



Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 144, Issue 204, February 11, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

TURMOIL IN THE RANKS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb 11th
Bryant Cappelletti
"Dallas Cowboys in Frisco"

Feb 18th
Mary Jo Dean -
New Brain and
Concussion Programs
(non NFL funded)"

Feb 25th
Bob Young-Weitzman-
New West Plano
Developments and
Activities

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lynne McLean	Feb 01
Jason Kramer	Feb 07
Karla Oliver	Feb 13
Sam Greif	Feb 14
Doyle Dean	Feb 19
Dennis Fuller	Feb 22
Chris Henry	Feb 23
Carroly Moebius	Feb 27
Kyle Walters	Feb 27



RANDY WRIGHT chastised me for my poor attitude toward Club Assembly...with some justice, I might add. I have evidenced less than enthusiasm for our annual conclave, but that is apparently shared widely as evidenced by the empty tables at today's meeting. We were not even able to break even on *Gleneagles'* minimum of 60 diners, and therein lay a source of friction. But we'll come back to that.



So I either must conclude others find the obligatory meeting less than riveting or I am infinitely more persuasive in my editorializing than I'd ever imagined! And those diehards who did attend weren't all attending to the proceedings. *Scary Bob* found **Phil Dyer** and **Bruce** Mr. Clean **Glasscock** riveted to their smartphones. They were mocked by **Yoram Solomon** who mischievously compared e-notes with Bruce.

President Paperweight, anticipating an early release, opened the meeting at 12:18, doubling duties for **Earnest Burke** for



both the Invocation and the Pledge. Earnest was spared the **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** duties as well by the presence of **Nathan Barbera**, cautioned by Kelly to use his indoor, "calm and reasonable voice."



Nathan welcomed back *Richardson Central* denizen **Jim Adams**. **Debbie Watson** did the same for her successor, **Robert Reed**. Nathan mentioned to Robert the existence of membership applications on the check-in table. Robert promised to glance at them.

Nathan asked for members' help in seeking MIAs who have proven to be incommunicado. **Anthony Miller** and **Reedy Spigner** haven't been seen for ages, and the Administration wants to know how they (and their pocketbooks) are.

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Kelly awarded attendance pins to **John Caldwell** (3) and **Ean Sullivan** (27).

Jamie Schell practiced his Rotary Foundation elevator speech, thanking us for our support for the Foundation whose mission is to support the charitable efforts of Rotarians and to work toward the achievement of peace around the world.



Kelly confidently predicted that the Club Assembly would last no longer than 20 minutes, leading to a swift adjournment, but he didn't count on the level of grouching that attended his pronouncements.

A Club Assembly is usually a report to members on the various and nefarious activities of the Administration and its functionaries, committees, and events. But today was different. It consisted of a report on the progress of but a single committee: that tasked with a study of Club Finances occasioned by the move from *Southfork* to *Gleneagles*.

Since that move was complicated by an increase in meal charges, the Club had previously voted itself a dues increase to cover the expenses contingent upon the Administration's promise to study ALL Club finances as pertained to the dues structure. This was apparently the first such in-depth look at income and expenses in living memory.

An early result of that study was the creation of a "No Meals Plan" to be debuted today. But the committee's work is on-going for reasons made clear later in the meeting.

"Dues" and other revenues go to a variety of purposes. A portion is remitted to RI on members' behalves. Another portion goes for underwriting meals. Yet a third portion is for charitable donations to the Club's Foundation to fund various commitments like the \$100K to the *PISD* Foundation (\$40K of which remains to be paid). Other expenses include guests of the Club (such as the 4-Way Test participants), meals for speakers and their guests.

The chairman of this committee is our Treasurer, **Rick Horne**, and his committee consists of **Camille Ussery**, **Marc Lewis**, and **LB THE RADIATIONLESS**. Rick took the stage.

While his charge was to study dues structure, it became clear that this could not be done *in vacuo*. It called

for an examination of all Club expenses, revenues, and charitable obligations. The good news is that the move has not occasioned complaints about *Gleneagles*, either the venue or the food. (Rick is studiously ignoring *Sainted Editor's* carping about the high-handed tactics by a certain country club that purportedly wants our business.)



While the Club is contractually obligated to pay for at least 60 meals each week, every year we comp 114 meals, counting various guests of members and of the Club. Other options were studied, such as a requested discount for older Rotarians with senior appetites, but *Gleneagles* makes no distinctions between gourmands and gourmets. Besides, for the *Geriatric Club of Plano*, most members would apply for the discount, breaking the budget. (Yet another argument for younger members!)



