

Winter
Weekly

Reader



Volume 6, Issue 115, February 4, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

AVID Fans

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 2/4 Four Way Speech Contest
- 2/11 Identity Theft, Mark Dawson, Plano Police Dept.
- 2/18 Cary Israel, Collin College
- 2/25 TBD

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1.....Maribelle Davis
- 2/10.....Cary Israel
- 2/13.....Karla Oliver
- 2/16.....Jim Murrell
- 2/19.....Doyle Dean
- 2/22.....Dennis Fuller
- 2/26.....Ed Rawls
- 2/27.....Kyle Walters



SILLY Season is indeed upon us. Politicians lined up as far as the eye can see, promising



to be our very bestest friend in the whole wide world, at least until they take office. Our own **Mabrie**



Jackson is running for **Brian McCall's** seat (sounds vaguely suggestive, doesn't it?) with his blessing, **Alma Mays'** running for Collin County District Clerk, and **Cathy Fang's** running for City Council.



Prince John, heir to **Queen Susan**, who was camping it up at the *Miss America Contest* in Las Vegas, called us to order early at 12:15, promising a full meeting. He invited **Brian Stamper** to pray and **Marty Murff** to lead us in the Pledge ("Hi, **Bob!**") after which John recognized the Receiving Line consisting of **Boyd Craig**, **Earnest Burke**, and **Louise Davis**. It looked a little strange, then, that **Octavio** was drumming up Greeters later in the meeting; he wants more than three?



CAPTAIN KIRK reprised his role as Sergeant-at-Arms to welcome **Eileen**, a Visiting Rotarian from Iowa who scored our flag without giving one of her own. Someone called for a photo,

and **Randy Wright** sprang to the task (of "emergency photographer") in **Ean's** absence.



Kirk collected beaucoup fines from willing political candidates. He got \$5 out of Mabrie and Alma, but he only fined **FLASH** \$1 for his advertisement for **Debbie Strain** and **FLASH** didn't even pay it. That was shifted to **Ken Roberts** who had his own candidate to tout. **Tino** escaped anything for his sponsorship of Cathy Fang, but that was probably because she announced her candidacy for Plano Rotary as well.



Howard Shapiro had neglected to document his guest, County Court at Law candidate **Greg Willis**. Since both he and Greg stumped for the position, they were both fined \$5 by Kirk.



John lived up to his **BOMBAY SOCIETY** sobriquet of **LORD HAW HAW** with the definition of **COFFEE** as someone "upon whom one coughs."



Perfect Attendance pins went to Louise Davis (2), **Alan Feigenbaum**

AVID Fans continued...

(3), **Kelly Palmer** (8), **John Ernst** (9), **Charles Milby** (13 in *absencia*), **Gary Basham** (17), **Jo Via** (18), **Maribelle Davis** (20), **Larry Flannery** (27), and **Mark Geller** (34).

Nathan Barbera brought out the *Plano Rotary Fantasy Football League*

Winner's Trophy and didn't award it to **Marc**



Johnson since he came in second. Instead the 1st Place went to a novice in Fantasy Football, "a copier salesman who had to be tutored in the sport," **Martin Jackson**. Martin

promised that his rebuttal would be carried in the next Bulletin (this one), but it is noticeably absent.

Earnest Burke, referring to the May 21-22nd Soap Box Derby, suggested, "*Gentlemen, start your engine(less vehicle)s.*" He warned us that we'd be looking forward to "*plenty of emails*" between now and then.



Marc Johnson reminded us that *Dentistry with a Heart* event would run on the following Friday. He recognized *LB the Wicked* for organizing the Rotary volunteers to augment the 30 dentists and 120 staffers expected to see over 250 patients (with over 60 on the waiting list). It would take place regardless of the weather, because "*neither rain nor snow...*"

Randy was called upon to recap the previous day's Rotary Field Trip to judge a Science Fair at *Memorial Elementary*. He waxed ecstatic over a third grader whose project tested the "3 second rule." POed by audible scoffs, Randy explained the experimental procedure: use peanut butter, bologna, and M&Ms lying on a kitchen counter or the floor



for either 3 or 6 seconds. The kid found that after 6 seconds, the samples were contaminated with enough bacteria to culture, but after only 3 seconds, they weren't!

