

DISTRICT 24 -C LIONS MEMORIAL SERVICE



PDG Roy Rotenberry, Chairman
District 24-C Memorial Committee
January 25, 2003

Lions Memorial Service

In Remembrance of A deceased Lion, Lioness or Leo

Purpose

The definition for the word Memorial -- "to preserve remembrance."

The Purpose of this Memorial Service is to preserve the memory of a deceased member of this, the world's largest service organization, this membership is indeed a badge of honor. The virtues of that service to mankind are certainly praiseworthy and deserve the widest possible recognition. It is fitting and proper that the death of a member be commemorated by his/her Club, with an appropriate service of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, for the life of that member.

Preparation

Club members should be aware that as soon as the death of a member is known, the club president should be contacted immediately. The president should then contact the family and seek permission for the club to conduct a Lions Memorial Service. The nature and purpose of the service should be explained as well as the three basic options. (information on these options follow, later in this manual) If the family concurs and expresses an option preference, the president should proceed to work out arrangements according to the option desired by the family. The District Memorial Chairman will help make the plans and help with the service, if needed.

Funeral Home Option

If the family want the Memorial Service to be held at the funeral home, time and procedural details should be worked out with the funeral director. Usually the service will be held the evening before the burial, (one half hour prior to the start of family night is a good time, this also allows the funeral director to reserve seats for the Lions). insofar as possible the time of the service should be set so as to permit working members to attend (many time members can not take time off to attend the funeral service during the day).

Church Option

Always get permission of the pastor or other official in charge, to hold a Lions Memorial Service in a church. If permission is granted and a date and time are set, be sure to ascertain the applicable customs and procedures of a particular church and observe them during the memorial service.

Club Meeting Option

Insofar as possible, the memorial service should be the program for the next regular meeting, following burial (if the club option is selected by the family), some clubs hold a special memorial service at their charter night. In either case the club members should be all notified that a Memorial Service will be held (also see "The Next Step", which follows). The family of the deceased member should be invited as well as the members of other clubs. Proper attention to arrangements can make this an unforgettable meeting.

The Next Step

Assuming that all arrangements have been completed regarding date, time, place, etc., the word should go out to the public as quickly as possible. Obituary news releases should go out in every instance (see sample of the first "Lions Memorial Service" held in District 24-C). Notify the District Governor and determine the Governor's wishes regarding his part, if any, in the memorial service, Other Clubs in the area should be notified and invited to attend and, insofar as possible participate in the service. When a District Cabinet Member dies, a E-Mail chain should be activated to get the words out to all cabinet members.

Sample News Release

Einhorn, Frances
The Winchester Lioness Club
is deeply saddened by the death
of Francis Einhorn. The Members
will join in memorial service at 7:00 pm
on Monday, April 16 at the Ponds Funeral
Home, 115 Elm Street, Winchester

Betty Kline, President

(4)

Suggested Procedures for Conducting a Memorial Service

- * Put your "best foot forward" as the appearance, the entry and exit procedures and attitude during the service can go far in creating a favorable public reaction.
- * Prior to the time of the service, the club banner and the American flag should be placed behind the casket.
- * Participating members should gather, fifteen minutes before the service, in an outer room, where you will receive instructions from the presiding Lion.
- * At the established time you will form two columns and proceed into the room where the service will be conducted, this procession will be led by the presiding Lion, District Governor and others that have a part in the service, each pair will pause in front of and facing the casket, as you pause, you may offer your silent prayer or good-bye, you will then proceed to your seat and be replaced by two more participants. After all have paused and are seated the service will start.
- * If no seats have been reserved, the participants can form a semi-circle, with the casket in the middle of the semi-circle, and remain standing during the service.
- * At the conclusion of the service, the participating members will leave the room in a procession, as they came in.

A memorial service held at the next regular meeting, after burial, The President and the presiding Lion would be seated in the center of the head table, the same procedure used at the church or funeral home can be effective, as the procession enters the room the president and presiding Lion would rise, with the members forming on each side and remaining standing throughout the service and they would face the presiding Lion. It is understood that family members would be invited to attend.

Following is a sample Service

Gender

Feminine nouns and pronouns are directly interchangeable with the masculine words used herein.

Changes/Additions

Appropriate change and additions may be made by the local club as may be fitting for a particular situation.

Each Club and each Lions Memorial Service is unique and the service should be prepared with the Club, deceased Lions/Lioness or Leo in mind

Carnation/ Vase Most of the time I purchase a long stem white carnation and present at the end of the service to a member of the family.

