



SPRING  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 237, Issue 302, April 12th, 2018

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Olin's Backup

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- April 12**  
**Lori Geer**  
"Children's Advocacy"
- April 14**  
**Service Project**  
"Clean Up America" *seep back for details*
- April 19**  
"TBD"
- April 26**  
**Rick Horne & David McWhorter**  
"State of the Club"

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Askari	Apr 04
Rutledge Haggard	Apr 05
Robert Reed	Apr 07
Lawrence Flannery	Apr 09
Andy Sayers	Apr 11
Kirk Bell	Apr 12
Alex Johnson	Apr 22
Ricardo Kasmiskie	Apr 27



**R**ANDY WRIGHT, the more eccentric of the Randy Brothers (balloonists and no relation to the Wright Brothers), reprised his role as *Photographer du Jour* this day. He had come from *Plano East* not to make up but to gain tutelage of the **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS'** duties for **Andrew McJanet-Smith**, an expatriate Brit who has been tapped for that role at *Plano East*. Joke's on him; we had our own novitiate in **Roy Reeves**. But, as photographer, Randy gave Roy a run for his money, coming within one photograph of Roy's record (65 in a single meeting!).

The Prince Formerly Known as the 7<sup>th</sup> Rick, gave the cattle call at 12:09, summoning **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation and **Kelly Palmer** for the Pledge. He thanked **Joe Camarena** for Greeting and called acting, acting **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**, Roy.

Roy put his foot in it, welcoming, from *Plano East*, Ms. "Sandy" Wright; this will come as quite a surprise to **Diana**! Randy, true to form, saved ID of his guest until last, and instead advertised an "April 24<sup>th</sup>" fundraiser wherein a portion of the entrance fees at **Escape Expert**, a multi-escape-room facility, will go to benefit *Plano East*. (Rick dangled the fine bucket beneath Randy's nose.) Then Randy introduced **Escape Expert's** creator and fellow *Plano East* member, Andrew who promptly corrected the event's date to **APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**.



**Francis Cartwright** introduced **Joanne Thede**, and **Sarah Watkins** hid be-

hind the podium. There were suggestions of "Stand up!" and "Do you need a box?" from mischievous members, but all 4'6" of Sarah had heard the like before. Ironically, she was there to introduce the long, tall drinks of water who were representing *Plano Senior High's* UIL (University Interscholastic League) **Texas State Champion Women's Basketball Team!**



They were all multiple-threat individuals, starting with Coach **Kelly Stallings**, who has not only been preparing for this victory for a decade, but also teaches Social Studies and AP U.S. History! Senior **Emma Halverson** doubles her length whenever she reaches her arms above her head, so she plays close to the basket where she blocks, rebounds, and assists. **Katie Ferrell** is an All-Court player who leads the team. And diminutive 5'5" **Sophie Fleites** is the stealth player who tosses disconcerting 3-pointers from the outside. They've all been varsity team player since their freshman year; since they're now seniors, they've accumulated a massive depth of expertise. No wonder they're State Champions!

Their games are wildly popular on campus, with PSHS' softball team dedicating a game to the Women's Basketball team! And through all of this, they are maintaining their studies while putting out "sustained effort" on the court.

**Janis Allman**, no slouch in the altitude department herself, photobombed the students because she too was a *Plano High* basketball player around the middle of the last century. (No pejorative intended.)



Roy referred to **Howard Matson's** "attractive guest," **Heather Corton**, Executive Director of *Harbor Chase*, an Assisted Living Facility. Her application for membership was recently voted up by the *Plano Rotary* Board. Attorney Reeves was carted off to Human Resources for re-education.

But the Club wasn't letting Sarah off so lightly; we wanted to know the college choices of the players (thus which teams to vote up during subsequent March Madness brackets). But only Emma had made a choice (*UTA*); the other two were still whittling down their options.

**Prince Rick** mentioned the upcoming (now past) 3/31 Four-Way Test Speech Contest at the *North Texas Performing Arts* facilities at **WILLOW BEND**. **John Caldwell** told us we've been at this for 26 years and recently won district twice! He wanted to borrow the big Plano Rotary Club banner, but if he means the Four-Way Test banner, won't that be a tad intimidating? **Rick** thanked the many volunteers, especially John and **Sara Akers**.

**Rick** also invited us to help do our part to rid the ocean of plastic contamination by fishing it out of Spring Creek on 4/14 from 9-11 am. Helping with the *Great American Cleanup* is our service project for April (that justified the **NO MEETING ON 4/5**). The City expects 1,800 participants, and **Rick** wants ~20 of them to be Plano Rotarians. There'll be a (no such thing as a) Free Lunch at 11:30 that day in the parking lot of the **Chase Oaks Church**.



He also reminded us of the 4/21 **Interact Spring Fling** at *Shawnee Trail Complex* in Frisco (sorry, **Bruce**). And he bade us attend the Club meeting on 4/26 to hear the State of the Club and Foundation chat. At that time, the membership will be queried on the directions they'd like to see the Club go under **Carolyn's** leadership. (*Up*, perhaps?)

Finally, for the über-dedicated, he offered the 5/31-6/2 District Conference to be held in conjunction with Rotary's Peace Symposium at RI HQ in Evanston, IL.

Then, eschewing his standard "here she is, you know her, you love her" line, he introduced the force behind the **Plano Balloon Festival**, the Premier balloon event in Texas and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation behind Albuquerque. **Jo Via** complained she'd taught them everything they know.

She strode gleefully forward saying, "I have no notes. I don't **NEED** notes" to introduce her nemesis, **Olin Jaye**. She chortled that today's program would be "a blessing." (Perhaps of an opportunity to give as good as she's gotten.)

She offered us three options:

1. She could talk about the **Balloon Festival**.
2. We could all leave **NOW**.
3. We could sit through a program featuring Olin's expertise: eating donuts.

Jo warned us that Olin is feeling out-of-sorts, having consumed four chocolate donuts for breakfast. She was only glad it wasn't liquor. She's debating tattling to **Mimi** unless she's paid handsomely. But she did offer to sedate him before the presentation to bring him down off his "sugar high." And she warned us that, if we pulled a **Howard Shapiro**, and left early, Olin was likely to take names.



As thrilled as we were by the options, Jo's questions were rhetorical; we were condemned to **Death by Jaye**.

When Olin dragged his notebook to the podium, we feared the worst. When he explained that he DID need notes and his notes were full of numbers, we despaired. But then he didn't open it. Instead, he explained a short conversation he had with Rick. He didn't really need an introduction, he thought, but Rick said that Jo "jumped at the chance," and Olin thought, "Oh, 🤪!"

He was condemned to a Via introduction because he had "failed as a Program Chair," and had no backup plan to a speaker-less program. So Olin became Olin's backup. And here he was, preparing to speak to us on "Politics, Passion, and your Pocketbook."

"I'm not an expert on State or local politics," he lied, "I'm just a political junkie." He explained that "we DO need good local officials" if only because "Bruce needs the supervision!" But "it's hard to be in governance" because of the 🤪 piled on volunteer politicians. He promised not to deal in parties (so as not to offend the lone Democrat in the room) but rather in issues. And, "because of my Chamber connections," he will "talk about business."

Even though this is an off-cycle election year, there's "more noise in Politics" than ever, "a lot of emotion." "Primaries are just over" and "runoffs are 5/22. There are a lot of campaigns, a lot of vacant seats and [vacant?] candidates," and a "number of school board seats open."





It's true that *"more Democrats turned out (to vote) in South Texas,"* but it's not yet *"significant statewide."* Those that did turn out, do not outnumber Republican voters, and some who *"identify as Democrat, but vote Republican,"* confuse the issue. But it is undeniable that the State demographics indicate increases in Hispanics who traditionally vote Democratic. (So did all of Texas once; ask **John Connally**.) Still there are ~36K voting Democrats compared to ~67K voting Republicans.

And there's the anti-Trump rhetoric, some of it coming from Republicans. Olin, on the other hand, *"dislike(s) everybody equally."* Then there's the confusion of a *Democrat, Sam Johnson*, running for the seat of the retiring *Republican, Sam Johnson*, against **Lorie Burch**.

This has been the most expensive off-cycle election in Texas history, and there are runoffs (5/22) in both parties.

It's been *"a long time since we've had serious Democratic candidates for Governor."* But Olin expects that neither **Lupe Valdez** (Dallas Sheriff) nor **Andrew White** (Mark White's son), will prevail against **Greg Abbott**.

(Thus far, Olin had talked only party politics and not issues, but that was about to change.)

The #1 issue is the **Pocketbook**. 60% of Texans think property taxes are too high, according to Olin. #2 is **Local Control**, and #3 is **School Finance**, which conflates with #2. #4 is **Transportation** in the face of *"an anti-tolling mentality."*

This fired up **Ric Kasmiskie** who asked about foreign countries owning our toll roads. *Cintra*, HQ'd in Madrid, is partnering on the LBJ. The (now dead) Texas Corridor was also a *Cintra* project.

*"Most states can't afford big projects,"* so public-private investments attract conglomerates like *Cintra*. And they're only going to get larger with 1,000 new residents coming to Texas daily. *"Bruce will have the largest downtown in Legacy West."*

Ric asked Olin to comment upon historical development issues like I-35, I-20, and I-10, but Olin demurred citing, *"before my time."* However he did comment upon the preponderance of Texas water lying EAST of I-35, and the political hassles that will engender.

**Larry FLASH Flannery** asked about whether **Beto O'Rourke** (vs. **Ted Cruz**) was Mexican. Olin said he grew up in El Paso and *Beto* is an old Spanish name.

Carrollyn commented that PISD taxes are a *"complicated animal"* due to Robin Hood. Solutions to Robin Hood turn out to be lies.

In contrast to Olin's "disliking" everyone, *"Realtors™ love everybody. 58% own homes,"* and have issues with property taxes. Realtors™ ally with cities for *"truth in taxation."* Olin read an article *"last week"* stating that with the current growth, we will be *"as big as the Chicago Metropolitan Area"* soon.

**FLASH** was inexplicably given an opportunity to fill a vacant moment, and he did so with a story of a pair of men, one of who just got an eyeful of 🐔 from a passing bird. He begged his companion to go find some toilet tissue, but the man refused saying that by the time he'd procured it, the birds would be gone.

Jo was honored for *"not telling the real story."* The UIL champions were honored, yet again. Bruce will supply orange jumpsuits for the Cleanup. *Jasper High's* Interact had an article in *Plano Magazine*. Rick led us in the Four-Way Test and dispersed the crowd at 12:58.



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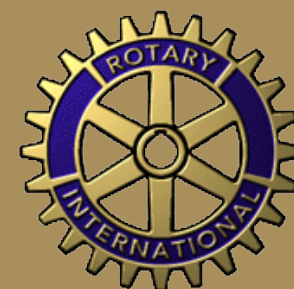
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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Joanne Thede  
Kelly Stallings  
Emma Halverson  
Katie Ferrell  
Sophie Flities  
Heather Corton

### Visiting Rotarian

Randy Wright  
Andrew McJannett-Smith

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Francis Cartwright  
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A Citywide Community Cleanup and After-Party

## Saturday, April 14