Prince John noted the birthday check written to the Plano Rotary Club Foundation by *LB the Wicked*. Apparently the value of the check was so great that *LB* wanted to ensure he could take it off on his income tax. (The Foundation is tax-exempt, but the Club isn't.)

Jessica Jackson introduced **Kristen Anderson**, the Director of PISD's AVID Program (Advancement via Individual Determination), "*designed to reach underserved inner-city students.*"



<http://www.k-12pisd.edu/avid/>

She had brought three AVID students with her to tout the program. Plano commenced AVID four years ago with 9 schools then added 7 the next year and 5 more last year. Indeed, the first AVID class is graduating this year. The 59 AVID seniors have taken a total of 105 AP courses. 30 of them have been accepted to 53 universities, and \$170,000 in scholarships has already been offered them with more to come. These students are leading several student organizations as well as excelling in academics. In three years, 245 students have entered AVID.



Yareli (right) was first to speak. She spoke of her fellow students as not only friends but as family. She

said that the most important thing she'd learned was "*how to dream.*" And she dreams of helping people, becoming a support system for others. In other words, she has plans to become a teacher.

Ashley spoke of "*innumerable benefits*" to the program. She described it as not college prep but life prep. She has learned study skills that have permitted her to become a more effective student. She is now graduating in the top 20% of the class! Her AVID teachers have been the "*greatest influence in my life.*"

She said that her character had developed to the point where it "*fills a three-page résumé.*" She has been an officer in 15



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AVID Fans continued...

different organizations. She's on the RYLA Advisory Committee. She seeks a Corporate Communications degree from SMU with a minor in Spanish. While at SMU, she'll help high school students prepare for college.

Last it was
Gustavo's turn.

He had a tale of Head of Family to tell that implied an absence of childhood for him. He cared for his invalid Mother as the family moved to the U.S., but she returned to Mexico to flee the abuse of his Father. An alcoholic, the Father was soon deported, leaving his business to Gustavo to run. He has done so while maintaining a 3.75 GPA. He has been the President of AVID for four years, trying to "set a good example." But for AVID, he would never have dreamed of college, but now he's scheduled to be interviewed by *Harvard University* on February 2nd.

John told the speakers that the flashlights, donated in their honor to *Memorial Elementary*, are "beacons of hope," reflecting their own stories. Then he dashed all the nobility thus accumulated by giving us the definition of "frisbeetarianism." It's the belief that, "when we die, we come back to be stuck on a roof."

Randy couldn't stand it and countered with the story of an



"A" paper on a class theme that the instructor required to contain "religion, royalty, sex, and mystery." The winning essay was composed in less than 10 seconds, and consisted of two sentences: "My God," said the Queen, "I'm pregnant. I wonder who did it."

Before **FLASH** could utter a syllable, John produced the Award Cup, going to the winner of the Soap Box Derby contest between the Fire and Police Departments. It's a good thing that **Chief Esparza** is in the Club!

John led us in the Four-Way Test and thrice pranged us out at 12:52.



WORDS TO GROW BY

"I will simply rely on you, as responsible people, to see to it that we have more qualified members, true Rotarians, at the end of the year than we had at the beginning. And I will rely on you to do your best to see to the mentoring of our newest members, for retention is no less important than recruitment."

— 2009-10 RI President John Kenny
at the RI Convention in Birmingham,
England

*Know someone who would
make a great Rotarian?*

*Invite them to be your guest
at Rotary!*

The 4 Way Test:

Of the things we think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award
Chris Parr

Athena Award
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

Fred Moses Award
Richard Butterly

**Business Executive
of the Year**
Ray Huffines

Kersey Cane Holder
Earl Simpkins

Citizen of the Year:
Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:
www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

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