

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday Sept. 12, 2016 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 12

Guests: 19

President Paul opened the meeting and introduced himself to our guests. Lion John led the pledges to the flags. Lion Amanda gave prayer. There was no song. Lion Merrell declined to sing, and Lion Don did not answer his phone today.

This was our Handicapped Campers meeting. We had seven out of the 14 handicapped campers that we sponsored to Texas Lions Camp present. The children were invited to tell what they liked about Texas Lions Camp. Halen, 16, was bashful and wouldn't say anything, but his mom reported that he had a wonderful time and talks about his camp experiences at home. He has been going since he was 11, and this was his last year to attend TLC. Rebekah, 13, loved everything about Camp. This was her first year to go. Her parents felt very comfortable with her first camping experience. She can't wait to go again next year. August, 8 years old, loved the counselors, and the camp out. He reported that he ate very well. This was his first year at Camp. Sister June, 9, also loved the counselors, who motivated her to do the activities. She loved "gaga ball". She saw the Big Dipper in the sky during the campout. Another sister, Summer, 12, also loved gaga ball, the counselors, hamburgers, and the horses. Winter, also 12, loved the counselors, the campers, and all the activities. This was the first time for these four siblings to attend Texas Lions Camp. Both parents said the kids all had a blast. They still had other children at home, so their daily lives were somewhat quieter the week of camp. Isabella, 11, said she had a lot of fun at camp. She loved the horseback riding, and the scavenger hunt. She definitely wants to go again next year. This was her first year to go. She told of socks being stolen by raccoons during the camp out. Her parents loved all the pictures posted on Facebook each day. They liked that children of different abilities and handicaps were all grouped together during activities. They mentioned the boundless energy of the counselors. Isabella liked seeing her friends from the Texas School for the Deaf at Texas Lions Camp.

Parents were encouraged to enroll their children in Jan. when TLC registration opens for 2017.

President Paul gave the parents a brief overview of all that the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club does during the year. We run a concession stand at the other end of our building during children's baseball, held a Magic Show just last night at the Berry Center, sell wreaths for Wreaths Across America each year and place them on graves of fallen soldiers. At Christmas, we prepare 50 bushel baskets of food and take to needy families within the Cy-Fair area. We provide eye exams and eyeglasses for children in the school district whose parents cannot afford these. We do vision screening on young children at Day Care Centers and Preschools in the area, screening children as young as 6 mo. of age. We collect used eyeglasses to recycle and send around the world to help others see clearly.

There may be baseball this weekend, we should find out in the morning.

Our 3rd Annual Children's Magic Festival was last night at the Berry Center. We had 164 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the show. Mrs. Aiken and Mrs. Liste reported they wanted to help advertise for the Magic Show next year.

Our Annual Bike Ride will be held Sunday Oct. 2 in Montgomery, TX. Work assignment list was circulated among members to choose their jobs during the bike ride. The bike ride will start at 8AM at the Montgomery High School Athletic Complex but workers need to be there by 6:30AM. Lion Chuck reported that this has been the most stressful bike ride in 17 years. Due to major road construction, 40 miles of the 100 mile route were wiped out. Just 2 weeks ago, he was told that we could not ride through the National Forest due to road constriction, that that portion of the ride had to be

reconfigured. He still needs SAG drivers, persons with an SUV, pickup truck, or car with trailer hitch to hold a bike rack. These persons will drive around sections of the course, picking up riders with mechanical problems, or riders too tired to continue, and take them to the next rest stop. Rest stops are about every 10-12 miles throughout the course, and have snacks and drinks for the riders. Various Scout Troops and other Lions Clubs man the rest stops. Because of the route changes, we will need triple the police support this year. This is a full Club project and everyone is asked to participate in some way.

Oct. 1 is the Bob Dowden Dinner, which is a big District wide fundraiser for the Texas Lions Camp. Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion John, motioned that we purchase a table for 10 at this dinner. Motion passed.

One camper parent asked about the qualifications to be a counselor at Texas Lions Camp. The applicants need to be 19 years of age. Applications are on the Texas Lions Camp website.

President Paul presented a Banner Patch for the Centennial Service Challenge. Again this year, Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club achieved the highest award.

With no further business, Lion John dismissed us with a hearty Lion's Roar.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Martin, Secretary