



# Lions Clubs International

300 W 22ND STREET • OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA • 630.571.5466

Sanjeev Ahuja  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Lions,

I am writing to express my appreciation and acknowledge the frustration you face as you apply for US visas to attend our 2023 International Convention in Boston.

To aid your visa applications, I had discussions with the US state department and multiple US Visa consulate offices in South America, Africa, India, South Asia, and the Middle East to request that they issue visas to Lions who plan to attend.

Based on my conversations they have advised me that the international convention does not amount to necessary travel and does not qualify for an emergency or expedited visa. You may request an expedited visa when you apply but the likelihood of receiving one is very slim.

Additionally, a letter of invitation from Lions Clubs International serves no purpose for the issuance of a visa because the US Government does not issue visas based on the reason an individual needs to travel, except in very rare cases, but instead base it on the ability of the traveler to prove that they will return to their home country after visiting the USA.

The US state department views anyone entering the United States with an intent to immigrate. As a result, the visitor must prove that they have no reason to stay on in the United States and have more to look forward to when they return to their home country. There are three ways a visitor can prove their intent to return, and this is the evidence US visa consulates want you to provide.

- 1) Substantial assets in your name such as property, land, shareholding, or business assets
- 2) Strong family ties that you leave behind like a spouse and/or children
- 3) Reputable employment such as a senior role in well-known company or business ownership with dependent employees

So, when you are applying for your visa, please know that it is not an invitation letter that counts, but your ability to show that you have strong ties to your homeland with something worthwhile to come back to. In addition, please apply now and do not wait, even if the appointment date is further out into the future, as new appointment dates keep opening up.

We look forward to seeing you in Boston. The convention is only made great because of your presence.

Good luck and best wishes,

Sanjeev Ahuja  
Executive Administrator