

INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR ONE MAN

On January 13, 1879, Melvin Jones was born in Fort Thomas, Arizona and as a young man, made his home in Chicago, where he worked at an insurance firm. In 1913, he formed his own agency.

He soon joined a business club, a group of business minded people whose primary goal was promoting the financial interests of their own members.

Melvin Jones had a vision, a vision that all of the business clubs could work together for the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

On June 7th, 1917, he called twelve people together from nine business clubs and the outcome of that meeting would form the “Association of Lions Clubs”. A National Convention was called for October of the same year and twenty-two clubs were formed.

In 1920 the Association became International with the formation of the Windsor Lions Club.

Since then, we have embraced his vision with over 1.3 million Lions in over 200 countries and geographical areas today, to become the largest service organization in the world.

We are about to begin one of the most important occasions in Lionism, the induction of a new member, to welcome LI [REDACTED] into the fellowship of the [REDACTED] Lions Club.

Would President [REDACTED] please come forward.

Would Lion SI [REDACTED] please escort your prospective member forward.

Would Lions LP [REDACTED] and CE [REDACTED] please come forward.

LI [REDACTED], your sponsor presented your name to the Membership Committee, the Committee recommended you, and the Board of Directors approved you. All of us believe that you will be a great Lion and that your membership will be beneficial to this club and Lions Clubs International.

You have seen how Lions Clubs serve their communities and their neighbours who are less fortunate than ourselves. This great humanitarian work would not be possible unless people were willing to give freely of their time and effort to the cause of service to the community.

The colors purple and gold were selected as the official colors of the Association in 1917.

Purple represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart. It is the color of strength, courage and dedication to a cause. LI [REDACTED], please light the purple candle.

Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and purse toward mankind. SI [REDACTED], please light the gold candle.

We use the white candle to symbolize Lions Clubs International because it represents truth. President [REDACTED], please light the white candle.

Lion LO [REDACTED], please read the Lions International Purposes.

Lion CE [REDACTED], please read the Lions Code Of Ethics.

The emblem on the Lions pin and on the banner (*point to banner*) consists of a gold letter “L” on a circular purple field. The Letter “L” stands for LAW - LIBERTY - LABOUR - LOYALTY - LOVE - LIFE - LIONS. Bordering this is a circular gold area with Lions profiles at each side facing away from the center. One Lion looks back at the proud history of Lions as an international service organization and at the role this club has played in this community and the international family of Lions. The other Lion looks ahead to the challenges we face in both our own community and the international community and to the role the new members will play in this international service organization called Lions. We have LIONS at the top and INTERNATIONAL at the bottom. Lions stands for LEADERSHIP, INTELLIGENCE, OUR, NATIONS, SAFETY.

I would now ask the sponsor to respond to my words with a simple “I will”.

Will you fulfill the following obligations to the new members?

- make him feel welcome by introducing him to all club members
- provide him with information about the club, its officers and constitution
- see to it that he is provided assignments that will enable him to immediately become an active Lion
- arrange for orientation sessions on Lionism
- be ready to answer any questions he might have on the operation of the club, as well as on any other subject of Lionism
- encourage him to let you know of any existing problems and offer possible solutions
- assist him in developing into an outstanding Lion

Lion LI [REDACTED], wear that emblem constantly, with pride. Let me congratulate you and welcome you into the greatest of all service organizations. On behalf of the club, I now ask that President [REDACTED] present you with your official certificate of membership and New Member Kit, which will help you get off to a good start in your life as a Lion.

We are all proud to have you as a member and as your first task, I ask that you blow out the candles.

Fellow Lions, how do we welcome our new member?

Will all Lions please rise and come forward to welcome Lion LI [REDACTED] into the Lions family.