



Guide to TAIL TWISTING

DISTRICT 13 OH5 LEARN TO ROAR Leadership School



A Club Tail Twister Resource Guide

Effective Tail Twisting. The fine line between entertaining and being obnoxious. How to compliment the event, add humor, and keep Lions in line without offending others. Guaranteed to put a smile on your face and thoughts and ideas to share with others.

Compiled by DG Jackie Miller with information from
Lion Pat Walters (Grove City Noon Lions Club) and many other sources
“creatively acquired” from Lions all over the USA and from LCI

What are the duties of a tail twister?

A tail twister wants to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings by performing appropriate stunts and games and imposing fines on club members.

New Lions may be shy and the tail twister can suitably introduce them and make them feel that they are valuable members of the club.

Being able to fine members is an important element of a good tail twister. But fining for funds only and not for fun is a big mistake. Where possible, a good tail twister should fine every member at least once every second meeting. It might be considered in poor taste to have a member continually overlooked in fining because that Lion may well come to feel that he or she is not really part of the club.

By fining, the tail twister involves everyone and gives assistance to the club president in managing the meeting.

One of the most important tasks of the tail twister is to extract humor and laughter with jokes, puns, witticisms, mimicry, acting, singing or dramatizations.

Laughter is universal, but the tail twister's position should never be used for insulting anyone. A tail twister who levies fines on members in order to satisfy personal grudges will soon fall from grace. Care should be taken however in promoting humor because vulgar jokes are not compatible with the ethics of the Lions Clubs.

Can the tail twister be fined?

It is almost impossible to levy a fine against the tail twister as the tail twister cannot be fined except by unanimous vote of all members present. Remember the tail twister is one of the members present, so without the tail twister's "yes" vote there will be no fine.

All money collected by the tail twister should be turned over immediately to the club treasurer for deposit in the club account.

How should the tail twister perform during meetings?

The tail twister can fine any club member at any time during the meeting. The tail twister should use good discretion as to fining a member while a guest speaker is giving their presentation. If the speaker is a lion they would most likely understand, but someone not familiar with the tail twister's duties might think it impolite to be interrupted.

The tail twister should wear a large "TAIL TWISTER" badge or a piece of clothing such as a special tail twister hat or vest which designates him or her as a tail twister so it is very obvious when he or she moves about the room to assess a fine. This way when the tail twister walks up to the person being fined and hold out his tail twisting receptacle or his or her hand the member knows that a fine is eminent.

When assessing a fine the tail twister should arise from his or her seat and quietly walk over to the member to be fined and hold out the receptacle and if the person doesn't know why they are being fined the tail twister should tell them the reason. When moving about the room makes all eyes follow you. Motion is variety. It is lively. Standing still and talking can be monotonous.

It is important never to embarrass anyone. Irregular attendees need a warm welcome, not attention to their oversights. It is best to fine for something other than attendance.

Talk to and welcome visitors, but fine only Lions.

If district officers are present you may fine them if you wish, but never heavily. You might check with them first, as they will most likely cooperate by giving you a reason to fine them.

A word of caution: Set a limit on the fines so it doesn't get out of hand. Many clubs will have the board of directors stipulate as to the maximum amount a fine can be and how many times a member may be fined during a meeting.

Do's

- Demand respect! Demand it from everyone! Use fines, or whatever tactic is necessary.
- Do keep fines in a reasonable range 10-25 cents.
- Have a no change policy. What you get is what you keep (unless you agree otherwise-use good judgement).
- Use your position to keep the meetings interesting
- Use your position to maintain order
- **Use your position to keep the meetings on track**
- Be the center of attention
- Collect fines to help build the administrative fund (the tail twister is an important fundraiser)
- Be polite, be pleasant, and have fun.
- Promote fun
- Be creative
- Be professional
- Fine members who do not wear Lion vest/emblem/pin
- **Do fine members who are unruly, disrespectful, or holding "private meetings"**

Don'ts

- Never embarrass anyone
- Do not tell jokes
- No private fines-all fines are public
- Do not fine guests including guest speaker, DG or ID.
- Do not interrupt the President or the ongoing program.
- **Do not make an issue out of a member who does not want to pay a fine. (Take IOU's)**
- Do not make anyone feel uncomfortable
- Do not make members feel unwelcome

A small collection of reasons to assess fines!

**Be careful that fines are not too high
or too often for any one member**

Know your crowd

Be diplomatic

But MOST OF ALL.....HAVE FUN!!!

