

**Texas Gulf Coast BBQ Cookers Association
Minutes – Regular Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2008 – Valley Ranch Grill & BBQ**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Ronnie Raspberry.

An announcement was made regarding the new facility that Valley Ranch is building. It will be Non Smoking. We need to keep this in mind when we have our next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd.

The minutes from the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, were published in the Meeting Notice. A motion was made by Lon Babcock and seconded by Glenn Jarrett to accept the minutes as published. The motion passed.

Helen Halbison-Treasurer - gave a report to the members present. A motion was made by Kenny Maggard and seconded by Lon Babcock to approve the report. The motion passed. All bills are paid. Helen made an announcement that we are no longer going to have beer for sale during the meetings due to the fact that people are drinking the beer, but not paying for it. At the past few meetings, board members have had to make up the difference, which was anywhere from \$5.00 to \$25.00. If you want beer, you will need to go through the line and pay for it there.

Sandy Babcock-Vice President - reported that TGBCA has added more cook-offs to the schedule. We are always looking for new ones. A copy of our current schedule will be sent to the National BBQ News. The Harris County Fair cook-off is October 17-18, 2008. In April, the Wild Game Cook-off is now a sanctioned event by TGBCA. You must have a firefighter, police officer, or EMS personnel as a member of your team.

Ritch Robin –Vice President - reported that the Weiser Airport cook-off, benefiting the Masons, is scheduled for October 10-11, 2008. There is a possible cook-off in Porter on the weekend before the TGBCA Invitational – more details to follow as we get them. He reminded folks present that membership dues could be paid at Gator Pit.

Craig Sharry-Vice President - reported that the website is looking better. Our hosting service for the website has changed. There has been a reduction in complaints regarding website response times.

Bill Cannon – Board Member - shared his concerns about the lack of membership renewals. He said we need to get the reminder out to the members that they need to send in their dues. In addition, we need to talk up the organization at cook-offs and encourage new members.

Bobby Blankenship – Chairman of the Board - reminded the cookers that they need to get their entry fees in for Humble Rodeo. In 2009, they hope to be able to offer electricity.

President Ronnie Raspberry echoed Bill Cannon's comments regarding the need to increase membership. He would like to appoint a committee to call members who have not paid to remind them that TGBCA values their membership and we want them to renew their membership. Helen Halbison will chair the committee. Members of the committee will be Roycie Raspberry, Muriel Weyland, and Kenny Maggard.

Gordon Bevill is cooking at a non-sanctioned event the first weekend in February. He has offered to pass out TGBCA membership applications. Thank you GORDO!!

During the Board Meeting, the board members present approved a motion that we have \$10,000 guaranteed prize money at the Invitational. You must have your membership dues paid by May 1st in order to receive an invite to the TGBCA Invitational.

Craig Sharry presented a proposal for an online balloting program available via the Internet. It would be a tool that TGBCA could use to poll its members on different subjects that could affect the organization. The cost is \$750.00 per year. A motion was made and passed during the Board Meeting to spend the money for this program. We will be able to use this for election of officers in December.

Another item of discussion during the Board Meeting was the need to think of ways to get more members to participate in the meetings. A suggestion was made by Ritch Robin to give away an entry to four of the large cook-offs. A motion was made by Ritch Robin and seconded by Sandy Babcock to pick four (4) cook-offs that TGBCA would pay the entry fee for. The drawings would be held at the regular membership meetings. The motion passed. The members who are eligible for the drawing must have their dues paid and be present at the meeting to win. The four cook-offs in the drawing will be Pasadena Labor Day Celebration, Harris County Fair, Hold'em and Hit'em, and the TGBCA Invitational.

Open Forum.....

Ritch Robin encouraged the head cooks to get all of the folks on their cooking teams to become members of TGBCA.

Glenn Jarrett and Craig Sharry started a discussion regarding the possibility of turning in two chicken halves, no matter the number of teams. We could use large Styrofoam containers in place of the foil pans. If the larger Styrofoam trays are strong enough to hold both chicken halves and costs less than the metal pans, it would be the way to go. Craig suggested that we use the new online polling system to poll the members.

Miscellaneous.....

Kell Phelps from National BBQ News will be attending the Hold'em and Hit'em cook-off. Let's all be nice – show them some of that good ole Texas Hospitality.

We are looking for items to fill TGBCA's page in the National BBQ News. If you have any suggestions for articles, advertisers, or sponsors, please let one of the officers or board members know. If you have any photos from TGBCA sanctioned cook-offs, please share them, so that we can put on the TGBCA website and/or the TGBCA page in the National BBQ News.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlynn Sharry, Secretary
Texas Gulf Coast BBQ Cookers Association