



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 185, Issue 250, February 9th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



How to Herd Cats

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb 9
Lloyd Neal
City of Plano Traffic Manager

Feb 16
Monty Chamberlain
Texas Health & Human Services

Feb 23
Earnest Burke
Black History Month



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jason Kramer	Feb 07
Roy Reeves	Feb 09
Karla Oliver	Feb 13
Sam Greif	Feb 14
Rick Grady	Feb 27
Carrolyn Moebius	Feb 27
Kyle Walters	Feb 27



M IDWAY through speaker **Lana Rich's** presentation, the Club Flag fell. PE **Rick Horne** helpfully righted it, but it fell again. He righted it a second time. **Please.** No one tell the defectors that the Club is falling apart without them!

Rick **Muddy Waters** Horne (and, as a blues aficionado, he knows what that means, but I won't tell if he doesn't) chaired the meeting in **King David's** absence. He pranged our Rotary Bell at 12:11, announcing **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation (today's photographs, and slow off the mark photographer) and **Tamara Dreger** for the Pledge. She and **Rick Grady** both greeted to hasten their **BLUE** badges.

SERGEANT KRAMER also greeted us, thanking all and sundry for the countless **CHECK-INS** and **LIKEs** on our facebook page. He noted former member **Shawn Foster** as a Visiting Rotarian, and **Sara Akers** welcomed **Sean Enfield**, an intern at her *Plano Children's Theater*.



Shyster Howard Shapiro was presumably detained in court, that being the only excuse for his absence during his **3 MINUTES OF FAME**. He was fined \$5 for the infraction (in absentia), and **Alan Feigenbaum** was chosen for next week's victim. He claims to look forward to it.



Muddy Waters presented **John Caldwell** with his 4 year attendance pin, and John inquired about the absent photographer. **Nancy Humphrey** sprang to the task using John's

iPhone™. **Blair Ritchey** finally captured the iPhone™ and recorded the remainder of the meeting.



Earnest Mr. Wonderful Burke enlisted **Muddy Waters** to sing **Happy Birthday to You** to February's birthday list. Everyone sang in a different key.

Nancy Humphrey hauled out a grossly oversized trophy to be awarded to the first place contestants in the **Hendrick Scholarship Foundation's Scramble for Scholarships Tournament**. The winning team claimed itself bored, having won it 6 times before.



So each of the foursome (**Nathan Barbera**, **Mark Johnson**, **Casey Stewart**, and **Mark Waterbury**) get one, and three of them get two! They'll have to win once more for a pair of trophies each. (The trophy probably recycles, so their mantles remain uncluttered.) **Nancy** volunteered a \$5 fine for announcing that she's running for **Place 3**.

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Muddy Waters gave an account of the State of the **Blues Review**. Talent is being acquired. Beverage sources and the venue have been fixed. Work now turns to the development of the web site, with **Jeff Fraunheim** doing the heavy lifting there.

Rick sought further announcements from **FLASH Flannery**, but **Larry** said, "Nope. I'm good."

Alan **SPIRITWARE** Feigenbaum, Program Chair, introduced the day's speaker.

Known as the Catsultant®, Lana is a cat behavior specialist and consultant. What **Cesar Millan** has done for dogs, Lana Rich is doing for cats.

She has helped over 1600 cat owners resolve behavior problems, create optimal home environments for cats (and dogs) and has taught cat owners how to enhance the relationship with their cats. While she is extremely knowledgeable on all things feline, she is also a dog lover!



She asked how many of us had ever heard of a Catsultant®TMSM? "Crickets," as **Muddy Waters** has said. She was not surprised. Indeed when you Google that, you have to go halfway down Page 3 to find any link that doesn't refer to Lana Rich.

But Lana didn't start out that way. She was a dental hygienist who owned (or was owned by) a dog and a cat. She found numerous services to board, groom, walk dogs but none for cats. So she thought **AHA**, an unfilled entrepreneurial niche! Being "a 3rd generation entrepreneur," she established such a service to respond to the age-old question: "Why are cats the underdog?"

