

FUNCTIONS & DUTIES OF THE “TAILTWISTER”

Extremely difficult to put into print the results a lively Tail Twister can have with stunts and activities during your regular club meetings, as well as “Ladies Nights.” In many instances, the success, or failure of a meeting may “hinge” directly on the lively imagination of a good “Tail Twister.”

LIONS INTERNATIONAL SAYS:

“THE TAIL TWISTER” – The Tail Twister is an officer and the ‘pep master’ of his Lions Club. His duties are to instill enthusiasm and good fellowship in the meetings, and to keep harmony. He is empowered to impose, as well as collect, fines from the members. There shall be no appeal from his decision in imposing a fine, and he may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of the members present.

The GOOD “Tail Twister” keeps an ALERT EYE on the HEAD TABLE during the entire program and AVOIDS LETTING HIS ACTIVITIES INTERFERE AT ANY TIME WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM!

If you have not already received from your President your duties as outlined by Lions International in the President’s book, “Lion President, This is Your Year ----- ASK HIM FOR THEM!

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WAYS TO PEP UP MEETINGS

LOUDER & FUNNER – Announce one week in advance that a prize will be given to the member who wears the loudest tie and give him a novelty tie for the prize. This stunt helps attendance and goes over big!

SALUTE THE FLAG – Most clubs use the Pledge of Allegiance as part of their program. Have Tail Twister pass around and ask each member who wrote it and when. In my local club, no one knew the answer, not even the school principal. Francis Bellamy wrote it in August 1892, in Rome, New York for a public school celebration. Fine those who fail.

NEWS OF THE DAY – President appoints a different member each week to stand and ask another member of his selection two questions pertaining to the news of the day. If he answers both questions, the member asking pays a fine of 50 cents or less. If he can’t answer, then he pays the fine. Trick is for the first member to try and pick the right party.

MY PART IN THE WORLD SCHEME – call a few members at random each meeting to stand and give their birthday, birthplace, name, where educated, and business or profession. Then ask him, “Do you think your presence in this town is a good thing for the community; and if so why? Real informative and gets real funny at times!

CAN YOU SPELL? – Invite 4 or 5 school children about 11 to 12 years of age and put them in a spelling bee with members. It is fun and the members seldom win. Are they kidded!

OFF WITH HIS SHIRT – Get a member to argue with the Tail Twister. When the argument gets good and hot, the member grabs the Tail Twister’s shirt by the collar and yanks it off without removing his coat! Here’s How – have Tail Twister put on his shirt before the meeting with just the top button at collar buttoned and not put his arms in the sleeves, letting the rest of the shirt hang down hi back. When the coat is buttoned, this isn’t noticed. When the argument gets real hot, remove the tie, (a little struggle helps pull it over) then unbutton the top button at the collar, reach over his head, grab shirt by collar, and yank it out. If it looks like a genuine argument, it’s terrific!

KANGAROO COURT – Appoint a lawyer and prosecutor and try different members for the following: A
strictly cash man for giving credit, for having no visible means of support; a Jew for eating pork;
a member

for trifling with the waitresses' affections; any other ideas that will conform with your members and be a local interest. The more dramatic and comedy effects, the better. Trump up any charge that is funny. Lots of fun if put on properly.

LIONS INITIATION – After a new member has been inducted into the club, have your stuntman give him an invitation. Say that the main purpose of Lions Clubs is to help the blind. Most people take the blind for granted and have no idea what blind people really go through. So, to impress him with the seriousness of the blind projects that the club puts on, this initiation has been evolved so that he will, when he finds out how serious blindness is, be willing to help 100% on all blind activities. Place a dozen raw eggs around on the floor. Let him take a look and then put the blindfold on him. While he is being blindfolded, someone removes the eggs and puts soda crackers in their place. Now he has to walk over the area where the eggs were and is cautioned not to step on them. Of course, when he steps on a cracker, it sounds like an egg breaking! Now, after he is across, take off the blindfold and show him what has happened. For a variation, place chairs, milk bottles, kegs, etc., around instead of the eggs. Or use eggs too, if you like. He will lift his feet very high in the air in a funny manner while crossing the room. Again, show him what has happened. Of course, you remove the chairs while he is being blindfolded. This stunt serves two purposes – it impresses the seriousness of blindness and, also, creates a lot of fun for the members. Use it on every new Lion.

TIT FOR TAT – Arrange with a neighboring club to exchange meetings. The other club comes to your meeting and their entire staff of officers takes over and run the meeting in their own way. The other club does everything such as bringing their own speaker, stunt man, song leader, etc. When your club visits them, your officers take over in a similar manner. This gives two wonderful meetings as each club tries to out do the other! Be sure to use this!

MYSTIC TRIANGLE – When a member of the club becomes a proud father he is immediately made a member of the Mystic Triangle Club. Lapel button is a large 6 or 8 inch blanket safety pin (available at harness shops). He must wear this pin to the meetings for a period of time set by the club. Four weeks is a good period. If he comes without the pin, he is fined 50 cents, or \$1.00. Call on him to get up and give his advice on the caring of infants. You ask them the meeting before so as to give them time to prepare. A member who has a large family can give the talk instead, if you like. Give it to him as advice. This can be very funny! Once a month, or so, have all the members of the Mystic Triangle Club sit at a special table and dress them up with bibs and give them baby food to eat. The nursing bottle is good! You can do it with only one member, if you like. The entire club salutes them by standing and singing the Didee Song, which is done by using the words “Di-dee-di-dee, etc., to the tune of Rock-a by-Baby. A little effort with this stunt and you’ll have the members in stitches.

FLUXE – When a member’s birthday falls during the week, serve him a special meal at the meeting. Tell him he is getting Turkey Dinner for his birthday. The waitress brings a covered plate and puts it in front of him. It is made up of scratch feed, gravel, etc., truly a turkey dinner. It would be nice to give him a present and have the members stand and sing, “Happy Birthday.”

LIMERICKS – Pass out paper and pencils before dinner, and announce that everyone is to compose limericks. Read the following examples and then start them on their own. They have until after dinner to finish. Winner is one who writes best limerick as judged by the Vice-Presidents. Winner gets a free meal. A free meal is each week is a good idea to promote attendance.

Example: The Tail Twister sure is a rat, he watches us just like
 a cat, He fines for money, but it's not very funny,

Cause our pockets get empty & flat!

Our Secretary works all alone,
With typewriter, ledger, and phone.
He duns us for dues, till we all get the
blues; He's working his head to the
bone!

WELCOME FRIENDS – When the guests are being introduced, be sure to do it in this manner: ‘and now, we have a guest from New York City, Howard Jones.’ All members shout, ‘Hi, Howard!’ Be sure to mention their names last in the introduction.

SPELLING FOR THE DOUGH – Sell sheets of paper and pencil as an entry fee for 25 to 50 cents. Each writes their name at top of sheet. Now read following list and have members spell out on their paper: Recommend, Accommodate, Vilify, Innuendo, Inoculate, Desiccate, Piccalilli, Supersede, Repellent, Embarrass, Harass, Diminutive, Separate, Picnicking, Irascible, Rhythm, Chinquapin, Rarefy. They’re not easy! After list is read, they exchange paper and correct as you give correct spelling. An erasure counts as a mistake. Each word correctly spelled counts 10 points. One with highest score wins one-half entry fee money while rest goes in the kitty. It’s fun!

DEAF & DUMB - After dessert, have members be entirely silent for 5 minutes. They can use signs, make notes, or express themselves anyway silently. No talking, not even to the waiter. Blow whistle to start and stop the period. Fine those who break the silence.

GOOD OLD DAYS - Call on Past Presidents to tell the most important thing that happened while they were in office. Vary by asking most amusing thing. Lots of fun and good for club. Makes old veterans work harder!

