

CANDLELIGHT INDUCTION CEREMONY

FELLOW LIONS AND GUESTS, WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE INDUCTION CEREMONY WHICH WILL WELCOME THESE/THIS NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE -----
----- LIONS CLUB.

THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT OCCASION FOR THIS/THESE NEW MEMBER (S). I WOULD ASK THAT THE SPONSOR PLEASE ESCORT HIM/HER AND THEIR SPOUSE TO THE FRONT.

LIONISM BEGAN IN 1917, BASED ON AN IDEA PROMOTED BY A CHICAGO INSURANCE AGENT NAMED MELVIN JONES. THE CONCEPT HE INTRODUCED WAS ONE OF SERVICE AS A GROUP, TO OUR FELLOW MAN WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICS, RELIGION OR RACE.

MEMBERSHIP IN A LIONS CLUB IS A PRIVILEGE AND I REMIND YOU THAT MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION ONLY. YOU SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO YOU. YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST ACTIVE SERVICE ORGANIZATION. WE ARE MEETING HERE TONIGHT AS PART OF THAT GREAT ORGANIZATION. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT FORGET THE SERVICES THAT WE DO.

THE LIONS COLOURS ARE PURPLE AND GOLD, AND ARE SYMBOLIZED BY THESE PURPLE AND GOLD CANDLES. THE PURPLE STANDS FOR LOYALTY TO COUNTRY, LOYALTY TO FRIENDS, AND LOYALTY TO YOURSELF. THE GOLD STANDS FOR SINCERITY OF PURPOSE, LIBERALITY OF JUDGEMENT, AND GENEROSITY OF MIND, HEART, AND PURSE TOWARDS OUR FELLOW MAN.

(LIGHT THE PURPLE AND GOLD CANDLES)
(GIVE EACH NEW LION A WHITE CANDLE) NOT LIT (ASK TO HAVE THE LIGHTS TURNED OUT)

FELLOW LIONS / GUESTS. THE DARKNESS WHICH SURROUNDS US IS SYMBOLIC OF BLINDNESS AND BLINDING EYE DISEASES AND OF THE DESPAIR WHICH FOLLOWS NATURAL DISASTERS AND INDIVIDUAL MISFORTUNE. THE LIGHTED CANDLES ARE SYMBOLIC OF THE HUMANITARIAN SERVICES OF OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO DISPEL DARKNESS.

THE THREE WHITE CANDLES REPRESENT FELLOWSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE.

(LIGHT CANDLE OF FELLOWSHIP)

AS WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF FELLOWSHIP WE ARE REMINDED THAT WHEN YOU

BECOME A LION, FELLOWSHIP BECOMES ONE OF THE GREAT REWARDS. YOU WILL ENJOY THE FRIENDSHIP AND COMPANIONSHIP OF OTHER VOLUNTEERS SUCH AS YOURSELF.

(LIGHT THE CANDLE OF LEADERSHIP)

THE CANDLE OF LEADERSHIP MEANS YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN LIONS WILL HELP YOU TO DEVELOP SKILLS WHICH WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT THIS LIONS CLUB, BUT WILL ALSO ASSIST YOU WITH ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS, PLANNING AND THE ABILITY TO MEET PEOPLE AND TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC. THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL COME TO YOU WHEN YOU BECOME A LION.

(LIGHT THE CANDLE OF SERVICE)

OUR MOTTO IS "WE SERVE" AND LAST BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST IS THE CANDLE OF SERVICE. WE ARE A GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN BANDED TOGETHER TO DO THINGS WHICH YOU AND I AS INDIVIDUALS CANNOT DO BY OURSELVES. YOU WILL SERVE THIS COMMUNITY, THIS NATION, AND THE WORLD. YOU WILL LEARN FROM YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S PROBLEMS, AND WILL LIGHTEN THEIR LOAD BY SHARING IT. YOU WILL BE WARMED BY THE THANKS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU SERVE. ABOVE ALL, YOU WILL FIND IN YOUR LIONS CLUB A WAY TO EXPRESS TO OTHERS THE GOOD WHICH IS IN YOUR HEART.

