

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

Story by

Lion Bill Guthrie

Update: 01/24/2025: Added RIP Mr. Coon Rapids (OW 0259 25) on page 6 of the Coon Rapids Racoons pin story catalog. This is the last image of the Coon Rapids Racoon pin story.

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

In the early 1970's trading Lions Club Pins was becoming popular with many Lion members. The members of the Coon Rapids Lions Club in Minnesota wanted to have a pin of their own. In 1974 the mascot of the City of Coon Rapids (a raccoon) was chosen for their pin. Lion Bill Pieper was the Pin Chairman and designed their first pin. Bill remained their Pin Chairman for many years.

The Lions emblem was placed in the raccoon's left hand – holding it high. In 1975, his vest was changed to red and glass eyes were added. Glass eyes are in all of the raccoon pins except for the 1974 and 1978. The 1977 raccoon has one glass eye. When the Lions Clubs International Convention was held in Hawaii in 1976, the tradition was adopted to have the location of the International Convention determine the style of the pin.

In 1987-1988, there was 1 pin for the 2 years. Lion Bill Pieper, their Pin Chairman made 3 large raccoons as personal pins while he was a member of the club. These pins are shown here. He made his first large personal pin in 1987 and continued to make 1 each year thereafter. In 1989, Lion Bill retired and moved to Leisure World in Arizona. Bill continued to serve as a Lion and as a Pin trader and continued to use the raccoon for his personal pin. He made 5 large pins from 1990 until 1994 while in Arizona. These large pins are NOT pins of the Coon Rapids Lions Club but are shown here as many members of the LITPC have them in their personal collections.

A new Pin Chairman was appointed for the Coon Rapids Lions Club in 1988. In 1989, the club changed the design and used different designs from 1989 – 1992. These different designs also included the 35th Anniversary pin in 1989. When the LCI Convention was held in Minneapolis, MN in 1993, the Lions emblem was placed in the right hand and continues to be so to this date. The set included all Lions club pins shown. In addition, the Coon Rapids Lioness Club has issued the Lioness pins as shown. Those pins are somewhat smaller but still use the original design. The Lioness club set includes pins issued for their 20th, 25th and 30th Anniversary. The Lions club set includes pins issued for their club's 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th and 60th Anniversary. This is a beautiful set of Lions Club pins and one of the oldest continuous theme sets by any Lions Club in the world.

Lion Bill Guthrie, a member of the Coon Rapids Lions Club and a member of the Lions International Pin Traders, is their current Pin Chairman. He can be contacted for their current club pins each year.



1974



1975



1976



1977



1978



1979



1979



1980

25th Anniversary

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY



1981



1982



1983



1984



1984

30th Anniversary



1985



1986



1987-1988



1989

35th Anniversary



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY



1994



1994



1995



1996

40th Anniversary



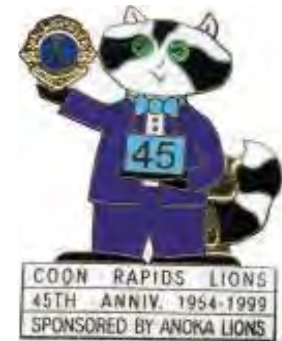
1997



1998



1999



1999

45th Anniversary



2000



2001



2002



2003



2004



2004



2005



2006

50th Anniversary

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY



2007



2008



2009



2010



2011



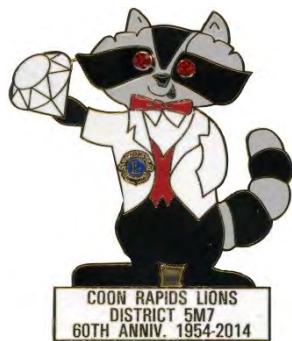
2012



2013



2014



2014

60th Anniversary



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019

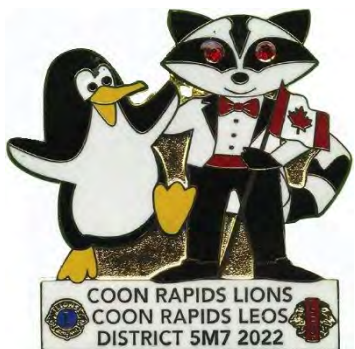


2020



2021

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY



2022



2023



2024



OW 0259 25
RIP Mr. Coon Rapids
"Riding into the Sunset"
This is a badge

This badge ends the travels of Mr. Coon Rapids

Lion Bill Guthrie of Minnesota has advised that the Coon Rapids Lions Club, which has been issuing a yearly pin the past 50 years featuring Mr. Coon, has decided to end the series. Although it may be somewhat of a stretch to include this in the Old Wild West Catalog, we feel the Coon Rapids Club has been so dedicated to the issue of pins that many of our members collect, the least we could do is help the Club spread the word. WE trust you will understand.

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

Coon Rapids Lioness Club



1981



1982



1983



1983



1984

This pin was issued in error with the Lions emblem it was redone with the Lioness emblem



1985



1986



1987



1989

20th Anniversary



1993

25th Anniversary



1999

30th Anniversary



1999

30th Anniversary

This pin was issued in error with the Lions grey sleeves it was redone with the black sleeves

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

Bill Pieper Personal Raccoon Pins



1987



1988



1989

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

Leisure World Lions Club Raccoon Pins



1990



1991



1992



1993

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB PIN STORY

Leisure World Lions Club Raccoon Pin



1994