

## Lake Country Neighbors

### General Meeting, March 7, 2024

Hostesses were MJ Dougherty and Fawncyne Worely and catered by the Bluebonnet Bistro. 24 members and no guests were present. Cheryl Shipp said the invocation.

The Meeting was called to order at 11:50 by President, Janice Rouse.

#### **Business Meeting**

#### **Report of Officers**

MINUTES: The minutes were distributed to each table. Pam Bowden moved and Margie Hooper seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT: Pam Bowden reported that everything had been reconciled. The current balance is \$53,873.66. Denita Young asked if all the committees had to turn in a budget, and Pam replied yes. It was requested that Pam send a copy of the budget with committee's budgets to the members. Pam said she would do that.

MEMBERSHIP: Jimmie Standridge reported that one new member had rejoined, Annette Bailey.

#### **Committees**

SCHOOL: No report

SCHOLARSHIP: Janice reported that all of the scholarship forms have been distributed to the high schools in February. The completed scholarship forms will be picked up on April 5.

MINI MARKET/GOOD SAMARITANS: Pam reported that the employees at Good Sams will be giving a thank you luncheon on March 22. The Mini Market is a work in progress.

CASA: No report

NOMINATING/HOSTESS: No report

VETERANS: Betty Davis reported that they found a speaker for the event, Greg Hill, a retired Marine Pilot.

SAVOR THE FLAVOR: Jean Moize reported that the committee had met and that the 'Save the Date' cards had been printed. They will have 15 to 17 Vendors at the event to be held at The Wildflower on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 PM.

SUNSHINE: MJ asked if anyone knows of a member who has lost someone or is ill to let her know. Jean Moize thanked the committee for the beautiful card they sent upon the death of her sister.

MARDI GRAS: Denita reported the event was a great success and thanked everyone who helped. She said next year has been booked for March 1, 2025. As of today, \$13,00 still needs to come in for live and silent auction items, and currently this event has made \$23,900,

#### **Unfinished/Old Business**

MEETING WITH the MAYOR: Janice, Pam and Jean met with the mayor concerning the Civic Center usage. FEMA helped build the center (contributed ½ of the money). Because of this the Red Cross needs the space on demand. The electricity is also on demand and costs a lot just to turn it on. So, renting of the space is out. Janice said that it was mentioned that there is land available to build a new civic center, but it will cost money

to do this. Janice said we need a grant writer to investigate grants and write one for LCN to pursue getting a new civic center. It is not an easy job. Denita said she had written a grant for the Ag Center and it was very difficult. The accountability reports are very detailed and must be done on a regular basis. This topic has been tabled until another time.

### **Announcements**

It was announced that donations would be appreciated for Bright Cross, a 501c3 to help put framed picture of the American flag and the national motto in every classroom.

### **PROGRAM**

Senior, Emily Northcutt, Miss Rains County 2023-2024 was the speaker. She wants to pursue a career in nursing and will be attending Mississippi State in the fall. She then spoke to the group about her pet project, Kicks for Kids, which gets donations of shoes for needy elementary and jr. high kids. She is currently setting up the project but wanted us to know she will take shoes or money to buy shoes for these kids. She had a previous project where she collected teddy bears for young kids removed from their home by CPS.

Discussions followed about how LCN could help Emily get shoes.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is an evening meeting, 6 to 7:30 pm at The Venue in Emory. Light appetizers will be served by the hostesses, Clarice Bowen and Krista Payne. Flyers and an invitation will be made and sent to members and put on Facebook. Please invite young women who you know that normally could not make it to a day meeting because they work. If this is a success, then we will plan to do 2 evening meetings a year.

**Adjourn :** Fawncyne moved and Pam B. and Cheryl Shipp seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debby Keenan, Secretary