

News from the Lion's Den

June 2017



Guest Speaker on School Choice

Rafa Bejar spoke to us about offering parents the choice to decide which schools to send their children. . He explained that school choice allows parents to use state funds for their child to attend alternative schools. Texas has 5.3 million children in schools, which is 10% of our nation's children. Texas has over 1000 Independent School Districts, which employ 673,000 people, half of which are teachers. Texas schools would be the 7th largest employer in the entire world. The US ranks 17th in Reading, 18th in Math, and 26th in Science. 25% of Texas students fail to graduate. "Throwing money at a problem doesn't solve the problem." The Cy-Fair Independent School District contains 84 schools, with 49% considered economically disadvantaged. CFISD employs 14,000 staff, with about half of those being teachers. . It is not about public schools vs. school choices, but what is right for each child. Students who are struggling in their assigned schools affect the learning of other students, and having different options can help everyone to learn better.

Fairbanks Public Library Guests

Suellen Denton, and Jennifer, from the Fairbanks Public Library across the parking lot, visited us and discussed ways in which the Lions Club can partner with the Harris County Library and other Harris County services to improve our visibility within our community. 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. Suellen suggested we contact large businesses, such as big oil companies, as many corporations encourage their employees to be community volunteers. Together they gave us many suggestions for informing the public about Lions and what we do, and how to attract more, and especially younger members. We will be working more closely with the Fairbanks Library in the future.

Texas State Lions Club Convention

Lions Chuck and Sandy attended the 100th Anniversary Texas State Lions Club Convention in San Antonio recently. Over 400 Lions from around the state attended. 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. 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. It is hoped that more of our Lions will want to attend future State Lions Club Conventions. Since this is the Centennial of Lions Clubs, featured at the Saturday night banquet was a beautiful ice sculpture signifying 100 years of Lions Clubs International.



Lions on Good Day Houston Show

Lion Robert Berry was instrumental on getting several members of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club, plus other Lions from around the District, to attend and be featured on Good Day Houston TV show with Debra Duncan. It was very interesting to watch the orchestration of the live TV show, with different segments featuring live snakes, a life jazz band, the USO, and other community happenings. Debra sat between Lions Robert Berry and Chuck Martin,

and asked them about our Club and especially our KidSight Vision Screening program. Afterwards, we were able to take a group picture with Ms. Duncan.



Upcoming Baseball Tournaments

Lion Chuck informed us that there are scheduled to be baseball tournaments on our fields the first three weekends in June. Please make yourself available to help in the Concession Stand during those times.

Concession and Meeting Room Cleaning

Several Lions, including Lions Bob, Merrell, Keith and Chuck, have been busy cleaning out and fixing our facility. Many things that are not properly working or are duplicates have been disposed of. Many appliances have been scrubbed and cleaned. A new chili and cheese warmer has been purchased. Lion Bob has been busy repairing many items in our facility. As was discussed in a meeting not long ago, **ALL** persons who work in the Concession stand will need to complete the online food handlers course found at Texas.foodhandlersclasses.com. It only takes a few minutes, but you will learn valuable and important information to keep the food we serve healthy.

Community Blood Drive

Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club partnered with the Fairbanks Library to host the MIX 96.5

Community Blood Drive at our meeting facility on Friday 5/26/17.

Upcoming Events

Tues. June 13, 2017, 7PM, at the Lions' Den, Annual New Officer Installation with District Governor Elect Betty Ezell as our installing officer and guest. We will also induct new members to our Club. Guests and family members are welcome, but please let Lion Chuck know if you are coming, and how many guests you will be bringing, by noon on Friday June 9 so that the appropriate number of meals can be purchased. This is usually dressier event than our usual meetings.

Tues. June 27, 2017, 7PM at the Lions' Den, regular meeting, guest speaker is to be Dr. Victoria Glickman, optometrist who specializes in young children. Please let Lion Sandy know the Friday prior to the meeting if you plan to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy birthday to Lions Todd Gaudin, June 8; Lion Kamal Dubash June 19; and our newest Lion, Steve Nickerson June 28.

Happy Anniversary to Lions Bob and Merrill on June 8; and Lions Bud and Dorothy on June 17.