Mark Ralston
Flying the Friendly Skies of Chapter 11

Mark H. Ralston is a Partner with Estes Okon Thorne & Carr, PLLC. Mark’s national bankruptcy practice involves representation of businesses in all types of bankruptcy proceedings and related litigation. He has over twenty years experience in commercial bankruptcy involving core and non-core bankruptcy issues. Mark’s clients have included representing secured and unsecured creditors and other parties in interest in bankruptcy matters and related litigation, creditor committees, purchasers in Section 363 sales, Chapter 11 debtors and Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees.

Mark’s representations have also included assisting purchasers or their financial lenders in bankruptcy asset-acquisition transactions and debtor-in-possession lenders and purchasers.

He graduated with Distinction with a B.A. in Economics and Spanish from the University of Virginia College of Arts & Science in 1985. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1989. He was a Board Member - Moot Court.

His prior work experience includes

- Partner/Founder of Dallas office, Ciardi Ciardi & Astin (2010-2011) Bankruptcy Section
- Partner/Shareholder, Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP (1996-2000) Bankruptcy Section
- Associate, Locke Purnell Rain Harrell (PC), Dallas (1989-1996) Bankruptcy Section

He has been admitted to the State Bar of Texas, the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for all districts of Texas, the U.S. District Courts for all districts of Texas, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

He is a Member of the State Bar of Texas and of the Dallas Bar Association. He is a Member of the American Bankruptcy Institute. He is a Barrister Member of the John C. Ford Inns of Court. He was recognized by D Magazine among the Best Lawyers in Dallas (Bankruptcy) in 2007, 2008 and 2009, by Texas Monthly as a Super Lawyer (Bankruptcy) in 2013.

COMMITTEE TIME

Mentoring Works: Some Success Stories
With thanks to the Mentors for sharing these stories!

Marco Hernandez  (Mentor: Tom Rhodes)
Marco was 2 spots (students) out of the top 10% of his class at Hillcrest. He worked very hard his junior year and made it into the top 10% of his class by his senior year. He applied to 8 colleges and was accepted to all 8. He has decided to attend the University of Texas at Dallas and study engineering. He is a quiet young man and very pleasant to be with. He feels a real responsibility for his family since his dad works in LA and does not live with the family most of the year. It has been a real pleasure working with Marco

Brian Lopez  (Mentor: Shawn Murphy)
Brian and his family moved to Texas when he was five years old. His parents wanted to provide better opportunity for him and his twin brother (Brandon), sister and younger brother. They left their entire family back in Mexico. Brian plans on going to Texas State in San Marcos. Brian and his brother Brandon are the first two to graduate HS in their family. Brandon was mentored by Phil Ray. Brandon is planning on attending Stephen F Austin in Nacogdoches. Both Brian and Brandon are still figuring out their financial aid. One of the best parts to mentoring was helping the boys with their Eagle Scout Project. Both of them rebuilt fences at Dallas Heritage Village last summer.

Moshtagh Rezvan  (Mentor: Tom Dortch)
Moshtagh will be attending Texas A&M in the fall on a full four-year scholarship. Moshtagh is one of four Hillcrest students to receive full financial aid (continued on page 3)
President Fred Brown called his next to last regular meeting to order. PE Cleve Clinton gave the invocation and noted the funerals of Joe Walker and Hugh Griffith last week. He also asked us to remember in our prayers Howard Parker who continues to recover from a broken leg and Phillip Bankhead’s mother. The good news is that we learned that Shawn Foster is a newly-wed. Congratulations! Cindy Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance and the “Star Spangled Banner.” Bob Patton introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests. Chris Short announced The Hub and web advertisers of the week and reminded us that it is time to renew your ads. He said that invoices were sent out last week and that Jim Weichel was the first to renew on behalf of Mutual of Omaha Bank. PP Linda Tunnell gave the top 10, or 11, or 12, reasons to attend the Installation Celebration on June 28. Barb Jeffries said she would be taking dues payments today, so pay up! She also reminded everyone to update their profiles on the website. Tom Dortch told of the successes of his Mentee who is graduating from Hillcrest H.S. and who will attend Texas A&M. He also asked for more volunteer mentors for next year since they believe their will be more students recommended for the program. Tom Rhodes’s alter ego Tommy Earl (?) announced the Fourth of July Parade and said that Wanda Lu and the eight kids would be there. Obviously, more volunteers would be needed in that case. Safety is the foremost concern for the Parade and more walking and standing marshalls are needed especially. Shawn Foster introduced new member Lori Seale, who is a wardrobe consultant for Edward Baumann Clothiers. Mary McMahon introduced new member Teri Thomas, owner of Wojo Wallets.

VP Eric Heitkamp introduced our own Dawson Orr, Superintendent of the HPISD, who was speaking on school finance in the recent legislature. He said that there were over five million students in Texas public schools, which is about ten percent of all the students in public schools in the U.S. In 2011 Public Education lost $5.4 Billion in funding. In the 2013 legislature the economy was much better; there was an $8.8 Billion surplus over what they had projected in 2011. Over nine hundred school districts had passed resolutions expressing concern about the over-reliance on standardized testing. One group, Texans Advocating for Meaningful State Assessment (TAMSA, aka Moms Against Drunk Testing) was made up of very well-informed parents, led by professional women who were concerned about the effects of the assessments on their children. The legislature was able to restore much of the funding that was cut in 2011. The legislature worked well with the money they had. In regard to the testing, there had been some unreasonable hurdles placed in the path of students preparing to go to college. The state had set additional standards to be able to attend a public university, beyond what the university required. They also found that since the year 2000 the state of Texas had paid over $1.2 Billion to the testing company, with little return. Texas had gone far beyond every other state.

Get Involved!

Please remember ...
Howard Parker as he recovers from a broken leg.
A Joy is that Shawn Foster is a newly wed.
Please let us know your Joys or Concerns at: announcements@parkcitiesrotary.org

Our Mission
Building a legacy of good works and fellowship, we strive to:
REACH those in need in partnership with others
INSPIRE tomorrow’s leaders with high ethical standards
FOSTER lives of service above self
– A supporting member of Rotary International

The Hub is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Park Cities (Dallas)
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Bulletin/Internet Advertising
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6704 Snider Plaza
Dallas, Texas 75205
Office Phone: 214-739-4170
Office Fax: 214/363-6980
Email: club@parkcitiesrotary.org
www.parkcitiesrotary.org

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THE HUB The Rotary Club of Park Cities

LAST WEEK
Presiding: Fred Brown
Invocation: Cleve Clinton
Pledge: Cindy Cummings
Introductions: Bob Patton
Photographer: Fred Speno
Chair of the Day: Roger Diebel
Speaker: Dawson Orr, Supt. HPISD
Program: School Finance

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Events Calendar

June

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AED = Defibrillator Training
Bi = Blood Drive
BD = Board of Directors Mtg, 7am
LaMadeleine, 75 & Mockingbird
Cn = PCR Connect Event
CP = Childs Play Work Mtg
D = District 5810 Event
DH = Dentistry with a Heart
FR = Family of Rotary Event
FF = Fellowship Event
FP = RCPC Foundation Fund Mtg, See Cleve Clinton
In-Interact at Hillcrest H.S., 8 am. See Tracy Gomes
M = Meals on Wheels (Different teams on each day)
Mtg. See Patsy Wattry
M = New Member Event
MtG = Program Committee Mtg
Reading and Radio Resources
See Joe Ray
SpE = Special Service Event
VV = Vet to Vet - See Bob Dill
Web-lite = after noon mtg
Blue = Activities on own schedule
Debt

A duty dodged is like a debt unpaid; it is only deferred, and we must come back and settle the account at last.

~ Joseph F. Newton

He that dies pays all debts.

~ William Shakespeare

Creditors have better memories than debtors.

~ Benjamin Franklin

To the generous mind the heaviest debt is that of gratitude, when it is not in our power to repay it.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Science does not know its debt to imagination. Goethe did not believe that a great naturalist could exist without this faculty.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

From Mrs. Hugh Griffith
June 17, 2013

Rotary Club of Park Cities,

The family of Hugh Griffith thanks you for the flowers you sent us. I appreciate your prayers and concerns for him during his illness. Please know your Club was a joy for him and he felt your presence.

Sincerely,
Nancy Griffith

Proposed New Members

Tania Boughton
Proposed by Mary McMahon
Classification: Consultant
1st Publication

Surinder Grover
Proposed by Fred Brown
Classification: Country Club
2nd Publication

Paul S. Grover, DMD
Proposed by Fred Brown
Classification: Dentistry
2nd Publication

RCPC FOUNDATION
Our Funders for Next Week are
Lyndon Taylor ✓
Mark Thomason ✓
Bob Timberlake ✓
Linda Tunnell ✓
Kathleen Turton

New! Contribute on the website!

Happy Birthday

Jodie Ray 6.22
Bill Hervey 6.23
Jim Evans 6.25
Tracy Gomes 6.27
We Gratefully Acknowledge

Thank You,
for supporting the Rotary Club of Park Cities.