

**Regular Minutes of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club  
Tuesday March 12, 2019 at 7PM at the Lions Den**

**Members: 12**

**Guests: 6**

President Mazher opened the meeting promptly. Lion Jennifer Nguyen led the pledges to the flags. Lion Merrell gave prayer. Guests were introduced: District Governor Karl and Lion Jane Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Tony Austin, potential members John and Kim Fenney, and our speaker, Beth Braniff Harp/

During the meal, Tail Twister Julie held a drawing for a “not so great prize”. The winner was guest Kim Fenney, who won the St. Patrick’s Day prize of “eating of the green”, a bag of all green fruits and vegetables.

Ms. Harp told us about Kids Meals, the nation’s only home delivery service for meals for underprivileged kids 1-5 years of age. Using 8 vans and lots of volunteers, they prepare lunch bags of food for 3000 preschool kids a day. Houston ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the USA for food insecurity, meaning people don’t know where the next meal is coming from. Houston is also a grocery desert, meaning there are many areas around town where healthy foods are not available. “Hunger impacts a child all their life” Ms. Harp told us. These children are susceptible to numerous diseases and conditions including obesity (from eating the only foods available, high caloric/high fat foods), and mental health problems. Volunteer drivers are in contact with the families, know of the struggles of each family, and help to direct them to available community resources. In 2019 Kids Meals started deliveries in Sunnyside, Pasadena, and Montgomery County. When school is not in session, meals are taken to all children in the household. Maternal and child malnutrition is the leading cause of multiple long term problems. Volunteers pack 3,000-5,000 meals in about 2 hours. Kids Meals also delivers food baskets to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as toys at Christmas. Last year, Kids Meals fed 890,000 children. The goal this year is 1 million kids. She discussed the offsite meal packing program where meals are assembled with shelf life pre packaged foods. We can decorate the bags to make it fun for the kids. The volunteers would then include a healthy sandwich or wrap from their office to complete the meals we packed in bags. Families can receive Kids Meals while on WIC or other programs. Pamphlets and information were made available to everyone.

President Mazher presented LCI Centennial Membership awards to Lions Keith and Chuck for recruiting new members.

DG Karl reported that 248 million people were served last year through the LCI Centennial Service Challenge, in the five areas of Hunger, Vision, Environment, Diabetes, and Childhood Cancer. He then presented President Mazher with banner patches commemorating this Club’s participation in all five areas. He also presented LCI pins for every member of the club to wear proudly.

Minutes were emailed to everyone. Secretary Sandy reported that Lion Merrell’s last name was misspelled, but corrected in the official minutes. Motion to accept the corrected minutes made by Lion Keith, seconded by Lion Chuck, and passed.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Tony Austin introduced Kim and John Fenney who presented Goal Ball to us. This is a game for blind persons, played in a gym, with raised tape on the floor as boundaries. The ball used has bells inside to help the blind track it. Teams consist of 3 players on a side; the object is to roll the ball into the net at the opposite side of the court while the defending team tries to keep it out of the goal. This sport is international, and part of the Para Olympic program.

There are teams and tournaments in San Antonio, Dallas and Austin, as well as nationwide and worldwide. Kim and John would like to start a Goal Ball program in the Houston area. Kim is visually impaired, as is all four of their children. They were introduced to the game by their son who got to play it at a camp. Teams can be co-ed, for persons age 8 through adulthood. Children can actually earn scholarships to college. 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Tony explained that District 2-S2 has adopted Goal Ball as a district wide project. A court has been procured at the West Gray Community Center for practices and games. They need funding for uniforms and equipment. Both Kim and John are teachers in the Cy-Fair School District, with Kim teaching visually impaired students. They plan to join this Club, and applications were given to both.

President Mazher passed out the slate of officers for 2019-2020:

President: Becca Franco

Vice President: Randy Matthews

Secretary: Sandy Martin

Treasurer: Chuck Martin

Membership Chairperson: Julie Blaies

Lion Tamer: Paul Yackley

Tail Twister: Keith Blaies

LCIF Coordinator: Terry Peterson

Director: Bob Rugur and Milly Spencer, with John Peterson to fulfill the last year of Randy's 2 year term

Immediate Past President: Mazher Poonawala

There were no further nominations from the floor. Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented was made by Lion Chuck, seconded by Lion Keith and passed. This was the second reading of the officers, and the election is complete. Club officers elected will also serve on the Board of the Cy-Fair Lions Club Inc.

Lion Merrell thanked everyone for the membership ideas from the last meeting. She has the ideas arranged into categories, and needs Lions to volunteer to work on the top 10 ideas. She reported that as a nonprofit organization, the cost to join the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce is \$350. We would need Lions to attend their meetings and discuss our upcoming projects. Lions can help with some jobs from home. She needs Lions to own up to the programs submitted.

Thanks to new Lion Paul Berry and wife Jeanne who worked the concession stand with President Mazher this past weekend. Thanks were given to everyone who worked the very busy tournament this past weekend. Lions Keith and Julie had an all time high sales of \$1100 for the morning shift. Sunday we had a jewelry vender selling items by the flag pole. She donated \$64 to us as commission. There should be another tournament this weekend with only 40-45 games. Please sign up with Lion Paul to work the concession stand. Last weekend our Club only worked half of the shifts. It would be nice if our Club could retain monies paid to other organizations because of lack of Lions working the concession stand.

Mon. March 18 is Willis's Spirit Night at Jones Road and Hwy. 290. Bring friends, family, and neighbors. Just tell the wait staff you are supporting the Lions Club and we receive 15% of the profits. You need to eat anyway, so this is a great way to support your Club, and not have to cook or do dishes, yet have a great meal.

The Game Night at the Blaies home will be Saturday April 13. There will be fun games, dinner and dessert for members and potential members. Flyers will be sent out.

May 11 is the Red Cross smoke detector installation within the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. Volunteers are needed.

June 11 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Tony Austin will be here to install our new officers.

Lion Randy will be here the next meeting to discuss website changes and issues.

10 tortilla chip and pretzel boxes of used eyeglasses along with 3 boxes of new unused frames were taken to the PSC meeting. We have been asked if we could be trained to sort and repair eyeglasses in our facility to help the Conroe Noon Lions Club keep up with their inventory.

President Mazher suggested we plan a trip to the Conroe Noon Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling Center, the Light House for the Blind, or attend a Camp Friday night awards ceremony.

Lion Chuck reported that he met with a person from the Harris County Appraisal District who was reviewing our property. She had the correct deeds but still had an old map that did not show the lake being owned by the County.

Thanks to Lion Becca for providing the meal. President Mazher would like to see 100% Club participation in our meal program since we are now using several different vendors.

Lion Chuck asked Lions to consider ways we can donate charity funds. It was suggested that each Lion email Lion Chuck with what they would like to see donated and how much, to be discussed at the next meeting, so that he can present a budget.

President Mazher asked new Lion Paul Berry to dismiss us, which he did with a loud roar. Meeting adjourned at 8:39PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Martin, Secretary