



Fall Weekly

Reader

Volume 139, Issue 199, December 17 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Best Week of My Life (...so far)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dec 17th

Jamee Jolly-AlValente -
"State of the Chamber"

Dec 24th

No Meeting -
"Christmas Eve"

Dec 31th

No Meeting -
"New Year's 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



HALEY PLENGER had opined that RYLA was YALC, "Yet Another Leadership Camp," and it got Saint-

ed Editor to thinking. She quickly disabused us of that notion, but if Haley and the other participants in our 5810 RYLA were chosen from among the highest ranked leaders of



their schools, and they all succeed admirably there, should WE really be congratulating ourselves on OUR accomplishment? True, we laud the scholars as they thank us, but perhaps we aren't really creat-

ing leaders so much as honing them. Maybe we should include leaders-in-the-rough in the mix, students in whom their counselors believe, but who don't have the confidence to apply? If RYLA could succeed with uncut diamonds, that would enrich the world for everyone.

No, don't give me that look, **Rick**; I'm not second-guessing the fine job that you and your judges are doing, but you can't pick those who don't apply. Maybe we should look at students volun-



teered as well as volunteering. End of soap box.

President Paperweight called our meeting to order at 12:15-ish (Sainted Editor hadn't yet set up his journalistic rig). Kelly offered us **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Alan SPIRITWARE Feigenbaum** for the Pledge. **SERGEANT BARBARA** stepped up to his customary applause to welcome **Jim Adams** from *Richardson Central* and permit **Sarah Watkins** to introduce her guest, **Susan Modisette**.

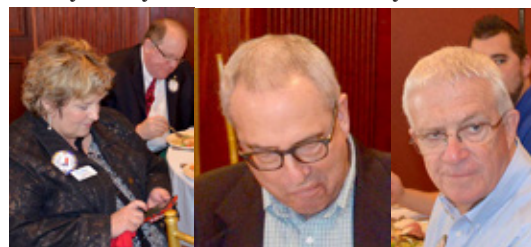
Resurrecting **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan accosted **Dennis Fuller**. Dennis went to high school in Waxahachie



where he majored in baseball, basketball and football. The most well-received present that **SANTA CLAUS** ever brought him was a pony; that's even better than a unicorn! But he really wanted a cowgirl, as someone shouted out. Favorite holiday movie: *A Christmas Story*. Song: *White Christmas*. Meal: turkey, which were "real growing up." Drink: eggnog. Did he open his presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Answer: *yes*.

Dennis joined Rotary seven years ago having learned about it from a *Hendrick Scholarship* fundraiser. It was "like coming home."

Kelly awarded Years of Rotary Service to **Sara Akers** (3), **Larry Bisno** (3), **Alan Feigenbaum** (8), **Doyle Dean** (29), and **Mark Geller** (40!). Alan was to have remained on the podium to hawk **SPIRITWARE**, but he left it to Kelly to tell us several **XXL** shirts are available. No one will admit to requiring that size. And woe be unto you if you recommend it to your wife.



continued on page 2



Angel Tree needs cash, and envelopes had appeared on our tables to be filled with same. Well we know what we're good for.

Carrolyn Moebius took the mic to apparently sing us an invitation to the Pan-Plano Rotaries' **Holiday Party** at **Rutledge's Party Barn** that evening. (With the benefit of hindsight, a good time was had by all.) It was only after beginning to speak that she noticed "Oh, God;

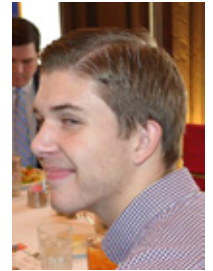


to take both opportunities and risks and not be afraid to "make a fool of myself...even now." Through RYLA, she now knows she can get through anything with unconditional support from her peers.

Rick was quick to point out that Madeline was required to sacrifice no goats, but she and the others were obliged to lose their cell phones for the week. The withdrawals were pitiful to see.

Bryce Baumann is bound for the priesthood via a Philosophy of Letters degree from *University of Dallas*. Prior to that, he is among the 15 "Most Excellent Students" out of a class of 800. He is in the National Honor Society, and volunteers at *Heritage Farmstead*. He is a member of the Texas All-Regional Choir.

Bryce told us that RYLA fosters "leaders among leaders," and you must lead something while there. His take-away from the experience was that it's "OK to take a step back; it's not necessary to lead everything." As had Madeline, Bryce thanked us for the opportunity which he will take with him "for the rest of my life."



it's" **Scary Bob** with his Roving Camera, and she curtsied for all her adoring fans!

