

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday March 8, 2016 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 17

Guests: 4

Vice President Becca opened the meeting promptly. Lion John led the pledges to the flags. Lion Milly gave prayer. Lion Don led us in singing "America." President Paul is absent tonight because his father-in-law fell at home today and had to be taken to the hospital for evaluation. Guests were introduced: Lone Star College Cy-Fair students Susan Domingo, Marlin Moonsammy, and Jung Woo, and Lion Sam Thomas from the Baytown Lions Club.

After our meal, Lion Chuck introduced the District Global Membership Team Leader, Lion Sam Thomas. Lion Sam reported that he was a Sergeant Major in the Army and served in two countries. He has been a Lion for many years, holding almost all positions except District Governor. He reported that membership in our District is still growing despite having lost a couple of Clubs. He discussed his "elevator speech" that he uses to introduce others to what Lions Clubs are all about when people notice his Lions pin, cap or shirt. He reminded us that every friend we have has a friend, who has a friend, etc, and we need to continue to inform them about Lions. He loves "warm fuzzy stories", times when being a Lion became very real to a person by serving those less fortunate than themselves. He told about a young diabetic child who was very withdrawn. Lion Sam got him into the Diabetic session of Texas Lions Camp, where the young man prospered. He loved the climbing wall there, but saw that the Camp could use more. So for his Eagle Scout Project, he raised money and constructed two more panels for the climbing wall at Texas Lions Camp. The young man is now a very happy, outgoing teen thanks to the Can Do attitude from Texas Lions Camp. "Those who bring sunshine to others cannot keep it from themselves" Lion Sam said. He told of a young blind and autistic child who needed a new keyboard, which his Club purchased for her, and the joy it brought her. He said you "become" a Lion from the special deeds we do for others.

To our new Lions inductees, Lion Sam informed them they were joining the world's largest service organization, at 1.4 million members in 210 countries. He said their responsibility was to learn all they can about Lions, but the Sponsor's job it to help. He told how Lions in Chicago many years ago gave a blind boy a drum set that he wanted. He quickly mastered that, plus learned harmonica and piano, and became famous with hit records. His name is Stevie Wonder. Lion Sam asked all who were ready to fulfill the roll of Lion and accept membership to take one step forward. All did. Lion Chuck helped pass out new member and sponsor certificates and pins. New members were then asked to tell us something about themselves.

Lion Keith found us on the Web. He is doing some consulting work, was in sales, and is also working as an Uber driver. He has worked the concession stand.

Lion Julie volunteers to care for orphaned wildlife, helping to raise the orphaned babies. She commented how great it was to see so many young people at our meeting. She has helped with Vision Screening

Lion Seth said he was proud to be a Lion. He joined in 1978 when teaching high school in Liberia, then joined a Lions Club in Ohio. He helped to start the Copperfield

Lions Club, but when he returned from being out of the country, the Club has disbanded. He teaches at Lone Star College.

Fousini is an airline pilot and flight instructor. He also was in the Copperfield Lions Club. He started working for Lions Clubs at age 16 by flying needed medicines to places in Africa, but didn't actually join a Lions Club until the Copperfield Club.

Karsumo said he read about Lions and talked with Seth and was surprised to learn that he was a Lion. He is a tax analyst, not currently working. He is very happy to be a part of this Club and has helped with Vision Screening

Lion Diego said he always heard Mr. Bud talk about being a Lion and helping others. He and his girlfriend Kim wanted to do something to help others. They have done bus trips to Texas Lions Camp and enjoyed helping the kids on the bus. He enjoys working the concession stand. Diego said he is 22 and works with Lions Bud and Dorothy in real estate.

Lion Kim is an undergraduate at Rice University, and will enter dental school in the fall. She wanted a service club that she could work the rest of her life. She also has worked the concession stand.

Lions Robert and Karen Berry were not here for induction tonight. Robert has helped other Lions Clubs throughout the state to start Vision Screening programs.

Lion Becca explained she is the Vice President and not always able to make the meetings due to family commitments, just as President Paul is not here due to family tonight. She is Treasurer for the Venture Scout Crew which this Club has sponsored and supported. She explained how this Lions Club helps the Scout students and they help us with our projects.

Lions Leadership Forum will be held in Omaha Nebraska in September. This is a great teaching conference. Information is available on line.

The District Convention will be held Saturday April 23 at the Park Inn. We will need 2 delegates to vote, and our Past District Governors, Lions Chuck and Don, also will be voting. There are still four District offices vacant if anyone wants to step up to a District position.

Westbury Lions Club will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 16. Lion Sandy was asked to send the information out with the minutes.

We will need to hold Club elections for officers very soon. All offices are open and anyone interested can contact Lions Paul or Chuck for further information about what each office entails. We will need to have elections the first meeting of April so that the Secretary can report to Lions Clubs International by the 15 of that month.

Lion Becca discussed the Annual Friends of Scouting. Each year our Club has contributed money. Approximately 11,000 new youth start in Scouting each year. Scouts teach kids responsibility and character. The Venture Crew Scouts have been going to the Texas Lions Camp Work Day for the past several years. They learn from service, and it changes their lives. Lion Bud was presented a Scouting Cap for his continues support as our Club liaison to Scouting.

There will not be any baseball tournament this weekend. Regular baseball will start on Thursday. The Venture Crew works on Tue. Nights, but we may need other Lions to work shifts on other nights of the week.

Lion Don held a Chinese auction for a coat that was left at the Lions Eye Bank Bowl-A-Thon. Lion Becca displayed the coat at the end of Lion Don's cane, as it was

reported that a dog had peed on it. The auction collected \$7, and went to its proud owner, Lion Diego.

The Dictionary Project was discussed. Many Lions told of their experiences with taking the dictionaries to the schools. Some were able to personally hand the books to the third graders, others had to just leave them with the school. Ten elementary schools received dictionaries with labels denoting that the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club donated them. Lion Chuck reported that if we want to give dictionaries to ALL third graders in the 54 elementary schools in CFISD, it would cost about \$20,000. PDG Paul Eads suggested we contact local businesses, like some of the many car dealerships in the area, for donations, and list them on the label on the front of the book. Each dictionary costs \$2.25. Lions who are good at selling were encouraged to seek donations from the community.

Lion Becca thanked the Lone Star students who attended the meeting, and Lion Sam for his wonderful Induction ceremony.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM after a hearty Lions Roar by the Tail Twister.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary