



## WINTER Weekly

Volume 181, Issue 246, January 12th, 2017

# Reader

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Is the Samaritan Inn?

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Jan 12**  
**Brad Weinstein**  
*"The Power of Flowers"*

**Jan 19**  
**Gerry Mann**  
*Communication & Adaptability*

**Jan 26**  
**Wren Baker**  
*UNT Vice President &  
Director of Athletics*



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pamela Little	Jan 04
Jo Via	Jan 05
Lynette Pieper	Jan 06
David McWhorter	Jan 15
Jerry Avis	Jan 17
Sherman Millender	Jan 19
John Brodhead	Jan 20
Alan Feigenbaum	Jan 21
Paul Hernandez	Jan 25



**B**ACK from our month-long hiatus, we were still reeling from the defection of many members, two of whom returned to the fold today, however briefly, for a Make Up. In that regard, Membership Chair, **Howard Matson**, had, over the holidays, emailed us a challenge to bring potential recruit (or two, for that matter) in the First Quarter of this year. It's worth the effort. After all, Plano lost a club when the *Latin American* went away, but gained it back when *PRC* split. We aren't going to be outdone by our berg?!?

**King David** roused us from our holiday feasting torpor at 12:09, calling upon **Blair Ritchey** for the Prayer and **Randy Brodhead** for the Pledge. He couldn't, in good conscience, credit anyone for Greeting, but he did invite **SERGEANT KRAMER** back into action.



Visiting from the new satellite club, *Dallas Uptown*, were **Ean Sullivan** and **Rick Maucieri**. **Olin Jaye** acknowledged his "inappropriate" reference to guest, **Al Valente's**, run for City Council (Place 2) as



well as his partnership with **CAPTAIN KIRK**. Since that garnered no fine, it was seconded by **Nathan Barbera** for his

guest, **David Downs'**, incumbency run at the same fine institution (Place 8). Not to be outdone, **Mark Geller** wondered how appropriate it would be to welcome back his "guest," **Howard Shapiro**. Howard be-moaned the fact that out of 10,000 comedians in the world, we're stuck with Mark.



Jason pulled AWOL after AWOL out of the bowl for next week's **3 Minutes of Fame**, finally arriving at **Johnny Lewis** who promptly declared his run for the border (Puerto Vallarta) for next week. Tagging him for the following week, Jason drew **Charles Milby** as next week's victim.



**Earnest Burke** commandeered **Hubert Aaron** and **Earl Simpkins** to serenade the January birthdays.

Six members were present to receive their Rotary Service Awards. They were



**Clay Curtiss** (1), **Chris Parr** (15), **Mary Jo Dean** and **Ric Kasmiskie** (22), **Olin Jaye** (23), and **Howard Matson** (33).

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Ean **SECRET SANTA** Sullivan rose to announce **Al Godwin's** Memorial Service and to tell us how grateful was his widow for our Club's designation of Al as an honorary member after he was too ill to make meetings.

**Rick Horne** touted our new

**BBQ, Blues & Booze** event with musical acts running from 2:30 through 10 pm at **Oakpoint Park** on June 17. Volunteers are to meet at Rick's home next Wednesday for a planning meeting. **King David**

noted that the event is but six months away and our **CITYZEN OF THE YEAR** event will compete for our attention!

**Janice Allman** thanked all for their participation in our **Holiday Dinner** which donated 100 coats to the **Christmas Cops**.

THE SAMARITAN INN Board President, **Pam Little**, introduced her Executive Director, **Rick Crocker**.

Rick Crocker currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of The Samaritan Inn, located in McKinney, Texas. The Samaritan Inn is the largest provider of homeless services in Collin County. Its unique, comprehensive program serves over 625 unduplicated clients each year as it helps willing people regain dignity and independence. Rick leads a staff of 42 full and part-time employees, works with a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of 16 leaders from around the north Texas region, and over 2400 volunteers who, in 2015, invested more than 25,000 hours of volunteer service. The Samaritan Inn is currently in the midst of a major capital expansion project having recently purchased 15 acres in McKinney upon which the new Samaritan Village, a new state-of-the-art family shelter, will be built. Phase One of three phases of construction will be completed by year-end. Rick served as Executive Director of The Erie City Mission in Erie, Pennsylvania, one of the region's most respected nonprofit agencies for the last six years. He led a staff of 67 employees, while overseeing a \$3.5 million annual operating budget. During his tenure there, Rick led the agency in the construction of a \$2.5 million dollar facility and the successful completion of a \$3.5 million capital campaign.

Prior to his service at The City Mission, Rick served as Senior Pastor of the First Alliance Church in Erie from 1989 to 2009. During his period of service, the membership grew from 200 to over 1200 members and the church successfully raised \$3.1 MM dollars for the expansion of its facilities. His extensive experience in organizational leadership, fundraising and program development has assisted several nonprofit groups in the accomplishment of their mission and enhanced program development.



Rick is married to his wife of 36 years, Kathleen, and has three adult children and four grandchildren. Rick and Kathy moved from Pennsylvania in late 2015 to McKinney to be nearer to family and for Rick to lead The Samaritan Inn.

