**Contact Information:**

Oak Creek Lions

Julie Litza

Marketing Communications Chairperson

(414) 418-7266

julie.litza@yahoo.com

### For Immediate Release

**HELP RESTORE OAK CREEK’S 1ST FIRE TRUCK**

(Oak Creek, November 21, 2022) – Oak Creek’s 1st Fire Truck, Engine 1801 (also known as Pumper No. 1) is from 1935. The Oak Creek Lions purchased Engine 1801 in 1981, and it is in need of restoration so that we can continue to preserve a piece of Oak Creek’s history for everyone to enjoy.

On May 7, 1935, the town of Oak Creek formed its first Fire Department with 27 volunteer members. Later that year, Engine 1801 was commissioned as Oak Creek’s very first Fire Truck. The 4.5-ton truck was outfitted by Peter Pirsch & Company in Kenosha, WI, with the most state-of-the-art firefighting equipment at the time. It included a 500-gallon water tank, a 400-gallon per minute water pump and over 500 feet of fire hose.

When a fire call came in, the first volunteer to the Fire Station (then located next to Joe & Lil’s Bar on the SW corner of Howell Avenue and Ryan Road) would immediately head to the location of the fire with Engine 1801. In 1938, Oak Creek had its own water supply to fill Pumper No. 1 – which was seven 25,000-gallon cisterns placed strategically throughout the city. Prior to that, we relied on water obtained in South Milwaukee.

**Life Cycle of Engine 1801:**

1935 – 1949 Actively used by the Fire Department

1949 – 1960 Used as a backup for extinguishing grass fires

1960 – 1981 Used by the Oak Creek water and sewer utility

1981 – present The Oak Creek Lions Club purchased Engine 1801 – it has served as one of our city’s mascots ever since, most widely seen in local city parades.

In order to raise funds for the restoration, we are selling limited-edition commemorative pins and accepting donations! Purchase 1, 2 or all 3 of these commemorative pins! Free shipping! Great gifts for Oak Creek residents, fire fighters and their families, pin enthusiasts, history buffs, and anyone who wants to support the effort.

Silver = $10

Gold = $25

Red = $50

Set of all 3 = $75

Order pins or donate online at [oakcreeklions.com](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Foakcreeklions.com%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Ke0G3ok45hZZYHbQFFqHXAVWzisA8LNYG8bVq18U7ZTQd4iCtGMGFreI&h=AT0_GI7fJuKefKhTh8svxlhXepIjeCU5Zio2ItbuKPx-pRulc6KiiuEV7RChK_MPClHfBCc8YYA6v_xm1sl-oPW4A0V4hT2-72cZpJnJlhHGBg4_kVAO_IRv5Yxz1fXElRILdnsRsRon-VeMHzdy&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1FOcIAB_Q1uCcL5LxeEKz-7UO_U7xuj5zg3JxpmCTHfYZA6etTGjLp-i3zt2q46rnkwXFLZUByhobbTR2aPVz3wQk9VYSTbNIQG-uv7HIJDBzociJtoasNlIwz6a75Ybt_AD_grtVkkmimuznyzePuAPnSvGW_-wo9i_5177jhb1hrksqkpZRtgFOB-IeR8-AL_qm4nnsqaiA7vX9rr_9_kRIuwhqjR1tWXQ)! All proceeds will go towards the restoration of Engine 1801!

###

The Oak Creek Lions Club was chartered in 1958. We currently have 128 members dedicated to serving our community and those in need around the world. We also have operated the Oak Creek Lions Community Foundation, our nonprofit 501c3 organization, since 2010. Visit our website at <https://oakcreeklions.com> for more information.

Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit the website at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

###