

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday May 23, 2017, 2017 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 12

Guests: 2

President Paul opened the meeting promptly. Lion Julie gave prayer. Lion Steve led us in the pledges to the flags. Lion Chuck was asked to sing but he refused.

Guests were introduced. Suellen Denton and Jennifer are both employees of the Harris County Library at the other end of our parking lot. They are both very happy to be working with us for family and community events in our area. They informed us that there are many entirities within the Harris County Health Department with which we could partner, such as doing a Mobile Health Unit screening, or a Mobil Vet Clinic. We are within the Houston City limits, so have access to all Houston programs. They explained it is easier to recruit groups of friends, not just individuals. We may need to restructure our organization to attract younger members. We could make a membership drive as a large event for families. Next Door.com and Meet Up are great social media for getting the word out about our Club. We could make a Next Door account just for the Club and building. We could offer adult board games for young adults. Table Top is a good website for these games, which often require lots of time and attention to details, and young people love them. Lion Merrell suggests we have tags for our website for the meeting room, so that anyone who does an internet search for meeting rooms in our area, our facility would show up. Lion Chuck suggested attending the Jersey Village Council meetings and making our presence known there. Jennifer, a former Leo, asked if there were any Leos Clubs in the Cy-Fair schools. Lion Chuck explained that one was formed at Langham Creek High School, but folded when most of the interested students graduated that spring. Suellen suggested we contact large businesses, such as big oil companies, as many corporations encourage their employees to be community volunteers. They asked how much it costs to send a child to Texas Lions Camp. It was explained that there is no cost to the families of the children, but to run the Camp, costs approximately \$1900 per child per year. If we could increase the rental of our building, we could increase our charitable contributions to the many Lions charities such as the Camp, Leader Dog, the Light House for the Blind, etc. Lion Chuck explained that Texas Lions Camp holds 200 children per session, with sessions 1-6, handicapped children, only 75% full. Down's syndrome week is limited to 75 children only. The two weeks of Diabetic Camp are always filled, which are limited by the number of pediatric endocrinologists available to care for the children at Camp. It was suggested that when we rent our meeting room, instead of explaining the cost at \$75 per hour, explain we request a \$75 donation, which could go to the Camp or other Lions charities. Suellen and Jennifer gave all present a copy of the Library Summer Reading Program pamphlets. Flyers for the Blood Drive, to be held in our facility, in conjunction with the Library and radio station MIX 96.5 this Friday. We were informed that Instagram is now bigger than Facebook, and you can post lots of pictures on it. We were told that all county libraries want to partner with community organizations to improve and strengthen our communities. Lion Chuck motioned, seconded by Lion Bob, that we allow the Library to use our meeting facility the first and second Tues. in June, the 6th and 13th, during the day, without a contract. Motion passed. The library will host children's story time and other activities during that time. They agree to set the room up as found, and clean the bathrooms. Both guests were encouraged to become Lions to continue serving and helping in our community.

Secretary's report was emailed to everyone. There were not corrections noted. Motion to accept minutes as sent was made by Lion Sandy, seconded by Lion Chuck, and passed.

Lion Chuck gave Treasurer's report. All bills are paid. He thanked everyone who worked with the money this past weekend during the baseball tournament while he and Lion Sandy attended the Texas Lions Club Convention.

Lion Chuck reported that the Texas Lions Club 100th Convention was held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio this past Thurs. to Sat. This was the best attended convention, with over 400 attendees. Besides business meetings, and other business affairs, there were walking tours of the River Walk, and a bus tour of the Missions of the area. We ate very well, with the first day's breakfast consisting of an 8 oz steak and scrambled eggs. There were many dignitaries in attendance, including Past International Presidents from Texas Ebb Grindstaff and Jimmy Ross, Past International Presidents Sid Scruggs from North Carolina, Past International President William Biggs from Nebraska, Past International Directors Mike Butler, Marshall Cooper, both from Texas, and Dana Biggs from Nebraska, along with current International Director Sam Lindsay from Texas. There was a necrology service where two PDG's from District 2'S2 were recognized, PDG Bill Hughes, and PDG Cliff Burke. Lion Sandy pointed out that the Menger Hotel sits right next door to the Alamo, and was built only 25 years after the fall of that famous battle. It is a beautiful, well restored hotel.

There will not be any baseball this weekend, but there will be tournaments the following three weekends in June.

