

Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 55, Issue 117, February 13, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 13

Alex Johnson -
"Four Way Test Contest"

February 20

Earnest Burke -
"Annual Black History Celebration Program. (Meeting adjourns @ 1:30)."

February 27

Carol Mitchel -
"Truth About Hypnosis."

March 6

Tuff Yen -
"The Truth about Shark Tank TV Show: Should we Believe What we see on TV?"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Davis, Maribelle	Feb 01
McLean, Lynne	Feb 01
Kramer, Jason	Feb 07
Israel, Cary	Feb 10
Oliver, Karla	Feb 13
Dean, Doyle	Feb 19
McGee, Jim	Feb 20
Fuller, Dennis	Feb 22
Henry, Chris	Feb 23
Moebius, Carolyn	Feb 27
Parker, John	Feb 27
Walters, Kyle	Feb 27



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

Wannabees

JEFF Frauenheim labored to set up a complicated sound setup for the **CANDIDATE FORUM**,

but **Sainted Editor** wasn't impressed. "They're politicians, Jeff. They don't need amplification."

PRESIDENT KIRK opened the meeting at 12:13, assigning the Prayer to **Jan Sullivan** and the Pledge to **Alex Johnson**. **Jamee Jolly**, architect of today's program, was credited with Greeting.

Substitute **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Rick Horne** was greeted with the usual ironic claps to which he replied, "I'm not worthy." After he introduced Visiting Rotarians **Ed Williams** (Dallas) and **Mayor Harry LaRosiliere** (Metro), **Matt Shaheen** was fined \$10 for jumping the gun and announcing his candidacy before the starting bell for the **FORUM**.



Moderator *du Jour* **Olin Jaye** introduced guests **Tim Dean** and **Adam Majorie**. **Nancy Humphrey** welcomed fellow PISD Board member **Mike Furlin**. **KIRK BELL** welcomed City Councilman **Ben Harris**. **Randy Brodhead** fed wife **Cathy**. **Jamee Jolly** failed to introduce fellow Chamber member as there were too many but did note the presence of Representative **Jeff Leach**. **Bruce Glasscock**



announced Lord High Director of Policy and Governmental Relations, **Mark Israelson**.

KIRK noted birthdays for **Maribelle Davis**, **Lynn McLean**, and **Cary Israel**. **HE** called Cary to receive both his 14-year attendance pin and the next (\$6,000) installment in our ongoing support of nursing scholarships. Cary told us that this guarantees "a nurse for all of you."

FLASH couldn't resist trotting out his standard joke about nurses, especially with the **WINTER OLYMPICS** about to begin. He told us that downhill skier **Peek-a-Boo Street** used to work as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit until she was fired for answering the phone, "Peek-a-Boo, ICU."

Shilling for Cary, **KIRK** announced the Collin College **STETSON & STILETTO STANDOFF** Gala that occurs on 2/22, the same night as the 5810 Gala. We've tables at **both** events! Anyone wishing to attend either may contact **Lynette** for tickets.

KIRK then announced (falsely) that the **CANDIDATE FORUM** would focus on questions of **Global Warming** while providing the perfect counterexample to his exhortation to the candidates to remember the Four-Way Test in their answers. Then **HE**

continued on page 2



But as Olin approached, **KIRK** got in one more announcement: **HE** lauded Alex Johnson for redesigning the Four-Way Speech Contest to include preliminaries where 50 contestants were winnowed down to four to appear before us next (this) week.

Olin recognized Jeff Leach, representing “the heart of Plano,” and **Craig Perry** from the Chamber’s Public Policy Committee. Then, directing his comments to the candidates present for the Republican Primary Election for the Texas House of Representatives from District 66, **Glenn Callison** and Matt Shaheen, he outlined the Forum rules. Two minutes for opening and one minute for closing remarks with 30 second responses to the questions put to both. He noted **Kelly Palmer** as Timekeeper. He failed to note until the end the absence of candidate **Stacy Chen**.



Glenn Callison welcomed us to the **FROZEN TUNDRA**, noting that he’d appreciate a little **Global Warming** about now. He identified himself as the **CONSERVATIVE** voice of Plano having labored in Law for 25 years the last five as



CEO of his law firm. He reminded us that both he and his wife, Jean, have been active in the community. He is on the Baylor Heart and Hospital Boards, and she is Director of Development for the Hendrick Scholarship. He lauded Plano as “the best city in the country” as a result of the leadership provided by its Mayor and City Manager.

Matt Shaheen cast a wider net of praise focusing on Texas as “an example for the nation.” He too identified himself as a **CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN** presumably because “the Welfare State has been an abject failure.” By coddling the poor, we are tacitly encouraging “generations

of broken homes.” Of course, “**OBAMACARE** is a disaster.” He insisted that **THE REPUBLICAN PARTY** “stand firm” against the imposition of such an unmitigated failure. He cited examples from his personal knowledge of persons finding the law gleefully extracts from them “\$5,000 deductibles plus \$4,000 extra in premiums!” (huff huff)

Olin put the 1st question to Matt. He was to identify the “three most important public policy issues.”

Matt noted that 40% of the State Budget goes for EDUCATION and insisted that good folk like Nancy Humphrey be permitted to exercise local control. The 2nd most important issue is the security of our 2,000 mile BORDER with Mexico. Illegal aliens, in Matt’s opinion, are responsible for “education and hospitalization costs out of control.” Third is the importance of INFRASTRUCTURE to support our growing population, 80 per day in Collin County alone.

