



SUMMER Weekly Reader

Volume 207, Issue 272, July 27th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Assembly Clubbed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Aug 3
Gerald Brence
*Annual Plano Football
Coaches Program*

Aug 10
TBD



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



SINCE I didn't spot **Mike Booher**, **John Caldwell** played cameraman with my flakey point-n-shoot. He will also be editing the *Weekly Reader* until the last week of August, so be kind to him.

President **Rick BBQ Horne**, sensing a difficult road ahead, called the Club Assembly to order early at 12:11. Supplicant that he was, he intoned the Invocation himself, calling upon **Justin Roche** for the Pledge. He thanked **Maria Mott** for Greeting and called **SERGEANT KRAMER** to the podium.

Jason announced a Visiting Rotarian, **Shaheen Salam** (Metro), but chastised us for failure to bring any guests. This surprised **Clark Seymour**, here for the third time as guest of **Rick Kasmiskie**. Since Rick was still at the dessert bar, Clark had to introduce himself. Rick Horne said that the third visit was the charm; Clark should apply for membership.

Reasoning that Club Assembly was akin to "oral surgery," Rick delayed the inevitable with a spate of announcements. The first was the unexpected death of **Sam Owori**, RI's President-Elect. He had come to DFW from Uganda for planned surgery and had met with 5810 representatives including Rick. He impressed Rick as an "amazing gentleman" who had grown Rotary in Africa in places where, as DG, it took him days to reach some clubs. He died of surgical complications and will be honored at a Bedford service. Rick is taking food, donated by club members, to his wake.



On a less somber note, Rick said we are all invited to a \$50 a plate **5810 AWARD CEREMONY** on 9/3 in the Bank of America Hall at the *Eisenmann Center*. We may apply for admission on the 5810 website. Deadline for award applications is the end of July. This year, a new one, **The Rotarian Star Club Award**, will be offered to one member from each club. (See the website.)

5810 will also generously permit you to spend \$1,475 a head for a sweat equity trip to Cuba to deliver wheelchairs and medical equipment. Contact **SECRET SANTA** at his email address: ean@cinco.net

Rick sought to clarify comments he made at the last meeting; "while 100% attendance is not required, 100% participation is expected." We are all to sign up for at least one active committee, especially the currently-vacant *Social Committee* and the new *Member Care Committee* (unaffiliated with *Obamacare*).



"Now for the fun stuff!" he said, as he girded his loins (which actually means *put on his armor*, in contrast to what it sounds like). "Nobody likes it" (Club Assembly), but it's "necessary for growth."

He pointed to some blank sheets and pens placed on our tables. These were to be used in working sessions to gather opinions from the membership on key questions. We were to brainstorm on presented topics and report to the assembly via a chosen speaker, one per table. Rick gave us a moment to sacrifice someone.

To fill the time while we each ducked the honor, **Jamie Schell** gave a **Rotary 10 Seconds**, telling us to donate to RI Foundation in the name of Sam Owori. Rick then reminded us that first-time Paul Harris applicants can have \$500 matched by the Club (with 500 points) to become *Paul Harris Fellows*.

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Jamie returned to the podium with inductee **Hayden Padgett** to receive Howard Matson's blessing and be welcomed into the largest service organization in the world, spanning over 200 countries. (To perform this duty, Howard had to abandon the check-in table where he was impersonating **Karen Sheldon** in her absence.)



Hayden didn't require pinning with a Rotary Wheel because he is a transfer Rotarian from Danville, CA (not far from ~~Sainted Editor's~~ birthplace). Jamie went on to tell us of Hayden's academic tenure at *UCLA*, his business at *Capital One*, and his high school sweetheart who was a music contestant for Miss California. It turns out that she went to *University of Alabama* and was a Big Sister to Jamie's daughter! ♪♪*It's a small world after all.*♪♪

Rick pointed to a brochure touting Plano Rotary Club on our tables that we were to distribute to interested recruits. It highlighted several of our recent services to the City and its students. It's better than an elevator speech.

Rick said he's interested in our vision for the Club to the end of making a stronger difference in our community and the world. So "*talk among yourselves about your vision for Rotary.*" He gave us a few minutes to do so.

John Caldwell, **SPEAKER OF THE FIRST TABLE**, pointed to the service aspect of Rotary as primary. He wanted more collaboration with the other Plano Clubs, perhaps inviting them to cooperate in our **Blues, Brews & 'Ques.** Then he resumed his role as photographer to record the **SPEAKER OF THE SECOND TABLE**, **Charles Milby**, who posed in left then right profile, seeking his most photogenic side.



Charles reiterated community support and added the networking opportunities for which he is profoundly grateful. He added that retention is an issue for this Club (and all of RI, for that matter).

Olin Jaye claimed his table was still debating the issues and sought to pass, so the mantle went to Rick Kasmiskie

whose table agreed with everything which had been said and added, "*We're not in it for our goodwill.*"

Janis Allman sat all alone but nevertheless reported the "*consensus*" of her table to be in agreement with all.

