

CyFair Houston Lions Club

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2017

PRESENT: Lions' Paul, Keith, Julie, Bud, Dorothy, Mazher, John, Terry, and Kim

GUEST: Jean Denson

SPEAKER: Lion Larry Smith, Woodlands Lions Club, with mascot "Bentley" (a nearly 4 year old German Shepard)

Lions Leader Dog Program

Prelude to the meeting, Lion Dorothy introduced Mr. & Mrs. John and Terry Peterson, married Saturday, February 25, 2017! Congratulations to them!

MEETING:

Lion Paul opened the meeting at 7:02pm. Lion John lead the pledges, Lion Paul offered the prayer. Dinner was served.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION:

Lion Paul introduced our Speaker, Lion Larry Smith, Woodlands Lions Club, and Bentley to talk about the Lions Leader Dog Program. He shared the program history, a slide show and videos which focused on operations and steps taken to ensure proper raising, training and placement of these talented guide dogs. The Leader Dogs are a vital part of empowerment, freedom and independence for blind and deaf clients. Highlights of his presentation include:

Leader Dog Program began in the 1960's. Only a very small operation at that time, it was determined the need for these guide dogs was great and funds were raised to build a large suitable \$14 million facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan. The facility is home for the breeding and very early puppy care. Puppies are placed for approximately one year with a volunteer home for early basic training. Then dogs are returned to the facility for more intense training and preparation for placement. The total cost for Leader Dogs is approximately \$38,000. Only 60% of the dogs successfully complete the Program and can be placed.

Clients also go through extensive training themselves along with training with their new companion. Dogs are placed for 7-9 years with their new owners. There is no cost for the client receiving a Leader Dog but a waiting list of about 6 months. Lion Larry summarized fundraising ideas and answered member questions.

CLUB MEETING BUSINESS:

Officer Reports: Lion Paul advised we would bypass Secretary and Treasurer reports as those Officers were not present.

Concessions: Lions Bob and Merrell were working the stand this evening. Lions Keith and Julie will work the stand Wednesday evening. Weekend tournaments were not yet formalized. Lion Paul will advise members as needed.

Bowlathon: Lions Bowlathon will be Saturday, March 25th. Lions John, Keith, Jean, and Terry volunteered to participate.

License Plates: Lion Bud shared the opportunity for all Lions to purchase Lions Camp license plates upon your next renewal. At a cost of \$30 with \$22 of that fee going to the Camp.

Lions Float: Lion Paul shared the news that Lion Kim will be on the Lions Float this weekend in the Houston Rodeo Parade.

New Officers: Lion Terry announced the names of proposed new officers. President, Lion Keith; Vice President, Lion Mazher; Secretary, Lion Sandy; Treasurer, Lion Chuck; Membership, Lion Merrell; 2 Year Directors, Lions Dorothy and Terry; continuing 1 yr Director, Lion Becca; 1 Year Director: replacing Lion Mazher, Lion John; Lion Bob Rugur, Lion Tamer; and Club Tail Twister, Lion Julie.

Lion Paul adjourned meeting at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Blaies
Acting Secretary