

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club  
Tuesday Dec. 8, 2015 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

**Members: 14**

**Guests: 10**

President Paul opened the meeting promptly. Lion Becca led the pledges to the flags. Lion Amanda gave prayer. Lion Don led us in singing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem." Guests were introduced.

Lion Chuck introduced 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Mark Roth. Mark is an Eagle Scout, and has served various positions in the Houston Heights Lions Club and District 2-S 2. He currently works for LifeGift, helping to ensure that organs are made available for transplant upon death. He is a Lion's Lion, willing to get in and do what needs to be done. Next year he will become District Governor of District 2-S2.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Mark said he learned many things through Lions Clubs, like how to be a leader. His sponsor is 100 year old Lion PDG Eddie Munger. He presented to Lion Chuck a Year Round Growth Pin for having sponsored 11 members.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mark gave an overview of Lions Clubs International to guests and new members. Lions Clubs were founded in 1917 by a Chicago businessman, Melvin Jones. WWI was in progress, young healthy men were fighting in the war, women were working to support families, and older men banded together to support others through Lions Clubs. Currently there are almost 1.4 million members worldwide. Lions Clubs being just 8 years old, floundered without a mission or direction until Helen Keller, in 1925, spoke at the International Lions Club Convention and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind." Now Lions members all over the world have the same mission, to prevent blindness and preserve sight. In 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind was founded by three men who purchased and trained three dogs to assist blind persons with mobility and daily living. Last year alone, 65 dogs from Leader Dogs for the Blind were given to blind Texas residents as service dogs. In 1949, our own Texas Lions Camp for Crippled Children was started in Kerrville. Originally to provide normal activities for polio victims, we now accept not only handicapped, but Down's Syndrome, and Type 1 Diabetic children, at no cost to the families served. Texas leads the nation for the number of children sent to special camps. In 1953, the Lions Eye Bank of Texas was formed to provide corneal tissue for transplants. Currently in Texas, 1000 to 1500 corneal transplants per year are performed with tissue from the Lions Eye Bank of Texas. In 1959, Leos Clubs were first organized, with 6655 Leos Clubs currently in existence. In 1950, a premature baby was given 100% oxygen in his incubator, which was standard at the time. Later it was discovered that the oxygen caused permanent blindness in these premature babies. This blind child was given his first drum set by the Lions Club in the town where he lived in Michigan, and he became a famous entertainer, Stevie Wonder. Lions eradicated River Blindness from 1992-1998 by giving a single dose of antibiotic to people in poor countries.

Lion Mark explained that Lions learn leadership, public speaking, project management, and various other skills. We train people to give back to their communities.

Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club was founded in 1957, and has always been a tremendous supporter of the Texas Lions Camp. We do our annual Biking for Sight Bike Ride each fall, participate in Wreaths Across America each December, and promote the Houston Lighthouse for the Blind, with our own John Peterson as elected Director. The Lighthouse for the Blind will now sponsor the Blind Fury team at the annual Dragon Boat Races on Buffalo Bayou. This team consists of blind or visually impaired persons who row the boat in the race. Our Club runs the concession stand for the six baseball fields at West Little York complex. Our Club has provided many District Governors, and one

International Director, C. Howard Leverett. Many of our own Lions have been President of the Eye Bank of Texas, President of the Texas Lions Camp, Camp Directors, and many other elected positions. We should be proud of our Club and heritage.

Expectations of new members are to regularly participate in meetings and projects. The Lions motto is We Serve. Lions Bob Rugur and Merrell Greene repeated the pledge with 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mark and were inducted. Sponsor Bud and President Paul presented their pins.

President Paul presented 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mark with a brick to the Lighthouse of Houston in honor of his visit and duties tonight.

New members were asked to tell what drew them to our Lions Club. Lion Bob explained that he got new eyeglasses, and wanted to donate his old ones to a worthy cause. Through an internet search, he found Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club. He came to a meeting, heard about the Vision Screening program we were just starting, and was hooked. He is retired from the State of Alaska, where he recalled the town of Port Lions, which was relocated to its present location after the tsunami of 1964 totally destroyed the previous town. The local Lions Clubs helped with the relocation, and the name was changed to honor them. He has worked the concession stand, and is involved in the KidSight Vision Screening, which he finds satisfying to help detect vision problems in little children.

Wife Merrell said she came because Bob told her what a great group we were. She says she is a volunteer person, and has worked the concession stand. She likes to work with kids, providing Christmas, and felt the fit to our Lions Club was beneficial to all.

Lion Becca reported that Scouts will begin bringing collected foods to the Den for the Christmas Cheer Baskets. Next Tues. she and Lion Bud will purchase perishable foods and baskets. Fresh foods will be divided that evening. Thurs. Dec. 17 all were invited to help distribute food into the 50 or more baskets. There will be a cookie swap that evening as well. Food baskets will be personally delivered on Saturday Dec. 19, at 9AM. Please let Lion Becca know if you plan on delivering baskets, so she can have the routes and maps ready. Cy-Fair ISD will send a professional photographer to the Thursday basket stuffing, and Sat. morning when we set out to deliver the baskets. Hopefully, this will be in the local Cy-Fair Magazine.

This Saturday Scouts will be hosting a CPR/IED/First Aid training course at the meeting room. Anyone is invited to attend.

There will be a Cancer Awareness Tournament on our baseball fields on December 19 and 20. We will do vision screening for children from 1-4 PM on Saturday, and need volunteers to get consent forms completed, direct parents and kids as to where to go, etc.

President Paul again thanked Lion Mark Roth for speaking and inducting our new members. Meeting was adjourned with a mighty Lion's Road by Lion Don.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary