

Winter
Weekly

Reader



Volume 8, Issue 28 February 24, 2011

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

!Bruce the Todopoderoso!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 2/24 Myrtle Hightower/Earnest Burke "Black History Month"
- 3/3 Rotary Chorus
- 3/10 Wrongly Convicted
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day Theme!
- 3/24 Israel Beyond the Conflict

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Maribelle Davis
- 2/10 Cary Israel
- 2/13 Karla Oliver
- 2/19 Doyle Dean
- 2/22 Dennis Fuller
- 2/27 Carolyn Moebius
- 2/27 Kyle Walters



On the evening of our meeting, **Tom Muehlenbeck's** successor was announced, and it couldn't have been sweeter for Plano Rotary. None other than **Past President Clean** had become *City Manager* **Bruce**! Heretofore, we've had both the City Manager and one of his Associates as members; so to keep that tradition alive, Bruce must appoint Fire Chief **Hugo Esparza** to fill his vacancy. That would work from a symmetry point of view as well, since then the Fire Department could then claim what the Police Department had before it: its Chief position is a breeding ground for the City Manager's Office! No pressure, Bruce. ☺ (I can almost hear him say, "None taken.")

Lenny Schwartz pranged us to attention at 12:16, announcing that we'd have to put up with him for the day. He called upon **Reverend Mueller** to pray and **Kelly Palmer** to pledge. ("Thanks, Bob.") Lenny thanked **Cathy Fang** and **Alice Hobbs** for greeting, and then called a strangely-present **SERGEANT JENKINS** to read the rolls of visitors and guests.

Skip welcomed **Russell Head** visiting from the Sunrise Club and **Missy Bender** from Metro. Alice Hobbs announced her guest, **Debbie Watson**, who had

just participated in the postponed Orientation Meeting before our regular meeting with newbies **Cathy Fang** and **Bob Pikna**. Kelly Palmer introduced his guest **Janie** and **Marc Lewis** again promised us a potential member in **Mary Beserra**.

Perfect Attendance pins were scored by **Sarah Watkins** (2), **Cary Israel** (11), and **Jim Monroe** (15).



Earnest Burke, mentioning that he had been too long out of the spotlight, presented a coveted *Paul Harris Fellowship* pin and plaque to our newest member to see the light, **Hugo Esparza**. Now we have to get on the stick and put in for District Simplified Grants, since that is the way we can recover member donations to the Rotary Foundation!

Lenny asked all the Club's *Paul Harris Fellows* to stand, and there weren't many sitting. Of course, he could have been mean and asked all those who HAVEN'T become Fellows to stand, but he's not that kind of guy.

Phil Dyer adopted a Nixonesque twin-V pose in response to the deafening applaud that greeted his ascension to the podium. He was there to announce that the selection of the new City Manager would be made that evening at 7 pm in City Hall. Naturally, he wanted as many members of the Club to attend as possible, knowing what



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he did of the outcome! He also invited us to the Reception for Bruce Glasscock on Tuesday, February 22nd from 5:30 to 7 pm at Legacy's Alma and 15th location.



Missy Bender took off her School Board hat to don her Metro hat and invite us to fork over \$50 to attend Metro's prime fundraiser, **Casino Night**, on Saturday, February 26, at *Gleneagles Country Club*. The only fly in the ointment is a second **Casino Night** scheduled for the same evening, but Rotarians know which one they'll patronize. www.mardigrascasinonight.org

SERGEANT SKIP said the best part of his job as School Board Chairman is when the Board meets and interacts with students and staff. It is a joy to see the teachers work with the kids and the impact that their passion for teaching has on their students. So it was a particular pleasure for him to present to us the Best of the Best, *Teachers of the Year*, **Marylou Boardman** from the *John and Myrtle Hightower Elementary School* and **Lorraine Seawright** from *Jasper High School*. Marylou is a Literacy Specialist with "an innate ability" to get the best from students, while Lorraine is a Chemistry teacher (sub-vocal cheer from *Sainted Editor*) who "truly cares about" the kids in her Pre-AP and at-grade classes. Lorraine is soon to move to the new high school being constructed in Murphy (but still part of PISD).



