**Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association**

**Monthly Meeting and Appreciation Dinner**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

Board Members: Cheryl Hardwick: Present Melissa Hegemeyer: Present

 Kenneth Pilcher: Present Megan Avery: Absent

 Katherine Ward: Present Thomas Payne: Absent

 Vicki LeBlanc: Present

**Call to Order:** President Cheryl Hardwick called to order the monthly meeting and Appreciation Dinner of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association at 6:20 P.M. on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, at the St Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** President Cheryl Hardwick gave the innovation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was lead, by Secretary Katherine Ward.

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

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

**Dinner Served by Classic Events Café:** A great meal was served by Classic Events Café with beverages and dessert.

**Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for October 2023 for the Early Childhood** **Center:** President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the Teacher of the Month Veriana Trujillo and Support Staff of the Month Leslie Rossiter for the month of October 2023. The HCCA Board presented gift baskets and a picture was taken.

**Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for October 2023 for the Elementary Campus**: President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the Teacher of the Month Martha Arredondo and Support Staff of the Month Skakita Garvie for the month of October 2023. The HCCA Board presented gift baskets and a picture was taken.

**Honor the Hempstead ISD Staff Recognitions for October 2023 for the Middle School Campus:** President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized the Teacher of the Month William Wright and Support Staff of the Month Mercedes Silva for the month of October 2023. The HCCA Board presented gift baskets and a picture was taken.

**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 Carson Groves and Support Staff of the Month Seretta Madison for the month of October 2023. The HCCA Board presented gift baskets and a picture was taken.

**Honor and Recognize Sandra Lozano for Receiving the October Superintendent’s Higher Heights Award:**

President Cheryl Hardwick recognized Sandra Lozano as receiving the Superintendent’s Higher Heights Award for the Month of October. Mrs. Lozano was not present.

**Honor and Recognize Charli Villarreal for Receiving the Hempstead ISD Trail Blazers Award:**

President Cheryl Hardwick introduced and recognized Charli Villarreal for receiving the Hempstead ISD Trail Blazer Award from the Hempstead ISD. The HCCA Board presented a gift basket to her, and a picture was taken.

**Presentation of a $1,000.00 Donation to Focusing Families:**

The HCCA presented Focusing Families a $1,000.00 Donation to Director Kim Mathis Goodrum, and a picture was taken.

**Presentation of a $1,000.00 Donation to House of Help:**

The HCCA presented the House of Help a $1,000.00 Donation to Director Sid Chipman, and a picture was taken.

**Presentation of a $1,000.00 Donation to Meals on Wheels:**

The HCCA presented Meals on Wheels a $1,000.00 Donation to Employee Rick Branek, and a picture was taken.

**Hempstead Theatre Company Presents the Play Antigone:**

The Hempstead Theatre Company presented an outstanding play called “Antigone”.

**HCCA Membership:**

President Cheryl Hardwick 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 check.

**Festival of Lights for Saturday, December 9th, 2023:** President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Festival of Lights would be held on Saturday, December 9th, 2023. We will have vendors again and a nighttime parade beginning at 6:00 P.M. 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. Volunteers are needed and you can sign up tonight to help. Board Member Thomas Payne is the committee chairman for the vendors for the Festival of Lights and all the forms can be found on the HCCA website.

**Upcoming Local Events:**

* The Hempstead Theatre Company presents the play “Antigone” on Thursday, November 16th and Saturday, November 18th, 2023, at the Hempstead High School Auditorium beginning at 7:00 P.M. Presale Tickets are $5.00, and tickets will be $10.00 at the door.
* Waller County 4-H Presents – Senior Bingo Night on Saturday, November 18th, 2023, from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. at the Hempstead Recreation Center located at 635 US 290 Business, Hempstead, Texas.
* City of Hempstead Fall Fest on Saturday, November 18th, 2023, beginning at 11:00 A.M. with Music, Food, Fun Games, and Face Painting.
* Toys for Tots – You can sign up a child for the Toys for Tots gifts as long as they have a Hempstead address. Donations can be made to the Toys for Tots by dropping off unwrapped toys at the House of Help location at 716 1st Street. Hempstead. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 20th, 2023.
* Hempstead ISD basketball and soccer games are going on and the games are on Tuesday and Fridays, and you can go to the school’s website for all the details on the games.
* Festival of Lights – Saturday, December 9th, 2023, beginning at 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The parade starts at 6:00 P.M. In cause of bad weather the Festival of Lights will be moved to the High School Gym.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** City Council Women Nora Hodges talked about the upcoming “Unity in the Community” for Sunday, December 17, 2023, at the Downtown Gazebo from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. You will pickup a “free” meal ticket and leave your donation to help struggling families in our local community. Your attendance and support are greatly needed to help provide services and resources to our struggling and needing neighbors who reside in the City of Hempstead. Your donation may not be much, but every contribution adds up to help those that are struggling to have basic needs met, so they can get back on their feet.

The Next HCCA Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19th, 2023, 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 Ida Campbell, James Garfield, Stacy Jones, Dormic Smith, Tony Uvalle, and Diana Wood. The HCCA Board 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 Board Member Vicki LeBlanc that we adjourn. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.