



THE LIONS' TALE

New Braunfels Noon Lions

MARCH
2019

LV

NewBraunfelsLions.com

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY, NOON LIONS – CHARTERED MARCH 18, 1924



HAPPY 183RD BIRTHDAY, TEXAS!

MARCH 2ND, 1836

Texas, Our Texas! all hail the mighty State! (sung to the tune of "Texas, Our Texas".)

Yes, Fellow Lions, 'tis time once again to provide a thumbnail primer of early Texas history for those of you who, although not fortunate enough to have been born here, at least had the grace and good sense to high-tail down here as quickly as God gave you the means and the vision to do so. Tragically, the history-ignorant among us also include some natives subjected to history teachers who probably would have been better suited teaching PE, Wood Shop or Home Ec classes instead.

Back in 1492 Christopher Columbus stumbled across the New World seeking a shorter route to the Old. Bummer. But some forward thinking Spaniards figured there must be *something* worth stealing from the indigenous populations here and so sent *beau coup* ships and armed men west to relieve the natives of their treasure and, in many cases, their lives.

Shortly thereafter, the Catholic Church sent missionaries to bring the savages salvation — also Lent, Sunday Mass, and long, boring homilies. After a revolution or two, the Spaniards became Mexicans and claimed a good bit of what is now the central US as part of the Mexican state of Coahuila, of which Tejas was a part..

Not all the natives succumbed to the siren call of Christianity, however, and continued to maintain a fierce presence in north-eastern Coahuila. In order to pacify the region and make it more productive, the Mexican government offered large parcels of real estate to anyone who would settle it, but also to pledge allegiance to their Constitution. The government even gave the pilgrims a canon with which to impress upon the Comanche that the horse-thieving, burning and killing may not be in their

best interests. On October 2 of 1835 the first shots of the impending revolution were fired in Gonzales as Mexican troops "dropped by" to retrieve their loaned hardware and were rebuffed with powder and ball.

While many settlers were Hispanic and *already* Catholic the largely Protestant *Anglo* settlers reneged on the requirement per the 1824 Mexican Constitution to join the Church (those boring homilies no doubt played a part but there were also "self rule" issues.) Finally in early 1836 the pot boiled over.

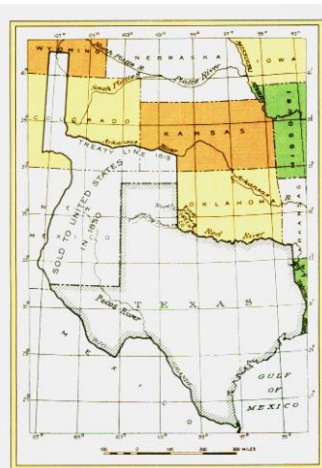


At the head of several thousand crack troops, Generalissimo Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana crossed the Rio Grande and headed for San Antonio, by far the largest settlement for many hundreds of miles around. Col. William Barrett Travis occupied an old broken down mission/fort at the Alamo with instructions to destroy whatever he couldn't carry off and get the hell out. Travis decided instead to make a stand, to buy time for Sam Houston's army now retreating towards East Texas, building strength as it went. It was a heroic but tragic decision. On March 6th the Alamo was overrun and the entire garrison put to the sword. But four days *earlier* at Washington-on-the-Brazos a **Declaration of Independence** had been signed — March 2nd, 1836 — and **The Republic of Texas** became a nation!

Fast forward six weeks and the shoe is on the other foot. At San Jacinto, southeast of what is now Houston, Gen'l Sam's army caught up with Santa Ana's crew while the generalissimo was "entertaining" mulato servant girl Emily Morgan, later lauded as The Yellow Rose of Texas in story and song. Amid shouts of Remember the Alamo and Remember Goliad (another massacre), the Texians' bloodlust took the day, Santa Ana was captured, and in just six and a half months The Revolution had run its course.

So what happened to the Republic of Texas? Massive war debts pushed the fledging nation towards bankruptcy. Meanwhile, President Polk wanted a buffer on his southern flank and offered really good terms, so the Republic became the 28th state of The Union on 29 December 1845.

It's a fascinating story. You owe it to yourself to read about it in much greater detail. **Viva Texas!**



Historical Boundaries of Texas
From U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1212 (1966)

Business Meeting - 7 February



During an auction of “lost stuff” Tail Twister **Delia Saucedo** and Auctioneer-in-Chief **Brandon Mund** lean on **Howard Weliver** to bid on a plate of some description. Other successful bidders included **Ginny Rotge**, **Bob Holder** and **Robert Armstrong**.



Past President **Jack Morgan** and President **Brandon Mund** inform the assembled of our most recent Club Excellence Award from LCI, and also our commitment of \$19K in grants to worthy local organizations as selected by Grant Committee members **Jack, Jim Pope** and **Kermit Baese**.

Newest Noon Lions



Evan Partee and **Clarisa DeSanto** display their Certificates of Membership after their inductions at the 7 February business meeting. Welcome, ladies, to NB Noon Lions.

Lone Star Lions Eye Bank

Featured speaker at our 7 February business meeting was **Karen Ratcliffe** of the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank in Manor — the only Lions eye bank left in the state.

Corneas must be harvested within 19 hours of the donor’s death and only 60% of donated corneas are suitable for transplant.

It was **Helen Keller** in 1925 who challenged the Lions’ Club members to become “Knights for the Blind.” LCI accepted the challenge and the effort toward supporting sight conservation and restoration began.



Business Meeting - 21 February

Wow! What DIDN'T happen at this meeting. Neophyte Lion **Heather Orsak** started the ball rolling in a Tail Twister role with a promise of Hershey's Kisses to the first respondent to react to any mention of 'Y'all' — of which there were multitudinous occurrences.



During **chanteuse Juanita Wells** rendering of "I've Got That Lion Feeling", guest speaker **Trish**

Wilson punctuated each line with a voluminous "WHERE!?" from the back of the room.



Fresh from a whirlwind tour of USS Lexington (CV-16) club historian **Cameron Bradfute** imparted "X" items of nautical knowledge and lore, well known to the "old salts" in attendance, but seemingly new stuff for the "land lubbers". Unfortunately your ex-swabbie editor was having too much fun to record any specifics.

Secretary Doreen Fisher then read a resolution elect President **Mund** to the Texas Lions Camp board, which was promptly moved and seconded.



Good luck **Brandon**.

And then the money started flowing. As announced at our previous meeting by PP **Jack Morgan**, grants were awarded to six



Shannon Dixon, Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc

worthy recipients with more in the pipeline. Thus. . .



Dr. Melissa Miskell and **Zac Neill** from PINCC (Preventing Cervical Cancer.)



Noon Lion **Ken Lowery** and **Bonnie Surratt**, Comal County Senior Citizens Foundation.



Christine Pfaff, Rock Haus Foundation (providing music therapy for Comal County Developmentally Disabled Adults.



Jessica Weiss and **Lili Kazanoff**, Comal County Habitat for Humanity



Lt. Craig Cristopherson, Tara Franklin and **Julie Irle**, Project Life Saver, providing GPS tracking devices for seniors with mental impairments



Our featured speaker for the day

was Texas Lions Camp Energizer Bunny **Trish Wilson**. With a passion for her topic she delivered 30 minutes of camp fact and history in about 20 minutes, and all without notes. She relayed that in the camp's 70-year history it has been host to over 93,000 challenged kids at no cost to them, and that *our* club has donated well over \$200K to that project over the years. Makes one even more proud to be a Noon Lion.



LEOs' Annual Trek to The Blue Ghost

USS Lexington (CV-16) hosts LEOs and Sponsors
9 February 2019



Photos by Tom Call

Happy 95th Birthday, Noon Lions

Chartered March 18th, 1924



Lee Ambrosino

Your Third Veep and IT Guy **Robert Armstrong** keeps up a very nice Website which is greatly underutilized, if your editor's experience is any kind of guide. It is definitely worth your time to scope it out, probably use it as a recruiting tool.

In this 20-minute clip, Zone 5A Chair, Membership Chair, and Past President **Lee Ambrosino** will

introduce you to your club history in some detail. Take a peek at —

www.youtube.com/embed/_2LpAW9mg5I

or go direct to the Website at NewBraunfelsLions.com, go the Gallery, scroll down to the videos and there you are.

New Braunfels Noon Lions Club

Officers & Directors for 2018—2019

Officers

- Brandon Mund**, President
- David Simmons**, First Vice-president
- Dolly Williams**, Second Vice-president
- Robert Armstrong**, Third Vice-president
- Doreen Fisher**, Secretary
- Craig Zgabay**, Treasurer
- Dave Heefner**, Lion Tamer
- Lee Ambrosino**, Chairman Membership Committee, PP, Zone 5A Chair
- Jack Morgan**, Immediate Past President, LCIF Coordinator
- Dennis Heitkamp**, PDG, PCC

Directors

- Ginny Rotge**, One-year Director
- Jim Pope**, One-year Director
- Howard Weliver**, Two-year Director
- Stephen Brockman**, Two-year Director

Chairs of Standing Committees

- Skip Stem**, Vision Screening
- Mike Pfeuffer**, Sight Conservation
- David Simmons**, Care Committee
- Delia Jade Saucedo**, Tail Twister
- Cameron Bradfute**, Historian
- Robert Armstrong**, Head LEO Advisor
- Bert Childs**, Newsletter editor

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Chuck Teeter	13th
Brandon Mund	14th
Arno Becker	14th
Franklin Demuth	19th
Josh Salge	28th
Susan Miller	28th
Allie Cook	29th
Joel Evans	30th

**Lion Speak
For Members Only**



**Your Zone 5A Chair/Membership Chair/Lion
Speak Authoress is taking the month off, and
wishing you all a most blessed St. Patrick's Day,
one devoid of serpents of all sizes, descriptions
and lethalties.**

(March 17th for those who don't drink green beer or play with vipers)

Mike Smetanka

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Instructor

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1672 Kimberly Dawn Dr.
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(830)629-0494 (830)660-4131

msmetanka@sabx.rr.com



CYNTHIA MICHAEL

Vice President
Private Wealth Advisor

1900 NW Loop 410
Suite 250
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78213

PHONE: 210.424.8703

CELL: 210.884.3382

FAX: 210.424.8810

cynthia.michael@thebankofsawalthadvisors.com

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PCC Dennis Heitkamp

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C (830) 660-5528
B (830) 620-5434

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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.

Don't know what your Member Number is? Check the label on your Monthly *Lions Magazine*.

Coming Attractions

*Your Presence...Your Volunteerism
Is Most Desired at the upcoming Events!*

- Mar. 7th** (Thursday): NB Noon Club Meeting – Speaker: Evan Partee, Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Induction of New Members
Nominations of 2019-20 Officers and Directors Candidates
from the Floor Accepted
- Mar. 9th** (Saturday): Service Project – Comal County IDD Center, Interior Painting,
511 E. North St. N.B. 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Mar. 20th** (Wednesday): Two Tons of Steel Concert – Brauntex Theater – Fundraiser Sponsored by
N.B. Breakfast Lions Club (check out Brauntex Theater
website for ticket sales)
- Mar. 21st** (Thursday): NB Noon Club Meeting – Speaker: Clarisa DeSanto, New Braunfels 175th Anniversary
Reading of Final Ballot of 2019-20 Officers and Directors
Candidate
- Apr. 5-6** (Fri/Sat) Texas Lions Camp Workday — who knows what task we'll be assigned this year, but
it will be worthwhile and interesting, no doubt. Get signed
up now.



NEW BRAUNFELS NOON LIONS CLUB
PO Box 310194
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS 78131-0194