

New Member Induction Ceremonies

The Induction Ceremony is the symbolic beginning to a member's service as a Lion. It is also a key element in the lifelong retention of a member. A thoughtful induction, followed by a thorough orientation and meaningful involvement in the club's activities will keep a new member interested and engaged in the club (or – alternate: will help the new member feel that he/she is a valuable part of the club.)

While it is customary for the club president to induct new members, it is certainly appropriate to have a former international or district officer, the Membership Committee chairperson or a well-respected senior Lion conduct the ceremony.

Induction Ceremonies will vary depending on local customs or activities of the club and district. *Also, it is acceptable and encouraged to adapt the New Member Induction Ceremony to the affiliate membership category.* When planning the ceremony, it is important to keep in mind that it should be dignified and meaningful for the participants.

Following are some ideas for creating an appropriate and meaningful Induction Ceremony, as well as suggested wording for the presentation.

Suggested Ceremony Order

1. Begin by inviting each new member and their sponsor individually by name to the front of the room.
2. Welcome all the participants to the ceremony and share your joy for their attendance.
3. Give a brief history of the distinguished history of Lions Clubs International.
4. Present a short history about your club and its current activities.
5. Administer the pledge.
6. Present the pin.
7. Close the ceremony with a welcoming statement on behalf of your club and district, the presentation of a new member kit and an explanation of the sponsor's responsibilities.

Suggested Presentation Wording

Following is suggested wording for the different facets of the Induction Ceremony as described in the Suggested Ceremony Order above. Feel free to change the wording as necessary to reflect local customs, add further information or reflect the presenter's communication style.

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1) Call to Order

We are about to begin our New Member Induction Ceremony, in which we will induct _____ new members into our club. At this time, I would like to call each of the new members and their sponsors. As their names are called, will the sponsors and new members please rise and come forward. Please hold your applause until all the names are announced. Thank you. *(Insert new member names and sponsor names.)*

2) Welcome

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the officers and members of the _____ Lions Club, I want to express our sincere pleasure at your presence at this meeting. You have been invited to become members and we are all extremely proud that you have accepted membership in our club and Lions Clubs International. Membership in a Lions club is a privilege. You have joined the world's largest and most active service club organization; a group of more than 1.3 million men and women in _____ clubs (*currently 45,000*) in _____ countries (*currently 202 countries*) and geographical areas around the globe, who are dedicated to making a difference. Through your membership, you will help our club reach out to people in need in our community, and throughout the world.

3) Lions Clubs International History

You are becoming part of a distinguished service history that dates back to 1917, when Lions Clubs International began as the dream of Chicago insurance man Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

Jones' own group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed. After contacting similar groups around the country, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states were in attendance. The convention began to define what the association was to become. A constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved.

Since that humble beginning, Lions club members have volunteered their time and talents to meet needs wherever they exist. Lions are especially dedicated to serving the blind and visually impaired, a commitment made after Helen Keller challenged our members to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the 1925 convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA.

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Our motto, "We Serve" perfectly exemplifies the dedication to helping those in need felt by Lions worldwide. Your membership in the _____ Lions Club will help us carry on this tradition of service for many years to come.

4) Local Club History

Our own club was founded in _____ (year). For _____ years we have been tirelessly serving those in need in _____ (your town). With projects ranging from _____ to _____, the _____ Lions Club is committed to bringing the unparalleled services of Lions Clubs International to our community. *(Add additional relevant information about your club and the exemplary work it has done within your community.)*

You will find that membership in our Lions club will offer many opportunities for personal growth. Not only can you experience the incomparable feeling you receive from volunteering, but you will also have the chance to hone leadership, communication and organizational skills. You can develop friendships that last a lifetime, meet other Lions from all corners of the world and contribute ideas that will help our club be an even more valuable part of our community.

Your membership in the _____ Lions Club will allow us to reach more people in need, in both our local and world communities. The officers and members of this club are thrilled that you have chosen to help us continue the legacy of Lions Clubs International by improving the lives of the less fortunate and making our community an even better place to live

5) Suggested Pledge 1

"Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with this club, and with Lions Clubs International, I now ask that you repeat after me the Obligation of Membership:

I do hereby accept membership in the _____ Lions Club knowing that such membership encourages me to participate in functions of the club. To the best of my ability I will abide by the Lions Code of Ethics, and contribute my share to the programs of my club, district and Lions Clubs International.

You are now officially a member of the _____ Lions Club. Your sponsor will now present to you the Lions emblem pin, which signifies membership."

Suggested Pledge 2

"Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with this club, and with Lions Clubs International, I now ask that you respond to my words with a simple 'I do' or 'I will.'

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Do you hereby accept membership in the _____ Lions Club knowing that you are encouraged to participate in functions of the club?

- I do -

To the best of your ability will you abide by the Lions Code of Ethics, attend meetings whenever possible and contribute your share to the programs of your club, district and Lions Clubs International?

- I will -

You are now officially a member of the _____ Lions Club. Your sponsor will now present to you the Lions emblem pin, which signifies membership.”

Suggested Pledge 3

“I, _____ in the presence of the members of the _____ Lions Club, take this solemn obligation to abide by the constitution and By Laws of the club and that of Lions Clubs International, to attend all meetings regularly, to support and further the interests of the club in all its undertakings, and to contribute my fair share towards the financial support of the club.

I further declare that I will assist in maintaining, building, and strengthening the membership of the club. Furthermore, I will help the club by actively serving on committees and in other capacities where my efforts are needed, and that, I will practice the principles of the Code of Ethics and the Purposes of Lions Clubs International.

By the power vested in me by Lions Clubs International I now declare you as having been inducted as a Lion in Lions Clubs International.

Congratulations!”

6) Pin Presentation

(Sponsor presents pin to new member.)

“Now, I would like to ask the sponsor, Lion _____ to respond to my words with a simple ‘I will.’

Will you fulfill the following obligations?

- · Be a sponsoring ‘mentor’ for your new lion;
- · Make your new member feel welcome;
- · Introduce your new member to all club members;
- · Provide your new member with information about the club, its officers and constitution;

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- · Arrange for orientation sessions for the new member;
- · Be ready and willing to answer any questions that might arise;
- · Encourage the new member to discuss with you any problems and offer possible solutions;
- · Assist the new member in developing into an outstanding Lion?"

- I will -

7) Closing Statement

"Fellow Lion _____ (*insert new member name*), wear this emblem with pride, for it represents your membership in the world's largest service club organization; an association that has a distinguished legacy of meeting needs worldwide.

Let me congratulate you and welcome you to the greatest of all service club organizations ... The International Association of Lions Clubs.

On behalf of the club, I now present you with your official Certificate of Membership and a New Member Kit, which will help you get off to a good start in your life as a Lion.

We are all extremely proud and happy to have you as a member of the _____ Lions Club."



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