

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club  
Tuesday Sept. 27, 2016 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

**Members: 13**

**Guests: 48**

President Paul opened the meeting promptly. Lion John led the pledges to the flags. President Paul gave prayer. Lion Don led us in singing his favorite song, "Oh Beautiful, Beautiful Texas." Lion Mazher introduced his daughter, Maria, from Chicago, who is visiting.

After the meal, we had our Diabetic Campers introduce themselves and tell what they liked about Texas Lions Camp. Parents were encouraged to speak on their experience with Camp. Jonathan A., age 13, liked the zip line. This was his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at TLC. His mom enjoyed the counselors, and the med staff, and commented that the Camp was so organized. Matthew B., 15, said this was his 4<sup>th</sup> and final year at TLC. He liked the campout, and said he learned to change his insulin pump injection sites. Mom said it was very emotional for them as this was his last year. She reported it was a relief for the family not to worry about her son, knowing he was in good hands. This was Michael C's first year at TLC. At 13, he loved the campout, and also learned different pump injection sites. His mom liked that he was with other kids with Type 1 Diabetes. Dad said Michael came back from camp "a whole lot smarter about his disease, and learned that he is not alone." Matthew C, age 15, liked his first and only year at TLC. He liked the campout and the horses, and learned to care for himself when his parents were not around. Mom said Matthew was diagnosed at age 9 months, and this was his first time away from his parents, who took their first vacation in 15 years. Dad commented that they were always afraid to leave their son anywhere. Parker E., 15, said she has been going to TLC for 8 years. She has a diabetic alert dog. Mom said she was sad as this was their last camper dinner with us. Mom said TLC has been a great experience for her daughter. The doctors and counselors talked with Parker about what her life will be as an adult with DM, for which she was grateful. Aiden F, 11, attended TLC for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this summer. He liked the campout at Inspiration Point. He said, "I learned stuff." Mom said he really enjoyed Camp, had tears in his eyes when they picked him up, and he did not want to leave. She was very thankful for his opportunity to attend Diabetic Camp. Dad was thankful for the Lions Club helping him to go to Camp. His son had a good independent experience away from parents, and feels comfortable staying overnight with friends. Kelly G. reported that this was his 2<sup>nd</sup> and final year at TLC. He liked horseback riding. Mom said Kelly was diagnosed only 4-5 mo. prior to first attending Camp, and she felt hesitant to let him go at first, but realized that he was in excellent hands with the doctors, nurses and medical staff of the Camp. She liked that he learned that he wasn't alone with DM. Dad said Kelly is into Scouting, does campouts, and felt his son learned a lot through Texas Lions Camp. TJ L., 9, attended Camp for the first time this year. He loved the campout, and was very proud to learn to give himself his own injections. Dad said that it was great the he was with kids just like him. His first words when he picked up his son were, "I want to go next year, and I learned to give myself shots!" Lauren M, age 11, liked her first year at Camp. She especially liked meeting other kids with Type 1 DM, and learned to manage her disease better. Mom said she was diagnosed 7 mo. ago, and Camp was great for her. Dad said she had a sense of belonging with the other kids. He also loved the enthusiasm and organization of TLC. This was Grace M.'s first year. At 14, she loved finding a group of friends with the same challenges as her. She liked the campout, but got rained out during the night. Mom said she was nervous at first about leaving her daughter there, but everyone made her feel at ease. Dad was impressed with the staff, their excitement and ability to make it fun for the campers. Dad said he is also Type 1 Diabetic, and never met another Type 1 until he was in college. He said his daughter learned she can do whatever she wants to do, just like a normal kid. Savannah M., 12, attended Camp

for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. She liked meeting new friends and seeing the old ones again. Mom reported that after TLC, her daughter embraced her DM and started self care more. Kaleb P., 12, has attended Camp for 4 years now. He said he liked camp, and learned to manage his DM “sometimes”. Mom said he talked a lot about the food, and was well fed. Dad was thankful for the Lions to provide this experience. He stresses to his son that he can do anything, but just needs to manage his disease. Cameron R, age 12, attended Camp for the first time. She liked the camp out, and learned to give her injections in many different places. Dad said she was diagnosed at age 3, and this was the first time she has been away from the family. He loved the Facebook interaction, and that she opened up to other kids with DM. Vernon R., 13, also attended for the first time. He liked archery, and said he was nick named “little Robin Hood.” Dad said he was diagnosed at 10 years of age. .

Lion Chuck thanked the parents for sending their kids to a camp 4 hours away. He explained some of the things Lions Club members do to raise funds to send these kids to Camp, such as our concession stand at the end of the building that runs 9 months a year, our Bike Ride annually in Montgomery. He explained that every Christmas we give huge food baskets to 50 needy families in the Cy-Fair area. We purchase about 100 eye examinations and glasses for children whose parents are otherwise unable to afford. We contribute to the Texas Eye Bank, Leader Dog, and other Lions Club charities. Our Club was formed in 1957, and Lion Don is our last remaining Charter member. Lion Milly was married to the second president of our Club, and Lions Bud and Dorothy have been members almost forever. We are always looking for new members. He told of a camper whom we sponsored for several years, who became a counselor at TLC, and brought 6 other counselors to our meeting. Scholarships for counselors are provided by different Lions Clubs. Applications for camper registration open on line in January. Diabetic Camp only runs for 2 wks, and the earlier applications are completed, the better the chance the child will get to attend.

President Paul discussed the Magic Show we had at the Berry Center on Sept. 12. We netted fewer proceeds, even with increased attendance, due to increased expenses.

The Bike Ride is this Sunday. Lion Chuck showed the new metal stakes for the signs, explained that there will be 4 different route lengths. Thus far, we are down 1/3 of the riders as normal at this time prior to the ride. The weekend is scheduled to be sunny and cool.

There is to be a baseball tournament at our fields this weekend. Lion Paul is looking for help from other Lions Clubs and organizations. Lion Chuck requested that those members, who have volunteered to help him load the trailer on Saturday for the Bike ride, instead volunteer to work at the concession stand that day.

Holiday in the Park in Jersey Village will be Sun. Dec. 4. Last year we attempted to conduct vision screening, but could not get a dark enough area. It was explained to our guests that our vision screening camera can screen children as young as 6 months of age. We started this program 11 months ago, have screened over 1800 children, with about 13% referral to an ophthalmologist for a complete eye exam.

Lion Chuck explained that we now have a credit card swiper for our phones that we can use at the Bike Ride.

With no further business, it was announced that there will be a very short Board of Directors meeting afterwards. Lion Don dismissed us with a hearty Lions Roar.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Martin, Secretary