One praiseworthy outcome of the committee's deliberations is the suggestion of dividing the quarterly invoice into clear sections making the distinction between dues, meals, and charitable contributions. But "*there isn't enough data*" collected to ascertain actual Club needs, since we are but halfway through the fiscal year. The committee begs our indulgence to do its work thoroughly and accurately, so it's going to work throughout the rest of the year to "*determine actual costs*" through the complete cycle.

Some of our charitable obligations are not cyclic but rather episodic. We've two more years to go on our *PISD* Foundation obligation, but that to *Jack Carter Park* (\$25K over two years) is just beginning.

The committee is studying Club Psychology as well. It concludes that while we have an active, engaged membership, it isn't overly fond of raising money. While *Citizen of the Year* was "*a raging success*," beyond that fundraiser, there's *nada*.

The upshot is that the Club will retain the current (conservative) dues structure until **David's** year, by which time the real needs and resources of the Club should be clear.

Rick "*strongly encourage(d)*" everyone to make any recommendations or suggestions to the committee or to him personally, since transparency and open dialogue are *de rigueur*.



Larry Flannery opened the free-for-all with a question about the actual costs for meals. Rick told him that it was \$15.50 at *Southfork* and \$20.90 at *Gleneagles*. Subsidies by those paying but not eating reduced the *Southfork* costs to members to about \$11. (But guests of the Club amount to folks *eating but not paying*, constituting a reverse subsidy or a cost to be recovered.)

The suggestion that we hadn't a dues increase since the Schell Administration was quashed by Bruce who said that

“Ken Roberts failed to pass it, so it was passed on to me!” There was therefore a dues increase in the Glasscock Administration.

Bob Epstein pointed out that the City *“looks to us to increase fundraising.”* Rick told him the Club is always open to new fundraising suggestions.

With that in mind, Kelly pointed out that dues cannot just cover costs, because then our charitable contributions will cease.

Rick Horne, advocating a continuation of mandatory charitable contributions on Club invoices, said, *“We don’t want to hit you up continuously.”*

Ean said that the *“lines are blurred”* between running the Club, meals, and charitable contributions. *“We need to sharpen the lines between these parts. We can’t use fundraisers to run the Club.”*

Rick Horne agreed. Clear charitable contributions are needed for tax deductions. But we have to have *“something more than partial year data”* to go on.

Rick Maucieri noted only 50 members eating lunch today but 100 members paying for it. *“So are we clearing \$1000 per meeting?”* Or with the *Gleneagles* 60-diner minimum, \$800?

Speaking to the empty tables, Kelly commented, *“Good programming is the key.”*

Janis Allman asked how much money is raised by other Clubs, selling pecans, for example. Ean told her about \$9-10K per year.

As regards the No Meals Plan, Kelly said that had been requested by only 7-8 members. We can send our requests to Kelly or Rick by email; they are to include reasons such as financial hardship, medical, or travel issues.

Larry said that with his travel business, he’s out-of-town six months a year. That announcement was greeted with applause. But he persisted, recommending that the Club take care to offer people reasons to be here weekly.



Kelly agreed *“100%.”*

Kenny Wilson asked if revenues were declining. Kelly told him that the loss of members had occasioned such a decline but the dues increase reversed that.

Jamie Schell suggested *“it’s time for a fish fry.”* **LB** said we have a donation shortfall; our invoiced amount won’t cut our obligations.

CAPTAIN KIRK BELL waxed eloquent on the budget. He said we had a \$150-180K annual budget, *“higher than three months ago.”* About 60 people eating lunch, and *“the spread for no-shows”* went to the Foundation. So we accumulated \$10-20K therein. People asked, *“Why are we hoarding money?”* If the \$480K dues revenues results in more charitable spending, we should *“call it what it is”* so that we can all take tax deductions on it.

Having exhausted our bile, we were relieved to give even Randy Wright the floor. Randy offered us *“glad tidings of great joy.”* His new mantra was, *“There’s nothing the matter with membership numbers that more proposals won’t fix!”* In July 2014, those numbers stood at 104. Since, we’ve suffered defections and additions that now total 103! All we need are *“two per month to break even.”* And we could grow with only one proposal per week. If we all take on that burden, it amounts to an onerous *“once every two years!”* Find proposal form on the check-in table or at PlanoRotary.com

Every time you bring a guest, drop your business card in the hat. John Caldwell valued the hat currently at \$55. It goes to the folks with the most guests, candidates or not.

No one was awarded our lethal paperweight, so, with a nod to the Four-Way Test, Kelly released us not early but at 1:06!



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Robert Reed

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Debbie Watson

Visiting Rotarian

Jim Adams

Home Club

Richardson



*Next Club Networking Social:
Tuesday, February 23rd
Location TBD*

Socials are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5PM and will count as a Rotary make-up.

Please Contact Bob Pikna if you have suggestions for events.

Email: bpikna@bizsvcs.com or Phone: 214-417-1487

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