



SUMMER Weekly

Reader

Volume 206, Issue 271, July 20th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

NO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jul 20
Rick Horne
Club Assembly

Jul 27
Galen Roberts
Water Update and
New Lakes in the Region



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sara Akers	July 10
Howard Shapiro	July 12
Dave Bowman	July 15
Larry Bisno	July 16
Matt Jackson	July 22
Jim Monroe	July 22
Maria Mott	July 23



MIKE BOOHER was *Photographe du Jour*. And he will be spelling off with *Scary Bob*, both feeding John Caldwell who will be editor in Saint-ed Editor's absence this August. (He'll be squiring wife, **Pat**, around Iceland and Ireland with the Faroe and Shetland Islands and Norwegian fjords thrown in for giggles...because they're there.) John promises to use no more than two fonts per Bulletin; *italics* don't count.

Rick The Prince Who Waits No Longer Horne called us to order and persuaded **Ray Huffines** to give the Invocation and **Larry Bisno** the Pledge. He thanked **Howard Matson** for Greeting and introduced our brand new, never-before-seen, uniquely-qualified **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**, **Jason Kramer**.



Chris Parr introduced his wife, seduced into attending by the promise of a shoe sale (he could not promise a giraffe) but unaware she'd have to accompany him to his meeting with PSO's **Robert Reed** directly thereafter. **Ross Shamshiri**, the ink on his **RED BADGE** scarcely dry, welcomed his guest, **Krishna Murthy**, a *U. Arkansas* business major now into digital marketing. The day's speaker, **Bob Wehrmann**, proudly advertised his fellow **USO** compatriot, **Steve Aldaz**, a successful Point Guard for *U Dallas*. **Sara Akers** was AWOL but Jason welcomed back her guest, **Peggy Jackson**. And we managed to snag a Rotarian visiting from Kolkata, India, **Arun Mukherji**.



Jason announced his second term gimmick: we were to fill out the cards on our tables with "interesting" little-known facts about ourselves, appropriate for blackmail.

Rick Horne announced a relaxation of the 100% attendance requirement from RI (3 yrs ago). He passed around a sign-up sheet for Club committees that we were to no longer leave to beleaguered chairpersons. (Surely, there's a Bulletin Committee.)

Rick then awarded service recognitions to **Nancy Humphrey** (6 years and already Club Treasurer), **Andy Sayer** (7), **Jessica Jackson** (12), her mother, **Jo Via** (24, joined prenatally), and 3rd generation Plano Rotarian, **Jamie Schell** (26).

After reading the birthday list, Rick invited **Chief Sam Greif** to humiliate himself with yet another loss of the *Battle of the Badges*. **Chief Greg Rushin** claimed the prize for his police having been responsible for 2/3 of the 600 units of blood raised.

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Jamie Schell returned to the podium for a “less than” Rotary Minute. He said that since we “*already know the good work the Plano Rotary and Rotary International do,*” his stumping for the *Paul Harris Foundation* should be an easy sell.



Olin Jaye rose to introduce **USO** volunteer, Bob Wehrmann, asking any of us who were military or had military family to raise our hands. He said those that did have a special appreciation for the **USO**. Bob hails from northern Louisiana, but we can’t really hold his choice of governors against him, given our track record. He went from selling textbooks to his true calling, volunteering for the **USO**.

Bob told us he moved to Dallas to “coach, mentor, or agent” (his hidden talents) his two grandsons because “*they looked like they may be athletes,*” but what they really needed “*was a wallet.*”

He gave us a short history of the **United Services Organization**. It began with an unfunded mandate from then President **Franklin Roosevelt** to several service organizations (YMCA, YWCA, Jewish Athletic Board, etc.) to join their efforts to assist service men and women and their families. But they had to do it on their own nickel, so they’ve been raising funds for this ever since.

The funds go to canteens and road shows. The New York City canteen is the most famous, and A-listers (**Bob Hope**, **Jayne Mansfield**, and others) have provided the entertainment at home and abroad.

Bob caught up with the **USO** in Okinawa when the Vietnamese War (which Vietnam calls the American War to distinguish it from the French War) started. The **USO** has seven offices on the island of Okinawa, but Bob wanted to concentrate on the DFW office and its newest facility there.

He reminded veterans of the “*big envelope*” they received with their military orders which was to be presented

to a Military Entrance Processing Station staffed by the **USO** at DFW’s Gates B1 and D46. The latter has been closed for renovations but is about to reopen.



The first thing one sees at MEPS is the Welcome Desk. Volunteers stand when military approach the desk out of respect. One such patron objected that Bob should sit down and finish his coffee. Bob explained that for all he knew, the patron could be a high ranking official who really deserved his immediate attention. The man said, “*I’m a Brigadier General, but you can still finish your coffee.*”

Bob explained that the DFW venue is “*almost like a museum,*” awash in military memorabilia, but he suspects that most patrons appreciate the complimentary food more. The USO serves donated meals like Egg McMuffins at its 16 tables. He asked if we had “*any Air Force*” represented here and told the responders, “*We do have a pot of coffee for you guys.*” The menu shifts to hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. Once or twice a month patrons get “*a hot BBQ sponsored by Gary Sinise,*” a meal they can sleep off in the two dozen comfy chairs in the theater room.



New arrivals are told to stash their gear in the lockers to the left then enjoy the food and other amenities off to the right. The latter include half a dozen computers for military and a play room for their children. The **USO** also sports a quiet lounge with dim lights where patrons can sleep and a workout room where they can stay awake. Further down the hall is a library with books for them to take and restrooms and showers. For their kids, there are lots of toys and stuffed animals for them to take away.

The **USO** sponsors several events:

- EXODUS at Christmas both in DFW and Love Field
- ALL NIGHT TEAMS
- FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES who have a special room dedicated to their needs.
- HONOR FLIGHTS
- FAMILY DAYS at nearby bases.

Normal working hours for the **USO** are 7:30 to 21:30 for 365 days a year, but Bob opens at 6:30 *“when the coffee pot goes on.”* Working in four hours shifts, the volunteers serve 600 guests a day with 125,000 meals a year through 8000 hours logged. (They’ve four volunteers who have logged over 6000 hours!)

He remembered *“special moments”* like **Maalik Stoudermire’s** collection of *Snickers* bars with messages from school children, *“Thank you for keeping the world safe,”* which drew a response, *“I’m on my way back home to bury my Father. Thank you for the candy.”* Bob has had 7000 *Snickers* in his car ready for distribution.

He recalled the Mother of **Captain Barclay** who watched her son’s *ABC* interview on a **USO** TV. And all the times that celebrities have passed through; Steve related that the latest had been **Bradley Cooper**.

Bob concluded with a **USO** motto: *“When you say goodbye, the **USO** says hello.”*

John Caldwell asked if DFW announces the location of the **USO**. They apparently do, but the venue had to be changed due to sprinkler problems.

Ric Kasmiskie asked how the DFW venue ranked and was told, *“It’s the best in the country!”* Being *“inside security”* means pa-

trons have no long lines to fight when their flights are called...and *“the beef burrito is fabulous.”*

CAPTAIN KIRK asked about government funding. *“None at all.”* But donors are plentiful and generous in Dallas; they include **Ross Perot, Raytheon, Roger Staubach**, and others. He quickly dismissed the notion that he was here *“begging for funds,”* but he’d appreciate any received. Donations that exceed operating costs go to cover expenses overseas *“like Okinawa.”*

Ric asked about the slide that noted the *United Fund* as a donor. *“Yes, that’s an old slide.”* It’s now the *United Way*.

One of Bob’s patrons was three-star, 38-year veteran Marine aviator, certified on 124 aircraft, who had once flown a sniper to D.C. to take out a serial killer. Washington was upset at the use of military for police operations, but his commandant commended him.

Nancy asked about volunteer parking. It’s free. Jamie inquired about the number of volunteers: 300.

Kirk asked about problems with TSA. Bob told him that each of the dozen cases of soft drinks must be X-rayed individually.

Rick Horne pointed out Bob’s sartorial splendor: his saddle shoes which Louisiana calls *“Dominicans”* after the style of Catholic School girl footwear.

Rick then presented both guests with our contemporary honorarium, multiport chargers for smartphones. (Olin asked if the cords were perpetual.) Ignoring that, Rick commented *sotto voce* that Club Assembly would replace the 5810 Governor’s visit next week. He led us in the Four-Way Test and released us at 12:58.



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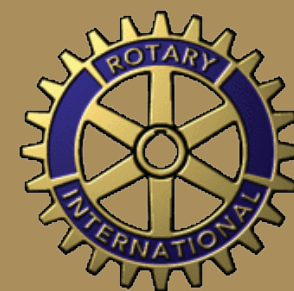
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The Plano Rotary Club

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Guest

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Guest of

Bob Wehrman

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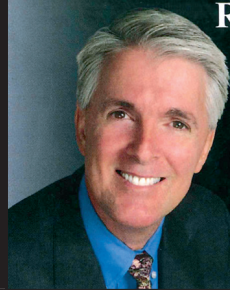
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