

Lions Memorial Service Procedures

(Note: *This is a guide and may be adapted or revised as needed*)

Thanks to Lion Mike Hull of District 25-A, and PDG Tom Slattery for their contributions.

1. Paraphernalia:
 - Gong and Gavel
 - Five (5) white carnations
 - Podium
 - American Flag
 - Club Banner
 - (Club Friendship Banner if available)

2. Participants:
 - One Lion to conduct the memorial service
 - Five Lions to carry and present the carnations
 - One Lion to ring the gong (Back of the Room—Softly)
 - Remaining Lion members in attendance

3. Purpose:

Remember, this is a memorial service to honor a Lion member who has served his or her Community, District, State and International Organization. All attention should be focused on the deceased's service and should be done so with the utmost respect and decorum.

4. Attire:

Lions vests are always appropriate (if the club uses or has them) especially for the five Lions carrying the flowers. In lieu of Lions vests, suit or sport coats with tie is appropriate.

5. Procedure:

At least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the service, meet with all the participants and review the service so everyone will be familiar with its content and timing. The Lions conducting the service should have the podium at the front of the room to one side of the casket. The American Flag should be on one side of the casket and the Lions Banner on the other. (Preferably next to the podium but not hidden by it.) If the room permits, the five flower carriers should line up next to the American Flag. If room is not available, the side aisle close to the front will do. At the appropriate time in the service, as the presenter spells out LIONS and tells what the flowers represent, the Lions carrying the flowers should present them to the deceased's spouse one at a time. All other club members should stand and fill the aisles along the walls of the room. The gong and gavel should be in the rear of the room with a Lion assigned to ring it one time after the roll has been called. The gong should be struck firmly and the sound allowed to fade out entirely. (If available) The Lions friendship banner should be presented to the spouse at the end of the service.

Memorial Service

Honoring a Lions Club International Member

The family of Lion _____ thank you for attending this memorial service.

Brothers and sisters in Lionism, members of the family, and friends of Lion _____ . We have gathered here this afternoon/evening to honor the memory of one who has known the joy and satisfaction of serving honorably in his/her community through his/her faithful involvement in the _____ Lions Club. We come together, not because he/she was Lion, but rather because as a Lion _____ made a difference in this community, in this nation and in this world.

We have come together as brother and sister Lions who have shared with Lion _____ , both the ecstasy and the struggle of living a life in a manner which best represent the Lions International objectives. **Objectives** which Lion _____ believe in and lived out each day of his/her life. They are as follows:

To create and foster a spirit of “generous consideration” among the peoples Of the world through a study of problems of International relationship.

To promote the theory and practice of principles of good government and good citizenship.

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

To unite members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest, partisan politics and sectarian religion alone excepted.

To encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standard in business and the professions, provided that no club shall hold out as one of its objects, financial benefit to its members.

Yet, even the objectives of Lions Clubs International, even they, are subject to a broad range of scrutiny if not given the firm foundation of a Code of Ethics by which daily and yearly decisions can, and will be made. Lion _____ has shown exemplary discipline and character throughout his/her entire life by trusting in and sharing with others, the **Lions Code of Ethics**:

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and to demand a 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 or 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 doubts 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 obligation as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

TO AID my fellow men by 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.

Understanding then, Lion _____ spent much of his/her life dedicated to such a high standard of Lions Club Ethics and always persevered in the struggle to achieve the high goals of Lions Clubs International objective, we the Lions of California and District 4-L6 of Lions Clubs International, dedicate and place in memory this our official banner. (Refer to the Club's Banner)

The Lions Clubs International banner design has the letter "L" in the center between the profiles of two Lions, one looking back over the accomplishments of the past and one looking forward, confident in the future. The letter "L" on the emblem stands for Lions but it symbolizes sincerity of purpose, purity of life, liberality in judgment and generosity of character. The purple background of its setting stand for loyalty to country, family and friends as well as to one's self in seeking to maintain integrity in mind, heart and will. The word **LIONS** at the top not only identifies us but its letters also stand for our slogan: **Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety**. The word "International" at the bottom completes the circle signifying the bond of fellowship enjoyed and nurtured on six continents. Thus, the entire emblem is shaped on a circle which represents our unity.

The unity of nature, the unity of all people, found in Lion _____, A true friend and advocate. His/Her strength, character, and reliability have endeared him/her to all of us here today and to all Lions around the world. In grateful tribute for all that he/she believed in, for all that he/she worked for, for all that he/she gave to you and me we present these flowers/candles.

(All of the flower/candle are presented to the surviving spouse or family members.) Presenters, present flowers/candles only when called to do so.

The **first** flower/candle stands for the letter "L" which is loyalty to country, community, and home.

The **second** flower/candle stand for the letter "I" which is Individual Integrity in thought, work and deed.

The **third** flower/candle stands for the letter "O" which is Our Flag and Our Language.

The *fourth* flower/candle stands for the letter “N” which is New Ideals, New Hopes, New Ambitions in business and professions.

The *fifth* flower/candle stands for the letter “S” which is Service that is found in the Golden Rule.

Lion _____ gave the most that any Lion can ever hope to give his or her community, to their nation, or to the world. Lion _____ gave him/her self. For that gift, we will be eternally grateful.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, strong in your Love and tender in your mercy, we give You thanks for the life of our fellow Lion.

We give You thanks for the life of dedicated service that he/she lived, for the ethics followed, and for the objectives pursued and achieved.

We pray the example set by Lion _____ in his/her lifetime will serve to inspire and strengthen Lion members this day and in the future.

And we pray, even as Lion _____ believed, that in all things Your name be glorified, for we find our beginning and end in You, on God forever more. Amen.

And now, let us pronounce the Roll Call.

Lion _____

(And the bell rings once.)

Our service is now concluded. *(Members file past the casket)*

(This is a suggested service which can be amended)