

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday Aug. 11, 2015 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 7

Guests: 10

President Paul opened the meeting promptly at 7PM. Lion Dorothy reluctantly led the pledges to the flags. Lion Clayton gave prayer. Lion Chuck reported that Tail Twister Lion Don was indisposed this evening. His wife said he had to attend his great grandson's 9th birthday party.

Guests were introduced. Sheldon, repeat guest of Lion Stedman, Diego Blanco and Kim Westerman, and Megan Seiver, with other guests who were introduced after the meal.

Megan Seiver was sponsored as a Texas Lions Camp Diabetic camper by our Club for four years. Last year she worked the two weeks of Diabetic Camp as part of the Medical staff, checking blood sugars and giving insulin to the youngest 8 year olds at the Camp. This year she was hired as a Camp Counselor, which has been an amazing experience. She reported that "you don't know what you get yourself into until you are there." She introduced her fellow counselors, all International students. Bella, from New Zealand, was part of the Wing Staff, being over the counselors of two or more sections of the bunk houses. This was her second year at TLC. Adrian, also from New Zealand, was a lifeguard at the pool. This was his first year at Camp. Grace, also from New Zealand, worked the ropes course, as well as being a bunk house counselor. Amy, the 4th from New Zealand, worked as a lifeguard. Peter, from outside London, England, was also Wing staff. Emma, from Australia, worked arts and crafts. Megan reported that the campers taught them so much about perseverance, and she feels she has grown into a better person thanks to this experience of caring for handicapped children. The group discussed how even the most restricted campers did the ropes course; a blind girl climbed the climbing wall without hesitation. Lion Chuck asked Megan to explain the special award she received at Camp. Each diabetic session, a male and female counselor is chosen for their outstanding enthusiasm, helpfulness, and leadership. These special awards usually go to persons who have worked at TLC for at least three years. A long hiking type staff was awarded to Megan. Unfortunately, she did not have it with her. One counselor reported how difficult it was to comfort and support a child who was homesick, when she was homesick herself. When asked how they prepared for the new week of campers, we were told that they received binders containing information on each camper in their care, so they had some idea of the handicaps and likes of the child beforehand. The group discussed campouts, preferring Inspiration Point to Frontier Village, due to being up on the hill and no lights, so the stars really stood out. Down's syndrome children do not attend camp outs as they tend to wander off. We learned that the only free time the counselors have is the 26 hours from the time one set of Campers leaves until the next group arrives. They tended to sleep a lot, and went to Kerrville, Fredericksburg, and even San Marcos just to be away from the Camp for a while. Megan reported that besides receiving free room and board, they were paid a small amount, which she said works out to \$.82/hr when you figure 24 hours a day they are in charge of the Campers. When asked how they learned Sign Language for the deaf, they had a class for an hour a day the first week, before Campers arrived. Many reported that the

Campers themselves were very helpful and taught them a lot. Some kids had partial hearing, or could read lips, but sometimes the counselors did not find this out until Friday. When asked about their over abundance of energy, always jumping around, hollering, supporting the kids at the Awards Ceremony, we learned that they tended to drink a lot of energy drinks. They gained muscle strength from lifting kids from wheelchairs to the top bunk, or hoisting kids in harnesses up the climbing wall. Kids are given a choice as to which bunk they want, and encouraged to do as much as they want at Camp. Megan said there were three other former Campers on the Counselor staff this year. Most counselors are under the age of 27, with the average age being 21. The International counselors were asked how they heard about TLC, and we were informed that a company called CCUSA held job fairs at colleges, with representatives from Texas Lions Camp there to answer questions. CCUSA then helps the young adults with passport and visa paperwork, and guarantees them a job here. The international students from the lower hemisphere actually have to give up a year of regular college, as their summer months are Dec. through March. There were 145 counselors at Texas Lions Camp this summer. Megan and the entire group thanked us for supporting them and inviting them to share their experiences. Lion Sandy challenged them to become Lions themselves, and continue the good work we do. She pointed out that the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club sponsored 18 campers to Diabetic Camp, 6 to Handicapped Camp, and 1 to Down's syndrome camp this year.

Lion Sandy reported that minutes from the last meeting were emailed, and those in attendances reported reading them. Motion to accept minutes as written was made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Bud, and passed.

Lion Chuck gave Treasurer's report. All dues and bills have been paid. Our Charity account looks thinner due to the purchase of the Vision Screener.

Lion Bud reported that the Magic Show is in progress. He talked with the promoters about providing tickets for Lions to sell. It was estimated that we probably won't have them until mid August.

Lion Chuck presented a beautiful wood plaque as Life Member to the Lions Eye Bank of Texas to President Paul as promised in the Induction ceremony in June.

The 16th Annual Biking for Sight Bike Ride will be held Sunday Oct. 4 at the Montgomery High School Athletic Complex. Lions Chuck and Sandy drove the course this past week. According to the Houston Chronicle, construction is scheduled for Hwy 149 through the National Forest this fall. Hwy 244 is closed about 5 miles prior to Carlos. Lion Chuck has been unable to contact someone from TxDOT about when this is to be opened. Thus far we have about 50 riders preregistered. Advertisements for the back of the riders T-shirts are available for sale.

Lion Sandy reported that a sturdy padded camera bag has been purchased for the Vision Screener, and a portable scanner which must run off a portable computer also purchased. She corresponded with the State Vision Certification Screener, and it would be late Sept. or Oct. before we could have our State Certification training. However, Bevin Gordon of the Cy-Fair School District will be conducting Vision Screening Certification at the Berry Center, and Lions Chuck and Sandy have asked to attend. Unfortunately, it does not look like any training will be available on weekends.

Baseball should start again mid September.

We have received 4 applications for membership but there was not a quorum of Board of Directors to have a meeting. President Paul asked the Secretary to please conduct an email BOD vote.

Lion Chuck reported that he has twice been contacted by Lab Corp, who shares the fence behind fields 4 and 5, to have the weeds and brush cut. Lion Chuck has contacted both the Cy-Fair Sports Association and the field coordinator, and requested that this cleanup be done quickly.

With no further business, Lion Bud dismissed us after a shaky Lions Roar.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary