



## Summer Weekly

Volume 287, Issue 352, August 29th, 2019

# Reader

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Are You Ready for Some Campaigning?

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Aug 29th**

**Jeff Beckley**

"75th Anniversary Planning Meeting" (Haggard Party Barn)

**Sep 5th**

**No Noon Meeting**

First Thursday of the Month

**Sep 12th**

**TBD**



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ussery, Camille	Aug 10
Jobe, Mike	Aug 15
Watkins, Sarah	Aug 20
Beckley, Jeffrey	Aug 21
Robnett, Michael	Aug 24



**S**ainted Editor wants to thank **CAPTAIN KIRK** for his remarkable restraint! Kirk routinely chides the man for his phenomenally poor understanding of sports. And last Bulletin's title, "D'Ya Wanna See Some FOOTBALL," should obviously have read "Are You Ready for Some Football?" in keeping with the NFL ditty. So Sainted Editor is making amends with this Bulletin.

**JOFFREY THE BENEVOLENT** opened our proceedings at 12:16, summoning **Blair Ritchey** to Pray and **Larry Bisno** to Pledge. He thanked **Peggy Fenwick** and **Sam Greif** for Greeting, and, in response to a publication of his omission, thanked **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** belatedly for greeting our last meeting. Then, in keeping with established tradition, Jeff failed to thank **Howard Matson** for his yeoman service as the day's substitute **Karen Sheldon**! He did, however, remember to call **SERGEANT HORNÉ** to duty.



Rick introduced **Michael Perry** visiting from **Dallas Rotary**. Then **Sara Akers** guest left (for croutons, no doubt) before her introduction, but returned as comedienne **Charlotte Forcht**. Howard Matson welcomed back two candidate members, **Bob Kehr** (pronounced "Care") and **Emma Smith**.



**Mary Jo Dean** protested Rick's **Three Minutes of Torture** as redundant but to no avail. She was born in Peoria, grew up in Morton, IL, as "a very good girl." It was



(and remains) a "very small town" which offered the opportunity to "walk everywhere and be safe." When asked what she did for fun, **Olin Jaye** offered, "It was just a misdemeanor." Actually, her activities centered around the Girl Scouts and 4-H, "not the agricultural projects" but rather the home economics ones like baking and sewing. She graduated from **Fontbonne College** in St. Louis with a degree in Elementary Education. Her favorite movie stumped her until someone helpful suggested *Forrest Gump*, to which she readily agreed.

**Johnny Lewis** was called upon for the **Rotary Foundation Minute** wherein he reported the good news that Nigeria has finally fallen off the list of Polio countries, not having a single reported case since August 2017.



Jeff announced our Homecoming at the **Haggard Party Barn** in place of our meeting on the 29th. We are inviting former Plano Rotarians to honor them, us, and swap tall tales as well as discuss plans for the 75th Anniversary fundraisers to benefit the **Children's Medical Center**, encouraging it to move back to Plano (from its exile in Wylie). Those interested in being part of that discussion can meet with point man, **Larry Bisno**.

**Joe Camarena** rose to introduce our speaker, **Rep. Matt Shaheen** (district 66).

Matt is a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, elected in 2014. He serves on both Urban Affairs (Vice Chair) and Ways and Means (Vice Chair). He has authored and joint



authored several House bills. As of June 2017, Rep. Shaheen was a member of the House Texas Freedom Causus. The Causus aims to support *"Liberty-minded, grassroots Texans who want bold action to protect life, strengthen families, defend the U.S. and Texas Bills of Rights, restrain government, and revitalize personal and economic freedoms in the State of Texas."*

Rep. Shaheen received a Bachelor's degree from *Randolph-Macon College* and a graduate degree from *Southern Methodist University*.

Ever mindful of the expense of projector bulbs, *Sainted Editor* sprang up to ask Matt if he intended to use the projector. He acknowledged that he did, but he neglected to bring his slides with him, so *"unfortunately for you, you'll have to stare at me instead."* (*Sainted Editor* turned the projector off.)

He admitted to looking forward to our questions, explaining that the only ones which stump him are those asked by his wife's Pre-Kindergarten class, e.g., *"Why is the Capitol named the Capitol?"* He *"had to look that one up on Google,"* and it wouldn't do to ask it again, as he's forgotten already.

He characterized the denizens of the Austin Congress as *"volunteers. Not trying to buy Greenland."* He warned us that that other Congress (in D.C.) is *"more dysfunctional than you think."* In contrast, Austin is far more bipartisan, the divisions in Texas being less political and more geographical: urban vs. rural.



The legislature, by Constitution, meets for 140 days every other year. (That means that it works 19% of the time, which means it can only get into 19% of the possible mischief.) And, in contrast to sessions passed, it *"had a good session"* last year. This was unlikely at the start, since it had to tackle both school finance and property tax reform, *"either of which would have taken multiple sessions!"*

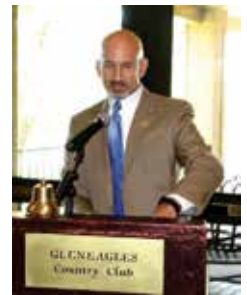
Of the ~\$250B State budget, ~\$94B is devoted to education, and that doesn't include any local funds like bonds. While the legislature has *"been talking about [these issues] for years,"* the difference in this session has been the level of cooperation between the top three leaders: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. The last office has changed hands recently to **Dennis Bonnen**; presumably that has influenced the discussions.

School finances increase by about \$1.5B every year due to population increases of 1,000 daily! The last session was increased by ~\$5.5B due to changes in *Robin Hood*. The "take from the rich and give to the poor" measure has reduced PISD budgets by ~\$70M, and it's being modified. ~\$2B of the increase was earmarked for teacher pay increases after studies of its efficacy were carried out. But it's not across the boards; the teachers working well or in difficult circumstances will see more of it. So it'll be incentive pay not seniority pay.

*"Outside of Mom and Dad, a teacher is most important"* in the development of children. (I'd have given some credit to the rest of the family: grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and the like.) The studies were carried out in DISD which used incentive pay to turn around *"the worst performing elementary schools. Now one exceeds the reading scores of Highland Park!"*

We have some *"awesome"* schools in DFW; their graduation rates are almost 97%. But schools in the Rio Grande Valley are struggling to improve performance. And education is vital to fuel economic growth. With the area growing in opportunity (**Uber** is *"moving a big hub into Dallas"*), an educated workforce is *de rigeur*. *"We are really gonna have an important effect!"* (...if re-elected <hint>)

The legislature didn't achieve anything important in the way of Property Tax Reform in 2017. Appraisals have grown by 50% in our area. So taxes have risen. But some legislation ameliorating this has been passed, and we will *"see change soon."* In particular, now a local government that wants to raise rates by 1.5% or more must seek voter approval, which Rep. Shaheen called *"a massive increase in transparency."* Furthermore, local governments must notify citizens of where and when such votes will be held.



That change affects future rate increases (above 1.5%), but what about rollbacks? He admitted to *"a little bit of property tax relief,"* amounting to \$200-300 per (average) household. That amounts to \$5B statewide. The legislature also capped property tax increases at 3.5%.

*"Who here does not like red light cameras? They're gone!"* Olin asked, *"Can I get a refund on those tickets?"* (The likely response is "no, and neither can municipalities recoup the expense of their purchases.")

A new law now prevents firefighters from job-related medical expenses due to denial of claims by Worker's Compensation. He told us of **Homer Salinas**, a firefighter from Mission, TX, who was denied coverage of his lung cancer who can now resubmit his claim.

Rep. Shaheen offered to listen to any such plea for help at 469-842-8708 (Plano office) or 512-463-0593 (Austin).

He said the Texas has a problem with Human Trafficking, being the *"#1 entrance way and #2 in human trafficking."* New laws give prostitutes a defense against charges if they can prove that they are victims of trafficking. He was appalled to find that the average age of victims is 12-14 years! *"The Governor is very focused"* on this issue and the Attorney General pursues prosecution of the traffickers.

All-in-all, Rep. Shaheen is optimistic about the changes made during this past session.

In Q&A, he was asked if there was a decreased need for criminal justice. He responded obliquely saying that's due to increase in health science and STEM graduates. Presumably, that make youth more employable and less prone to crime. He said that the shortfall for nurses is 15,000 statewide.

**Janis Allman** asked about sites chosen for the new (Corps of Engineers?) lakes appearing in East Texas. She was told that the Bois d'Arc site was sited based upon the topography of the land (and its watershed, presumably). Janis persisted, asking who pays for the engineering studies. The answer was the water district through municipal and county bonds. Counties manage the ground water. The State has a (non-rainy day) fund of \$2B for loans for that purpose. It also has a 50-year water plan that has been worked on for over a dozen years and that Rep. Shaheen characterizes as being *"in good shape."*



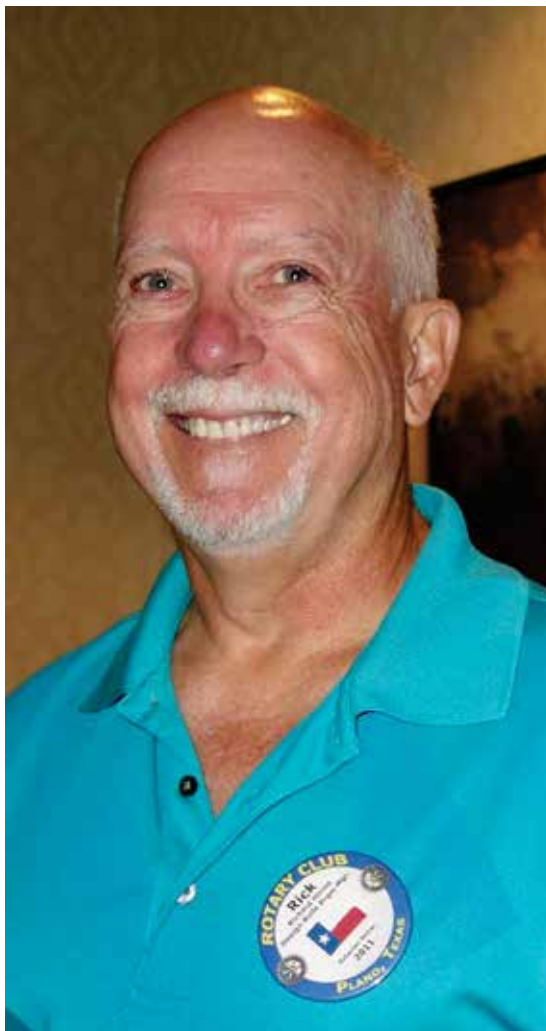
Olin asked about business workforce development. Matt responded with statements about “truth in taxation.” The tax rates are adjusted to rise and fall with the budget.

**Kelly Palmer** (today’s photographer) asked if there were any funds in the budget for border fences. Rep. Shaheen admitted to \$1B set aside for fencing that “*should be zero!*” However, illegal immigrants have a large impact on Texas; 40% of prosecutions in the State involve illegal immigrants. MS-13 gangs are moving from the less lucrative drug business to the more lucrative human trafficking ones. Those funds go for border monitoring via IR and motion-detection systems.

**John Priest** inquired whether anything is being done about panhandling. He declared that tent cities are springing up for the homeless. Matt said that falls under local jurisdiction; Austin has appropriate ordinances but doesn’t enforce them. John persisted asking if the State should step in, and Rep. Shaheen said that he preferred local control of local issues.

John also asked about prostitution enforcement and was offered contact with the mayor. “*I have his cellphone number.*”

Jeff admitted amazement at all that was accomplished this session. “*Major kudos to you!*” Then he offered Matt our “*perpetual*” multiport charger (that the representative apparently got a charge out of) lead us in the Five-Way Test and released us at 1:00 on the dot.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Charlotte Forcht  
Bob Kehr  
Emma Smith

### Guest of

Sara Akers  
Howard Matson  
Howard Matson

### Visiting Rotarian

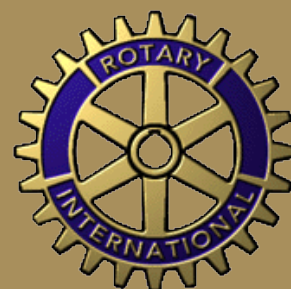
Michael Perry

### Home Club

Dallas

## Proposed Member

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bring a guest with  
a serving heart





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## NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS



**PROPOSED: Bob Kehr**

**PROPOSED BY: Janelle Twyford-Silvis**

**CLASSIFICATION: IT Exec/Cloud First**

Bob is the owner/founder of Kehr Technologies, a Managed IT company. He has an extensive engineering background in hardware and software design. His background includes 15 years selling telecom products and services to worldwide clients and he lived in Stockholm, Sweden for 15 months.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University, and an MBA from Southern Methodist University. Bob serves as Ambassador, Plano Chamber of Commerce; Co-chair of Ambassador Club, 2017 Goodwill & Spirit of the Year; Graduate of Leadership Plano. Bob is the IT manager for Frisco Fastpacs, Hendrick Scholarship Foundation, and CASA of Collin County. Board member of Leadership Plano and Hendrick Scholarship Foundation. Bob and his wife, Christine, have been married since 2010. His daughter Stephanie passed away in 2003, and daughter Jennifer lives in San Marcos. Bob and Christine enjoy working out at Carpenter Rec Center. They own 40 acres of pistachios in central California.



**PROPOSED: Emma Smith**

**PROPOSED BY: Kirk Bell**

**CLASSIFICATION: Financial Advisor**

Emma is originally from a small farm near Columbus, Ohio where she was heavily involved in my community through 4-H, FFA, and other organizations. She then moved to Indiana to attend Purdue University, receiving her Agricultural Economics degree in two and a half years. After two years with Charles Schwab in Westlake, Texas, she moved to the David Miller Group at Morgan Stanley in the Shops at Legacy branch. She is looking forward to becoming a member with The Plano Rotary Club.