

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

Members: 13

Guests: 1

President Keith opened the meeting promptly. Lion Paul led the pledges to the flags. Lion Julie gave Prayer. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Lion Jennifer sang "Molly Malone".

Lion Mazher introduced our speaker, Charles Hearne, who spoke on the Prison Entrepreneurship Program. He explained the problem is mass incarceration and recidivism, Children are greatly affected, as they are doomed to follow in their parents footsteps, with 70% of children also ending up in jail if they have one parent being in jail, and 90% if both parents have spent time in jail. 90% of those in jail were unemployed at the time of arrest. There are 150,000 persons incarcerated in Texas currently. The Prison Entrepreneurship Program provides inside training to inmates to create their own jobs. They operate within two facilities in Texas, one in Cleveland, and one outside of Dallas. Only 25% of all inmates qualify for this program. . They are sent a postcard, which they must complete and mail back. Then they are sent a compressive application, and must submit a two page essay. Currently 250 men are enrolled through both units. If they complete the courses, they graduate with a Certificate in Entrepreneurship from Baylor Hankamer School of Business, the #5 Business school in the nation. The first three months of the program center on character development, and they deal with issues of the hurt, heart, and pain that led them to jail. The next six months is the business plan completion. They must read Crime and Punishment, and are required to enroll in Toast Masters Public Speaking programs. They develop their own business plans, with feedback from volunteers in the business sector. Case management teams also assist with housing, education, mentoring, job placement, and start up business support once completing the program and released from prison. PEP has been around since 2004. 100% of graduates from this program find jobs within 90 days of release. Over 300 businesses have been launched by graduates of this program. The three year recidivism for graduates is only 7%, meaning that 93% of graduates remain out of jail and are doing well in society. Without this program, Texas has 24% of re-jails while the national record is 50% of men released from jail find themselves back in jail. The Prison Entrepreneurship Program plans to expand to seven areas in Texas. Mr. Hearne said that everyone deserves a second change, and that the PEP program is actively changing lives and thus communities. He was asked how he came to be associated with this program, and replied that he was in prison, and completed the program. Upon graduation, he had the skill sets needed for this job, was hired, and has been enjoying every bit of it since. Pamphlets were left for members to take and review.

Secretary's minutes were emailed out. There were no corrections noted. Motion to accept as sent made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Bob, and passed.

Treasurer's report was given. We had an excellent tournament concession stand weekend. We only had 1 outside group working for us, thus our Club gets to keep most of the profits.

Baseball was discussed. League games have started. There will be a large tournament the weekend of March 24, but no games Easter weekend, which will be our dinner. Please make yourselves available to work the concession stand.

Lion Merrell reported nothing new on building rentals.

The Murder Mystery Dinner has 19 presold tickets. Flyers were sent out to all Lions via the District Website, and information has been placed on our Face book page, Next Door, and our website. Posters were available for Lions to take and place in businesses near them. Lion Milly brought some decorations. Lion Merrell asked for assistance for decorating the Den the afternoon prior to the event, scheduled for Sat. March 31 at 6PM, along with Lions to help serve customers, collect tickets, etc.

Lion Julie reported that she has secured Willie's at Jones Road for a Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club Spirit Night on Mon. April 16, and June 25. Again, please invite friends and neighbors.

There was no update on the property issue discussed at the last meeting.

Lion Chuck reported that he is in the final step for re-incorporation of the Club in the state of Texas.

Camp Work Day is Sat. April 7. Fourteen people will be attending, with 10 staying in the bunk houses.

The Slate of Officers for 2018-2019 was reviewed. They are as follows:

President: Lion Mazher Poonawala

Vice President: Lion Becca Franco

Secretary: Lion Sandy Martin

Treasurer: Lion Chuck Martin

Membership: Lion Merrell Greene

Lion Tamer: Lion Bob Rugur

Tail Twister: Lion Julie Blaies

LCIF Coordinator: Lion Paul Yackley

2 Yr. Directors: Lions Randy Matthews and Milly Spencer

Completing the last year as Directors: Lions Dorothy Casey and Terry Alderman Peterson

Lion Chuck announced that the Secretary's and Treasurer's positions are still available if someone would like to take them over. No one volunteered. Motion made by Lion Dorothy, seconded by Lion Paul, that we elect the officers as noted. Motion passed without opposition.

The Hugh O'Brian Leadership forum was discussed at the last meeting. Based on our profits from the last weekend tournament, Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Mazher, motioned that we donate \$500 to this program, which sends sophomores to leadership training. We have supported this worthy cause in the past. It is not a designated Lions charity. Motion passed.

Lion Sandy was asked how many Campers we have sponsored thus far this year. She did not know, but was to put the numbers in the minutes. As researched, we have 33 applications submitted, and 13 Campers currently assigned.

Lion Chuck presented a Gold Centennial Pin to President Keith. The Gold pin signifies that he sponsored a Lion who has remained a member for at least two years and 1 day. Congratulations President Keith.

Lion Sandy reminded everyone that she and Lion Chuck will be out of the country for the next meeting, and needs someone to pick up the food and take minutes of the next meeting. Lion Julie volunteered. She was reminded that she must be at Jesse's Country Cooking prior to their closing at 2PM. Everything will be ready about 1:45PM. She also agreed to take minutes of the meeting. Lion Merrell and Julie will contact Jessie at least one week prior to the Murder Mystery Dinner to order and purchase the chicken for that dinner.

With no further business, Lion Mazher dismissed us after "2big roars on the count of 3."

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary