

**Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

Board Members: Cheryl Hardwick: Present	Melissa Hegemeyer: Present
Kenneth Pilcher: Absent	Megan Avery: Absent
Katherine Ward: Present	Thomas Payne: Absent
Vicki LeBlanc: Present	

**Call to Order:** President Cheryl Hardwick called to order the monthly meeting of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association at 6:11 P.M. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** President Cheryl Hardwick gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Sign in Sheet:** President Cheryl Hardwick asked everyone to please be sure and sign in on the attendance sheet.

**Welcome Visitors:** President Cheryl Hardwick welcomed all the members and visitors attending the meeting.

**Approval of the June 2023 Minutes:** A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc to accept the June 2023 minutes and a second was made by Secretary Katherine Ward. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**August Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made by Board Member Melissa Hegemeyer to accept the August Treasurer's Report and a second was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**Recognize the Hempstead High School Band Students:** Hempstead High School Band members Breanna Rodriguez and Damien Vega Stephens for receiving a 1 rating at the State UIL Band Competition and gift baskets were given to the students from the HCCA.

**Recognize the Hempstead High School Girls for Participating at the State UIL Track Meet:** The Hempstead High School track girls Danica Williams, Zamauri Fisher, SheQuera Wolfe, and Janovia Kinsey were recognized in participating in the State UIL Track meet. Gift baskets were given from HCCA to each girl.

**Recognize Jesus Montero for Participating at the State UIL Competition:** Claition Rodriguez was recognized for placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Nation at the Beta Club National Convention in Digital Art. A gift basket was given to him from HCCA.

**Recognize the Beta Club for Helping with the Watermelon Festival Growers Contest:** The Hempstead Beta Club was recognized for their help with the Watermelon Festival Growers Contest, and they were

awarded 20 percent of the total of the watermelon growers auction in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the HCCA.

**Presentation of a Platinum Donations to the Hempstead Theatre Club:** The HCCA presented a check for being a Platinum Donor to the Hempstead Theatre Club in the amount of \$1,500.00. They were recognized for the club being the 2023 UIL OAP State Second Runner Up and for being awarded 80 UIL Medals in the 2022 – 2023 season.

**Introduction of the 2023 Watermelon Court:** President Cheryl Hardwick introduced the 2023 Watermelon Court present at the meeting, and they were the Watermelon Festival Princess Bailey Mae Want and Little Mr. Watermelon Carlos Rodriguez, and they were presented with a gift basket from HCCA. She reported that there was a record of 64 BBQ Teams that entered for the cook-off, there were 21 kids that had entered the Kids BBQ Cook-off, a record number of 25 food vendors, and almost 50 craft vendors, and a record of 16 contestants running for Watermelon Royalty. President Cheryl Hardwick reported that they did not have the final numbers in for the Watermelon Festival. She thanked everyone for volunteering, the contestants for their ticket sales, and to everyone that attended the Watermelon Festival despite 106-degree weather.

**HCCA Upcoming Appreciation Dinner:** President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the HCCA would have a dinner in the fall for the sponsors of the HCCA events from the year, the volunteers, and the members of the HCCA. The date will be given once all the details are in place.

**HCCA Membership:** President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the great things that are happening with the HCCA and giving back to our schools and our community. She encouraged everyone to become a member and it was easy to sign up. They can go to [www.growhempstead.com](http://www.growhempstead.com) and sign up. She stated that the HCCA membership for a business was only \$100.00, a non-profit organization is \$50.00, and an individual is only \$25.00. There are also forms available tonight if you would like to pay by cash or a check.

**Volunteers Needed for the Veterans & First Responders Committee:** President Cheryl Hardwick talked about volunteers needed for the committee to help ensure our local military personnel, medical professionals and other first responders receive representation and appreciation throughout the year. She encouraged the crowd to volunteer.

**Festival of Lights:** President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Festival of Lights would be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will have vendors again and a nighttime parade. There will be a home and business decorating contest, and a tree decorating contest at the gazebo. Businesses can sponsor a tree and a non-profit group can decorate a tree. First place winners will be awarded \$100.00, second place winners \$75.00. and third place winners will receive \$50.00.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Upcoming Local Events:** President Cheryl Hardwick reported on all the upcoming local events, and they were:

- First United Methodist Church – Family Fun Night – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month – 1010 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hempstead, Texas, beginning at 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. Enjoy a Family Time of Fun, Fellowship, and Food.
- Meet the Bobcats is on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Hempstead High School Competition Gym from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Free Food and Kona Ice. We hope to See a Sea of Green and White to Showcase the Community Spirit and Pride for the Bobcats
- Hempstead Power of Prayer is on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Downtown Gazebo
- Hempstead High School Varsity Football – First District Game will be on Friday; September 1 against Boling and the Theme for the Game is “Boot the Bulldogs” and Please Wear Your Western Attire to the Game. Games are at the Bobcat Stadium
- Hempstead High School Lady Cat Volleyball – Games are Played on Tuesday and Fridays with Tournaments on Saturday’s
- Waller County Master Gardeners Association – “Fruit and More” Tree Sale Seminar on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at the City of Waller Civic Center from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Learn About Soils and Soil Health, and How it Effects Your Trees and Plants
- Hempstead ISD Starts School on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Hempstead Homecoming Parade will be on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and the Theme for the Parade is “Aloha Bobcats.”
- Waller County Fair Parade Will Be on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. and the Theme This Year is “It’s Show Time. The County Fair Starts on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Runs to Saturday, October 7, 2023, with a PRCA Rodeo.
- St Katharine Drexel Church 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bazaar will be on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at the Church Located at 800 FM 1488, Hempstead, Texas with lots of Food and Games
- Fourteenth Annual Knight of Columbus Benefit Quilt Show on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the Columbus Hall in Hempstead, Texas from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

**Door Prizes:** Door prizes were given, and the winners were: Danica Williams, Briana Rodriguez and Carla Carfora, and Benjamin Rodriquez.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc and a second by Secretary Katherine Ward to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.