Votes of thanks

We do votes of thanks to formally and publicly thank a person or organisation for something they have done.
It also indicates that you are moving from one part of the meeting to another.

Elements to consider when giving a vote of thanks are;

- Know the name of who you are thanking.
- Know the title of their presentation.
- Stand at the side of stage or hall on floor.
- Speak to presenter but have eye contact with audience.
- KISSS - Keep It Short, Sweet, Simple and Sincere.
- It is not time for self-promotion or personal stories.
- Ask the audience to show their appreciation and lead the applause.
- Pause before doing the raffle or giving out further notices.
- Ask raffle winners to allow time for other members to look at the arrangements or take photos.

After the meeting;

- Allow the presenter time to wrap and pack.
- Arrange help with loading.
- Ensure the presenter is back on the road before everyone leaves.
- A follow up card or email is always welcome.

THE DIFFICULT VOTE OF THANKS

Remember KISSS - keep it short, sweet, simple and sincere.

It is always worth bearing in mind:

- the amount of time and effort that a performer has spent preparing for your event; collecting flowers, conditioning plant material, sorting out props, driving to your venue, unloading their car, getting the stage set up, sitting through the notices etc.
- Nobody wants to perform badly.
- We don't know what is happening in other people's lives; family worries, money or health problems?
- Traffic and bad weather conditions can effect a performance.
- Venues and audiences play a part in having a good or bad show e.g. are there disruptive people in the audience, were there enough helpers to unload the car, were there fresh batteries in the microphone.

I remember someone reporting that the Queen Mother was asked how she managed to keep smiling when she had been asked to open yet another event or meet another person. Her reply was that you can always find something positive to say. It might be the colour of a dress, the style of a shoe or a pretty feature on a wall.

Whatever the performance, keep it kind and try to find something positive for the audience to take away with them.

- They may have mentioned a place which would be an idea for a club visit e.g. it was very interesting to hear about ….. I am sure a number of our members would be interested to visit.
- You may like a particular flower or they may have some interesting containers.
- They might have shared a technique which you could use for a workshop.
- Rather than saying that you hope to see them back at the club, you can wish them a safe journey home or It might be the presenter has mentioned an upcoming event that you can wish them success at.

Avoid saying what is not true as it detracts from your credibility.

Don't ramble on. A few words to thank the presenter for coming to your club is sufficient.

Keep in mind too, that you want your members and visitors to return next time. Suggest to your Chairman that you always thank the audience for coming and remind them about something coming up that you can all look forward to.

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