Rick thanked Pam (and by extension, the Club) for our **Angel Tree** and "for making my children smile!" He explained that "it's disorienting for a child not to have a home for Christmas."

He bridled at "new Executive Director," since he's been on duty now for a whole year.

THE SAMARITAN INN is "a comprehensive homeless program that helps the willing gain dignity and independence." Although it may have started as an emergency shelter when founded by the **Collin County Ministerial Alliance** in 1996, it has since become a transitional housing program with counseling services.

It houses 160 persons per night, about 1/3 of which are children. He granted that this may come as a surprise to those who recognize Collin as the most affluent county in Texas. TSI moves the homeless "from survival through healthy growth to normalcy."

Their facility used to be a minimum security prison, but it now has five wings, three devoted to families, and one each for individual males and females. While 160 are served nightly, the INN serves 653 residents annually, but it must turn away **3,151 a year** from lack of space! So expansion is a necessity on the horizon.

Its kitchen prepares 136,675 meals annually as well as providing 120 bag lunches for those seeking or finding work. Residents graduate from the program when they have amassed a minimum of \$1,200 in savings and can make ends meet.

None of this would be possible without the help of the 2,401 volunteers working 23,560 hours last year (an increase of 72% over 2015). A dozen school buses from seven ISDs take 103 students to class.

A nest of protection surrounds the residents, starting with financial literacy and career development classes and professional counselors. Those are aided by personal coaches and caseworkers. The outer ring is the dedicated volunteers.

To make it in Collin County, minimum wage is woefully insufficient. You have to earn ~\$16/hr to live. If you're earning minimum wage, you need 2.5 jobs to survive. The average apartment rent is \$975 plus utilities. Collin County indigent are hobbled by a lack of affordable housing. It "pushes people north to Dennison and Sherman."

Residents graduate to 20 "gateway apartments" for 18 months. Volunteer groups furnish the apartments, and residents may take the furnishings with them.







The INN is one of few that not only accepts but welcomes pets. It provides kennels for the pets of the homeless, some of whom are so devoted to their pets that they'll seek shelter elsewhere if pets are denied. For some homeless, "*their pets are their last possession.*" The kennels are under the care of a veterinarian.

SAMARITAN INN is looking to expand into a 15-acre property, a SAMARITAN VILLAGE supporting 50 families. Rick asks us to direct those in need to the volunteer hotline at 214-449-4433.

Its signature event is an annual Gala (18 Feb 2017) which had as it Honorary Chairperson Pres. **George W. Bush** in 2015. This year's MC is **Dale Hansen** who will (im)-moderate the festivities. Coming from Pennsylvania, Rick had to "*move my allegiance from Pittsburgh to the Cowboys,*" three of whom will be in attendance at the Gala. It takes place at Dallas' *Intercontinental Hotel*.

In addition, on 6 April 2017, the INN will host *In Bloom* at the Arboretum with **Jenna Bush Hagar** as the Keynote Speaker.

In Q&A, Mary Jo asked about out-of-county residents and was told the INN accepts even out-of-state, if they qualify, but Collin County residents get preference. She wanted to know where the rejects go. Rick said that each gets at least two referrals from a case-worker. But "*there're not enough social services in Collin County.*" So they may get referred to Dallas or Fort Worth with a DART pass or gas money. If the night is too cold to travel, cots are placed on the floor and hot meals provided. In coordination with Plano Police, the homeless might be put up in local hotels.

Howard Shapiro wanted to know their tenure at the INN. Rick said "*less than a year but mostly 6-9 months.*" And they must pass drug and alcohol testing, have a valid government ID, and no record of violence. Background checks occur during the 3-4 hour "*intake process*" that occurs between 10 am and

1:30. Their last known residence serves to ID their locale.

**Nancy Humphrey** commented that federal law mandates that ISDs must provide transport from shelters to schools.

**Alan Feigenbaum** asked about budgets. The \$98M annual budget is provided about 5% from government grants and 95% from private donations.

Rick was proud of the fact that 100% of INN students passed their STAR Test.

**Jim Cooper** inquired about the numbers turned away. Rick said that HUD does a "*single point survey*" all in one night, searching for homeless and estimates 576,000 nationwide and 501 in Collin County. So with 160 residents, the INN must reject 341 others.

McKinney ISD had 1,296 homeless students last year. With people migrating to Texas, the State Demographer calculates that 14% live west of I-35. He estimates an 11M growth of residents in the coming decade.

He told a sad tale of a former donor to the INN who was earning a six-figure income when he fell into depression, lost his job, his wife, and ran through all his 401K savings. He was accepted into the program, graduated, lost 70#, turned his life around, and was grateful to the INN for his salvation, just as, Rick says, he's grateful to us for our partnership.

**King David** blessed him with a Desk Organizer, led us in the Four-Way Test, and returned us to our torpor at 1:00.



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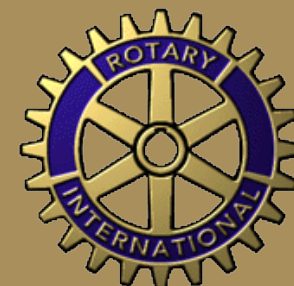
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