HONOR THE VETERANS – Place members who have been Lions for 10 - 15- 20 years at the head table. Have them give a short talk, sing a song, or tell a story. This is appreciated, as they feel they are looked up to, as they should be.

TELEGRAPH BLUES – Write a telegram to President as follows: “I am staging a colossal performance of Carmen at Madison Square Garden. Ask (name of your biggest talker) if he can come to New York. We need someone to shoot the bull. Signed, Oscar Hammerstein.”

Have President or Secretary read telegram while member is in the room. Try and see if you can have a local Western Union Boy deliver it while meeting is in progress. If you can't do this, get telegraph blank and type it yourself. It’s a good gag, if you have a member who likes to talk and what club hasn’t?

HE CAN'T SAY NO – when raising funds, make a big appeal to the emotions. Wire up chair with spark coil and battery – get a member who is somewhat careful of his money in the wired chair. When the appeal is delivered say that anyone who is willing to give \$500, please stand. Turn on the juice and your stooge will surely stand. Everyone is told beforehand about it, but him, and all congratulate him and do not give him a chance to explain. FUNNY!

JOHNNY COME LATELY – when member comes late, place in high chair, put dunce cap on head. He stays there until another late comer arrives who takes his place. Continue to impose fines as you like. It keeps them coming on time.

EAT & FIGHT – Have a member complain about the meal he is served. He says he is tired of eating such slop, junk, etc. He heads for the kitchen and there is a rumpus with lots of noise. He comes back in the room with a bandage on his head followed by the chef with a cleaver or butcher knife.

BALLOON BUSTER – Blow up 2 sets of 15 balloons and tie each one to a 12” piece of string. Tie 15 of these balloons to a 4’ piece of rope. Do the same with the other 15 balloons. Tie these ropes with the 15 balloons around the bodies of 2 members. Keep it under their arms and then give them lighted cigarettes and they have to break the other’s balloons with their lighted

cigarettes while protecting their own. The one whose balloons are all burst first loses. Give prize to winner. Caution them to protect their own balloon while breaking their opponents. Keep lighted cigarettes ready in case they drop their own.

GOON SQUAD – Pre-arrange with a small member of your club to have his pockets full of pennies. He will refuse to pay his fine. Arrange for 2 large members of your club, known as the **GOOD SQUAD**, upon whom you can call when a member refuses to pay his fine. They turn him upside down and shake all the pennies out on the floor, as a warning to other slow payers that they had **BETTER PAY UP OR ELSE!**

NECKTIE CLIPPING – This one should definitely be pre-arranged with a member to wear an old necktie and upon his refusal to pay his fine, the Tail Twister takes out a pair of scissors and in a simulated struggle, the Tail Twister cuts off the offending Lions' necktie.

SUGGESTION – occasionally, if a member is clever enough to out-smart you, and in doing so, provides laughter and entertainment for the other members of the club, pay him a dime out of the Tail Twister's Fine Pot!

A GOOD TAIL TWISTER KNOWS when to stop & not push his luck too far!

SMELLOVISION - Tail Twister gets 5 small bottles, fills them with cotton & puts some of the following in them: Whiskey, Clorox, Ammonia, Vanilla, Kerosene, perfume, sour milk, vinegar, Pine Oil, smelling salts, rubbing alcohol, Peppermint, Witch Hazel, Camphor, etc. Each member selects a bottle, takes a whiff and tries to tell the odor. Have them numbered for identification. If he fails, fine him!

BACKWARD SINGING – get a quartette to sing a song. Announce that by practicing several months they have been able to sing the songs backwards. All are cautioned to keep quiet so they can concentrate. They turn their backs and sing as before. Corny but funny, it says here!

BUGHOUSE BAND – get 4 kazoos, either ordinary or the kind shaped like instruments, and get members to play them. Use small toy washboard and 3 metal thimbles for rhythm. All they do is hum. This is well liked.

BATTLE ROYAL – Fasten 4 soda crackers to hankies with scotch tape and tie on the heads of 6 members. Give each a folded newspaper and turn 'em loose. One keeping crackers in tact longest wins. They really go wild! Have broom handy to clean up mess. Better try this as they like this!

