

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Tuesday Feb. 13, 2018 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

Members: 15

Guests: 2

President Keith opened the meeting promptly. Lion Bob led the pledges to the flags. Lion Julie gave prayer. Lion Jennifer led us in singing "America the Beautiful." Guests, PDG Ron Landers and his twin brother Lion Don Landers were introduced.

After our meal, PDG Ron Landers from the Houston Spring Branch Lions Club discussed Lions Clubs and Bingo. The Houston Spring Branch Lions Club has had a Bingo license since 2004. They started with the VFW on Longpoint, where they had to do all the bookwork/accounting. In 2009 they changed venues and went with a "unit" bingo hall, where the unit director for all the charities does all the bookwork/paperwork. They had trouble with one person embezzling monies but have since changed companies. Applying for a Bingo license is now without fees. Five per cent of all collected bingo funds are required to go to the State of Texas. Some halls use 12 or 9 card forms, others still use single bingo cards, and others have electronic devices that manage many different cards at a time. It takes 3-6 months to complete the application for a Bingo license. All information needs to be received, with no blanks, before processing will begin. You need a minimum of 100 players playing 3 regular plus 1 blackout games for it to be profitable. \$500 per game as a prize is usually required to be competitive in the local bingo world. For a Lions Club to do bingo there needs to be one person to do all the financial reporting to the state. With the "unit" system, one person from the unit does all the accounting and bookwork. \$3,000 to \$5,000 is usual per unit profit per quarter. Bingo halls need to keep \$100,000 in reserve to pay payroll, prizes and etc. Each session requires one person from the charitable organization. This person must be certified and wearing special cards denoting such to be in the Bingo hall, and cannot play bingo, or invite friends to play. Bingo can only be played three times a week per charitable organization, and must use supplies purchased from one of five suppliers, including cards, balls, machines, blotters, etc. All funds from Bingo must be deposited in a dedicated bank account only for Bingo. Organizations are audited by the State and need to have a bond to be eligible. Organizations can apply for a license prior to committing to a specific bingo hall, and then have 180 days to find and secure a commitment. The organization chairman needs to complete online classes/training, along with another individual as a substitute. Minutes of the meeting where the club voted to do bingo, and who was elected chairman, need to be sent to the state for licensing. Money is made from the sale/use of electronic card minders, selling cards, etc. Some units have concession stands but they are a separate entity. There is a leaser agreement signed by the hall with each organization. In order to get into a "unit", the organization needs to put up monies up front. Profits from bingo can only be spent on charities in Texas, not international organizations. We can also use bingo money for bingo related advertising. Clubs are required to have one person per night that you are scheduled to work at the bingo hall. A designated operator can be assigned if needed. There is a temporary license that can be used for once or twice a year bingo, but he was unsure if you are required to purchase supplies from the five designated suppliers or if you could use your own supplies for this.

Minutes of the last meeting were emailed out, read by members, and no corrections needed. Motion to accept minutes as sent made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Bob, and passed.

Treasurer's report was given. We have money in the bank, but not much. A more detailed report was given based upon the Charity and Administrative accounts.

Drinks have been purchased for this weekend's baseball tournament, if we don't get rained out. Lion Chuck should receive the schedule tomorrow. Next weekend will be another large tournament. The double header league baseball games will start Feb. 24, 2018, with each team playing two games a weekend.

Willie's Spirit Night netted us \$75 plus donations. Thanks for all who participated and invited others to attend.

Camp Work Day will be Sat. April 7. Lion Chuck reported that the Prairie View Lions Club will also attend that day. Those who said they were going included Lions Chuck, Sandy, Julie, Keith and Randy. President Keith needs to check with Lion Becca about her Venture Troop attending.

A 100% Patch for our donations to the Texas Lions Foundation was received, and will be placed on the banner by Lion Sandy.

Sat. April 7 is also designated as White Cane Day. No one was interested in standing on street corners soliciting monies. It was mentioned that we usually take a percent of the profits of that day's concession stand income and donate it for that charity.

Property issues were discussed. This property was sold to us by the Fairbanks Civic Organization in 1962. In 2005 we sold the land to the west of the fence, and donated the lake, to Harris County to expand Bane Park. The monies received from that sale were used to build our building and update and enlarge the concession stand. As a nonprofit organization, we have no tax bill. Lions Dorothy and Terry will research and review the records. The YMCA purchased the old swimming pool and land where field # 6 is from the Lions Club, but no other land. Lion Chuck reported that our Articles of Incorporation were filed with the state of Texas, but in March 1986 a non-member failed to register us and our articles were revoked and never reinstated. He has researched what needs to be done to get us reinstated with the state and started working on that process.

Saturday Feb. 17 is the District 2-S2 Mid Winter Conference, from 8AM to 1 PM. \$25 gets you breakfast and lunch, plus a wonderful program. Today is the last day to register on line at the district website.

The Lake Conroe Lions Club Charter Night will be Feb. 24 at Walden Country Club. Please RSVP soon if you plan to attend.

The Light House of Houston is having a Beeping Easter Egg Hunt on March 24. Only 6 Lions are requested to assist, as many other organizations also help with this project. Contact Director Marla Reynolds if you wish to volunteer.

The annual Bob Dowden Dinner is to be held Sat. Oct. 6, with venue to be announced. They need some place that can accommodate 250 people. Lion Julie had a place in mind, and was to contact the elected Camp directors with her suggestion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary