

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club  
Tuesday Oct. 10, 2017 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

**Members: 11**

**Guests: 2**

President Keith called the meeting to order promptly. Lion John led the pledges to the flags. Lion Paul gave prayer. Lion Chuck was asked to lead a song, and he led us in singing Happy Birthday to Lions Bud and Julie. However, Lion Julie did not come tonight. It was unanimously decided to fine her \$5 for not being here on her birthday.

Our guest speaker was Richard Binkley, and his wife Barbara. He told that Lady Bird Johnson used to kick LBJ under the table when he was too long winded. He thanked us for inviting them to the meeting, and for the wonderful meal. He also expressed thanks that this was an informal meeting. Mr. Binkley explained that he was born on May 8, 1945, also Victory in Europe Day, but he can't take any credit for that. He contracted polio in 1951 at the age of 6. He was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, was taken immediately to St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown Houston, where a spinal tap gave a definitive diagnosis of polio. He was transferred to Jefferson Davis Hospital's polio ward for therapy. He was sent to Hot Springs, GA, to soak in the warm waters as did President Franklin Roosevelt. Polio attacks motor nerve connections at the nerves and muscles. Hot baths on the muscles helped the pain. Richard was also sent to El Paso, where a Chiropractic Doctor was getting very good results with low dose electrical stimulation to the muscles, similar to the TENS units used today, which kept the muscles from atrophying. He was the Co-March of Dimes Poster child, along with a little girl, for which he appeared on TV. He was invited to go to Texas Lions Camp the first year the Camp opened in 1953. He said that he and wife Barbara toured the Camp about 2 years ago, and it has changed so much from what he remembers. He tried to get verification of exactly what years he was there, but records have been lost for the first several sessions. Richard also was sent to Shiner's Hospital for surgery, and was taught to walk with braces and crutches, which then made him eligible to attend Texas Lions Camp. As far as he can reconstruct, he attended TLC in 1953-55. Camp was very different then. The pool was very different, and handicapped children were lowered into the water by the use of a mechanical sling. Kids were taught to tread water, swim, float, and how to make their pants into a life preserver. He told how many years later he was shrimping on a dock with a buddy, when he fell into the water, and was able to save himself with the lessons learned at the Camp. His last summer at camp, he was paired with a blind boy whom he had to guide around. His wife is now visually impaired, and he guides her around now. They joked that between the two of them, they made a complete person. He remembered some of the arts and crafts at the Camp, like a woven key chain, paintings, basket weaving, and some leather work. The Hill was then the name of the highest point on Camp. Today is it known as Inspiration Point, but no one recalled when the name changed or why. He loved camping out on the Hill all three years. Camp sessions were two week long then. There was no climbing rock wall then. He said he never thought of himself as "disabled, just differently abled". He doesn't remember anything special about the food, except that it was better than school food. Back then, kids were driven to Camp in the private cars of Lions Club members. It was the first time he ever rode in a Cadillac. He told how one year, while he was at Camp, his family moved. His driver Lion was very distraught at not finding his parents there, but Richard directed him to a neighbor, who kept the boy until he could get in touch with his parents. He aged out after three years at Camp. He said the age to attend was much lower then. Mr. Binkley was active in Boys and Girls Clubs in

Houston, taking the public bus to their facilities. He told how some professional wrestlers came and used the gym at the Boys Club for practice, and one professional wrestler handed him a \$100 bill. He guessed he was about 12 years old at the time. He gave 10% to his Church, and about 50% back to the Boys Club, and kept the rest for himself. He said he had the Can Do attitude even back as a child. He attended regular elementary school without any handicapped programs or assistance. He attended High School in downtown Houston, riding the public bus every day. He attended vocational programs. He said he has always been driven to succeed, and not to let his handicap get him down.

Minutes of the last meeting were emailed to all members. There were no corrections noted. Motion to accept as written made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Julie (who came late) and passed.

Treasurer's report was given. Dues statements were created today but he had an issue with one, so all will be emailed out tomorrow. Please pay your dues and any back dues owed. Some monies are still earmarked for the Magic Show.

Lion Bud has Magic Show tickets for sale. They have not reissued tickets with the new Dec. dates, so the Sept. dated tickets will be honored.

President Keith thanked all for the hard work completing the building maintenance and repairs. Lion Julie got frames and displayed the trophy case which looks much better.

There have been three KidSight Vision Screening scheduled this week. Lions Chuck and Sandy did Vision Screening in Dallas in conjunction with the Texas 100 year Lions Celebration. Unfortunately, the location they were at had a very poor turnout, and only 10 children were screened. The Texas Lions Eye Bank was discussed.

Willy's Spirit Night is this coming Mon. Oct. 16, 4:30 to closing. Mention the Lions Club to get a percentage of your check donated to us. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Lion Mazher has had no response from John Donato about the website update/changes. Lions Merrell and Chuck have sent him the necessary changes, and he said he would work on it.

There will be a White Cane Safety Day Thurs. Oct. 19 at City Hall.

The Magnolia Lions Club will sponsor a Christian Concert on Oct. 21 if anyone is interested.

The Texas Lions Eye Bank Bowl-a-Thon will be held in March.

The Light House of Houston will have a Halloween Carnival on Tues. Oct. 31, and need Lions to attend to assist. Please wear a costume if you go to help.

President Keith received confirmation that a Hearing Dog has been placed in this area, but not from a Lions supported facility.

Lion Paul reported we will have baseball games this weekend and need concession stand workers. Please be available to help so that we can keep the funds in our Club.

Lion Chuck reported that when he and Lion Sandy attended the Texas Lions Camp in Aug, a new little stuffed lion followed them home and wants to reside on our tables with our other pride of stuffed lions.

Lion Julie reported another building rental in Dec. She has been working on updating the rental contract, which we will discuss later.

With no further business, President Keith asked Lion Mazher to dismiss us after a hearty Lions Roar.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary