



Fall
Weekly

Reader

Volume 138, Issue 198, December 10, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dec 10th

Rick Horne -
"RYLA Program"

Dec 17th

Jamee Jolly-AlValente -
"State of the Chamber"

Dec 24th

No Meeting -
"Christmas Eve"

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Vance Bryson	Dec 03
James Lowe	Dec 03
Earl Simpkins	Dec 03
Nathan Barbera	Dec 09
Johnny Lewis	Dec 10
Kenny Wilson	Dec 11
Jamee Jolly	Dec 13
Nancy Humphrey	Dec 19
Jim Cooper	Dec 23
Herber Hoxie, Sr.	Dec 23
Wanda Russell	Dec 29

Robbin' Hood Relief

ALL PISD seemed to be at **Sainted Editor's** table this day. First to arrive was the purported speaker, **Jeanine Alpert**, followed by the actual speaker, **Chris Bragg**, VP of PISD's Education Foundation Board of Directors. Trustee **Yoram Solomon** claimed a seat by **Sainted Editor** and went off to peruse the buffet with the admonition, "I'll be back," but he couldn't bring himself to do it in an Austrian accent. True to his word, he returned to find PISD Superintendent **Brian Binggeli** flanked by staff and Yoram's colleagues on the Board of Trustees as well as Chris readying his keyboard and iPad™. It seemed like a perfect social media photo-op, so he whipped out his iPhone™ to shoot the



VIPs and angled it to include "Chris doin' his thing." **Sainted Editor** responded, "That could prove embarrassing," which prompted titters from the table. Surely Yoram wanted to admonish us, "Grow up, people!" but he didn't dare, and social media is the poorer for it, no doubt.

President Paperweight convened the conclave at 12:20, summoning **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation and **Larry Bisno** for the Pledge. Eschewing Greeters, Kelly relinquished the lectern to second-string **SERGEANT**



David McWhorter, who welcomed **Jim Adams** visiting from *Richardson Central* and **Bill Neukranz** from *Plano Sunrise*. Then the President of PISD Trustees, **Nancy**

Humphrey, introduced her prime employee, Supt. Binggeli.

Camille Ussery rose to tell us that the video (that had been playing **Christmas Seasonal** melodies as we arrived) was of past **Angel Tree** events. She said that listening to an 11-year-old wish for a puppy and a decorated **Christmas Tree Hanukkah Bush** Seasonal Shrub had left her feeling validated for "what we do every day." Then she called volunteers to duty as described on the back of the *Weekly Reader*.



Continuing the PISD onslaught, Board Secretary **Carrolyn Moebius** pleaded for all who will attend the **Christmas Holiday Party** to RSVP to her immediately. The Party is on Dec. 10th at the **Haggard Party Barn**, and it costs members nothing but significant others \$18. We were told to bring new coats or gift certificates to **KOHL'S** or **TARGET**.



President of PISD Trustees, **Nancy**, did the honors of introducing the speaker. She drew attention to her sweater (I thought only teenage girls did that.) that she said she wore to last year's

SKJ PLANO event, benefitting the PISDEF (Education Foundation). Turning to her task, she introduced PISDEF Exec. Dir. **Jeanine Alpert** and its Board Vice President, **Chris Bragg**. Chris spoke while Jeanine handled the media.

Chris then began the **Death of One Thousand Statistics** presentation.



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Before launching into **DOTS**, he praised Brian, Nancy, Carolyn, and Yoram, and Brian's unsung Minder and Gatekeeper, Karen, er, um, **Karla Oliver**, the **H. R. Haldeman** of PISD.

So why, Chris wanted us to ponder, is "*a banker telling you about education?*" His wife's been a teacher and is now an educational consultant, so he comes by it by marriage. He recalls her buying pencils and crayons for her classes and his inquiry into whether or not those were available through PISD. She must have laughed as his naiveté. All teachers purchase their teaching aids out of their own salaries, because ISDes are too poor to provide them.



Then came the deluge:

- 55K students (up from 35K in '94)
- 72 campii
- 6.5K employees
- 80 languages represented
- 96% graduation rate <88%>nationwide
- 95% pursue post-secondary education
- 33% of teaching staff hold masters degrees
- PISD evaluated as 3rd best ISD in Texas
- 31% economically-disadvantaged (up from 9%)
 - Consequently, the district must include additional resources to get such students ready.
 - 7.1K non-English-speaking students

Complicating all this is the 1964 lawsuit, *Edgewood ISD vs. (Texas Education Commissioner) William Kirby*, citing the Texas Constitutional requirement for the State to "*provide an efficient public school system.*" The Texas Supreme Court agreed and henceforth well-to-do ISDes refund monies to the State to be distributed to struggling ISDes. *Robin Hood*, as the resulting legislation is known, has siphoned **\$780M** in a decade, \$50M last year alone.

As a response to *Robin Hood*, the 501(c)3 PISDEF was founded to raise NON-TAX funds, not subject to redistri-

bution, to fund programs that had to be cut due to the legislative grab. Its mission was to

1. Enhance innovative curricula and instruction
2. Reduce the achievement gap between well- and poorly-prepared students.
3. Retain and recruit the best teachers.

And in that regard the '14-15 school year saw the following programs funded by the Foundation:

- Innovative Classroom Grants affecting 108 teachers and 27K students
- Science Fairs
- 281 scholarships issued for Outdoor Learning
- Plano Family Outreach Program
- AVID (raises kids' potential as exemplified in a video)
- Recruitment Fair for 502 potential employees
- Financial assistance with employee crises.

Already in the '15-16 year, the Foundation has spent

- \$120K on Innovative Classrooms
- \$138K on Secondary Science
- \$50K for Outdoor Learning
- *Etc.*



In addition to Rotary's support, the Foundation receives funding from PTAs and individual parents (11%), business owners and corporations (82%), and the teachers themselves. (One just assumes the administration plays a part.) Other foundations contribute 7%.

There are, of course, annual campaigns such as a push on North Texas Giving Day, employee appeals, and letter-writing, and events such as the Top 10 Women in Collin County and **SKI PLANO**, scheduled next year for 30 January at the *Marriott Legacy*.

The Foundation is hoping to adjust the mix of donors, raising the 11% funding from individuals to 80%. "*Everybody needs to participate.*"

Chris thanked Rotary for its efforts and applauded PISD's participation in college credits for high schoolers.



Jeanine ramped up a video showing the *Publishers Clearing House* style accosting of unsuspecting recipients of Innovative Classroom Grants in their classrooms. They involved cheerleaders like Nancy Humphrey with pom-poms (!), and, of course, thrilled teachers and classes singing their praises. Rotary took the hint and presented its donation in the same style to grins all around.

Chris asked the rhetorical question, "*How can you help?*" answering it with a final list:

- Volunteer in schools
- Offer internships in your businesses
- Mentor
- Give \$\$\$
- Become a **SKI** sponsor
- Add PISDEF to your will
- Host a cultivation event
- Like PISDEF on **facebook**
- Check out www.pisdeducationfoundation.org

In Q&A, **David Bowman** suggested grant-writing, which Chris said is being done successfully "*but not as much as we'd like.*"

Rick Maucieri asked the amount of the Innovative Classroom grants. Chris said it varied from \$1.5K to \$3K for multi-school.

Kelly struggled to identify past members of the Foundation's Board, including **Mary Jo Dean** (10 years) and **Rutledge Haggard** (founding member). Rutledge reminisced about how the initial call went out for a "*brain trust*," and how he was therefore staggered at their call.

As President of our Foundation, **Earnest Burke** had the honor of offering up the Giant Check (and the real one to Jeanine). Brian Bingelli accepted the mic to thank Rotary "*on behalf of 55,000 children.*"

Kelly said Rotary had two more years of \$20K each to go to satisfy **CAPTAIN KIRK'S** commitment to PISDEF. He also announced next week's RYLA program.

Prince **John Ernst** rose to make two announcements. The first was his engagement to **Patti Laing Bayerl**, a nurse who lives in St. Augustine, Florida. The second was his obligation to go live with his spouse and concomitant necessity of resigning Rotary. He called Plano Rotary "*a Gift to the World and to me.*"

After the standing ovation died, Kelly led us in the 4-Way Test and closed at 1:03.



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Brian Bingelli

Guest of

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Please consider joining us with the support of your personal time or financial resources to help make the holidays brighter.

This year, we are partnering with Barron Elementary, Samaritan Inn and YMCA to provide a holiday meal, Walmart gift card and children's toys & necessities. Mr. & Mrs. Claus (aka Ean & Jan) will arrive to celebrate with the children which will put a smile on your face and a tear in your eye.

Shopping:
Thursday Dec 10th @ 7:30am; Walmart at 1700 Dallas Pkwy near Park Blvd.

Wrapping:
Tuesday Dec 15th @ 5:00pm to 6:30pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.

Party:
Saturday Dec 19th @ 2:00pm to 4:00pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.
(volunteer times may vary due to preparation and clean up)

Please email Camille.ussery@bthbank.com if you would like to volunteer your time.