

**OREGON LIONS
CHAPLAIN'S GUIDE
TO PRAYER**

On October 24, 1998 the Oregon Lions Council of Governors approved the use of a common prayer guide for invocations and other prayer activities in club agendas. This booklet is offered as a tool. It is not intended to be read word for word, but rather as a basis to compose heartfelt and inspiring thoughts.

As Chaplain of district 36E-I recommend that club leaders give careful consideration to the selection of chaplains or prayer leaders and that those selected have deep rooted convictions. I further recommend that the individual chosen take utmost care to avoid offending those not of the same religious persuasion.

Lion Jim Maguire
Grant Pass Redwood Lions

PRAYERS FOR LIONS

INVOCATIONS

The Oregon Lions Council of Governors recommends that invocations be given priority in our opening exercises.

1.

Lord, listen to our hearts. Guide us in the things we do and say tonight (today). Let love and understanding be the foundation for our dedication and the binding cords between us. Enable us to serve those who call upon us and to give of ourselves to those in need. Amen.

2.

Please bow your heads and perceive God as you see Him in your heart. Although our understanding may be different, let us pray as one.

Lord, we seek to be Lions, filling the needs of others no matter how great or how far the cause. Therefore, we pray that You open our eyes that we readily see those who cannot, and give us ears to hear the silent cries of those who in silence. Amen.

3.

Lord of Lions, teach us to care for others, not only the needs of those in want, but for the our fellow Lions as well. Guide us in paths that we may reveal the caring heart of Lionism to all. Let our service be a reflection of You. Strengthen us that we may bless, and humble us that we may serve. Amen.

4.

Let us bow our heads and call upon God as we perceive Him in our hearts.

Lord, bless our gathering tonight (today) . . . not that we accomplish great things, but that we grow as one. Unite us in the cause of serving our fellow man. Make us slow to lead, and quick to bow. And help us to give that we may gain in Your eyes. Amen.

5.

Let us bow our heads and center our thoughts on God for this one brief moment. (Pause)

Lord, it is written that if we want to be first, we must first be last. And, if we want to gain in spirit, we must become the servant of all. So then, teach us to understand that a servant is never greater than his master and remind us that, as Lions, serving is our only cause. Look kindly upon us, Lord. Amen.

6.

Lord, we understand that love is a vital part of service and that if we act from any other motive our efforts are foolish and empty. Therefore, teach us to love one another before we seek to serve others. Let all we do and say tonight (today) be a reflection of You. Amen.

7.

Lord, bless our gathering tonight (today). Let us act in patience and not in pride. There are many who can do the things we do alone, but none that can accomplish what we do in concert with You. Therefore, we seek Your guidance and inspiration in all our thoughts and decisions. Bless us now we pray. Amen.

8. (For an ailing Lion)

Lord, thank You that we here are able to gather in the causes of Lionism. We ask Your blessing on Lion (name) and that You take from our bounty, and strengthen him/her for he/she is one of us.

Further, we pray for unity of mind and spirit between Lions the world over. Grant that we think and act in single purpose as we seek to serve and let all we do and say be in brotherly love. Amen.

9.

Lord of Lions, make our spirits rejoice that we have gathered tonight (today). Grant that this be a time of oneness that we may better serve the good of all. Let the things we do, be done not in vain glory, but in humility and with a servant's heart. Bless those that cannot be among us and increase our numbers that we may better serve. Amen.

10.

Lord of Lions, let all we do and say in this meeting honor You and to the principles of Lionism. Let us seek the betterment of others. For, we know that it is through serving that we can span our differences and work in harmony. Therefore, as we have gathered in one pride, so let us be of one mind and of one spirit. Make us truly Lions in Your eyes. Amen.

11.

Lord, we have professed to be Lions. Let it be more than in word, vest, or special jacket. Let our hearts beat as one. Strengthen us that we choose to give, rather than to amass unto ourselves. Help us to strive boldly for unity among Lions everywhere. Help us to bow to the least, that we may be tall in Your eyes. Guide us tonight (today). Amen.

12.

Lord, help us to care and not falter. For we know it is Your will that we care for others as we care for ourselves. Strengthen us then, so that the things we do and say may be a blessing to all. Guide us, that we stumble not in our efforts and teach us not only to serve, but to love. We ask that You make this time a renewal of the causes of Lionism within us. Make us one, in mind, heart, and spirit. Amen.

13.

For this brief moment let us forget ourselves and dwell solely on the causes that have made us Lions. Let us bow our heads and seek God as we know him in our hearts.

Lord, it is difficult to express feelings with mere words. Therefore, we ask that You hear not so much the words of our lips but rather the voices of our hearts. Bless our time together that we may be a light to those who cannot see and a guiding sound to those who cannot hear. Grant us the wisdom to help with the problems of our youth. Amen.

14.

Lord we ask that You bless our gathering today (tonight). Grant that we seek not personal gain or pride, but rather the good of others. Teach us to react in patience, to serve rather than to be served, and to build on firm foundations rather than upon the sands of our own flesh. We seek Your guiding hand in all we do and the power of Your love to heal the blind and open ears that cannot hear. Bless us now, we pray. Amen.

15.

Lord of Lions, thank You that we are able to gather in the cause of service to others. Thank You for the blessings You have poured out upon us and open our hearts to our responsibility to those who have not. Give us unity of mind and spirit today and grant that we act in singleness of purpose. Let all we do and say be in with the caring heart of a Lion. Amen.

16.

Lord, grant that we honor You and the principles of Lionism today (tonight). Let us seek the betterment of others over ourselves. For we understand it is through giving that we gain and through serving that we rise.

Grant that we be a blessing to You and our fellow man. Help us to be a welcome light in darkness and a warm sound in the prison of silence. Amen.

17.

Lord God, make us Lions in more than name. And let our commitment be greater than our gain. Install a servant's heart within us. Humble us that we strive for unity, rather than our own will. Strengthen us that we may better carry the burdens of others. Ennoble us that we may see beyond our horizons. Give us vision that we may grant sight and a voice to pierce the silence. Bless us now, we pray. Amen.

18.

Please bow your heads. Perceive God as you see Him in your hearts and let us pray together.

Lord, let this time be meaningful to each of us. Let the things we plan, and do, be as unto You. Nourish us with the bounty of Your Spirit. Touch our minds and hearts that we be a blessing to each other. Fill us with an unquenchable desire to serve. Touch our tongues that we utter not things unbecoming to You or the principles for which we stand. Amen.

19.

Please bow your heads and call upon the spirit that we share as Lions. Draw close to God as you see Him and let us pray together.

Lord of Lions, we are come as one, seeking to serve. As You have served us so bountifully in this land of plenty so may we serve others. Let this be a time of renewal of the causes of Lionism within us. Teach us to lead in Your shadow, enlighten in Your wisdom and empower in Your strength. Amen.

20.

Please bow your heads, come close to God as you perceive Him and let us pray as one. (PAUSE)

Lord, there are many needs, yet the servants are few. There are many blind that all too often we fail to see. Many of our children are lost in a society far beyond them, yet few are the hands that reach out to help them. Lord, as Lions, though we be few in number with Your desire, Your strength and Your bounty the mountains of need will be merely grains of sand. Bless us God, we pray. Amen.

INVOCATIONS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS:

Elections:

Lord, there is only one true Lion; only One Who rules overall and it is to You we look tonight (today). We pray for those who will guide us in the coming year, knowing that although we may make plans, You produce the results. Therefore, we pray those we elect, will act according Your will. Guide them in their efforts and bless others through them. Help us in our decision, we pray. Amen.

A fellow Lion's personal loss:

Lord, we pray for Your blessing on Lion name. Consider his/her giving and caring heart. Comfort him/her we pray. Bring him (her) to mind often in the days ahead that we may pray for him/her often. Place some of his/her burden on us that we may carry it a part of the way. Remind us of our own frailty and that only that which we do in Your name has any lasting benefit. Bless us, we pray. Amen.

Upon the death of a fellow Lion:

Our hearts are heavy, Lord. Lion name has gone from us. There remains an emptiness here in us. We seek Your soothing touch for we are weakened in our ranks and need Your strength to overcome. Turn our mourning into dancing and our sorrow into joy. Strengthen us to carry the fallen sword. There is no other we can turn to . . . no other who can comfort. Therefore, bless us Lord, we pray. Amen.

In times of apathy or discord:

Lord of Lions, O that we could give our love as freely as You give Yours; That we could watch over others as You watch over us; That we could lend a hand as selflessly as You lend Yours; That we could give unto others as bountifully as You give unto us; or that we could forgive as freely as You forgive. For then we would be truly Lions in Your eyes. Help us to strengthen our weaknesses and to bless others as You bless us. Amen.

GRACES

1.

Lord, as we share this bounty before us let us not forget the years of unmerited blessing poured out upon this country. Let us not forget our responsibility to share our plenty with those less fortunate. Grant that we be willing to do without the lion's share so that those who have not, suffer not. Bless these gifts You have supplied that they strengthen our hearts and hands that we may better serve. Amen.

2.

Lord, as we share these blessings let them nourish the Lion heart that beats within us. As we nourish our bodies, so let us nourish the serving spirit that dwells in our hearts. Bless this food to our flesh. Strengthen us, that we may readily take on the burdens of those who are bent beneath the load. Teach us to live as Lions. Amen.

3.

Lord we ask that You bless these gifts before us. As we share them, let us be nurtured as one flesh, one body. Let us see as one, love as one, and serve as one. Strengthen us that we grow in Your image. Grant us eyes to see, and ears to hear, those who cannot. Let us bless the world, as You have blessed this table. Grant that we may serve others as bountifully as You have served us. Amen.

4.

Lord of Lions, thank You. You have given us a land of plenty and a table fit for kings. Let us not forget, as we share these blessings together, that there are those who have not, and who, even this moment, hunger and suffer need. Strengthen us that we may serve. Empower us to ease suffering, and carry the heavier load. Let us be Lions in Your pride. Amen.

