

THE ART OF POSITIVE TAIL TWISTING

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Lions Club is unique because of an office not commonly found in other organizations. The office is that of Tail Twister. The Assistant Tail Twister is called "Spizzerinkter." See! You are having fun already.

The position of Tail Twister sounds like a simple one. In reality, the responsibilities of Tail Twister encompass much more than collecting fines. Accept the responsibilities with the attitude you are making a very significant contribution to the overall success of your club's meetings and you and they are having fun!

THE TAIL TWISTER'S MISSION

How do some Tail Twisters manage to keep Club meetings lively and fun for all? How do they maintain the good-natured informality that inspires comradeship among Club members? What is their secret in keeping meetings cheerful? And where do they come up with their bags of tricks, their rib-poking methods of getting laughs and money from fellow Lions?

Quite a few Tail Twisters have become living legends in their districts for their expertise at bagging dimes and quarters during Club meetings, and doing it with a laugh. Some have gone beyond such time-honored excuses for levying fines, i. e. penalizing Lions for wearing neckties or not wearing neckties, arriving late, dropping a fork during dinner, having hair too long, too short, or for having none at all. They have patent original schemes for Lionistically picking the pockets of the membership.

The primary goal is not to raise money, but to inject fun and laughter into Club meetings to help prevent them from being dull. Nearly every Club with constantly well attended meetings has an active Tail Twister who keeps members alert and looking over their shoulders to see what he/she is plotting to do next.

Tail Twisters though, are an unselfish lot, and they willingly share their ideas with other Tail Twisters. Pay attention whenever you are attending another club's meeting. Adopt some other Tail Twister's ideas or think up your own. But remember, the Tail Twister must never intentionally embarrass a fellow Lion or guest or interrupt a speaker. The money collected is of secondary importance --merely a vehicle to get attention and respect for the meeting and members of the club.

A Club with an active Tail Twister has a few Lion "clock watchers." To be most effective, the Tail Twister should have a different stunt at every meeting. A popular Tail Twister probably does more to improve attendance than any other Lion.

The goals of Lions are, of course, serious. Community betterment and aid to the sick, the handicapped, the elderly and the destitute are the noble objectives of Lions International. However, good times and fellowship are important too. They're important to the members who enjoy each other's company and who welcome some hearty laughs at meetings. Laughs that move the mind from the stresses of the day to pleasant fellowship earned by earlier hard work. When meetings combine the serious business of Lions with Tail Twister-inspired fun, the

resulting spirit of comradeship will maintain full attendance and significantly raise levels of enthusiasm. This means an active, highly motivated Club, one better able to meet the challenge of planning and conducting successful service programs.

As a Tail Twister generates good feelings, he/she performs such duties at meetings as the President may request by seating members and guests, distributing papers, and running errands. Next to President, the Tail Twister is possibly the most important single person at meetings. The President should ask for the Tail Twisters to help by informing him/her of any expected issues. By demeanor, the Tail Twister sets the stage for the meeting and must deal with many different moods of members. There are times when the Tail twister uses his/her good nature to quiet noisy Lions, sharpen inattentive Lions, calm hostile Lions, and generally act as a teacher of respect, etiquette, and parliamentary procedure. Tail twisting is assistance to officers and members the way a rodeo clown protects the riders.

While fining is a part of the job description, fines should be reasonable, and collected only from Lions.

Tail twisting is a way to recognize accomplishments of members and remind them of important events i.e. birthdays, etc.

The good spirit generated by the Tail Twister helps busy people relax, enjoy the camaraderie, and direct their attention to the pleasant tasks of humanitarian services.

Bite'em, Bite'em!