

BUILDING COMMUNITIES BRIDGING CONTINENTS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 5 — Nancy Humphrey and Carrolyn Moebius - PISD School Board

- April 12 Joel Small, DDS Face to Face Leadership
- April 19 Dr. Chris Parr Lighting the Dark Continent
- April 26 Andy Rittler Director of Corporate Affairs, LBJ Infrastructure Group

May 3 — City of Plano Employee of the Year

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Keith Sockwell	April 01
Rutledge Haggard	April 05
Lawrence Flannery	April 09
Andy Sayers	April 11
Kirk Bell	April 12
Alice Hobbs	April 13
Bob Pikna	April 16
Alex Johnson	April 22
Kenneth Roberts	April 22
Ricardo Kasmiskie	April 27
Jerry Kezhaya	April 28





Volume 9, Issue 31, April 5, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club www.PlanoRotary.com

# **Soporific Sales Pitch**

**HILE Jan Sullivan** was moseying to the lectern to give the prayer, the Prince Who Would Be King John called upon **FLASH** for give the pre-prayer opening remarks. **LARRY** commented that he really didn't have a prayer, to which John readily agreed. However, he had his patented Irish jokes, this one about a man greeting three portly women in an Irish pub. He noticed their heavy accents, which seemed out of place, so he asked, *"Are you ladies from Scotland?"* One flashed anger saying, *"No, idiot! Wales."* The man apologized and amended his inquiry to, *"Are you whales from Scotland?"* 



As Jan had arrived, John remarked that now we'd hear from a real Irishman. Jan bristled, "I'm <u>not</u> an Irish <u>man</u>." LO THE BADIANT in a stage whisper said, "Whale?" CAPTAIN KIRK said that LO also "didn't have a prayer." Intimately familiar with the Club's warped sense

of humor, Jan proceeded with her Invocation. Jason Rice led us in the Pledge, and John



thanked *"Lee Duncan"* for greeting before catching himself and correcting it to **Dunlap**. Then *"twice-removed stand-in Sergeant-at-Arms"* **Marc Lewis** was called to the podium.

Sainted Editor asked, "He's forgotten already?" as Marc had to return to the check-in



desk for the guest list. But he hadn't forgotten the power of the purse as he fined **L3** \$2 *"for calling a specific member a whale,"* <u>reimbursing</u> **Ean** \$1 for his restraint at the insult (Jan will comment on that

restraint when they get home), and fining **FLASH** \$5 on general principles. Making the most of the fine, **LARRY** quoted, "May you be in Heaven an hour before the Devil knows you're dead."

Marc offered to introduce Ean's guests, but Ean declined the snide offer in order to redeem himself for having named **John Parker** as *"John Pittman"* the previous week. John is a prospective member as is Ean's other guest, **Joe** 



Foor, here today with his wife **Pam**. (Pam, these are the reprobates with whom Joe will be in league weekly. Think hard on whether your man of the cloth should be exposed to the likes of us.) **Jeff Frauenheim** welcomed Cousin **Bill Wray**.



Perfect Attendance pins went to **Ben Criste** (5) and **Casey Stewart** (8). In addition, Ben scored a plaque to commemorate pentannual perfect attendance.

Principal **Sarah Watkins** approached the lectern with trepidation and with a trio of coeds in tow. She admonished the gathering to "restrain yourselves" in the presence of "these fine ladies." And, teachable moment as it was, she remarked to them "what a class act" the Geriatric Club of Plano was, to which **Randy Wright** added, "Welcome to the real world."



Sarah introduced the three girls who shared a pair of unusual characteristics among them. The first was that they were all swim team captains. The second was that they were all bound for military academies. **Ashley Ezell** (right) is off to the *Coast Guard Academy*, there to study the World of Fascinating Drug Interdictions. **Melissa Leonhart** (left) will join the *Air Force Academy* for Astrophysical or Nuclear Engineering or just to become a pilot. (She could use all three were she to become an astronautienne on the first nuclear interplanetary rocket.) **Shannon Rogers** (center) plans to enter *West Point* (Randy Wright: "Go, Army!") to learn about International Relations and Military Intelligence for a career with the CIA.



**Jamee Jolly** announced that the Chamber will host **Gov. Rick Perry** on 18 April speaking about "*What I Learned on the Campaign Trail*" now that he is no longer in contention for the Republican nomination.

John mentioned that Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst,

candidate for the U.S. Senate, will be our speaker in May. Mark Johnson reminded us that

**Deptistry With A Heart** is scheduled for O-dark thirty next (last, as you read this) Friday, and those of us for whom volunteering had just slipped our minds, could do so even now with Lynette. Or, failing that, just show up at *Lone Star Crossing* sometime



tomorrow. Estimates were that we would serve over 170 for whom the cavity tolls. That was greeted with applause.



John called President-Elect Lenny Schwartz to induct our newest member, Jan Sullivan. Ean ennobled the occasion with a moving candlelight ceremony while Lenny intoned Ken "Too Tall" Robert's deathless prose. With the proper caution to Ean about keeping an eye on sponsor Chris Parr, Lenny urged the latter to pin Jan who was welcomed by a round of applause to the Club.

Jan didn't get far. She was called back immediately by Ben Criste to trade the **Red Badge** in for a **Blue One**! She shared that upgrade with Jamee Jolly and **David McWhorter**, all of whom had met the new member requirements.

**Rick Horne** had the honors of introducing the day's speaker, **John Pruitt** of simple sleep | services. He took exception to the announcement that the glare off his cranium was



blinding the audience. (It just goes to show the feverish activity within, Rick. At least that's what **Sainted Editor** keeps telling himself.)

John studied Emergency Medicine at the U.S. Army Academy of Medical Sciences. He did his postgraduate work in maxillofacial orthopedics. From '97 to '01 he was VP and COO of a U.S.-based

orthodontics



and supply company becoming CEO of their Australian subsidiary. From '04 to '10 he was a founder of *Somnomed* in Australia rising to Exec. VP and CEO before becoming CEO of simple sleep services.

Acknowledging the rough crowd, John likened our proceedings to a  $K\Sigma$  fraternity function. But he soothed us with his admiration of Rotary via his father's and grandfather's membership. (Apparently it skips every third generation.)

He wanted to leave us with three thoughts:

- 1. Benefits of sleep,
- 2. Importance for overall health, and

laboratory

3. Nature of sleep disorders.

The fourth unstated thought was why we might consider his company's products and services. Can you say *"infomercial*?" He promised us he wasn't making any of this up by reference to the MDs (a periodontist) in the audience.



John told us that sleep is the body's way of recovering from the vicissitudes of life. It is a time to repair the damage done by free radicals and help restore our health. (That may be why we spend surgical recoveries on our backs, do you suppose?) It is a time of "*mental defragging*" and "*backing up*" the hard discs of our

brains. And we do it in two stages, REM preceded by non-REM sleep. There is a sequence of non-REM sleep which involves "*twilight sleep*," where the brain waves segue from  $\alpha$  through  $\beta$  into  $\delta$  waves. The last step is "*deep sleep*" followed by REM or "*paradoxical sleep*."

REM stands for "*rapid eye movement*," and in this stage, the body is paralyzed except for the diaphragm and the eye muscles. This is when we dream. This is when we are processing our day. (And paralysis is necessary, or we'd be running around re-enacting it.)

Disorders arise when the *"sleep architecture"* is disrupted. For example, John said, we normally require

7-12 minutes for the onset of sleep. Shorter onsets are indicative of sleep deprivation. Longer onsets suggest the beginnings of insomnia.

Other disorders include non-REM dreams, when the body is not paralyzed. Sufferers may become sleepwalkers or even sleep-eaters! More common is acute insomnia, which John defined as being unable to sleep two nights in a row.



John's favorite disorder is "obstructive sleep apnea," because his company has a solution. It is the endpoint of a sequence that begins with snoring, passes through mild apnea, and concludes with the afflicted awakening choking, having experienced airways

occluded for up to 10 seconds. He frightened us with statistics, saying that 25% of those aged 35-65 suffer from some form of apnea and 50% snore. (If we don't believe it, ask an honest spouse.)

Insomnia can be treated without meds. He suggested we try exercise, and he warned us of the downward spiral entailed in not exercising, failing REM sleep, being too tired to exercise, and so on. Weight gain is also a culprit. And, not surprisingly, he cautioned against caffeine, which, he claimed, persists in the body 16 hours.

He recommended shutting down the computers at least two hours before bedtime and taking the iPhone<sup>™</sup> to bed only if it has a Nighty-Night app to produce soothing white noise to mask any sleep-disturbing sounds.

Apnea is treatable with CPAP, Continuous Positive Air Pressure, which essentially blows open airway obstructions. Alternatively, simple sleep services' solution is a mouth-guard that lifts the chin out to physically improve the airway. More radical yet is surgical removal of the uvula, which John Pittman volunteered hurts like Hell. John Pruitt couldn't recommend it in good conscience (or good business sense).

Although "reticent to permit questions with this crowd," John took them nonetheless.



Patti Schwartz wanted to know if snoring is not apnea. John assured her (and he who sleeps with her) that 70% of snorers don't have apnea. "If you choke or gasp awake, get evaluated."

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Invite them to be your guest at Rotary!

Know someone who would

make a great Rotarian?

The 4 Wav Test: Of the things we think, say, and do:

- 1. Is it the truth?
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill & better 3. friendshins?
- Δ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**Guest Of** Ean Sullivan Ean Sullivan Jeff Frauenheim Chris Parr Alan Feigenbaum Kirk Bell

Home Club Visiting Rotarians Plano Metro **Dennis Devenport** Park Cities Ashley Maris Johnson Plano Metro AWARDS: Harold Sullivan Award: **Randy Wright** 

Athena Award: Rebeccca Caso Fred Moses Award: **Richard Butterfly** Business Executive of the Year: Gary Base Kersey Can Holder: Vance Bryson

<u>Member</u> NEWS

Patti also inquired about sleeping positions,

Phil Dyer asked about alcohol's influence.

Patti inquired about tea and was told that a

John Pittman asked about the mouth-

Prince John gave him our Four-Way coin

and John told her those who are "slightly

overweight" might experience "positional

apnea" that can be cured by sleeping on their

sides or stomachs. Olin Jaye thoughtfully

John explained that while alcohol can assist with

the onset of sleep, about 1/2-way through the

night, it "greatly interferes," leading to "drunk

sleep," which isn't at all restorative. Phil said

nice, decaffeinated tea prior to bedtime was a

guard's jaw extension. John Truitt assured him

that "it doesn't turn you into Jay Leno." It is

custom-fitted to each patient and even increases

and promised a contribution in his name to

Shoes for Orphan Souls. He then inquired about

any closing announcements, but **FLASH** said he

was broke from the fine and couldn't respond.

John then led us it the Four-Way Test and triple-

the muscle tone in the back of the throat.

belled us out of session at 12:57.

that's what he told the friend who asked him.

asked Patti, "Did you get that?"

plus.

Citizen of the Year: Reth and Duncan Wehh Rotary Make Up Website: www.rotarveclubone.org

New Member Proposals: John Parker Classification: Insurance Proposed by: Ean Sulivan

Bill Wrav Classification: Law Proposed by: Jeff Frauneheim

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## John Parker

Guest

Joe Floor

**Bill Wray** 

Jan Sullivan

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