- A good tail twister can usually find enough reason for assessing fines without fining for imaginary offenses. Therefore, it is important for the tail twister to determine, for example, who has recently become engaged, bought a new car, become a parent, received a promotion at work, or other noteworthy achievement. Reasons, or excuses, for levying good-natured fines are endless.
- Following are just a few examples of how a good tail twister can raise these special funds for the club or just promote fun and camaraderie at meetings. If you meet weekly possibly have 2 tail twisters.
- If there is a time limit to maintain in answering a question, walk close to member and keep moving closer as the deadline nears.
- The tail twister can enliven roll calls or “round table introductions” by insisting that the members have a slogan descriptive of their business or profession, fining those who have none, or those whose slogans are too long or exaggerated.
- Disturbances can be minimized by fining those who are too noisy or inattentive during the introductions or roll call or while announcements are being made.
- All members might be fined if one of them has cause to celebrate. The one celebrating would not have to pay a fine.
- Pick three or four members at random and have a spontaneous joke-telling contest and give a prize for the best joke.
- The tail twister may also call on one or more Lions to give a spontaneous joke on-the-spot. Fines can be levied according to the response of those in attendance.

- Special presentations to members can brighten the meeting. For example, give a hairbrush to a bald-headed member, a set of curlers to a curly-headed member, a gardening tool to a gardener...
- If the tail twister knows the middle names of the members, they can be called upon by those names. Most will be slow to respond, and can be duly fined.
- The tail twister may decide upon a “uniform of the day” for the next meeting. Bow ties may be required, or unmatched socks, rope instead of a belt, etc. Lions not attired properly are liable to a fine.
- The tail twister gives a slip of paper to the president. On it is written a word. The first Lion to use that word in addressing the meeting will be fined.
- During meetings, a Lion may be called upon to stand and formally introduce another Lion named by the tail twister. Any mistake will earn a fine.
- Assess a fine to members who arrive late, or too early for a meeting.
- Fine for the use of such words as “Mr.,” “Ms.,” or “Mrs.,” instead of “Lion”.
- For quick, impromptu fining, pose riddles or ask tricky questions. Go right down the tables or move around with the questions. Assess a fine for wrong answers.
- Have a “Secret Greeter”. A mystery lion for the meeting that everybody who doesn’t shake his/her hands at the meeting would be fined.
- Ask a member the year they became a Lion. If they can’t remember then assess a fine.
- Fine a member who has a birthday and/or anniversary during the current month.
- If a member has his or her name published in the paper charge them half a fine and if their picture is also in the paper charge them a whole fine.
- Ask them the name of the person on their right. If they do not know then that person will pay their fine.
- Even if you don’t use place cards regularly at a meeting it is a good idea to do it once in a while. Put place cards around to mix up the seating arrangement so the members get to set with members they don’t normally set with.
- Put numbers on the back of the chairs and have members draw a number upon entering to know where they will set.
- Information from Lion’s International Magazine or from your club newsletter can be used for trivia quizzes.
- Remove all of the silverware and have the member pay for silverware to eat the meal. Or draw a number which corresponds with eating utensil and that is the only utensil they may use – or pay extra for extra utensil.

- Levy a fine for anyone not wearing a certain color of clothing.
- Hold a raffle. Have members bring in white elephant items to raffle off to other members of the club.
- Fine any member who is not wearing his or her Lions pin or nametag.
- If their pin is upside down or crooked assess them a fine.
- If they don't have their membership card on their person at the meeting assess them a fine.
- Is their membership card signed, if not, then fine them. Fine them if they do not know their membership number?
- Require member to sing "Happy Birthday" to their self on their birthday or pay a fine not to sing.
- Who knows who? Have a member name all of the people at his or her table.
- If you have old pictures of members post them and match names with pictures
- Do they have a Lion's decal on their car; if not then pay a fine.
- Set a "Theme" for upcoming meeting – Crazy tie, Crazy shirt, certain color socks, Etc. Fine them if they don't come prepared.
- If a member wants to tell a joke they can pay \$1.00 to tell a joke.
- Another member may pay not to hear a joke someone else has paid to tell
- If a member's cell phone rings during a meeting he or she should pay a fine, this will train members to put their cell phones on vibrate or turn them off during the meeting.
- If a member has an initial in back of their name (Phd, MD, Jr., Sr, Etc.) pay a fine.
- If there is a newborn in the family, fine everyone else for being inactive members.
- Make them pay a fine for weight being more than ten pounds different from their stated weight on their driver' license.
- If a person complains that they are fined too much – Give them a "Fine Free Hat" that they can wear at the next meeting to not be fined if they are wearing it.
- Have a trivia question put into the newsletter and if a member doesn't know the answer when asked they have to pay a fine.
- Have a Website Word of the Month and if the member doesn't know it they pay a fine.
- Did they put "Lion" in front of their name on the signup sheet, if not they pay a fine.
- Have a 50/50 money raffle at the meeting.
- Wear something unusual and ask the members what it is.
- Use "Trivial Pursuit" cards for questions.

Stunts at Meetings

Stunts are important at every club meeting and, to be most effective, the tail twister should have a different stunt or gimmick at every meeting, otherwise, there may be a lessening of enthusiasm among the members. With stunts, tail twisters have recognized a fundamental element of human nature, that work done in the guise of fun is many times more enjoyable. In fact, some of the most meaningful things Lions have done were accomplished in the spirit of fun and good times. But tail twisters need to use discretion and consider the safety and feelings of others when employing these diversions.

Some Additional Suggestions for Stunts

The following stunts are only examples to show tail twisters that their imaginations are their best resources. Test your own imagination.

Passing the buck - Inspired by the tail twister, the president begins by calling on the program chairman to conduct the program. The chairman then claims to have been a bit busy and has arranged for another member to take over. This Lion rises and claims illness prevented organization of a program, but that another member was assigned to take over. That Lion gives yet another excuse for not arranging the program, but has passed the baton to someone else.

This continues until it is apparent that nobody has actually organized the program. The chairman calls a halt and then announces that a program really has been arranged.

Thread on the coat. The tail twister will wear this thread. When club members and guests arrive, they notice this thread protruding through a seam on the back or shoulder of the suit or jacket. Many will instinctively try to remove it, but the thread can't be picked off or even snapped off. As it is pulled, it only grows longer and longer as if the whole garment is unraveling. The tail twister, of course, has a spool of thread in an inside pocket of the suit or jacket, having threaded the end through the seam, then removed the needle and left an inch or so of the thread hanging. As new guests arrive, the tail twister cuts the long, dangling thread back so that only a short, inviting strand remains. The earlier guests will watch with amusement as each newcomer yields to the temptation and tries to remove the thread.

The tail twister should wear something distinctive such as a large tail twister's badge. He or she may even wish to blow a whistle or add something like horns to the "fine bank."

Fines may be paid in any number of ways. Some tail twisters direct that each member pays the fine of the member to the right (or left). This will generate more fines since members will do more things wrong if they don't have to pay the fines themselves. A word of caution: Set a limit on the fines so it doesn't get out of hand. This amusing manner of fining can be conducted during meetings at specific intervals.

When you have a door prize, members can have the option to either pay the regular fines or pay double with the chance to win the prize.

There is also a way for the tail twister to raise money for a worthwhile cause and have members learn more about one another. When a Lion begins providing a self-introduction when the tail twister comes around, he or she must continue talking until the tail twister says to stop. The monologue may be about the member's personal or business life, hobbies, interests, or anything else, but the introduction must continue. If the Lion runs out of words, the tail twister levies the fine. If the member, however, does an exceptional job, the tail twister may pay the fine or present that Lion with a mock prize as the best talker in the club.

And yet more ideas

Use these ideas and others to create a fun, entertaining and profitable meeting.

- Happy dollars
- Bragging Bucket (limit time)
- Ask about "membership card"
- If you weigh more/or less than driver's license, pay donation.
- On driver's license what color is bald?
- Have a secret greeter or mystery lion
- Year became lion
- No nail polish-donation
- Picture in paper-donation
- Not wearing lion pin.
- Auction "No fine card" and "pass it on card"
- If on trip and don't send postcard to club-donation.
- Not wearing lions vest.

A GOOD TAIL TWISTER KNOWS when to stop & not push his/her luck too far! **More Ideas**

- Set aside 10 minutes in every meeting to conduct tail twisting duties.
- Cut out news articles and read at meeting inserting a member's name.
- Fine members for being in a media article and not mentioning that they are a Lion
- Fine members who go on vacation trips and do not send a postcard to the club.
- Fine members when they get their picture in the newspaper or newsletter (unless they mention they are a Lion)
- Auction monthly a "fine free" card which allows the member holding the card not to be fined for one month.
- Auction monthly a "pass it on" card that allows the holder of the card to pass a fine on to anyone he chooses in the club.
- Have a "secret" greeter that identifies those members who did not shake hands with him/her at the beginning of the meeting.
- Give a question out at the end of each meeting related to Lions and then have a verbal quiz on the answer at the next meeting.
- Some clubs collect a fine from every member automatically. Whatever members want to contribute. Do not make an issue out of the amount.
- Fine members who tell a "bad" joke (your judgment)



20 QUESTIONS

- If you're wearing your club name tag give yourself one point
- If you're wearing your Lions pin, give yourself one point
- If you're a Past President of a Lions Club, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing black shoes, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing glasses, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing a digital watch, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing nail polish, give yourself one point
- If you had to cross a border to get here, give yourself one point
- If you had to cross over water to get here, give yourself one point
- If you've been a Lion for less than 2 years, give yourself one point
- If you've been a Lion for more than 10 years, get one point
- If you shaved today, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing white socks, give yourself one point
- If you're wearing white underwear, give yourself two points
- Write down your initials, first and last name only....if the initials are in alphabetical order, give yourself two points
- If you were a passenger in the car you arrived here in, give yourself two points
- If you have a birthday this month, give yourself five points
- If your spouse is in Lions, give yourself two points
- If you have more than two children, give yourself three points
- If you flossed your teeth today, give yourself five points

There are MANY, MANY more ideas and fun things you can do as Tail Twister!! One only needs to do a Google search to find many ways to entertain your club. I have attached many additional resources to the District website for your use in entertaining your club. Your imagination also goes a LONG way. Puzzles, Holiday crosswords and trivia, other trivia and fun facts, and don't forget Lions Orientation and trivia facts!

REMEMBER

Not everything you do has to involve a fine

NOTES
