

Club history as presented at the 40th anniversary celebration

HISTORY OF N.B. EVENING LIONS CLUB

Good evening, Governor Angie, Governor-Elect Lester, Past Council Chairman Lin, Past District Governors, Lions and guests. Where were you the evening of June 26, 1967? Well, Lions Ed Nolte, Carl Feltner, Wib Amacher and I can tell you exactly where we were. We were at the Charter Night Banquet for the New Braunfels Evening Lions Club, the 900th club in Texas.

Lion Wib, our true charter secretary-treasurer, has a story to tell you about the early days of organization of the club.

(Wib tells story about Meckel dropping out and Goodson appointing him Sec.-Treas. Help from Leroy Eickmann and paying due to Int'l., etc.)

Our charter contains the names of 51 men from this community. But as Lion Wib told you, a number dropped out early without ever paying dues. However, as you see, we survived! Our membership grew as high as 80-something in the 1970's, and with the economic recession of the late '80's and '90's, we dropped to the low 30's in membership. Today we number 54, and included in our membership is a Past Council Chairman, two Past District Governors, and what I believe an extremely high percentage of membership has been and is active at the District Cabinet level. We have a proud history.

We also have a proud history of fundraising from the sale of zip code directories and a 4th of July dance in Landa Park in our infant years, to today's major fundraisers of the Comal County Fair Food Booth, which we started in 1969, and the Wurstfest Food Booth, which we began in 1970. Lion Wib has some stories about the Wurstfest Food Booth which began with us trying to sell pretzel sticks and sweet rolls, while standing ankle-deep in rainwater under a tent, where today's Wurstfest Market Platz area is located.

(Wib tells about Rheinlaender's corn concession and Jesse Gomez's Mex. Food booth.)

Other memorable fundraisers scattered along the way were a food booth at the Spring and Summer horserace meets at Dutchman Downs at the Fairgrounds – pari-mutuel betting in Texas was the death of this project; door-to-door Halloween candy sale—every kid in town hated us because every door they visited at Halloween had the same candy to hand out; Hot Air Balloon Fest or “Glow-fest” as it was called, where we had a food booth – don't laugh, we made a profit of \$83.00 as I recall; the Weihnachts Mart or Christmas Market at the Civic Center; the New Braunfels Air Expo concession booth – an event actually sponsored by the New Braunfels Breakfast Lions Club; Wurstfest Parking Lots; and who could forget the coloring book sales—we spent hours, some hot and some cold, standing outside grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Target, and other high pedestrian traffic areas, selling giant

coloring books; annual aluminum can drive, which is still ongoing, and a large number of other events too numerous to mention here in the short time allotted to us. I'll just mention that through the years, we have combined forces from time-to-time with the Breakfast Lions, the New Century Lions, the former Lioness Club and the Leos in our fundraising and service efforts.

We also have a proud history of Service Projects accomplished by our Lions. We furnished the first "Jaws of Life" equipment to the local fire department and the first portable defibulator for McKenna Memorial Hospital. Major hands-on projects early in the club's life were building a Little League Baseball Field on Common Street, where today stands the New Braunfels Public Library. This project included building the dugouts and concessions building. Also the construction of Eikel Park in 1972 near the intersection of Spur Street and IH 35 in the southwestern section of New Braunfels. We bought a bus for the local Mental Health/Mental Retardation unit and maintained it for a number of years. In the mid-'70's we provided numerous items of equipment used by the Green Dolphin Swim Team at the Landa Park Olympic pool. And have you noticed the trash receptacles in the downtown area? Well, we furnished them to the city.

On a number of occasions, we have assisted Lions in other areas with funds following disasters in their areas, and we, too, have received financial assistance in times of local disasters.

During our middle years, I think we became known as Lions who could and would work with their hands. It probably began with a project where we constructed a wooden deck adjacent to Picnic Pavilion #5 in Landa Park. That was followed by constructing the Band Stand shell at the outdoor dance slab in Landa Park in an attempt to reduce the band noise to residents above the park along Lakeview Blvd. Then we built a second tier deck at Picnic Pavilion #16 in Landa Park. Next came the deck at St. Jude's Children's Ranch near Bulverde. More recently, we built an extension to a Picnic Pavilion at Eden Home, a non-profit retirement community and nursing home here in New Braunfels.

The Texas Lions Camp has also been the recipient of some of our hands-on building projects, such as, two computer desks, a storage cabinet and a chuck box for the outdoor campsite at Inspiration Point. At work day at the camp this year, we were asked to build benches and while building them, we were sought out and asked if we could build three more chuck boxes for other outdoor campsites by this camping season. They were delivered just before Memorial Day. Last Saturday, a group of us built six benches for "Connections", ~~the~~

~~alternative school here in New Braunfels.~~ Other items for

"Connections" are being planned for the future.

Other areas of support to the community through the years have been: eye exams and glasses for the needy; Boys' State and Girls' State sponsorships; Savings Bonds for Soil Conservation Essay winners; Sponsorship of a County Fair Queen contestant and a Rodeo Queen contestant; Sponsorship of a Jr. Miss contestant; joining hands with other area Lions in providing Vision Screening for early elementary school age children in both private and public schools throughout Comal County. We have also joined with the N.B. Noon Lions and Breakfast Lions to regularly schedule the District 2-S3 Mobile Health Screening Unit while it was in service. We have provided financial support by purchasing projects and animals at the Youth Homemaking and Art Fair and Junior Livestock show and Auction; provided financial support for the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, and all of the named 100% Lions Charities each year, and many others. I hope mentioning just a few of the many fundraisers and a few of the service projects have brought back some memories for those who were involved at the time and perhaps demonstrated to others that we have always been actively involved in our community since our inception, and continue today – stronger than ever.

Hope to see you at our 50th anniversary celebration in 2017. Thank you.