chapter of the Lions Club International Return To Fayetteville for 2011 Convention**  
*Group Sites - Attractions, Meeting Space, Affordability and Exceptional Community Support As Reasons For Coming Back*

Fayetteville, NC – January 6, 2010 – It was recently determined that Fayetteville was selected as the destination to host the NC Lions Club annual state convention, scheduled for June 2011. The event will take place at the recently renovated Holiday Inn Bordeaux, and bring together thousands of the club’s network of members who volunteer their time to various humanitarian causes. Among those expected is Sid L. Scruggs III, president of the international association for the 2010-2011 year. Scruggs, a Vass, NC resident, will deliver the keynote address at the convention. The convention is expected to attract Lions members from surrounding state chapters such as South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia and Tennessee.

“We are pleased to return to Fayetteville for our upcoming Lions convention. The community support we received during our 2004 convention was a huge factor. Also, the many area attractions, the ample meeting space the Holiday Inn Bordeaux offers and overall affordability were a plus,” says Brad Logsdon, NC Convention General Chairperson. “The Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau went out of the way to provide us with additional assistance ensuring our needs were met,” says Logsdon.

The Lions’ dedication to community and civic service, as well as its commitment to patriotism, makes Fayetteville, named by *Newsmax* as one of America’s most patriotic communities, the ideal place to hold their annual gathering. Just as Fayetteville goes above and beyond the traditional call of duty to support the military in America’s First Military Sanctuary Community, the NC Lions spend countless hours helping those who struggle with vision impairment. This focus was established during the 1925 Lions Club International Convention when speaker Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” The Lions carry out their mission locally through facilities such as the Governor Morehead School for the Blind, NC Lions Diabetic Eye Clinic at the UNC Healthcare Diabetes Center, NC Lions Pediatric Eye Care Center at Duke Medical Center, and Lion Services, Inc.

“Our community is thrilled to host the upcoming NC Lions convention. We are proud to be associated with an organization that makes such a positive difference in the lives of others in need,” says John Meroski, CEO of the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. “The NC Lions are just as passionate about spreading patriotism, as our current residents are, which makes us even more excited to have them as visitors in our community - America’s Hometown,” says Meroski.

The NC Lions sponsor the annual statewide event, “Celebrate Liberty”, to promote the concept of democracy. Through educational programs provided by local clubs, the Lions celebrate liberty by promoting government and public service, and encourage community and civic involvement. They distribute copies of the country’s most important documents authored by our Founding Fathers – the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.

About the FACVB:

The Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, not-for-profit organization responsible for positioning Fayetteville/Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, sporting events and individual travel. For additional information, visit [www.visitfayettevillenc.com](http://www.visitfayettevillenc.com) or call 1-800-255-8217. Fayetteville/Cumberland County is the America's first military sanctuary. Through the *Amy's Army* and other volunteer groups, our citizens and businesses are dedicated to watching over those who watch over us.

About the Lions:

The Lions support their country through their partnership with the United Nations (UN). One of the first nongovernmental organizations invited to assist in drafting the UN Charter in 1945. They are commonly known for working to end preventable blindness and sponsoring programs that aid the hearing impaired, spreading diabetes awareness and providing assistance to disaster victims. They also work with FEMA, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, Ready America, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army to provide disaster preparedness and assistance by volunteering at recovery centers, educating the community about natural disasters, and preparing and distributing emergency preparedness kits.

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