Earnest Burke read us the **Birthday List**, but failed, mercifully, to require us to sing "Happy Birthday to You!"

John Caldwell told us we've been sending contestants to the 5810 Four-Way Test contest for 23 years, and this year a candidate of ours actually won! And it was our 2nd place contestant; apparently #2 does try harder. She'll be here on January 7th to reprise her winning presentation.

Rick Horne, complaining about a "cheap country club microphone," took the lectern to introduce our supported RYLA scholars and one "old camper." First up was **Madeline O'Mary**, an Honor Roll student and AP scholar at *PSHS*. She teaches Catechism to 1st graders at *St. Elizabeth Seton* and works at *Henry's!* (Good to know.) She's going to *NTSU* to study Communications.

Madeline had thought "It'll Change Your Life" to be hyperbole before RYLA; now she's a convert. She said that the most important lesson was: "Self-improvement happens whenever you let it." And she gushed that the participants were among "the most wonderful people you'll ever meet." She was inspired



Haley Plenger was a State Medalist for a Visual Arts Scholastic Event. She is on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board. She is a Girl Scout Ambassador and takes *beaucoup* AP courses. She plans to go to *UT Austin*.

Haley said, "I never thought I'd lose my timidity," but RYLA proved her wrong. She told us that she learned

1. Small actions can have big effects.
2. I have power and can use it.

She now takes more risks and is more confident in the decisions she makes and in what she says.

Haley said that she's remained in contact with her cabin mates; they were very helpful with one another through shared and individual crises. And she thanked us, and, as a *Gleneagles* functionary had just shut a squeaky door behind her, "Thank you too, I guess."

Eagle Scout **Parker Nay** is the Golf Team Captain. He is a member of the Young Men's Service League and a Camp Counselor. He's been a missionary in the Dominican Republic. He'll be going to study business at *OSU* or *OU*, depending on their golf scholarships!

Parker wanted to broaden the circle of his friends and found wonderful





candidates at RYLA. *"I open my heart to my friends."* In their company, he learned *"how to be effective even in a secondary role."*



Brooke Lindsey, Rick wanted ~~Sainted~~ Editor to know, was taking Honors Chemistry along with Biology, Physics, and pre-calculus. She too is in the National Honor Society and is VP of the American Sign Language Club. She is the co-Captain of the Cheerleaders and volunteers at *N. TX Food Bank* and *Hope's Door*. She's bound for *TAMU* to study Nursing.

Brooke wanted us to know she left RYLA in tears because she'd bonded with her mates. She thought the obstacle course was the *"best ever,"* and thrilled at her peers cheering everyone on. She marveled at their disparate strategies, some *"rushing in, others thinking efficiency."* She thanked all of us and especially the drivers *"of teenagers who were talking [incessantly] or taking a nap."*

Rick moved to the decrepit campers in the person of **Ryan Dry**, a RYLarian from way back in '95, returned to be a camp counselor in '96. His RYLA wife, **Tracey**, produced three RYLA children: **Dylan**, **Ella**, and **Dalton**. (If they were going for alliteration, it could have been Diane.) He is now a managing partner for the Plano branch of the law firm **KREBS | FARLEY**. And he was once named one of the **Dallas Top Lawyers Under 40**.

Ryan said RYLA was 20 years and 30 lbs ago, but Doyle Dean looks just the same. And he confessed that his law firm had put him in the running for that honor. His boss and wife voted for him and, on the strength of that, he made the list.

He'd been asked (by Rick, presumably) to recount his RYLA experiences in 5 minutes. That'd be a stretch.

"RYLA is a fascinating case study. Labels get erased;" an art major can exhibit the confidence of a quarterback. He recalled **Peter Tomasz**, a football player from *Bishop Lynch*. *"I learned a lot from him."* Peter told Ryan on the last day of camp, *"I want you to know that this has been the best week of my life."* They both then realized *"the impact it had on us."* En route to the RYLA Olympics, Peter suffered a massive heart attack and died. *"It changed the fabric of the camp forever. Live each day as if it were your last."*



Ryan will *"never forget the Club that made it possible."*

Rick cautioned the RYLarians to keep **Service Above Self** in mind and to seek out Rotary since *"we need an infusion of youth."*

Kelly proved caution advisable when our paperweight picked up utensils handily. He passed out one to each speaker with the note that *"you have a great career in front of you."* Reminding us of the evening's *soirée*, he led us in the 4-Way Test and dismissed us at 12:59.



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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.