Marylou dominated the presentation with asides from Lorraine. Marylou was stunned to be among the finalists for Teacher of the Year, and the honor of having been chosen **THE ONE** (of 2) overwhelmed her. So did the new Lexus she (and Lorraine) won to drive for the summer, a modest step-up from "my 2001 **GM**mie." And apparently it was in a dream that she drove up to home plate at a Ranger game and shook hands with **Nolan Ryan**.

Duties of *Teacher of the Year* include the preparation for **CONVOCATION** with 7,000+ teachers sitting in a patchwork of their school colors. They arranged for balloons, a flash mob, and music by *Fergie and the Blackeyed Peas*. Perhaps the most fun they had was handing out the *PISD Foundation* grants to fellow teachers who had submitted the winning proposals to improve education in PISD. The projects ranged from iPads™ and other technology, through reading projects, to after-school and music programs.



Lorraine had laryngitis the week before the *Teacher of the Year* ceremony. She said that she felt so bad she had skipped her hair appointment (must've been on Death's Door)

and couldn't be bothered to pour herself into her little red dress. Instead she found a piece of jewelry with some red in it. Having come from a school in Oklahoma, she had no idea what a big deal PISD makes of this ceremony. And ever since her name was called as one of the final five, she has "never missed a hair appointment!" They had roses there "the size of my Toyota Corolla!" Had she know she was to be **THE ONE**, she "would have lost 10 pounds and bought a new dress." Modest to the core, Lorraine claimed that there were so many excellent teachers that she and Marylou merely "represent all those."

Marylou said that she has been parent of a student and a teacher of students, so she has "seen PTA from both sides." She couldn't say enough to those who volunteer their services to do the most "humbling jobs," like laminating and cutting out kindergarten shapes. PTA went all out to honor the *Teachers of the Year*, creating a banquet at *Mi Cocina* with red carpets, noisemakers, and even their names out front.



She's proud of being the Coordinator for *Hightower's Wild on Reading* program that sets up a competition between classrooms to read more than 5 hours per month. 75% of the classes participate and there are awards for the most hours read.

Lorraine's daughter moved to Texas and had a grandchild that Lorraine couldn't resist. Grandma came to Plano and found a warm and generous reception. She praises PTA and Rotary, asking us to keep supporting PISD, since it is so motivating. "Give teachers a free lunch and they'll do just about anything." She claimed that "teachers treat your children as if they were their own."



Marylou said she had graduated from College of Liberal Arts in Michigan. **Cary Israel** let out a subdued cheer. She said that she received a *D* in speech class although she had written "beautiful speeches." She just couldn't deliver them. When she came to PISD, they encouraged her to complete the task.

Lorraine claimed she has "never worked so hard than at PISD." She has pushed herself "out of my comfort zone." At age 54 (what self-respecting female would volunteer that?), she graduates in May with



a Master of Arts from UT Dallas. (Sainted Editor silently cheers twice.) But, she added, what she's learning at UTD is already in practice at PISD! While ~~Sainted Editor~~ typed furiously (and furiously), Cary Israel cautioned Lorraine, "Chris has just tweeted David Daniel." (President of UTD) "Oh, no!" she cried in mock horror. But Lorraine gave examples of PISD innovation. Instead of banning iPhones™, they are in use in the classroom. A polling app compiles answers from the class.

Marylou confirmed the exploitation of technology, citing a whiteboard use through an Elmo projector (no, not the *Sesame Street* character). Skype videoconferences with her youngest daughter in a trek across South Africa enliven the class. With that, they sang PISD's praises in stereo while thanking us for our part therein.

Susan Shuler asked about the "Aha! moments" in their careers. They answered that the feedback from grateful students in their passages beyond PISD constituted their favorite memories. They augmented that response with "you send us great kids." The parents and the community make a fine student body.



Lenny said that he still remembers "Ms. Calipha" from his school days. Then he presented the Rotary Checks of Appreciation and asked the *Teachers of the Year* to sign books for *Plano Children's Medical Clinic*. Marylou signed *Peggy Moon*, and Lorraine signed *Piglet and Mama* (which Lenny described as "not kosher"). After leading us in the Four-Way Test, he dismissed class at 12:54.



Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award

Randy Wright

Athena Award

Rebecca Caso

Fred Moses Award

Richard Butterfly

Business Executive

of the Year

Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:

www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

Laurel Simon Roberts

Classification: IC Engineer

Proposed By: Patti Schwartz

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