5.

Bless us Lord. Bless this time together. Let all we do and say be edifying to You and to the principles of Lionism. Let us not forget that we have gathered in service to one another and to our fellow man. Nurture us as we savor these gifts that You have granted in so great abundance. Strengthen us that we may better serve the causes we undertake. Amen.

6.

Open our eyes Lord. Help us to understand that we have not earned the gifts before us. For, drought and famine surround us, yet we feast. Pestilence, turmoil and darkness plague the world, yet we bask in Your light and protection. Let us not forget that You give the blessings that we, as Lions, share. Let us never forget to be thankful, and caring those who have not. Amen.

7.

Lord, we praise You for this abundance. You have blessed us with comfort, raiment, and the horn of plenty. Open our hearts, that we may share these gifts and better serve those who have not. Let us, as Lions, not seek our own, but be a blessing to others. Amen.

8.

Fellow Lions, look around us. God has given us so much, yet too often we forget to thank Him. Sometimes, we speak without really feeling what we say. On this occasion, let's let our gratitude be honest. Let us simply consider the blessings before us and be truly thankful. For one brief moment let us fill our hearts with silent praise for that which we are to share (moment of silence). Amen.

9.

Lord, we ask Your blessing on the gifts You have put before us. Bless the hands that have prepared and served them. Bless our time of fellowship and conversation. Bless our fellow Lions who cannot be with us. But most of all bless our hearts that we may bless others. Amen.

10.

A Lion is no more humble than when he serves, nor more noble than when he prays. It's not how much we speak, but how deeply we mean what we say. Let us pray these three simple words and feel them in the depths of our hearts: "Thank You Lord." (Follow this with a brief moment of silence that the thankfulness may be felt.) Amen.

BENEDICTIONS

1.

Lord, we often forget to take a moment to thank You for all the blessings You pour out upon us. We rush to get on with our daily living, forgetting that You hold the key to all we do. But, deep within we know that everything is Yours to give or to take away. And so we thank You, and ask Your blessing on each of us until we meet again. Grant that we may be an honor to You and a blessing to those who call upon us. Amen.

2.

Thank You, Lord. Grant that, as we leave this place, the spirit of Lionism goes with us. Let us never forget that we have what we have, and are what we are, through Your patience, bounty and grace. Grant us vision that we may help those who cannot see, and hearing to recognize the cry of those who need. Amen.

3.

What joy we share when we gather in the cause of others. But let us not forget that is the spirit of God that blesses us. Pray with me now.

Lord, all our efforts, benevolence and societies, no matter how great, are as nothing without Your grace. Everything is Yours to give or to take away. Therefore, we ask Your blessing upon us and our journeys. Help us not to forget our responsibility to love and serve You and our neighbor. Amen.

4.

Lord, make us servants of Your will. Touch our hearts that we may become more like You. Seal our lips from all but words of encouragement and expressions of Your love. Cripple our hands from all but Your will. Make us lame to judge and fleet to bless. Guide us in the selfless causes of Lionism and go with us now. Amen.

5.

Lord of Lions, thank You. Thank You, for this time we have shared. Thank You, for friends and fellow Lions. Thank, You for the fellowship with those of like mind. Thank You, for the good times, and the bad, for You are the blessed controller of all. Thank You for the things we have learned. Let us never forget that only through giving do we gain and that which we give, we keep forever. Keep these thoughts ever before us: **only through love do we grow and only through kindness can we truly serve.** Bless us now as we part and go our separate ways. Amen.

BENEDICTIONS FOR CONVENTIONS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

1.

Thank You Lord for the time we have shared. Thank You for the blessings of fellowship and Lions of like mind. Thank You for the things we have learned and the renewed strength to serve. We ask Your special blessings on those who labored to bring this about and who worked so hard for our comfort. Thank You most of all for the principles of Lionism and the serving heart You have given us. Bless our journeys and our endeavors in the coming weeks. Amen.

2.

In these closing moments of our time together let us put everything out of our minds, concentrate on God as we see Him, and pray as one.

Lord, we have elected: (give list of names and positions). We ask that You keep them constantly before You. Remind them to seek Your guidance as they lead us through the turmoil and trials ahead. Let them not forget the knowledge of the past as they guide us along the paths to our future. Empower them to lead us into fields of service where Lions have scarcely ventured. Let them be strong and above those who will nip at their heels. Let them be all-seeing and all-hearing, yet blind and deaf to the slights they may be called upon to bear.

Bless them with joy and prosperity that they suffer not loss for the hours they will be called upon to spend on our behalf. Bless them with the peace and confidence that they are acting not so much by their own efforts as by Yours. Grant that we go safely on our way, not forgetting the things we have learned nor the friends we have made. Amen.

3:

Lord, thank You for the times of fellowship we have shared and the renewal of our vision. We are grateful for new the friends and thoughts. Inspire us to pass on the benefits of this gathering to those who were unable to attend. Give us the words to challenge as we have been inspired.

Protect us now as we go our ways and grant us strength for the days and work ahead. Give us the means for meaningful service and the words to comfort. Amen