She went to **SMU** for a course on *How to Start a Business*. With that under her belt, she hired feline vets as consultants and opened her first shop in Leister Square (SW corner of Parker & Independence) in Plano. Even after expanding into the shop next door, she was cramped and had to move to larger digs at 14233 Inwood Road in Dallas. There she employed a staff of 18 before selling the business in 2000 to become the Catsultant®TMSM.

So how do you consult with/by/for/on behalf of...cats? She first performs an environmental analysis of the cat's home. (This is, of course, from the cat's point of view. The cat's person, on the other hand, is under the delusion that it is their home.)

She stopped in her presentation to ask how many of those present owned dogs. (Quite a few.) Now how many are owned by cats? (Quite a fewer.) One rabid dog owner even booed the opposing party. Lana declared herself to be "bi-petual," she swings both ways across that great divide.

She asked us to consider the myths surrounding cats. Black cats are bad luck. A cat can steal a baby's breath (not the floral spray, of course). A cat is a witch's familiar. Etc. But there is no such folklore surrounding dogs. She suspects that is due to the longevity of the dog/man relationship which much predates the cat/woman one. ☺

Lana thinks that cats adopted us because we had fields of grain that attracted mice, a cat's natural prey. Dogs, on the other hand, were associated with Man from our hunter-gatherer phase which long predates our domestication of grain. So cats are not as domesticated as dogs. "Cats are tamest of the wild and the wildest of the tame," she quoted from a long-forgotten source. (**Mark Twain**, Lana.)

"People need to understand feline needs," so she teaches Cat-Care classes. Just as we are obligate aerobes, "cats are obligate carnivores. They must have the amino acids" that come from protein.

"How many of you," she wanted to know, "have walked your dog?" (Lots of hands.) "Now how many of you have hunted with your cat?" (No one.) Outdoor cats hunt in order to eat. Indoor cats eat in order to hunt. Owners can play with cat toys that stimulate the hunting instincts of their indoor cat.

She has "a passion for the health of our animals." Our pets age seven times faster than we do, so their age-related complaints come on seven times faster. Thus we should all take our pets to the vet annually for an exam and blood work...and, perhaps, a dental X-ray! Even a thorough visual inspection of a pet's teeth will miss abscesses and decay. And associated infections of the teeth can migrate to the heart and kill.

John Caldwell asked if there are tiny mouth blocks to facilitate cat dentistry. Yep.

Nancy Humphrey asked whether the cats take anesthesia. Yep.

One wag wanted to know how often to get a CAT scan. Unfazed, Lana said that she'd actually heard of such a procedure.

Check the ingredient list in your pet food. Sugars shouldn't be present; the pet doesn't need them, and they rot teeth. And if you feed your pet wet food, they shed less. Grocery stores carry pet junk food; cats fed from those sources are like our eating daily at McDonald's. "Bad food gives rise to bad attitudes" in cats. (Notorious fussy eaters.)

"Please be aware of how big you are relative to a cat." You are intimidating. "Cats hang out with those that don't like them," because they won't be bothered by them. "Let cats come to you."



Alan wanted to know how to enhance your relationship with a cat. “Cats are the biggest foodies on the planet.” Win them through their stomachs.

Roy Reeves has a cat that pees on inappropriate objects. Hire Lana to discover “problems with the litter box.”

Janis Allman wanted to know how to medicate a cat. The answer was “pulverize the pills into wet food.”

www.thecatconnection.com

www.catsultant.com

Channeling his inner **FLASH**, Rick opined that presentation to have been “the cat’s meow,” but she accepted the desk organizer anyway. He led us in the 4-Way Test and belled us out at 12:50.



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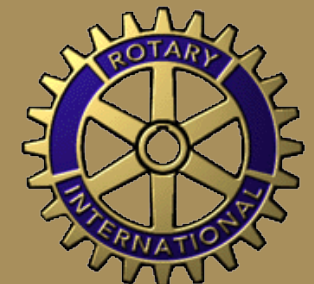
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