

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday Dec. 13, 2016 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 14

Guests: 11

President Paul opened the meeting at 7:04 PM, as the clock on the wall had died. Lion Bud Casey led the pledges to the flags. Lion Amanda gave prayer. Lion Don led us in singing "Joy to the World." Guests were introduced. At the head table were 2nd Vice District Governor Karl Johnson, and his wife Jane, 1st Vice District Governor Lion Betty Ezell, District Governor Lion Mark Roth, Cherie Yackley, wife of President Paul, and his mother, Pat Yackley. Other guests were introduced: Marie Robinson, wife of Lion Don, Ed Malavase, fiancé of Lion Amanda Crane, and Tony Franco, husband of Lion Becca. Lion Mazher and wife Nahid Poonawalla arrived after introductions.

After the meal, 1st Vice District Governor Lion Betty Ezell stated it was a pleasure and honor to introduce our District Governor. He loves to Serve, and has been serving others since he was a young child. She said we should ask him about his Eagle Scout Project. DG Mark Roth said he felt very comfortable at this facility, where many Cabinet meetings have taken place. He reported that he had to miss his first Club meeting due to helping a neighbor who was accosted and needed surgery. It made him very aware of how our lives can change in an instant, and we need to take care and be grateful for all we have. He reported that for the incoming District Governor, from Jan. through July, panic sets in as things start to happen rapidly. He reported that being District Governor is "no big deal", and he loves every minute of it. He has dressed as a turkey to feed the hungry for Thanksgiving with a Club. He discussed how his father was in Rotary and taught him to serve. He carries his father's picture in his pocket. In our District we started with 1579 Lions, and currently we have 1588, thanks to the two new Clubs that have been started. He is focusing on the Seabrook/Nassau Bay area for possibly another Club, and that a Veteran's Club is in the works. He is very grateful for the service of this Club, stating that Lions Chuck and Sandy and others are doing vision screening on children and are a great example for other Clubs. We have screened 2284 children this year, with about 200 referred for complete eye examinations. We have purchased eyeglasses for needy children, and collected about 5800 pair of used eye glasses. Our Club provided toys for eleven needy children through the PSC meeting. He said we don't do enough to promote all that we as Lions do. DG Mark discussed how the Lions Eye Bank provided cornea tissue without cost to those who need it. Doctors do not charge for their services, and facilities who also do not charge are used in the transplant process. The Eye Bank is a partnership between Baylor College of Medicine, and four Lions Districts within the state of Texas. For upcoming District announcements, he discussed the photo contest which is due the end of this month, the Past District Governors Achievement Awards nominations due 2-15-2016, and nominations for the District Hall of Fame due 12-31-2016. There will be an extension workshop 1-2-2017 with recruiting for new members and new club later that week. There will be a Leadership Forum in Austin in Feb. This is a great place for training opportunity. The State is looking for Lions with musical experience to form a Texas State Band to play at the International Convention in Chicago next summer. DG Mark asked Lions to sign the Centennial Banner which was given to him from his inauguration and will be carried by him at the next International Convention. Governor Mark discussed one of the Lions pins he wears as belonging to his uncle, who was a District Governor in Bolivia. The pin has a number 5 on it, signifying the number of Clubs his uncle started during his term. He discussed

his football type game, where there are 100 squares, for sale at \$10 each. After all the squares have been sold, all the numbers will be placed in a container, and one drawn, who will be awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Melvin Jones was the founder of Lions Clubs, and the Foundation helps to do good in the world during disasters.

DG Mark discussed the children we send to Texas Lions Camp. He told of a girl named A'Miracle, who was born with many birth defects, and the doctors told her parents if she lived it would be a miracle, hence her name. She learned to swim at Texas Lions Camp. He then presented a Life Membership to the Texas Lions Camp to Lion Sandy, and read about the Life Membership pin and all that it signifies.

Lion Terry asked him about his Eagle Scout project. During the 1970's the war in Viet Nam was ongoing. There was a mother and two sons, ages 12 and 13, who had come to this country with the children's father, who was American. But the husband became abusive, and the woman and sons were living on the street. DG Mark organized Scouts to go door to door in the community, requesting any assistance for this homeless family. He then organized to move them into an apartment, and furnished it, and provided Christmas for the family. The boys joined Scouts with him, and became his friends. Unfortunately, while the Scouts were away at a camp out, the mother of the boys died. DG Mark's aunt, a school teacher, adopted the boys, and gave them a stable home.

President Paul awarded District Governor Mark with a Lions' Eye Bank Ambassador Award for his visit tonight.

President Paul said we would dispense with the treasurer's and secretary's reports tonight. Lion Becca discussed the annual Christmas Cheer Food Basket project. Scouts have been busy collecting foods. She stated that our Club has been giving baskets of food for many years, but when our Club sponsored the Venture Crew in 2008 and the Scouts started helping with the food drives, we are now able to donate 60 baskets. She has received monetary donations from Scouts and others to help cover our costs. The Kroger at West and Jones Roads will be letting us have the turkeys, eggs, and other foods at their costs, plus they have given us \$100 towards this project. We will meet here on Thursday evening, December 15 at 7PM to sort fresh produce, and start the basket stuffing. Then at 1PM on Sunday Dec. 18, we will meet here to deliver the baskets to the families. The more hands we have for this project, the less time it will take to complete. There will be a cookie swap on Thursday, to bring cookies to share.

Lion Chuck reported that the baseball tournament of last weekend started with 14 games, then one team dropped out, and the other 3 in that age bracket also dropped out. We only had 7 games at the West Little York complex. This was a tournament benefitting one of the baseball players whose mother died of cancer a couple of years ago, and monies raised are helping the family pay the bills. Motion was made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Keith, that we donate \$100, basically our profits from the weekend, to the family. Motion passed.

Lion Keith has set up two TV's on hinged wall brackets at the concession stand window. He will make a flash drive for each one, explaining to the public what our Club does, about the Texas Lions Camp, etc. Everyone was encouraged to see this great improvement.

Lion Dorothy said she was approached by a man who, along with some friends, wanted to provide Christmas for needy families where children would otherwise not receive Christmas gifts. Lion Chuck suggested she contact Lion Lynn Harrison, who handled the PSC Children's Christmas Wish List drive to see if other children are awaiting gifts. Cherie Yackley said her Church works with Cy-Hope, where 99% of the children are on the school food plan, to see if they have children who still need Christmas gifts.

Lion Chuck said that if our Club plans to distribute dictionaries to 3rd grade students this spring, we need a committee to plan fundraising. It would take \$20,000 to provide dictionaries to each 3rd grader in the Cy-Fair ISD.

With no further business, Lion Don adjourned us after we all sang “Silent Night” and he wished “Merry Christmas to One and All”.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Martin, Secretary