



**Georgetown Evening Lions Club**  
Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2011

<b>Georgetown Evening Attendees</b>
Lion JL Akridge
Lion Chip Case
Lion Jim Chamberlin
Lion Adrien Drouihlet
Lion Bill Glenn
Lion Frank Kinald
Lion Kristin Kinald
Lion Maureen Kinald
Lion Bob Martin
Lion Dean May
Lion Gerald Pohlmeier
Lion Debra Seamans
Lion Weldon Wade
Lion Martha Woodley
Lion Randy Woodley

<b>Guests</b>
Lion Jimmy Oliver, Liberty Hill Lions
Lion Janet Oliver, Liberty Hill Lions
Bob Payne, Guest Speaker
Enid Payne, Guest
Lion Cub Rachel Kinald

**Call to Order** - Lion Debra Seamans  
**Pledge of Allegiance** – Lion Kristin Kinald  
**Prayer** – Lion Jim Chamberlin

**Tailtwister** – Lion Adrien Drouihlet – collected money for Roaring Dollars - \$51 collected

**Program**

Volunteer at the Williamson County Museum. Tour guide for the museum where he presents a tour in the original courthouse of the Ku Klux Klan trial in 1923. Gave the club a history of the formation of the KKK to orient members on the history so we'd appreciate the importance of the trial events. As the Klan started to form and members were solicited, it came to Georgetown. Pillars of the community and not so good members joined. Purpose of the capes was to insure equality of members, everyone looked the same. One of the original charters was to assist in law enforcement. Tar & feather and running out of town was standard punishment for laws broken (petty theft, adultery, etc). Members of the KKK paid dues, money started to accumulate and with that money, KKK gained more power. Included a US Senator being elected from Texas. There was some good before things went bad. Pictures in the Williamson Sun archives of KKK showing up in Church and helping pay mortgages for poor/widowed, etc. KKK approached local District Attorney in Georgetown, Dan Moody to get him to join. He vehemently declined. Traveling salesman stayed out in Weir with a widow and her five children and rented a room there. Local barber had a fancy for the widow, but she wasn't interested in him. KKK met and barber requested the KKK assist in running off the salesman. Local KKK leadership delivered letter the next day to salesman telling him to get out of town. Salesman refused to go. Next day



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in Georgetown, salesman warned KKK to leave him alone. Widow was furious that her reputation was being tarnished. Easter Sunday, April 1, 1923, widow asked salesman to take her to Thrall, TX to decorate her husband's grave and visit with her sister. No pavement back then, so car was going about 15mph. A number of cars full of KKK members, stopped the car with widow and salesman. KKK members started to assault salesman, knocked him unconscious and took him to Taylor, TX. They tied salesman to a fence on the way to Taylor with chains and whipped him. Took him to the town square and tied him to a tree and poured hot tar on him. Salesman didn't die, but did manage to get himself loose and make his way to a boarding house. Fire Department, local health officer and doctor were called in. Took two weeks to get the tar out of the wounds. Dan Moody was furious. Moody was warned about the power of the KKK. All three KKK members who made the attack were identified by widow and witnesses. KKK was brought to trial in Williamson County courthouse. KKK hired very powerful lawyers and case went to trial in December 1923. Dan Moody asked if potential jurors could be asked if they were in KKK. Moody provided KKK enrollment form that said KKK members couldn't testify against other KKK members, judge agreed to allow it so 12 jurors were chosen. Dan Moody took the approach of putting the KKK on trial in the media of the day. Courtroom was packed to standing room only and media across the nation and world were watching. Trial started by showing wounds and having widow testify and held the bloody, tar covered chain in the courtroom and challenged that if people believed in KKK then they believed in KKK justice. He dropped the chain at the end of his closing arguments in front of the jury. Defense attorneys presented witnesses that perjured themselves, attorneys perjured themselves. Trial went to the jury and they were out for 15 minutes and brought back a unanimous guilty verdict of all charges. Each guilty KKK member got 5 years each. First time the KKK had ever lost a trial. Dan Moody became the youngest Attorney General in the state of Texas. All the way to his higher office he continued to challenge the KKK. It is widely believed the KKK started to slide in Texas as a political power after this trial. At the time, the KKK was most powerful in Indiana and this trial started the slide in other states as well. Society in 1923 was very different. KKK expressed hatred against all races and religions. Never as powerful again, but thanks to Dan Moody, the KKK was defeated in Texas. Moody eventually became the Governor of Texas.

Bob Payne invited club members to visit the courthouse for a tour, restored to its original state in 1911.

### **Business**

- Lions Jimmy and Janet Oliver from Liberty Hill Lions visited with us to share the preparation for the Liberty Hill Bike Ride on September 24, 2011. Thanked the club for our support last year. Boss Lion Debra will get email from Liberty Hill and Lion Bob Martin will send out shift sheet for sign-up.
- Marksmen Concert – Sept 8, Lion Bob Martin updated that sales are lagging, but fingers crossed for better results. Tickets provided to Club members to sell/distribute. Members asked to be there at 6pm on the night of the show.

**Motion to Adjourn** – Lion Adrien Drouihlet, Second – Lion Dean May, Approved

**Closing** – Lion Adrien Drouihlet

**Next Club Meeting** –

