

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club  
Tuesday May 27, 2014 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

**Members: 11**

**Guests: 1**

President Stedman opened the meeting promptly. Lion Paul led both pledges to the flags. Lion Audrey gave prayer. Since Lion Don was absent, Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion John, motioned that we not sing. Motion passed.

Lion Paul introduced our guest speaker, Deputy Sam Cerda, from Harris County Sherriff's Office, Auto Theft Division. Deputy Cerda reported he has 24 years service for the Sherriff's Office, He said his very first speaking engagement as a new officer was to the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club. He is a recognized safety instructor for many different academies, specializing in gangs and gang prevention. He recently transferred to the Auto Theft Division. The number one stolen vehicle in Texas is the Ford King Ranch edition pick up. It is illegal in Texas to leave the car unattended with the keys in the ignition and the car running. This becomes more dangerous with children in the car. It only takes a thief a second to take off in the vehicle with the children. Most thefts are at night by amateurs, and the stolen car then used to commit another crime, such as burglary, drug deals, etc. A professional thief can steal a car in about seven seconds, even locked. Prevention is the major key. Take your keys every time you leave the car. Roll windows all the way up, Lock all doors. Don't hide a spare key on the car, thieves know where to look. Be aware of your surroundings at all time, especially when exiting or entering your car. Park in busy well lit areas with lots of people around, or in an attended lot. Never leave your car running and unattended. Hide valuables and anything in the car. Older cars are often stolen to be chopped up and sold as parts for about three times the value of the car, and less chance that the thief will be caught. A thief can change the identity of a stolen vehicle and sell to unsuspecting victim, who then becomes responsible for the loss. Many high end cars are loaded on cargo carriers and shipped out of the country. Anit-theft devices, such as audible alarms, steering column locks, wheel/tire locks/boots, and theft deterrent decals, special identification markers on the vehicle, smart keys with computer chips, fuse cut offs and kill switches make cars more theft proof.

Deputy Cerda told us how to spot a stolen vehicle: any deal too good to be true probably is, VIN plate has scratches or new screws, no fixed address for the seller, scratched or altered ignition switch, more than one panel recently painted, and not having the original keys to the vehicle are all signs of a stolen vehicle. In Houston for 2012, 599 vehicles were stolen. Everyone's car insurance goes up with each stolen vehicle. Our sense of freedom and security is compromised.

President Stedman then made our Theme of the Week: If you see something abnormal, say something to someone."

We gave honor to our fallen heroes for their ultimate sacrifice for Memorial Day.

Electronic minutes were received by all, offered for acceptance as written, seconded, and passed. Lion Paul voted no, saying it did not seem democratic if someone did not disagree.

Lion Chuck reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade child whom we agreed to donate money to attend the Junior National Leadership Conference in Washington DC later this summer.

Lion Becca brought this before the Club on Feb. 11. Lion Chuck has tried numerous times to reach Lion Becca via phone, email and text, for details for this donation. The check cannot be made out to the family due to our charity organization. Other Lions were encouraged to try to contact Lion Becca for information to complete this transaction. Lion Chuck states he may call the school for further information.

Lion Chuck reported baseball has been rained out for tonight and tomorrow night. But these games will be made up on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Workers will be needed. He reviewed the payment to workers of our concession stand. Unless our Club members work, our Club receives no profits, only enough to cover the products purchased and sold. Members were encouraged to work when Lion Littlejohn calls.

The Humanitarian Relief Fund has covered half the cost of the Low Vision Screener for the family with three affected children and the mother. The machine has been ordered, and should arrive next week. Lion Chuck has also been working on getting a hearing aid for a teenager, having received approval from the Hearing and Speech Coordinator. The child's mother is holding up the process, which must be completed before the new Lions Year begins July 1, or the process will have to start all over again.

Lion Audrey reported on the Cy-Fair School District Volunteers in Public Schools Luncheon held recently at the Berry Center. Our Club was recognized for service. The entertainment by students, teachers and principal was outstanding.

Lion Stedman presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Trophy for Club visits, awarded to him at the District Convention, which he forgot to bring at the last meeting. It will be displayed in our trophy case.

Lion Chuck gave the Treasurer's report. All bills are paid except for the sign at the front gate. Lion Chuck has been unable to get the man to respond, and has two more signs that need repair and placing. Lion Bud said the sign man is sometimes hard to contact.

Lion Becca's son is recovering after surgery for a broken leg from playing softball at collage. Lions Bud and Dorothy's daughter Theresa is recovering at home from back surgery, but still in significant pain.

Lion Chuck reported that our building insurance has increased from \$3100 to \$4100 for the year, without claim this year to Liberty Mutual Company. Lion Bud motioned, seconded by Lion Kamal, that Lion Chuck secure other bids for building insurance. LCI has insurance for building use, but we need regular insurance coverage. Motion passed.

President Stedman discussed that Lion Littlejohn feels he has "too much on his plate" right now to uphold his duties as Lion Tamer for the upcoming year. After some confusion in protocol, Lion Paul, seconded by Lion Chuck, motioned that Lion Stedman be our Lion Tamer for 2014-2015. Motion passed, and Lion Stedman accepted the job.

President Stedman reported that our Lions Club has been invited to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cy-Fair School District, to be held Saturday August 9, at the Berry Center. Lion Chuck suggested that our President at that time attend. Paperwork and information was then given to Lion Paul.

Friday night is our next Fun Night. It is to be an ice cream/dessert social held at Bane Park or our facility if the mosquitoes are bad. Some Lions members will probably be working the concession stand that night. Lion Sandy will contact Lions Amanda and Milly, since neither is here tonight, to send out reminders to everyone.

Lions Clayton and Stedman celebrate birthdays this month. Lions Chuck and Sandy celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She says she has to keep him, as it takes too long to train another one, and she doesn't have 45 more good years.

Meeting adjourned after a convoluted Lions Roar.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary