



# Kiwanis

## Kiwanis Club of Robson Ranch

[www.kcrobsonranch.org](http://www.kcrobsonranch.org)

### Minutes of the General Meeting July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- The meeting was called to order by Barbara Leurig, President. There were 21 members and 2 guests present.
- Barbara Leurig led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Jim Galbraith led the members in prayer.
- Barbara Leurig led the group in singing “America.”
- Program: Barbara Leurig introduced Andrea Jones, Director - Business Development for Ranch Hands Rescue, Bob’s House of Hope. Andrea provided an enlightening overview of Bob’s House of Hope and its mission.

Founded in 2021, Bob’s House of Hope is a comprehensive, four-year program at Ranch Hands Rescue in Argyle, Texas. It is also the nation’s driving force to educate the public that young men and boys are sex trafficked, too, and endure horrific, traumatic conditions. The organization is dedicated to getting them off the street and providing them with a real chance at hope and healing, so they can reintegrate into society as healthy, happy, functioning individuals. The goal is to empower these young men with the skills and trades they need to rebuild their lives, sustain themselves, and reach independence after years of trauma.

The residential facility at Bob’s House of Hope is built on a foundation of safety and community. It has the distinction of being the nation’s first and only safe house for young male survivors of sex trafficking, ages 18 and up. Another first: As part of the 40 acre campus expansion, they will be opening a specialized second safe house for boy ages 12-17 who have been sex trafficked. It, too, will be built on safety and community to meet their unique needs.

Andrea provided some alarming statistics about youth sex trafficking. Up to 50% of sex trafficked youth are young men and boys. In Texas alone, there are 60,000 missing young men and boys. These at-risk young males often have backgrounds of abuse and neglect and are provided street drugs. Most victims are lured into trafficking by somebody they know who preys on their vulnerabilities. The more vulnerable a person is, the higher their risk of exploitation. Additionally, the exploitation of these young males cuts across every socioeconomic boundary- urban, suburban, rural, wealthy, and poor.

There are ways our community can support Bob’s House of Hope –

- Establish a matching gift program with active and retired employees
- Provide in-kind donations to support the organization
- Donate silent or live auction items for their fundraisers
- Host in-house corporate fundraisers
- Assist in grant writing to help support the counseling program, residents, and animals.



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Please see their website at – [\*\*Ranchhandsrescue.org\*\*](http://Ranchhandsrescue.org) for more information about Bob's House of Hope.

- Club Business Items
  - Barbara Leurig updated the members about the recent summer social at the grill. Members enjoyed a burger bar followed by games of bingo and trivia.
  - Ed Ahrens updated the members that the next volunteer days of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> at Our Daily Bread. There are 3 open slots for Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - John Derry updated members on the Dental Bag program that our club partners with the Denton Noon Kiwanis Club. The dental bags are given to kids at Hodge Elementary school in Denton to highlight the Kiwanis Club Children's Clinic in Denton. John was kind enough to assemble 1,000 of the bags in his garage!
- Announcements and Reminders
  - The Robson Ranch Garage sale will be October 26<sup>th</sup>. Barbara requested that members start looking for items to donate to the garage sale.
  - Barbara reminded everyone to think about speakers for the next year and let Bill Wilson know.
  - Members were reminded to bring hygiene items for the Interfaith Ministries program.
  - Comfort Dolls will meet on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Bluebonnet Room at the CATA.
  - The next meeting will be on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Bandera/Medina Rooms
- Club Member Updates
  - Barbara updated the members on Gene Heathcoat who is recovering in a rehabilitation facility. She welcomed back Charles Wobbeking and Vern Smith who have been recovering from their medical issues.
  - Barbara updated the members on the Memorial Service for Bill Rauhauser on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Birthdays – Bill Wright – July 10<sup>th</sup> and Roy Meyer – July 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - A reminder – Dates of birthdays are taken from the Kiwanis data base. If your date wasn't added to the data base (optional), let Barbara know if you wish to add your birthday to the agenda.



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- Happy Dollars followed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

Submitted – Ed Ahrens



Andrea Jones, Director - Business Development for Ranch Hand Rescue, Bob's House of Hope