

## ***PREAMBLE***

The Lions Induction Ceremony is intended to be a solemn affair. It should be conducted as soon as possible after the prospective member has been accepted for membership. Many Clubs will wait until the official visit of a District Officer – however if no visit is scheduled in the immediate future, a District Officer, the District Membership Chair, or a well-respected Past District Officer can certainly be invited to attend. This is entirely at the discretion of the Club.

There are a couple of Induction versions out there, and I do not wish to infer that one is better than another. One has the new member arrive blindfolded – referencing our work with the visually impaired. Another spends several minutes narrating our association with Helen Keller. Yet another details the proud history of our Association. I personally am more comfortable simply proceeding right into the induction, choosing to leave the other information for an Orientation session, some of which should have already been shared with the prospective member.

Most District Officers will choose to share the actual readings and candle lighting – usually assigning such duties to senior Club members and Past District Officers from that Club. Care should be taken to ask those Lions ahead of time – no one enjoys a “surprise” and not all members are relaxed reading in public. If this is the case, those Lions can serve a silent role, such as lighting a candle.

Ensure that all your “props” are available ahead of time. The new member’s certificate should be signed where required – and it should be presented in a frame!! A certificate in an envelope will STAY in that envelope, while a framed certificate may garner a place of honour. Remove all pins from cellophane or plastic wrapping – nothing destroys a ceremony faster than watching a presenter wrestle with the wrapping!

If you are using the candle ceremony, have a small covered table available, as well as matches, etc. The Member Certificate, pins, etc can be readily available on the table.

It is recommended that the induction take place early in the program, so the member may actually attend the balance of the evening as a “Lion”.

Governor Nancy has a nice practice – she asks the prospective member, and the sponsor, to read their respective oath. This certainly reinforces the fact that they are both undertaking a commitment. (Again, ensure both are comfortable reading).

The Lions Roar seems to be losing favour amongst our younger inductees. Likewise, all initiation pranks seem to be less popular. Remember, no one likes to be embarrassed in public – what may seem funny to a group of friends who have been meeting for years, may be awkward to a newcomer who may only know three or four people in the room.

Finally, although not actually a part of the “ceremony”, assign a mentor (in addition to the sponsor) and assign to a Committee – you worked hard to recruit the member, work just as hard to retain him/her!

## New Member Induction (Candle Ceremony)

(*Inducting Officer*)

Lions, we have a solemn but pleasant duty to perform here tonight. A cub whom you have chosen to serve with you *is* about to be admitted to your Club. As a member of your Club, *he/she* may claim your respect and esteem. It is important from the beginning that you should convey to *him/her* the dignity and honour of the Club and the seriousness of the relationship *he/she* is about to assume. To this end, let us be quiet and orderly as befits the nature of the ceremony now to be performed.

President (name), will you please call the new *Lion* and *his/her* sponsor forward.

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**Lion Cub** (**new member**), on behalf of the officers and members of the *Wasaga Beach* Lions Club, I welcome you. You have been invited to become a member and we are happy and proud that you have decided to accept membership in this Club and Lions International. You are about to join the world's largest and most active service club, with a membership of over 1.3 million members in over 200 countries worldwide.

Membership is an honour, but it entails an obligation. Our motto is "We Serve" and you will be expected to do your part in every club activity. You should study the Code of Ethics and the Purposes of our Association and make them a part of your life.

In 1917, Melvin Jones turned on a light and founded Lions. I would now ask (**chosen Lion**) to light the top candle for our founder and Lions International.

Lion \_\_\_\_\_ will you now acquaint the cub with the Code of Ethics.

Lion \_\_\_\_\_ will you now acquaint the cub with the Aims and Purposes of Lionism.

Lion \_\_\_\_\_ will you now acquaint the cub with the Colours and Emblem of Lionism.

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In 1920, the light from that first candle spread and a new club was formed in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Using the existing flame, I would now ask **Lion** \_\_\_\_\_ to light a purple candle on the right for Canada, the Country that made Lions truly International, and the beginning of over 45,000 clubs around the world.

Again using the central flame, I now ask Lion \_\_\_\_\_ to light a purple candle on the left for your Club, the *Wasaga Beach* Lions Club.

As we all know, it takes many candles to light the world so I now ask our new member and his sponsor to use the centre candle and light the remaining purple candles.

By choosing to join this Club, you have become a part of the “light of the world”. Every true Lion does something to light the life of those less fortunate. Their smiles of gratitude are catching; soon others around them are smiling. You will have brought light to someone and the whole world is brighter because you are one of over 1.3 million candles that shine over mankind.

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You will note there is still one candle left. This candle represents the prospective member that **you** are yet to invite.

Lion Cub (***new member***), in the presence of the members of the *Wasaga Beach* Lions Club, undertake this solemn obligation:

**To abide by** the constitution and By-laws of this Club and of Lions International

**To attend** meetings, as regularly as possible.

**To support** and further the interests of the Club in all its undertakings

**To contribute** a fair share toward the support of the Club, the District, and Lions International

**To assist** in maintaining, building, and strengthening the membership of the Club and help the Club by actively serving on Committees and in other capacities where your efforts are needed, and to practice the principals of the Code of Ethics and the Objects of Lions International.