GAG BUSTERS – Tell several members a week in advance they will be called on to get up and tell a joke. This gives them a chance to prepare. If they don't have a joke ready, they are fined. Use 5 or 6 a meeting. This is a help to attendance. Warn them to keep the jokes clean.

CONFUSION PLUS – President introduces speaker of the evening and announces his subject. Program Chair rises and says it his job to get the speaker and he has one present who he introduces and announces his subject! An argument ensues, after which the Program Chair says that if this is the way the club is going to be run, he resigns. President begs him not to do that, saying he is a wonderful chair and that the club needs him. They finally decide to let both speakers talk 5 minutes. Secretary now rises and says they haven't the time for both speakers. So, it is decided they will both talk at the same time. They do this! It is very confusing and funny, if they have different subjects of opposite nature. Of course, all is cooked up beforehand by the persons involved.

BOXING MATCH – This stunt requires several weeks to work up to a fever pitch. Have two members who are in the stunt start an argument to begin the preparation. After they argue for awhile, the one invites the other out in the alley to fight. The President rises and says that Lions do not act like kids. If they want to settle this dispute, why not do it in a sportsman like fashion and come to the meeting 2 weeks hence and settle it with boxing gloves! From now on it is just build up! Put in the Bulletin and announce it at the meetings. The next meeting

ask them if they want to give up the idea, and they both say “NO”! At final meeting, appoint seconds, time keeper, referee, etc. They are told the rules by the referee and the gloves are put on. (Get a real referee if possible.) When they are ready to fight, have your assistant bring in 2 orange crates that have been all knocked down. Give them the boards, nails, and hammer. The first to assemble the crate by nailing it back together with the gloves on wins! It is a riot to see them trying to pick up the nails with boxing gloves on! It can be done, though. All nails must be used, and the referee is the one who announces the winner. If worked right, this fools the whole club and is a real attendance promoter. I’ve seen them place bets on who will win!

POKER DERBY – Get 2 decks of cards – one red, one blue. Have your best auctioneer take blue deck and auction it off. First, one card at a time, then in pairs, trios, and hands of five. Get as much as possible out of the cards! DO NOT TELL members what you are going to do and say that someone is going to win something very nice; in fact, 6 are going to win! After auction, divide the money in half. One
–half will be divided into 6 parts – 3 big prizes and 3 small prizes.

The other deck is now shuffled and 3 cards drawn and placed face down on table. Shuffle again and draw 3 more and place under the first 3. Turn up first card in top row for 1st prize, 2nd card for 2nd prize, etc. The 3 bottom cards are the consolation prize, which is divided in three parts of 10 cents, 5 cents and 2 cents. Be sure to make the first prizes attractive! This can, also, be repeated at other meetings to raise funds for different things. It goes better the second time, as they know just what is coming! They really go for it! It's fun and it raises money!

THE WELCOME MAT – when visitors visit your club, have them stand while the members sing them the following:

How do you do, visiting
friend, How do you do?
We're glad to see you
here
We welcome
you!
For we're at your beck and
call
And we're glad to see you
all
How do you doodle, doodle,
doodle, Doodle, doodle, do!

You can insert any other words that fit the situation instead of visiting friends. As soon as the singing is over, the President rises and says, "Yes, friends, we really do welcome you to our club. We hope you can come again. While you are in town, just remember that all the Lions are your friends. Don't fail to call on any one of us if we can help in any way. For example – if you run short of cash, just walk up to any Lion, stretch out your hand (President gestures by stretching out hand) and say, "Will you let me have \$5?" He will immediately put his hand in his pocket (again gesture) and go. The whole club gives a rousing Bronx cheer, or raspberry. It all ends with a good laugh and puts the guest at ease.

LION TAIL TWISTER, HAVE A GOOD TIME THIS YEAR PROMOTING GOOD, CLEAN FELLOWSHIP AT YOUR CLUB MEETINGS!