

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday Aug. 9, 2016 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 16

Guests: 3

President Paul called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Lion Terry led the pledges to the flags. President Paul informed everyone that Lion Seth Roberts young grandson had recently died, and to remember that family in our prayers. Lion Julie gave prayer. With Lion Don still out, there was again no song.

Guests were introduced. Amanda Henry is interested in becoming a Lion, as her late Uncle was a Lion near Anchorage, AK. Gib DuTerroil, our guest speaker, and Shantal, guest of Lion Stedman. Lion Dr. Sherrill Morris, a member of this Club who has moved to Jackson, MS, and is visiting, was introduced.

Lion Keith introduced Gib DuTerroil of the Light House of Houston. He informed us that many years ago he was a member of a Lions Club, but that club disbanded. Mr. DuTerroil told that Lions Club members make up the majority of the Light House of Houston's Board of Directors and get the majority of the work done. The Light House started in 1939 by Mr. James Donovan, once a member of the Houston Heights Lions Club. During the 1930's, blind persons were considered unemployable. In 1929, the University of Texas admitted its first blind student. Helen Keller challenged Lions at the International Lions Convention to fight for those who are blind. Blindness is: 1) the most feared disability, as 85% of what we take in is visual; 2) the only disability recognized by the US Government; and 3) the only disability with a legal definition. Very few persons who are blind cannot see any light. Corrected vision with glasses that is 20/200 is considered legally blind, and those persons can receive SSI and considered permanently disabled. The Light House of Houston was founded to assist the blind to learn to function and work in our society. They quickly outgrew their modest early building, and in 1941-1942 Lions Club members raised money to buy a former church, which had enough space to greatly increase the workings of the Light House. Blind persons started making pillow cases for the armed forces during WWII, and made brooms and mops of the finest, longest lasting materials. By the 1950's, they had outgrown that space, and were looking for a larger facility. Lion's members held Telethons on TV to raise fund to build on West Dallas Street. They continued making the gourmet brooms and mops, but sales dropped with the introduction of much cheaper imported products. The residents of the Light House used to make Magic Markers sold to the Federal Government. They now manufacture detergents, disinfectants and glass cleaners. The Houston Light House for the Blind is the only outside organization in the world permitted to manufacture these products for the Johnson and Johnson Company. With increased technology, the blind now do most of the medical transcriptionist work by listening to taped transcription by the doctor, and using special computers or Braille writers to type. Blind persons trained at the Houston Light House for the Blind also answer the phones for the IRS, the VA switchboard, and the Sherriff's Department Call Center. Typically, 10,000 persons are served annually by the Houston Light House. There are 180,000 persons in the Houston area with visual impairment, with diabetes being the largest contributor. The Light House provide diabetes education and services by a Registered Nurse and Dietitian. Some people are born blind, but most become blind later in life, and the Light House helps these people adapt and adjust to this difficult situation. They have counselors on staff for clients and families. There are about 900 blind persons from the VA Affairs program. Some were blinded during service to our country, but many were service personnel who later became blind due to other conditions. Lions Clubs sponsor "Blind Fury", a Dragon Boat Race team consisting of members of the Light House of Houston, who compete against sighted persons in the

annual Dragon Boat Races on Brays Bayou each spring. The goals of the Houston Light House for the Blind are to make visually impaired persons independent and integrate into society. They are now in their 77th year. Lion Milly reported that 2 members of her Church are blind and they do jobs and sing in the choir. Lion Sherrill reported that her oldest sister has been blind from birth.

Due to the time, President Paul dismissed with the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

We have been given 250 tickets for Lions to sell for the Magic Show at the Berry Center on Mon. Sept. 12 at 7PM. See Lion Bud if you need tickets. It was determined that we could sell tickets at a reduced price for really special situations. Lion Sandy has invited all the TLC campers we sponsored this year, but has not received any response. Lion Chuck reported that our first deposit of funds collected by the collection agency has been deposited. It was reminded that we only receive 25% of the cost of the tickets sold this way.

President Paul reported that last Wed. was the 1st PSC meeting of the year. We had a very large turnout, with all District officers of our Club in attendance.

Dues statements were passed out previously. Please keep your dues current.

Lion Chuck reported that the first Sun. in Oct. will be our Biking for Sight Bike Ride. The entire 100 mile route has had to be changed due to road construction. Riders are requesting a GPS map, and Lion Chuck asked for help as he is not familiar with that. Lions Keith and Becca agreed to help. The new 100 mile route, which has been approved by TxDot, is more condensed, and we will need diligence placing the signs. Lion Becca reported that she and husband Tony will not be available that weekend, but has Scout Crew members who would need adult drivers who could place signs. We will need SAG drivers to drive the routes and pick up cyclists. Persons with an SUV or even a car with a trailer hitch to hold a bike rack are especially needed.

The Bob Dowden Dinner will be held, Saturday Oct. 1, which is the day prior to our Bike Ride. This dinner is a large fund raiser for the Texas Lions Camp.

Baseball should start early to mid September.

Lion Robert Berry will put on a free magic show at the Lion's Den on Friday Aug. 19. This show will be filmed to be used as advertisement. It is rated over PG13, so no young children should attend. Lion Chuck needs help moving tables and chairs the afternoon of the performance. Lion Becca said the Scout Crew meets there the previous evening, and can set up as directed.

Lion Keith reported that our next guest speaker will be from Camp Hope.

There will be a Vision Screening tomorrow morning. Lions Julie and Mazher volunteered to assist. This Saturday will be the Houston Royal Oaks Back Pack event, and our Club will do vision screening. They plan on giving away 10,000 back packs, so we have the potential of doing lots of vision screening. We have borrowed the Districts equipment as well. Royal Oaks Lions has promised us some volunteers. The event is from 8AM to 1PM at Plaza Americus Mall, I-59 at Bellaire. Lion Becca informed us of the Cub Scout Event to be held Sat. Oct. 8, and requested us to do Vision Screening again there. We have been accepted to do Vision Screening at Shop Till You Drop at the Berry Center Sat. Sept. 10. Lion Sandy brought various room darkening curtains and we need to come up with a way to make a small darkened area for outdoor vision screening, as for the Jersey Village Holiday in the Park in December. Lion Becca reported the Crew has purchased a new canopy and she will bring it over and see if it will support the heavy drapes.

Lion Chuck stated that if we wish to donate dictionaries to all 3rd graders in CFISD next year, at over \$2 a book, we should consider selling ads to major businesses which can be placed in each book. In order to do this successfully, we need to consider becoming a 501C3 corporation. He knows a lawyer who can assist with this. Motion by Lion Becca, seconded by Lion Bud, that Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club seeks 501C3 status. Motion passed.

Lion Becca reported that the Soaring Eagle Scout District held its annual picnic at our facility, and it was again a great success. Lions Bud and Dorothy attended.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned by Lion John after a hearty Lions Roar.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Martin, Secretary