President Paul discussed the Eagle Scout project proposed at the last meeting. Lion Sandy received an email from the boy's mother, which was forwarded to the President and incoming President. They have not received any paperwork on this boy's project to review. President Paul will contact him.

We discussed the Blood Drive this Friday at our facility from 10AM to 4PM. We will need at least 6 volunteers, two to do Vision Screening, two to run the concession stand for prepackaged foods/drinks only, and two to mingle with the public and welcome them. We will give away small bags of popcorn. Lion Bob is in the process of scrubbing the pop corn machine.

The new chili and cheese pots have arrived. Please check them out in the concession stand.

Lions Paul and Keith sat with Lion Wes Carr from the Conroe Noon Lions Club, and they compared notes on concession stands. They discussed a pretzel warmer that they use. We have several people who ask if we have hot pretzels. Lion Keith will research it further. Lion Merrell discussed possibly selling prepackaged cotton candy, which she says sells for a dollar at the local grocery store. President Paul said he used to work for the company that makes those, and he would find out about the cost to us, as a nonprofit organization.

Lion Chuck discussed that the District has been invited to have Lions attend the Good Day Houston TV show this Thurs. morning from 8-10AM. Lions will sit in the audience, and may participate in a brief spot about our KidSight Vision Screening Services. Please contact Lion Chuck if you are able to attend. Wear your yellow vest to be visible to the public. Our own Lion Robert Berry, who did the Magic Show Act at our District Convention, has set up this connection with Good Morning Houston. He and Lion Chuck will be briefly discussing the KidSight Vision Program, and filming a brief commercial about it.

Lion Merrell discussed that she and Lion Bob recently drove from Indiana back to Houston, using secondary roads, and noticed all the Lions Meet Here signs along the way. She wondered why we couldn't purchase a Lions emblem sign, and an information plaque that tells

when we meet, to be placed on our fence by the parking lot and our driveway. We discussed the possibility of another sign on Gessner, but we would have to clear out years worth of weeds on the fence line to make it visible. Placing a sign about our meeting place, dates and times, would be considered a Legacy Project, and would net us another badge for our banner. Motion by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Bob, that we purchase one large metal Lions emblem sign, and the accompanying informational sign, was made and passed. Lion Chuck will purchase through the Club account.

President Paul said that Lion Becca requested in writing that we revisit the discussion about the Lions Club donating \$700 so that approximately 40 Webelos Scouts could make foldable chairs, which was discussed and vetoed at the last meeting. She said she wanted to let newer Lions know of the long association between this Club and Scouts. She reminded us that the Scouts help in the concession stand, the Bike Ride, and with the Christmas baskets. It was pointed out that they are paid for their efforts at the concession stand and the bike ride. Discussion ensued. Many felt that if the chairs were to be donated to the homeless or other needy organization, it would change many minds, but she said that the boys would be keeping the chairs that they make. Many Lions recalled that parents purchase the kits for their children to make the pinewood derby cars and the boats for the boat races and other crafts. Most agreed that \$700 for just 40 children seemed a lot of money, when that same amount could be better used at other charities that affect a number of persons. After lengthy discussion, nothing was changed towards this previous motion.

Lion Julie said she did some research, and has discovered that the position of Club Tail Twister is a legitimate job. She read the job description, explaining that she will promote fun, and fines to keep the meeting light. She stressed that starting at the very next meeting, on Tues. June 13, 2017, the following three rules will be strictly enforced: 1) be prompt or be prepared to pay a \$1 fine; 2) if your phone rings during a meeting, be prepared to pay a \$1 fine; and 3) ALL members MUST wear some sort of Lions emblem, either a Lions Club pin, the Lions Club shirt, vest, or some other recognized Lions Club emblem at EACH meeting, or be imposed with a \$1 fine. Lion Chuck explained that monies collected in fines goes in our Administration account and can benefit the Club.

Our next meeting will be Tues. June 13, and District Governor Elect Lion Betty Ezell from the Houston Spring Branch Lions Club will be our guest and install new officers for 2017-2018. Lions usually dress nicely, and spouses and guests are invited. New Lions will be installed during that meeting. Lion Steve was not sure he would be in attendance, as he was going to Rome around that time.

With no further business, Lion John dismissed us after a hearty Lions Roar at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Martin, Secretary