Glenn noted that EDUCATION funding is adequate if only Robin Hood were repealed. WATER and TRANSPORTATION are his final two issues because they “impact our ability to grow.”

Olin’s 2nd question went first to Glenn. He was asked to comment upon the next biennial State budget.

He noted the constitutional requirement for a BALANCED BUDGET that he pronounced good. He said 75% went for resources for EDUCATION and HEALTH, and being on the Baylor Boards qualifies him “to respond to **OBAMACARE**.”



Matt noted that Texas is growing thus revenues are growing. He said that was due to Texas being “a low-tax, low-regulation State.” However, over 50% of State revenue comes from the Federal Government.

The third question involved the need to preserve the State’s RAINY DAY FUND.

Matt noted that it’s “for catastrophes.” He said that there are “priorities not being funded,” and that we must “decide on the priorities.”

Glenn told us that WATER and TRANSPORT need attention from the Rainy Day Fund. He said that the \$1 billion assigned to transport is “only a start.” In his opinion, another \$2.5 billion needs to come from that fund.

Olin noted the pledge extracted by **Grover Norquist** from all true Republicans for “no new taxes,” and asked the candidates for comment.

Glenn said, “*Tax increases are never the answer. A growing economy means growing income,*” so all that’s needed is job growth. He “*won’t sign the tax pledge,*” since he pledges only “*to God and the Constitution.*”

Matt noted that “*1,000 taxpayers move to Texas each day.*” Transport has become a priority since its share of the budget has fallen from 40% to 10%. We must “*fund priorities first.*”

Question 5 was about diverted sales tax funds.

Matt noted that \$1.6 billion are diverted from gasoline taxes each year. He thinks “*100% of the gas tax should go for transportation.*”

Glenn agreed that the diversion must stop. We should be “*looking broadly*” for resources and not have to have “*Travis County courts making decisions for Texas education funding.*”

Olin asked about 5% increases in gas taxes then corrected that to a 5¢ increase.

Glenn wasn’t in favor of that but favors “*targeting severance taxes*” instead. He notes that electric cars don’t pay road taxes now.

Matt noted that TxDOT “*needs \$3 billion*” now, and he favors a dedicated new vehicle tax since transportation is a priority. (Take that, Grover Norquist!)

Q7 involved the “*business margin tax.*”

Matt held it to be not significant. He favors “*phasing out the marginal tax*” as a part of the effort to simplify the tax code.

Glenn noted that the 2006 Franchise Tax was an attempt at “*fair funding,*” but it was “*a half-baked idea that has never done what it was supposed to do.*” So he too favors elimination.

Q8: adequate funding for public schools?

Glenn says no even though the current session restored some of the cuts instituted by the previous session. He reiterated his belief that the courts should not be deciding this. (But the Texas Legislature has historically done such a poor job of budgetary management that virtually the only aspect of State funding not controlled by either the Constitution or the Courts is higher education!) Aside from the inequity of Robin Hood, he believes the funding adequate.

Matt proposes transferring funding from educational “*administration to the classroom.*” PISD has lost \$1 billion to Robin Hood. He sees economies of scale by the consolidation of rural ISDes especially with “*an 80% growth in East Texas.*” (Expanding the concept of local control.)

Q9: accountability in schools?

Matt likes the concept of standards and accountability but with local control.

Glenn thinks “*the jury is still out*” and “*it’s too early to tell*” if accountability has a salutary influence upon quality. He thinks local ISDes should be free to innovate.

Q10: How to create new jobs?

Glenn believes the key is to retain a business-friendly environment. Attention to public safety and clean water makes Texas attractive for relocation, but “*we shouldn’t pay companies to relocate.*”

In contrast to Glenn, Matt believes that leveraging abatements is fine, but “*government should stay out of job creation.*” Since Texas does so, it “*leads the nation in job creation.*”

Q11: How do you differ from your opponent?

Matt differs in that he has signed the Norquist Pledge. He abhors “*scope creep.*” He has been a Collin County Commissioner for five years and cut taxes three times, and will NOT increase taxes.

Glenn points to the “*real world leadership*” of his law practice. He says he’s a proven problem solver as CEO of a \$60 million business employing 200. He wants to “*go to Austin to get something done.*”

Olin opined that \$600 per month (legislative salaries) is insufficient for anyone to endure “*the blood sport*” of politics, and he thanked the participants for attending.

KIRK said that the moment they have been waiting for, the awarding of the coveted Rotary Clock, has arrived.

Bruce Glasscock announced that with “*the deteriorating road conditions,*” the State of the City meeting has been postponed.

With a comment upon the thankless job awaiting whoever wins this election, **KIRK** led us in the Four-Way Test and dismissed the Political Caucus at 12:58.



Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Tim Dean
Mike Furlin
Ben Harris
Kathy Brodhead
Adam Majorie

Guest Of

Olin Jaye
Nancy Humphrey
Kirk Bell
Randy Brodhead
Olin Jaye

AWARDS:

2013 Citizen of the Year
Dr. Myrtle Hightower
Huffines Auto Dealerships
Huffines Auto Dealerships

Visiting Rotarian Home Club

Ed Williams Dallas
Harry LaRosilere Plano Metro

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