Please say, "I so undertake".

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As your sponsor places upon your left lapel the Lions emblem which signifies membership in this great organization, I will now ask him/her to undertake the obligation of a sponsor:

Lion (*sponsor's name*), having sponsored Lion (*new member*), do you hereby agree to see that he/she regularly attends Club functions and becomes a good Lion. Please say "I so pledge".

To the entire membership, sponsorship of your newest Lion is a shared responsibility. To you also falls the responsibility of seeing that he/she is made to feel welcome. Ensure that he/she is assigned to a Committee as quickly as possible, and ensure that his/her opinions are taken seriously. Upon the completion of this Induction Ceremony, he/she is a **FULL** member of your Club and should be treated as such.

Lion (*new member*), wear the emblem constantly, and with pride. Let me congratulate and welcome you into the greatest of all service organizations - Lions International.

Club pin

Gov Pin

( *President or Membership Chair* )

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On behalf of the **(*Wasaga Beach*)** Lions Club, I now present you with this New Member's Kit. It contains your official Certificate of Membership and more material which will help you get off to a good start in your life as a Lion.

And now, from all the Lions in this room who are proud and happy to have you as a member of the *Wasaga Beach* Lions Club, how do we receive our newest member?

**Applause or Lions' Roar**

# **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL**

## **LIONS CODE OF ETHICS**

**Lion Cub \_\_\_\_\_, this is our Code of Ethics**

**TO SHOW MY FAITH IN THE WORTHINESS OF VOCATION, BY INDUSTRIOUS APPLICATION TO THE END, SO THAT I MAY INHERIT A REPUTATION FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE.**

**TO SEEK SUCCESS, AND DEMAND ALL FAIR REMUNERATION OR PROFIT, AS MY JUST DUE, BUT TO ACCEPT NO PROFIT OR SUCCESS AT THE PRICE OF MY OWN SELF-RESPECT, LOST BECAUSE OF UNFAIR ADVANTAGE TAKEN OR BECAUSE OF QUESTIONABLE ACTS ON MY PART.**

**TO REMEMBER THAT IN BUILDING UP MY BUSINESS, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TEAR DOWN ANOTHER'S; TO BE LOYAL TO MY CLIENTS AND CUSTOMERS AND TRUE TO MYSELF.**

**WHENEVER A DOUBT ARISES AS TO THE RIGHT OR ETHICS OF MY POSITION OR ACTION TOWARDS OTHERS, TO RESOLVE SUCH DOUBT AGAINST MYSELF.**

**TO HOLD FRIENDSHIP AS AN END AND NOT A MEANS; TO HOLD THAT TRUE FRIENDSHIP EXISTS NOT ON ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE PERFORMED BY ONE TO ANOTHER, BUT THAT TRUE FRIENDSHIP DEMANDS NOTHING BUT ACCEPTS SERVICE IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS GIVEN.**

**ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND MY OBLIGATIONS AS A CITIZEN TO MY COUNTRY, MY PROVINCE AND MY COMMUNITY AND TO GIVE THEM MY UNSWERVING LOYALTY IN WORD, ACT AND DEED; TO GIVE THEM FREELY OF MY TIME, LABOUR AND MEANS.**

**TO AID OTHERS IN GIVING MY SYMPATHY TO THOSE IN DISTRESS, MY AID TO THE WEAK, AND MY SUBSTANCE TO THE NEEDY.**

**TO BE CAREFUL WITH MY CRITICISM AND LIBERAL WITH MY PRAISE; TO BUILD UP AND NOT DESTROY.**

# **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL**

Lion Cub \_\_\_\_\_,

These are the Aims and Purposes of Lionism

To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world.

To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.

To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the Community.

To unite the Clubs in the bond of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided however that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by Club members.

To encourage service-minded people to serve their Community, without financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

# LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Lion Cub \_\_\_\_\_

These are the colours and emblems of Lionism

The colours of Lionism are purple and gold. To Lions, purple stands for loyalty to country, to friends and to one's self. Gold symbolizes purity in life, sincerity of purpose, liberty of judgment and generosity of mind, heart and purse towards his fellow man. To Lions, the combination of purple and gold symbolizes cooperation and education, enlightenment and recreation.

The emblem of Lionism is displayed on the lapel of all loyal lions. The lion, noble king of the forest, the ancient and traditional emblem of strength and glory, is the emblem of our Club. It is a double-headed lion, signifying that we, as Lions, look both to the past and to the future; remembering deeds of unselfishness in the past, while we pledge ourselves to loyal service to mankind in the future.

The word *LIONS* denotes the extent of our activity, history, and purpose. The letters denote Liberty, Intelligence and Our Nation's Safety.