AS A GROUP, THESE CANDLES REPRESENT THE WORLD OF LIONISM. THEY GIVE OFF HEAT, AND THEY GIVE OFF LIGHT, SERVING AS A REMINDER OF THE GREAT BENEFITS YOU WILL RECEIVE WHEN YOU BECOME A LION.

NOW I ASK THE SPONSOR TO PASS THE LIGHT OF LIONISM ON TO THEIR NEW MEMBER.

(HAVE THE SPONSOR(S) TAKE THE NEW MEMBERS CANDLE, LIGHT IT FROM ONE OF THE CANDLES ON THE TABLE AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE NEW MEMBER)

I NOW ASK, DO YOU DESIRE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE -----
----- LIONS CLUB? IF SO, SAY "I DO:.. NOW PLEASE RESPOND WITH "I WILL".

WILL YOU ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE CLUB?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY AND SUPPORT THE CLUB IN ALL IT'S UNDERTAKINGS?

WILL YOU ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE MEMBERSHIPOF THE CLUB AND HELP THE CLUB BY SERVING ON COMMITTEES AND OTHER AREAS WHERE YOUR EFFORTS ARE NEEDED?

CONGRATULATION, YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER OF THE -----LIONS CLUB.

(HAVE SOMEONE TURN ON THE LIGHTS)

YOU MAY NOW BLOW OUT YOU CANDLE(S) EVERY SPONSOR HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE CLUB AND TO THE NEW MEMBER THEY SPONSOR. I WILL NOW ASK THE SPONSOR (S) TO ACCEPT THIS OBLIGATION. RESPOND > WITH “YES” OR I “I WILL”

WILL YOU AGREE TO SEE THAT THE NEW MEMBER IS AWARE OF THE DATE AND TIME OF ALL THE MEETINGS AND CLUB FUNCTIONS?

WILL YOU ARRANGE FOR HIM/HER TO ATTEND AN ORIENTATION SESSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

WILL YOU DO EVERYTHING TO ASSIST HIM/HER IN BECOMING A GOOD LION?

WOULD YOU (SPOUSE OR SPONSOR) NOW PLEASE PLACE THE LAPEL PIN ON OUR NEW LION. THIS ALWAYS GOES ON THE LEFT SIDE – OVER THE HEART. ON THE PIN YOU WILL NOTICE A LARGE GOLD “L” ON PURPLE BACKGROUND. THIS “L” IS SURROUNDED BY THE WORDS “LIONS INTERNATIONAL” WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF LIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. YOU WILL OBSERVE TWO LIONS FACES. ONE FACES WITH PRIDE TO THE PAST AND ALL THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN SERVING OTHERS. OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE IS THE LION LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND THE MANY GOALS WE HAVE YET TO ACHIEVE. WE ASK THAT YOU WEAR THIS PIN WITH PRIDE. LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE WORDS AS ----- READS THE VOICE OF THE LIONS PIN.

(HAVE SOMEONE READ THE VOICE OF THE LIONS PIN)

(GIVE THE LIONS KIT TO EACH NEW MEMBER)

YOU NOW HAVE YOUR LIONS KIT. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY AS SOON AS YOU GET THE CHANCE.

FELLOW LIONS, I WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO FORM A LINE AND WELCOME THIS NEW MEMBER INTO THE GREATEST OF ALL SERVICE ORGANIZATION – LIONS INTERNATIONAL.

VOICE OF THE LIONS PIN

- Don't overlook me Lions.
- I am the Lions pin.
- Right up in the front here. Put the spotlight on me because I'm proud to play a part in the lives of men and women who wear me as their symbol of service to the community.
- I've witnessed excitement, sadness and happiness. I've been with my wearers as the eyes of deceased Lions were removed for deposit in the Eye Bank. I was there, too, when I watched as the hungry were fed, the destitute were cared for.
- I've seen Guide Dogs instill in a blind person a new confidence as they move about their sightless world.
- I've heard the hearts of the disabled pounding with joy when Lions visit them. I've seen and heard the laughter of children in playgrounds, enjoying recreational activities and leadership provided by Lions.
- Yes, I've traveled all over the world and can recall thousands of incidents diverted from sadness into gladness because those who wear me make it so.
- I am symbol of service to the world.
- If I could really talk, I'd be too filled with emotional pride to say more than "thank you and may God bless and protect you."