During the second round, Rick Horne used his outdoor voice to let Olin know the topic was Areas of Improvement for Plano Rotary, because Olin "*failed to perform*" on the first round.

CAPTAIN KIRK waxed eloquent at Charles' table, so after the requisite interval, Rick hesitantly offered to hear him out. **KIRK** deferred to Speaker Milby. Charles synopsisized the discussion as revolving around retention problems as a result a lack of transparency regarding club finances. He also mentioned **Bruce's** notion that we need to divest ourselves of "*checkbook club*" thinking and come up with useful, attractive service ideas.



Rick Kasmiskie decried the lack of "*faithful attendance*" in an era when members "*no longer wear ties*" which can be severed for failure to attend. (**Ray Huffines** looked worried, and Bruce mumbled, "*Bring back the pig.*") Rick K. said we need "*a place for all members*" to become involved with sweat equity. He feared that "*not many people know what we do*" due to a lack of public relations.

Jamie Schell spoke for Olin's table. He advocated for increased membership via interesting programs. He spoke of the venue as constituting problems of "*location, logistics, and cost.*" If we cut the cost in half, "*we're there,*" and an attractive option for new recruits. Speaking as an oldtimer, he said we've lost sight of service projects. The last were "*Roundup and the Fish Fry.*" (Bruce buried his head in his hands at the thought of another garbage dump.)

John Caldwell reported an interest in more interesting programs. His table would like to see information on the goals and structure of Club committees. He said that if we have “a cap on membership,” we could move to a smaller, cheaper venue.

Rick Horne noted that several of these topics were discussed at the morning’s Board meeting. He promised full transparency on the Club’s negotiations with *Gleneagles*. He acknowledged the loss of members to create another club and emphasized that goodwill shall prevail; “we will support them as they support us.”

He reported the year-end finances saying that our holdings are about the same as last year at this time, if we look only at Plano Rotary Club Balance Sheet. It shows year-end assets of **\$25,003.11** as opposed to 2016’s **\$28,025.64**, a net loss of only **\$3,022.53** for having lost about ¼ of the membership and moving to a higher cost venue. So Club (as opposed to Foundation) expenses were managed about as well as could be expected, absorbing two hits in a fiscal year. This has impelled Admin to pay “close attention to expenses.”

One result of that close attention is to wring some concessions from *Gleneagles*, not eager to hit us when we’re down. So they are going to reduce meal costs (perhaps by going from three protein dishes to two) by ~85%. That’s the good news.

Now the bad: while the **BBQ** event was well-reviewed and gained “positive feedback,” it didn’t make money or break even, as had been fervently wished. True, there were two complaints:

- It ran out of BBQ! One of the vendors chose to bring only pizza, and the other couldn’t keep up with demand. To make a bad situation worse, the (damned) pizza vendor had to fire each pizza up from scratch, making patrons wait for each pie. Needless to say, he won’t be invited back.
- One patron (only) complained that there was no *Miller Lite*. His constitution was apparently not up to artisanal beers.

Aside from that, there were raves for the **Blues** talent “and the flow of the event.” There were no security issues. Facebook videos drew 5600 views. But only 500 people attended, and 470 tickets were sold. (Some attendance was obviously comped.) And because we only raised **\$700** in sponsorships, rather than the **\$25,000** hoped for, the event went into the red by over **\$23K**.

That will be modified a bit by a \$2,500 refund from the City of Plano and the collection of \$300 in outstanding debts, but the outcome was (to put it mildly) “not what we had hoped.” The fundraising committee is sharpening its pencils to return to the Club with a new proposal for a more profitable go at **Blues, Brews & ‘Gues** next year, which the Club will be asked to vote up or down. For example, \$10K can be saved by obviating the need for fencing, moving the food inside the venue (where patrons took the food anyway to eat while hearing the music). More planning at a later date.

Also, next year one more \$20K to PISD and our commitment there has ended.

John Caldwell asked what Cultural Affairs has awarded us for next year. Rick told him that our 66% approval didn’t make the 70% cut, so, perhaps, next year in Jerusalem.

CAPTAIN KIRK wanted to emphasize that Plano Rotary operates out of three pots of cash: Club Operations, PRC Foundation, and its Donor Advised Fund. The Long-Term Endowment “took the hit.”

Rick Horne pointed out that some of the losses came from one-time expenses; so those will become savings if we proceed.

Rick Kasmiskie asked about vendor expenses and satisfaction and was told the Club was out nothing for food and vendors were pleased with the turnout.

Mike Robnett asked about profitability. Rick told him that, if we approve, next year’s events will have go—no go deadlines. He reminded us that, should the event become successful, dues can be reduced. **Hubert Aaron** asked for transparency “more quickly.”

Rick, noting that PE **Carrolyn Moebius** will host the next 2 meetings, led us in the 4-Way Test and closed the meeting at 1:11.

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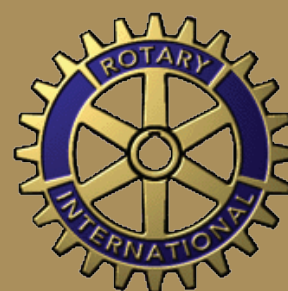
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