



THE LIONS' TALE

New Braunfels Noon Lions

APRIL
2017

XXXII

NBNoonLions.org



John Creswell
Cameron Bradfute

CHARTERED MARCH 18, 1924

Wishing You and Yours a Blessed and Happy Easter

DAUGHTERS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION DO THEIR STUFF ON TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY



The Plaza never looked more patriotic than it did on Texas Independence Day. Granted, the streets and the Plaza look pretty darn great on the Fourth of July, all festooned up with the national colors and such, but for those of us who have *somehow* missed this March Second display for *the past six years*, the sight of so many Flags of the Republic flying proudly in the freshening breeze was just plain **gratifying**. Good **golly**, it was *de luxe*!

According to **VerNell Martinez**, our own personal representative in the DRT, chapter president **Carolyn Reed**

borrowed the flag holders from the city of New Braunfels, and then The Daughters, with the help of a small (very small) army of volunteers, affixed said holders to the defunct parking meter poles along San Antonio Street, and into sockets permanently placed in the Plaza sidewalks, enough to support the 43 Texas flags shown in the photograph.

If you would like to see 44, or maybe even 45 or 46, flags flown next March, contact VerNell for information on making a contribution to the cause.

REMEMBER APRIL 19TH, SAN JACINTO DAY.

Business Meeting - 2 March

The Texas Independence Day meeting was as action-packed as the 16 March meeting was not. Tail Twister **Cameron Bradfute** broke the ice with a comprehensive quiz on lions of the *jungle* variety. Some of the more interesting items revealed were that males sleep about 20 hours a day while the females do all the hunting. Hmmm.

Cantor Buz Farrell led the assemblage in singing *Frere Jacques* in nearly every known language save Sanskrit, and *God Bless America* (in English only.) Ranger **Ray Martinez**, in honor of the occasion, regaled the group with his rendition of *I'm Coming Back to You, Texas* and made a fine job of it. The grand finale of the song-fest was Bill Kolodzie's leading *Texas, Our Texas*. More about that on page 4.

Ted Borcharding of the Alamo Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America was awarded a check in the amount of \$600 in support of that stalwart group. Prez **Lee Amrosino** and Boy Scouts liaison Lion **Chuck Teeter** help to prop the heavy thing up.

At that point in the proceedings we bolstered our number by one welcoming **Eddie Dobbins** into our club. Eddie is new to New Braunfels looking to get well established here. Eddie's sponsor is **Wallace Johnson**, which means **Dollie's Heroes** carves another notch in whatever it is we're carving notches in. \$216223



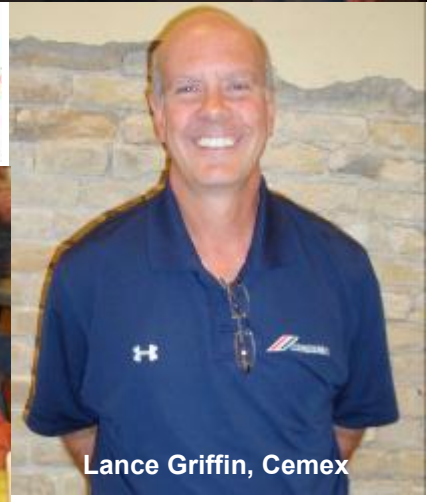
Ted Borcharding of the Boy Scouts of America with Prez **Lee** and liaison **Chuck Teeter**.



Ray



Bill



Lance Griffin, Cemex



Our newest Noon Lion, Eddie Dobbins, flanked by President **Lee Amrosino** and sponsor **Wallace Johnson**. Welcome aboard, Eddie. (Photo by John Creswell)

Our featured speaker for the meeting was **Lance Griffin**, Director of Aggregate Operations of Cemex — you may have noticed their plant just south of town. Lance is a former Lion and has penned an app to join our merry band — or so your editor was told.

The Balcones Quarry from which the limestone is mined is the largest single quarry in the U.S. Ten thousand tons of limestone are mined every day from a 225-foot deep deposit and delivered to customers as far away as Houston. The limestone will be crushed for aggregate or calcified in huge kilns on its way to becoming cement.

The 2400-acre quarry is Wildlife Habitat Certified and has numerous awards for its stewardship. Even the water used is recycled at the rate of 90%, which in drought country is huge. Somewhat of a surprise is the number of old tires consumed in the kiln at the rate of one every 7 seconds. It is a testament to the Cemex operation that smoke has never been an issue.

Business Meeting - 16 March

Third Veep **Mark Reynolds'** guest speaker had to cancel for personal reasons so this meeting was shortened by that much. Even so, we adjourned only 3 minutes early.

Among the highlights: the membership competition has been extended by one quarter to the end of the fra-

tional year; there are meetings and conventions galore on district, state and national levels—see **Tom Call** for details; \$2000 was approved for transfer from reserves to the Sight Conservation program; new Leos sponsors are needed to replace Tom Call and **John Creswell** who are stepping down after long years on the job.

YOUR BALLOT FOR FRATERNAL YEAR 2017-2018

The slate of candidates for the upcoming fraternal year has been finalized and presented to the membership at two successive business meetings with an invitation for nominations to be made from the floor. At the next business meeting scheduled for 6 April, we will vote for our officers and directors for 2017-2018.

You may notice that a good many of these candidates are from outside the Standard Leadership Queue. That is, they did not start as Lion Tamer and work their way up the ladder, office-by-office. We should all be truly thankful and grateful for these good people who have offered their time and energy to keep our club vital and successful.

Please make your best effort to attend the next meeting to show your support for those who have stepped up to take the load. \$2328417 It is reported that a minimum of 55 voting members must be in attendance to make a quorum. It will truly be a shame if we can't entice half the membership (plus one) to show up for this important event.

Officer candidates are:

Jack Morgan, President
Dora White, First Vice-president
Leigh Huddleston, Second Vice-president
Dolly Williams, Third Vice-president
James Scardami, Secretary
Howard Weliver, Treasurer
Cameron Bradfute, Membership Director
David Schreier, Lion Tamer
Kermit Baese, LCIF Coordinator

Director candidates are:

Ginny Nance, Two-year
Jim Pope, Two-year
Dan Krueger, One-year
Fred Hanz, One-year

He was a Lion...and a Lion of a man!

Dennis William Kraft, 64, a longtime resident of New Braunfels, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, March 13th at his home. Born December 19th, 1952 in Fort Sam Houston, he was the son of the late Roman Kraft and Edna Hubertus Kraft. Surviving family members include his three sisters, Hope Mayer, Carol Kraft and Joyce Friesenhahn and respective families. His formative years were spent on the family homestead and farm in the Cibolo area working the land with his kinfolk. From early on, Dennis suffered a congenital eye disease which progressively worsened as he aged, thus curtailing his independent physical mobility. Fortunately, Dennis qualified as a recipient for a guide dog, enabling him to enjoy a less restrictive lifestyle. His beloved Guide Dogs Barnaby, Bear and Scout gave him much freedom and companionship through the years. He was an active member of the local Low Vision Club. Embracing his faith, Dennis was a devout member of the Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels and was integral to his Sunday Bible School Group. He enjoyed many hobbies including gardening, woodworking and fishing...and taking a meal at the local IHOP.

To a great extent, Dennis was defined by his dedication to Lionism. He joined the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club in July of 1988, transferring to the NB Breakfast Lions Club in May of 1991 where he held the position of President in 1996-97. He served as Director on the Club's Board of Directors for the past three years. His transfer did not stop him from participating in the Noon Lions Club. He frequented the meetings and volunteered for fundraising projects, in particular, the White Cane Day event. He and Scout would pose a formidable stance as they extended the

Collection canister for donations. If Dennis' smile didn't touch one's pockets, Scout's adorable face would melt one's heart and elicit donations.

Dennis would often be seen walking door to door in the downtown New Braunfels Business District, soliciting funds for Leader Dog and other Lions Club causes. He epitomized the Lions motto "We Serve"!



An avid supporter of the Texas Lions Camp, Dennis was a life member of the camp, a 28 year member of Century Club, and a level 12 (almost level 13) Jack Wiech Fellow. He also had Century Club memberships for all 3 of his past service dogs. Barnaby was a 12 year member, Bear was also a 12 year member and Scout his last service dog was an 11 year member. He has an endowment brick, and gold leaf located at TLC. He gave personally over \$5,000 and engaged his community and those who knew him to give to TLC through his annual camp walk. In the past 10 years through his efforts, others donated over \$10,000 to TLC.

I had the privilege of knowing Dennis both as a Lion and as a friend. I shall miss his presence at our meetings and the bond of friendship that we shared.

Texas Lions Camp Work Day 2017

Seven Noon Lions made the annual trek to Kerrville to put in what turned out to be a labor-intensive half day of work “spreading dirt on the athletic fields”. Well, that was partly right. Calories were burned, let there be no mistake.

Picture a prairie with native grasses, wild flowers and weeds, mowed within the last couple of months but not otherwise tended. Then picture a mound of fresh black clay, about 60 feet long, 3 high and ten wide, that wanted to be moved and spread evenly over said prairie, converting it magically into a softball diamond, using only shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes and elbow grease for that purpose.

And, folks, it got done, all between about 0830 and noon, under the supervision, coordination and tutelage of Lion **Cameron Bradfute**. Cameron directed an army of perhaps 30 Leos and Boy Scouts from locales as diverse as Midland and Rusk, as well as our own home grown Leos, coordinating their efforts, directing the flow of “soil” (not “dirt” per ag-man **John Creswell**) while manning a shovel and wheelbarrow himself the whole morning long. *[Note to self: if ever stuck with some horrific project, recruit Cameron first — Ed.]*

His sole competition for sweat equity champion on the day is Noon Lion **Rachel Leier**, who showed up ready to work. She didn’t lay down her shovel the entire morning and moved maybe a ton of the heavy clay by herself.

Lion Dolly Williams spent most of the morning undoing some of bad news the armadillos had heaped upon the soccer field in the form of shallow but ankle-challenging divots. She had only a Midland BSA Troop 19 scout master and one Leo for actual help. The rest of Troop 19 was more interested in playing “king of the hill” on the dirt pile.

And then there was The Board of Directors, old fudds who were *capable* of turning a shovel or two but more at home offering helpful hints for those actually shouldering the burden. Somehow your old editor got lumped into that category with IPP **Mike Smetanka** and Past-everything **Dennis Heitkamp**.

If you didn’t make this Work Day, put a note on your calendar for next spring. Camaraderie, good fun, good eats and a good day’s work for a good cause.

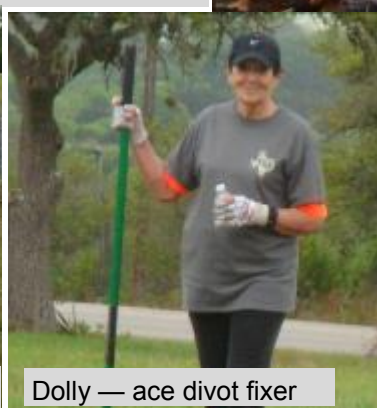


Photo by John Creswell

It will be intuitively obvious to the most casual observer which of these two apparent shovelists is actually breaking a sweat



Shovel Leaning 101



Dolly — ace divot fixer

Straw Boss **Cameron** turned chaos into a system that moved the whole pile of dirt onto the softball field before lunch.



EARTH MOVERS



Winki Smith, NBMS Leo Club Advisor, and pal **Robin Parkinson** were in the fray start to finish.



The Breakfast Club



Photo by John Creswell

Cast and crew of the "Spread Dirt on the Playing Fields" exercise.

Included in the assemblage are Leos from the Rusk High School. Scouts from Troop 19 in Midland, NBISD Leos, Leo advisors, volunteers and Lions from the NB Noon and Breakfast clubs. Well done, all.

Complimentary Ticket for the Drawing of your Choice

Find your Lion Member number after a \$ sign in the text of this newsletter and you will get one FREE ticket to be placed in the Drawing of your choice. **Show the number** at the Check-In Table to receive your ticket. There are two numbers hidden in this issue of **The Lions' Tale**.

NOTE: NEW NUMBERS WILL BE PICKED AT RANDOM FOR EACH MONTH. YOUR NUMBER IS ELIGIBLE FOR ONLY ONE DRAWING FOR THE MONTH THAT IT APPEARS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

RECOGNITION WHERE DUE

You may not have noticed, but the Noon Lions have been getting their fair share of ink lately in our local almost-daily periodical. Under the auspices of our relatively new Public Relations Czar **John Creswell**, this club is being promoted on the local level like it rarely has before, at least during your old editor's tenure. In fact, your old editor had the PR job for a few months and did absolutely nothing with it. Enter Creswell and the picture is entirely changed.


Just this past Sunday, 26 March, three separate pieces, accompanied by *four* photographs, graced the pages of the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung. Bravo Zulu, John, well done. Thoroughly inspired work.



iHuachinango!

Boy, howdy! At our Texas Independence Day meeting Lion emeritus Bill Kolodzie volunteered to lead us all in a rousing chorus of "Texas, Our Texas". While I applauded his enthusiasm, the results were something else again.

People, we stunk it up. No way to sugar-coat it. Your old editor was supremely embarrassed that he couldn't get through even the first two lines confidently and then failed completely open after that. If we can fight our way through the "Star Spangled Anthem", for Pete's sake, we should at least do a credible job on Verse One of our state song.

So, here are the words.  If you don't know the tune, I've left you a trail of bread crumbs in the next column. We should probably rehearse it at least once a quarter (Buz, your job) so that when next March rolls around, we will all be belting this baby out like we mean it.

Thanks, Bill, for the effort. Speaking for myself, I apologize for leaving you twisting slowly in the wind. — Ed.

"Texas, Our Texas", the official state song of Texas, was adopted by the Legislature in 1929 after being selected in a state-wide competition. It was composed by William J. Marsh of Fort Worth;. The lyrics were written by Marsh and Gladys Yoakum Wright (also probably from somewhere.) And now you are ready for Trivial Pursuit.

Texas, Our Texas

Texas, Our Texas! all hail the mighty State!
Texas, Our Texas! so wonderful, so great!
Boldest and grandest, withstanding ev'ry test
O Empire wide and glorious, you stand supremely blest.
(chorus)

Texas, O Texas! your freeborn single star,
Sends out its radiance to nations near and far,
Emblem of Freedom! it set our hearts aglow,
With thoughts of San Jacinto and glorious Alamo.
(chorus)

Texas, dear Texas! from tyrant grip now free,
Shines forth in splendor, your star of destiny!
Mother of heroes, we come your children true,
Proclaiming our allegiance, our faith, our love for you.

Chorus

God bless you, Texas! And keep you brave and strong,
That you may grown in power and worth, throughout the ages long.
God bless you, Texas! And keep you brave and strong,
That you may grow in power and worth, throughout the ages long.

New Braunfels Noon Lions Club Officers & Directors for 2016-2017

Officers

Lee Ambrosino, President
Jack Morgan, First Vice-president
Ronnie Thompson, Second Vice-president
Mark Reynolds, Third Vice-president
Tom Call, Secretary
Howard Weliver, Treasurer
Dave Schreier, Lion Tamer
Dennis Heitkamp, Chairman Membership Committee, PCC & PDG
Mike Smetanka, Immediate Past President
Bill Kolodzie, PDG

Directors

Dan Krueger, Two-year Director
Fred Hanz, Two-year Director
Dolly Williams, One-year Director
David Simmons, One-year Director

Chairs of Standing Committees

Skip Stem, Vision Screening
Mike Pfeuffer, Sight Conservation
Dolly Williams, Care Committee
Tail Twister, Cameron Bradfute
PR Guy, John Creswell
Bert Childs, Newsletter editor [Ink-stained Wretch]

If you're still iffy on the tune, there is a very nice rendition on YouTube sung by school children with State icons on parade in the background making for a patriotic visual, as well. Copy and paste the following, all in one unbroken string, in your browser:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-mozilla-001&hsimp=yhs-001&hspart=mozilla&p=Texas%2C+Our+Texas#id=2&vid=7532c8f4d1c8786f265b0e>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Stan Cunningham	5th
Fred Hanz	6th
Ron Ernst	16th
Paul Martinka	16th
Ray Prosen	25th

[It would appear it's just too danged hot for a lot of snuggling in July, as well—Ed.]

Coming Attractions!

April 22nd

When it rains it pours. On Saturday, 22 April, two major events will go head-to-head in River City, and your participation in at least one of them will be hugely appreciated. Two would be better.



First: one of our signature fund raisers, **WHITE CANE DAY**, is locked in at Granzin's Meat Market for the day, and perhaps at Wal-Mart, as well. Third Vice President **Mark Reynolds** is working on that venue and we expect confirmation shortly. Traditionally we stand two-hour shifts and dole out white canes and, depending on your shift captain, Tootsie Roll minis. The Tootsies chum the munchkins thereby reeling in the folks with the folding green, and let me say they are much more desirable to the short set than the canes.

Sign up with Mark at 743-1440.



Second: the Wurstfest-sponsored CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL is also scheduled for that Saturday. Your Noon Lions man the parking lot across the street, in much the same manner as at Wurstfest, and will be in need of stout-hearted souls to collect cash and dodge Buicks from mid-morning to early evening. **David Berger** is point man on this project: 237-6814.



Both of these events can be "cash cows" for the club, but both require sufficient Lion-power to get the most out of them. Adjust your schedule, figure out where you can help out and give Mark, David or both a call. Your club thanks you.

Comal County Sheriff's Office



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Sheriff

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Metro: 609-3921
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"We Serve"

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LEOS IN CORPUS



Photo by John Creswell



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