

**Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association
Monthly Meeting and Appreciation Dinner
Tuesday, December 19th, 2023**

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

Call to Order: President Cheryl Hardwick called to order the monthly meeting of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association at 6:07 P.M. on Tuesday, December 19th, 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 lead, by Board Member Thomas Payne.

Welcome Visitors: President Cheryl Hardwick welcomed all the HCCA Members and visitors present.

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

Approval of the November Minutes: A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher and a second motion by Board Member Thomas Payne to accept the November minutes that were submitted by Secretary Katherine Ward. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Approval of the December Treasurers Report: A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher and a second motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Report from the HISD Superintendent Mr. Herbert O’Neil, Jr. on “Beyond the Talk” A Deeper Look into the Districts Strategic Priorities and Long-Range Facility Planning: President Cheryl Hardwick introduced Mr. Herbert O’Neil, Jr. the Superintendent for Hempstead ISD. Superintendent Mr. Herbert O’Neil, Jr. gave a

power point presentation on “Beyond the Talk” A Deeper Look into the Districts Strategic Priorities and Long-Range Facility Planning. He gave a great presentation and had a question-and-answer session after the presentation.

Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for November 2023 for the Early Childhood Center: President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the Teacher of the Month Marisha Jordan and Support Staff of the Month Doria Williams for the month of November 2023 for the Early Childhood Center. The HCCA Board presented gift baskets and a picture was taken.

Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for November 2023 for the Elementary Campus: President Cheryl Hardwick recognized the Teacher of the Month Sarah Shaffer and Support Staff of the Month Shelly Hazel for the month of November 2023 for the Elementary Campus. They were not present at the meeting.

Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for November 2023 for the Middle School Campus: President Cheryl Hardwick recognized the Teacher of the Month Melissa Mazurkiewicz and Support Staff of the Month Adriana Conde for the month of November 2023 for the Middle School Campus. They were not present at the meeting.

Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for October 2023 for the High School Campus: President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the Teacher of the Month Casie Westbrook and Support Staff of the Month LaTasha Garvie for the month of November 2023 for the High School Campus. The HCCA Board presented a gift basket to LaTasha, and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board. Casie Westbrook was not present at the meeting.

Honor and Recognize FFA Student Briana Padilla for Placing 6th Place in the State of Texas Greenhand FFA Creed Speaking Contest: President Cheryl Hardwick

introduced and recognized FFA Student Briana Padilla. On November 18th, 2023, she attended the Area XI Contest at Blinn College and placed second which advanced her to the State Contest in Huntsville, Texas on December 2nd, 2023. She placed 6th place in the State of Texas Greenhand FFA Creed Speaking Contest. After some research from HISD, they found out that this was the first time ever that a FFA student from Hempstead ISD had made it to the State Contest for LDE'S. This was such a big accomplishment for Brianna and our school district. Congratulations to Brianna. A gift basket was presented to her, and a picture was taken with the HCCA board.

Honor and Recognize the Hempstead FFA Dairy Cattle Team for Competing at the Lone Star Junior Dairy Extravaganza Contest in Wichita Falls and Were the 3rd Overall Senior Team: President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the FFA Dairy Cattle Team, Kenzey Cox, Passion Davis, Sophia Deverso, Haley Herbert, and Garret Kwiatkowski. Sophia Deverso was the 8th High Individual and 10th High Individual was Haley Herbert. Sophia Deverso was not present at the meeting. Gift baskets were given to the FFA Team Members from the HCCA, and a picture was taken.

Honor and Recognize the Hempstead Theatre Company Winners from the Brazos Speech Tournament – Champion Anayazeth Salinas Vargas, 1st Runner Up Jesus Montero Oliva Competed in Prose – Maeli Smith placed 5th in Poetry, and Maeli Smith placed 4th in Informative Speaking: This was tabled to the January meeting since the Theatre Company had another event they needed to attend.

Report on the Festival of Lights: President Cheryl Hardwick gave thanks to those that made the Festival of Lights possible. Thanks to Melissa Hegemeyer for being the Chairperson for the Sponsors for the Festival of Lights. Thanks to Thomas Payne for being the Chairperson for the Festival of Lights Vendors and thanks to the vendors that came. Thanks to Sheryl Ha for being the Chairperson for the Parade for the Festival of Lights. Thanks to Dustin and Julie Stanley for being the

Chairpersons for the Business, Home, and Tree Decorating Contest. Thanks to Fife Realty for sponsoring the Kids Zone for the Festival of Lights. Thanks to the volunteers that came out to help: James Garfield, Melissa Hegemeyer, Melissa Johnson, Katherine Ward, and Santa. Special thanks to all the sponsors A Plus Construction, Coldwell Banker, Edmonds Insurance, Ewing Builders, Fife Realty, H & R Block, Hegemeyer Realty & Associates, Howard Insurance, Knights Insurance, Prosperity Bank, Sheryl Ha, Vicki LeBlanc, The BBQ Store, University Title, Waller County Express, Waller County Land, We Brandt, and Sean Whittmore.

Winners of the Home Decorating were: 1st Place was Secita Johnson, 2nd Place was Ruben & Kristi Gallegos, and 3rd Place was Stacy Betz.

Winners of the Business Decorating Contest were: 1st Place was K Gallery, 2nd Place was Focusing Families, and 3rd Place was the Waller County Express.

Winners of the Tree Decorating Contest were: 1st Place was the Hempstead Garden Club, 2nd Place was the Master Gardeners, and 3rd place was the Brazos Valley 4-H Club.

Winners of the Parade were: 1st Place was St Katharine Drexel Catholic Church, 2nd Place was Waller County Republic Women, and 3rd Place was 4G Acres.

Upcoming Local Events:

- Hempstead High School Basketball and Soccer Games on Tuesday and Fridays
- City of Hempstead Turkey and Toy Drive – Friday, December 22nd, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at the Hempstead City Hall
- The Refuge Market – Saturday, January 6th, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at 1346 Wilkins Street, Hempstead, Texas

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The Next HCCA Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church located at 811 14th Street, Hempstead.

Door Prizes: The winners of the door prizes were Latasha Garvie, Mary Ann Drawl, Doria Williams, John Amsler, and Sarah Shaffer. Members congratulated the winners, and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board Members.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher and a second by Vice President Melissa Hegemeyer that we adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

After the meeting was adjourned there was a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pictures were taken and refreshments were served.