

Athens Rotary Club

Guidelines for Invocations

Rotary is a non-discriminatory, non-political and non-denominational organization.

An invocation is a centering process at the beginning of a meeting to bring focus and set the tone for those who are present. It can be prayer, poem, or words of reflection that help to pause for a moment and think outside of oneself.

If it is a “PRAYER,” remember that we are an interfaith community and being sensitive to the use of certain names for God is important. Using neutral, alternative names such as Creator, Sustainer, Spirit of Love or Life, Divine Power, Source of All Being is more inclusive for those who are present and speaks to all faiths fairly equal. Avoiding certain faith perspective phrases such as “Our Lord Jesus Christ, Adonai, Allah, In Our Master’s Name, In Jesus Name We Pray” is also important as not all use of these phrases.

If it is a “POEM” it is important to choose one that is not too long and one that really does center the group. An introduction is helpful to know why the poem has been chosen.

If it is a “WORD OF REFLECTION” whether they be personal or taken from a particular source, again it is important that it not be too long and an introduction to why the words have been chosen is always helpful.

If there are words of “tribute” to someone that need to be said (for example in appreciation, or in the death of a member) remember that these are not centering words and would be best to be said first, with an explanation of why and then words that would focus and set the tone of the meeting.

It is also important remember that both women and men are present at our meetings and using inclusive, non-sexist language helps all.

As Rotary is non-political organization, topics which can controversial or political in nature, are not appropriate.

We are busy people and good words that center and focus us are so important and appreciated in the midst of our busy day. Words that invite, refresh, make us think and even challenge us to take us outside ourselves even if for a moment and help us appreciate what is around us make us whole and healthy people.

We are asking that the invocations be brief, no more than 2 minutes.