

Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday July 8, 2014 at 7PM at the Lions Den

Members: 13

Guests: 2

President Paul opened the meeting promptly. Lion Stedman led the pledges to the flags. Lion Don led us in singing "Oh Beautiful, Beautiful Texas." Lion Clayton gave prayer. Guests, Linda Washburn and Amani Douglas were introduced.

After our meal, Lion Becca introduced Linda Washburn, instructor of the visually impaired at Cy-Fair School District. Although from Canada, she has lived in the Cypress area for sixteen years. Linda reported that she works with children within the school district who cannot see well. She was introduced to the Lions Club on the quest for a Low Vision Magnifier for a family with three children and a mom with low vision, and was referred to us. She explained that CFISD has over 110,000 students, and is the 3rd largest school district in the state. It contains 85 schools within 186 square miles of area. It will celebrate 75 years of existence this fall. Of these 110,000 students, about 110 are students with severe visual impairment. Children, who are suspected to have visual problems, are first sent to the school nurse, who uses Lions Club eye exam vouchers for a professional eye exam and glasses if indicated. She thanked Lions for this wonderful resource for kids in the area. The second step is to assess the child in the classroom with the teacher and other students. Linda then makes a report based on her findings, and then finally, a meeting is scheduled to determine if the child could benefit from a special Visual Impairment teacher. CFISD has nine teachers for the Visually Impaired, along with five teachers who specialize in orientation and mobility, training kids to travel and maneuver around with white canes, etc. Five Visual Impairment teachers teach Braille and the use of a low vision magnifier. These teachers also teach daily skills, and work with classroom teachers to best serve the needed children. Currently Linda has about 15 children in her caseload, in several different schools. She loves her job, as she gets to work with the same family for years, as long as they don't move out of her area. About one third of the visually impaired students are mainstreamed into regular classrooms, and the remaining, many with multiple disabilities, are in special self contained classes. Many children are born with visual disabilities, while some have worsening conditions that steal vision over time. Lion Chuck noted that the Light House of Houston also teaches mobility training to children and adults. He asked if she had ever met Dr. Ralph Herring of the UT Ophthalmology Department who also helps us with glasses for adults. Linda reported that Lions need to continue our school eye glass program, but encouraged us to sponsor workshops or outings for the visually impaired, or consider giving scholarships to seminars at the Texas State School for the Blind in Austin.

Lion members reported receiving and reading the minutes of the last meeting. Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Clayton, motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

Lion Chuck gave the Treasurer's report. All bills are paid. We made most of our funds from the baseball concession stand, with the Bike Ride as our next best fundraiser. Lion Chuck forgot to bring the proposed budget for this fiscal year. He will bring it next meeting.

Lion Stedman reported that the dishwasher repairman will come on Thursday to assess our machine which is not functioning.

Lion Chuck reported there are to be two baseball tournaments the end of July. Lion Littlejohn will contact members to work concession shifts. Neither tournament is full yet, so the number of games is not known.

President Paul reported that the District Lions Officers training held in our building on July 28 was very well attended, almost every chair was occupied. He explained that we could get some new members, as women's only Lions Club is being formed in the area, and we could invite their husbands to our Club. Lion Becca reported that the training was excellent.

Lion Sandy reported that the flags have been taken down to be repaired. Lion Terry asked if it was possible not to fly the flags when there is not baseball to decrease wear and wind damage.

Lion Becca reported that Scouts, along with VFW members, would like to teach all schools proper flag etiquette, such as how to raise and lower a flag, proper care, how to retire American flags, etc. Motion by Lion Becca to hold such a class at our facility on Sept. 6 or Sept. 13, 2014, seconded by Lion Chuck, passed. Lion Becca will coordinate.

Lion Stedman reported that Lion Chuck will work with him on recruitment of business members to our Club.

Lion Terry gave everyone handouts about the Children's Magic Theater presentation which has been suggested as a possible fund raiser. She reported that the company does all the promotion and ticket sales. Being connected with Lions Clubs makes it a nonprofit venture. All checks and monies would be handled through our Club treasurer, with their payment being made by our Club. Lion's members can be involved in ticket taking at the event, or other ways we so choose. Tickets are usually \$10-\$11. Our Club would get about 200 tickets to use, give away or sell. This show could be done at a local high school auditorium. Pasadena and Humble Lions Clubs have used this company and program with success. Lion Terry will have a representative from the Magic Show company come to our next meeting to answer any questions. Lions were encouraged to read the handouts and prepare questions for his visit.

Lion Becca, as the program director, discussed that our Club meeting in November will be held on Veteran's Day. She discussed a program that takes abused Pit Bull dogs and trains them to be service dogs to disabled veterans. She would like to invite the public and especially Veterans, to a presentation about these Service Dogs. She will look into perhaps getting a local restaurant to donate meals for that Veteran's Day meeting. Information will follow.

The annual Scout Picnic will be held at our facility July 26. All Lions and family are invited. There is to be a baseball tournament scheduled that weekend, but field 3 has been reserved for Scouts, along with the building and grounds. There will be fun games, crafts, hot dog grilling, etc. RSVP to Lion Becca, and bring a side dish to share.

Lion Becca requested to increase the budgeted monies for the Christmas Cheer baskets. Lion Chuck will discuss when he presents the budget next meeting.

The Bike Ride is Sunday Oct. 5 at Montgomery High School. We will advertise through various biking web sites and through the upcoming Katy Flatland Bike Ride.

Lion Becca thanked speaker Linda Washburn for all the special teachers in Cy-Fair, as her son is dyslexic and has been helped through special instruction.

Meeting adjourned after a hearty Lions Roar. Tail Twister collected \$5.75 in assorted fines.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary