

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS

General Meeting, February 6, 2025

Lunch was catered and served by FUSION IN THE WOODS and hosted by Karen, Velma, and Cheryl Shipp. The meeting was called to order at 1130 by President Janice Rouse and guests were welcomed. There were 20 members and 5 officers in attendance. All were welcomed and 2 guests were introduced.

Janice Rouse introduced Adjutant Rodney Worley, Commander Mike Thompson and Judge Advocate Bob Kerr of the United States Marine Corp, Hopkins County, who presented LCN with special recognition and a certificate in appreciation of its work with Military Veterans. The award was received by Betty Davis and her veterans program volunteers.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

There were no minutes to approve since the December meeting was only a Christmas Luncheon and the January meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Pam B. presented the financial report that reflected a balance of \$31,994.77

Jimmie reported that there were 64 current members and she is currently collecting membership forms and dues for the new year.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

SCHOOLS: Karen reported that she is currently speaking with school to see what their needs may be towards the end of this school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Janice reported that the scholarship committee has recently met and scholarship applications will be made available to RISD, AGISD, and YISD on March 3rd and will be picked up the week of April 7th, and awarded early May.

MINI MARKET: Pam B. reported that there was a good number of vendors in attendance this year but the only thing that did well was the bake sale. She shared her disappointment in the lack of attendance by both the community and LCN members and said that continuing or replacing the event with something else will be considered.

VETERANS PROGRAM: Betty said that plans are in process, the lunch may change from BBQ to something else due to the work required to grill in the hot July sun. She also presented that the speaker this year will be John Gallina.

CASA: no report

NOMINATING/HOSTESSES: Velma passed a hostess/greeter sign-up around for the 2025 LCN year.

SAVOR THE FLAVOR: Margie reported that STF will be held on May 6th at 5:30-7:30. They are still working on vendor contracts and all LCN members are encouraged to help set-up for the event that morning from 9-noon.

SUNSHINE: no report

MARDI GRAS: Denita reported that the Boots, Buckles, and Bourbon Street Mardi Gras event is days away (March 1st) and everyone is asked to help set up the morning before and take down the morning after the event. All tickets have been sold out for awhile and it is expected to be a great evening. Any member without a ticket that comes that evening to volunteer will be fed at no cost.

RAINS CHAMBER: Joanna reported that the Chamber is having some concern over its lack of participation and need. They have no office and were polling for thoughts about the need of the Chamber. Many of our

members commented that when they visit a new town one of the first things they do is google the Chamber of that town and see what is available. They thought that the Chamber served a needed service and should be an active arm of the city/county offices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Janice reported that the celebration event committee met and discussed some possibilities for the event. She stressed the absolute need for commitment to attend this event and the group was polled on who would be willing to attend. The majority of the group affirmed. It is still in the early stages of planning and more information will be brought to the membership at a later time.

Janice asked the other groups involved in presenting histories of their event be working to get that completed as it would be included in the cookbooks. She also asked the membership to present at least 3 recipes to be submitted for the 25th anniversary cookbooks by the May meeting.

Janice stressed that all budgets were already due and for any event that has not turned theirs in to do so immediately.

NEW BUSINESS:

Janice reported that there were new membership forms and asked that old and new members complete those. They have an added section that the member can check what area they are interested in serving/volunteering for, and any special talents they have that might be useful for the organization.

Janice presented the idea of a phone tree. Holly Wasson volunteered to head it up, to call all members that have not recently attended and to invite and encourage them back. Janice and Jean volunteered to help her with making phone calls.

Janice reported that her emphasis this year would be: **ATTEND-SERVE-GROW!**

We should focus on attending as many meetings as possible to support the organization as our votes and discussions will better represent the whole if there are more members in attendance.

We should all be willing to serve as much as possible as the events we do require a good number of volunteers for the success of that event. We are a community service organization and not a social club and we need volunteers that will "rise and stand tall!"

As we ATTEND and commit to SERVE, our organization WILL strengthen and grow and hopefully be around for another 25 years.

The next meeting will be March 6th at 1130 at EBC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm