



LIONS FLOAT, INC.
16645 Grand Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706
501 (c) 3 #95-4445483



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIONS CLUBS KICKS OF THE NEXT CENTURY OF SERVICE WITH “ROCKIN’ THE VEST” FLOAT IN 2019 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE “MELODY OF LIFE”

Lions Clubs International President Gudrun Yngvadottir and her husband Past International Director Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson are principal riders on the float

SAN MARCOS, CA December 19 –The first Lions Clubs International President from Iceland, Gudrun Yngvadottir, and her husband Past International Director Jon Biarni Thorsteinsson are the principal riders on Lions Clubs 2019 “Rockin’ the Vest” float in the 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year’s Day.

The float is a rap music video that is slanted toward younger potential members so that they can view Lions in a new and fun way and features real Lions singing and dancing to an original rap created by Serve Marketing and reached more than 100,000 people through social media in 2011. The lyrics focus on what wearing the yellow Lions club vest means to the community. Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller and communities get better. That’s because Lions help where help is needed - in our own communities and around the world - with unmatched integrity and energy.

Other key riders on the float are Clarence Harris and his two daughters Casey and Claren representing their Mom, Past International Director Karla Harris, who was the energy behind the production of “Rockin’ the Vest” in 2011 by Wisconsin Lions. Karla passed away before fulfilling her bucket list item to ride on the float.

Other prominent women riding on the float are: Past District Governor Ellen Liebherr, the first woman Governor of Orange County Lions Clubs; Past Council Chairs of California Lions Clubs Liz Crook and Mary Rynearson.

A special added feature this year, is three musically-talented, local Braille Students ages 11-16 who are visually impaired riding on the float kicking off Braille Institute’s 2019 Centennial and longstanding relationship with Lions Clubs. The students sing, dance, and play piano and cello.

The riders are: Grace Dabbieri is 11 years old and a 5th grader at Village Elementary School in Coronado, CA (San Diego County) who was born blind and loves music and singing. She takes piano lessons and works with a singing coach; Evelyn Maldonado is 15 years old and is a 10th grader at Anaheim (CA) High School (Orange County) had Retinoblastoma Cancer in her eye which caused her to become blind and loves singing and is one of the lead performers in the Johnny Mercer Youth Choir; Jorge (George) Gonzalez is 16 years old and an 11th grader at Schurr High School (Montebello- LA County) was born premature at 23 weeks which caused a retinal detachment and has strabismus making him legally blind and has low vision in one eye. He loves music and plays the cello and wants to learn to play the acoustic guitar. All three students are in the Braille Institute Youth Program.

Lions Clubs International is 101 years old and the world’s largest humanitarian service organization with 1.5 million members in 46,000 clubs in 210 countries and geographical areas.