Candle: I like to provide a single candle in a candle holder. The candle is lit prior to the service and extinguished at the conclusion.

Sample Memorial Service

Friends and family of Lion _____, we are members of the world-wide organization known as The International Association of Lions Clubs. We have gathered here in remembrance and to pay homage to a departed brother Lion. We are here to mourn with you the death of Lion _____

and we are here to offer praise and thanksgiving for his life and service in Lionism.

With you the family and friends of Lion _____, we share the grief of parting that bears so heavily on all who knew him. He will be sorely missed. Yet even as we feel this pain of parting, we have the comfort and consolation of happy memories of life and work with him. He shared with us the unselfish service to his god, his community and to mankind, all are the mark of Lionism.

Through this far-reaching humanitarian service, he has helped prevent blindness, he helped the blind to see, the deaf to hear. He helped to promote the spirit of friendship and understanding among the people of the world. He helped build much needed recreational services, helped fight the evils of drug abuse, helped provide medical research and health services and he helped other volunteer organizations to better served our community and the larger world around us. In these and many other ways, Lion _____ helped make the world a better place to live. In these and many other ways he has been an instrument whereby many people, especially those less fortunate than us, live a better, fuller and more useful lives.

Now may we share with you.....(here may be read one or more passages from the bible, a inspirational poem, a quotation, a personal recollection by a friend, or a combination of these, as may be appropriate).

In giving of his time, talent and money in the service of Lionism Lion _____ was obedient to the will and inspiration of God. Accordingly it is fitting and proper that we conclude this service by offering to God our prayers for our brother, for his service, his fellowship, friendship, his family and for those that are left behind. (a copy of the Lions Prayer is included in this manual)

We ask thy comforting blessing on all who mourn his departure from our midst, especially his family, Grant to all of us the courage and strength to carry on the goodly work started by our departed brother. May we live and work in thankful remembrance of his life and what it has meant to us,

Suggested Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 25: 6-9, Isaiah 61: 1-3

Lamentations 3: 22-26, 31-33

Psalms 23:, 27:, 46:, 90:, 106:, or 116:

New Testament

John 5: 24-27, John 6: 37-40, John 10: 11-16

John 14: 1-6, Revelation 7: 9-17, Revelation 21:
2-7

When appropriate, a short inspirational poem, a pertinent quotation may be read.

A short personal eulogy, by a friend may be added.

Caution

We should always remember that ours is a special memorial service to honor a deceased Lion, Lioness or Leo and extol the virtues of their service in Lionism. Therefore we should not attempt to imitate a formal funeral service nor the service of other organizations. We should not have long drawn out speeches or eulogies, nor quote a lot of poetry that does not directly enhance the purpose of our service.

Lions Prayer

O' Lord, We Humble ourselves in thy Presence,
To ask that you bestow your blessings upon our Lion Brother;"

Who stand before you, his worldly trials completed, Awaiting divine judgment.

Our brother shared fully and well in the service of their Nation, His Community, and his fellow man, upholding the worthy principles of Lions International.

He has joined us, in spirit and deed, giving meaning and substance to the principles upon which Lions International was founded,-----and the challenge and dedication embodied in the words : WE SERVE
We commend the spirit of our brother, O' Lord, to thy care, with the prayers on our lips that, in thy compassion and mercy, you may guide others to follow his example in helping to bring to those less fortunate than we;

Light where there is

D A R K N E S S

Food where there is

H U N G E R

Hope where there is

D E S P A I R

In our effort to serve, those that remain ask help and guidance in carrying forth the works of mercy and charity; which has been so ably and willingly preformed by Lion _____ , who has been called to his eternal reward.

In thy mercy, O' Lord, we ask thee to comfort and strengthen the families and friends of our Lion brother _____ in this hour of sorrow.

Amen

Credits

This memorial service is a direct result of action taken by District Governor David C. Crawford III (1990-91) to establish a Memorial Program for the Lions and Lionesses of District 24-C.

A remembrance service for Lion Clyde K. Warren, Alexandria Host Lions Club, presided by Lion Harold Payne and attended by 90 Lions, March 13, 1972, evolved into a District 24-A Memorial Service, in attendance that day was District Governor Roy R. Rotenberry.

We gratefully acknowledge the work of Lion Harold Payne, PDG Joseph S. Lipomi and

24-A Chaplain Lion Rev. Clyde S. Angel in establishing the District 24-A Memorial Service, much of which has been adapted into our District 24-C Service. This manual prepared by PDG Roy R. Rotenberry