

Candle Light New Member Induction Ceremony

Preliminary arrangements prior to the Ceremony:

1. Locate master switch for room lights
2. Find a person to run off/on lights for the ceremony
3. Birthday cake candles (1 per person at tables) & matches or lighters
4. Sponsors with new members
5. Large candles & lighters for new member(s) & sponsor(s)
6. Lions pin(s) to be presented to new member(s)
7. New member kits & certificates of membership for presentation to new member(s)
8. Sponsor(s) advised to light candle(s) when Melvin Jones name is read and when phrase "two small lights" is heard
9. Pocket flash light for reading script
10. Prior to starting the ceremony instruct those at the tables not to light candles until instructed to do so

Script to Be Read

Fellow Lions/guests, we are about to begin the induction ceremony which will welcome new members in the _____ Lions Club and Lions Clubs International. This is an important occasion for these new members and your/our club. _____, _____, _____. On behalf of the officers of Lions Club International, I express to you sincere pleasure & pride at your acceptance of the invitation to become members of this association. Since Lions International was founded, it has become the largest and most active service club organization for the world. We are also joined by thousands of ladies and youth in our Lioness and LEO Clubs who also further the cause of Lionism. The International Association of Lions Clubs as now constituted was conceived at a meeting in Chicago, IL on June 7, 1917. At their 8th convention in 1925, the Lions assembled were addressed by Helen Keller who was born sight and hearing impaired. She asked the Lions to take up the cause of the visually handicapped - to become "Knights of the Blind". This challenge was accepted and, to this day, working with the blind and seeing impaired has remained a major humanitarian service of the Lions around the world. Through the years other projects such as working with the hearing impaired, diabetes and drug awareness and others have been added. But, above all, it is the grass roots projects of all kinds at the local club level- to provide service to your community - that is the backbone of our organization.

What you as new Lions in _____ do for your community and Lionism will only be limited by your imagination and willingness to serve. Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with this club, I will now administer your obligation of membership. I ask that you respond to the words of oath with "I do".

_____, _____, _____, _____, do you accept membership in the Lions Club of knowing such affiliation obligates you to participate in as many club functions as possible? "I do" To the best of your ability, will you abide by the Lions Code of Ethics, attend meetings regularly, accept such assignments given to you and contribute your fair share to the programs of the club, district and Lions Clubs International. "I do"

~

Room Lights Off

The darkness that surrounds us signifies the world of blindness and the despair of the less fortunate who "We Serve" Because of the foresight of our founder Melvin Jones (sponsor lights candle), the light of Lionism was born and we are now able to get rid of that darkness. One small light, one tiny light - barely enough to give light to the area around it. (New Lions light candles). Lions _____, _____, _____, _____, & _____ please pass the light of Lionism to the new members. Two small lights, two tiny but warm lights so much like the light of Lionism in our heart. Lions and guests in the audience, would you please now light your candles.

One Lion, more Lions together, then all Lions united can dispel darkness and despair from our communities. One thousand small lights, hundreds, and thousands of little lights together light the way.

Lions of _____, Lions of the world, let us put together the small but warm light of Lions that burns in each and every one of us. Together these little lights can light up the world as warm and far reaching as the rays of the sun. May the burning candles we all hold symbolize our dedication to our motto "We Serve."

Room Lights On & Candles Extinguished

From this point forward you are Lions. We welcome you into our great service organization as fellow Lions. I would now ask your sponsor (spouse) to place the Lions pin on your lapel. Fellow Lions, wear the pin every day with pride. Let me congratulate you and welcome you in the greatest of all service organizations - Lions Clubs International. We now present you with your Certificate of Membership and new member kit. May I suggest as you start your life as a Lion, you have options:

(1) You can watch things happen, or (2) You can ask what happened, or (3) You can make things happen. The choice is yours to make.

As a final thought, I would like to read an excerpt from a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson: That man is a success who has filled a niche and accomplished his task, Who leaves the world better than he found it; Who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. In appreciation of these members obligating themselves to give of themselves to make the lives of others more rewarding. Let's rise and give our new lions (and their spouses) a genuine round of applause.

Unique induction ceremonies that touch the heart of a new member can only reinforce the commitment made to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate and respective communities.