



SUMMER  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 159, Issue 225, July 7th, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**July 7**  
**David McWhorter**  
*Club Officer Transition*

**July 14**  
**Shanna Hayley**  
*City of Plano Marketing*

**July 21**  
**David McWhorter**  
*Club Assembly 2017-17*  
*Club Vision*



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joe Camarena	Jul 01
Phil Dyer	Jul 06
Sara Akers	Jul 10
Howard Shapiro	Jul 12
Earnest Burke	Jul 14
Dave Bowman	Jul 15
Larry Bisno	Jul 16
Matt Jackson	Jul 22
Jim Monroe	Jul 22
Maria Mott	Jul 23



## Cheezit! The Cop!!

**G**RAMMARIAN and Fact-Checker **Alan SPIRITWARE Feigenbaum** accosted **Sainted Editor** at the buffet, asking if any of his preview audience had responded to his "Please vet" request. **Sainted Editor** confirmed that none had, and **Bob Botts**, while piling on salads, chastised Alan, saying, in effect, that **Sainted Editor** needed no steenking corrections. Alan concurred; after all, he said, **Sainted Editor** had won the District Trophy for Bulletins. "Twice," **Sainted Editor** corrected him, "but who's counting?" Alan then smirked that, were he the **Sainted Editor**, that delusion of grandeur would have been written up in the *Weekly Reader*. (You're welcome, Alan; it permits me to prove, once again, that I lampoon not only others.)



**David McWhorter** was obliged to jump the gun and chair today's meeting in the absence of **President Paperweight**. Dave began the *Gong Show* at 12:18, summoning **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Earnest Burke** to lead us in the Pledge. **Roy Reeves** was thanked as Greeter. **SERGEANT BARBERA** began his final performance with zero Visiting Rotarians.

**Howard Matson** welcomed CPA **Jeff Beckley**, who required forgiveness for being a friend of Kelly Palmer. **Sara Akers** wel-



comed back **Juliana Rodriguez**. And **Marc Lewis** introduced **Todd Roberts**.

For his final **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan interviewed his successor, **Jason Kramer**. But he didn't want Jason's résumé but rather his plans for his year as



**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**. Jason, caught unaware, vamped, "Stay tuned to see what it looks like." Nathan assured him that that year will "seem like 5 or 6!"

Earlier, David handed out raffle tickets to "anyone wearing red, white, or blue in honor of Independence Day." If you weren't, he inquired about the color of your underwear, and awarded a ticket on the basis of that. If that failed, David gave tickets to those with **BLUE BADGES**, in other words, everyone!

The prize was a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon, not to be opened within the hallowed halls of *Gleneagles*, on pain of excommunication. (*Gleneagles* excoriated **Sainted Editor** for bringing **DUNKIN' DONUTS** to a Board meeting.) But not everyone had received a ticket. On hearing the prize, **Dennis Högg** leapt up to secure one from **Karen Sheldon**, but it was too late; the winning ticket had already been drawn. Dennis drew himself up to his full 7'5" frame, and the "winning ticket" was returned meekly to the pot, whereupon Dennis plopped in his. Members booed, promising Dennis retribution were his ticket to be drawn, but he was unfazed. Fortunately for all concerned, **Justin Roche** eventually won the bottle.





In-coming Club Secretary, **John Caldwell**, again pointed to the **DRAFT** Club Mission and Vision Statements, produced after 168 person-hours of effort, but that was not to dissuade anyone from suggesting amendments. He listed the Elders (redundant in the *Geriatric Club of Plano*) to whom comments may be directed.

### **DRAFT!**

**MISSION:** Strengthening our community by elevating education and empowering servant leaders.

**VISION:** An inclusive club of servant leaders, fully-engaged in improving lives locally and globally.

David announced that he would be representing PRC at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and hoped he'd not be alone. The five Plano Rotaries will sponsor a float. He also announced a Caribbean Cruise *cum* 5810 Service Project, information about which was available from Karen. He mentioned the 7/7 installation of the new 5810 Governor at which the new RI President will preside! Also 7/7 is the date of the dreaded Club Assembly to which David likened "a trip to the dentist," which riled **Mark Geller**. Mark doesn't inflict near a much pain! Nevertheless, we were to grow a pair and attend (which, for some, no doubt, would mean ovaries), since a newly-revamped structure for the Club will be revealed. Dave swore it "beneficial." We were also urged to bleed for Fire Chief **Greif** at **The Battle of the Badges** and to consider *Park Cities'* fundraiser detailed in flyers on our tables.

**Olin Jaye** arose for his final program introduction. He said he'd received a text from Kelly urging him "not to piss off the DA," **Greg Willis**, who was today's program.

Greg Willis is committed to the safety of Collin County citizens and is honored to serve them as Criminal District Attorney. In fact, Willis resigned his judgeship to do just that. As a Collin County Judge, hearing primarily criminal cases, Willis presided over hundreds of jury trials and thousands of cases. As a Collin County prosecutor, Willis prosecuted cases ranging from speeding appeals to sexual assault and murder. As a Collin County private practice attorney, Willis represented scores of civil and criminal cases.

Having earned the community's respect by excelling in each area of the criminal justice system, Willis is now honored to lead an Office whose mission is to fight and prosecute crime in a fearless, just, and ethical manner. Willis understands that he is the temporary steward of the people's trust. His goals are to make Collin County a safer place and to strengthen community confidence in the Collin County criminal justice system.

Twice selected by his peers as a Texas SuperLawyer® (*Texas Monthly*), Willis has also served his fellow attorneys in various leadership roles, including as President of the *Collin County Bar Association*, and as a Life Fellow of the *Texas Bar Foundation*. Willis, a long-time Rotarian, is also honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the *Collin County Children's Advocacy Center*.

A fifth-generation Texan and married father of two, Willis is a graduate of *Baylor University* (1988, with honors) and the *University of Virginia Law School* (1991). Willis spent his first four years working in Dallas for the highly-respected law firms of *Haynes & Boone* and *Jones Day*. But once he paid off his student loans, Willis followed his heart to serve Collin County as both a misdemeanor and a felony prosecutor (1995-1999). Willis returned to the private sector and established his own law firm in Plano. His wife, Jill, would later join him in this endeavor. In late 2008, Collin County Commissioners appointed Willis as the first judge of the newly-created Collin County Court at Law #6. Willis ran unopposed in 2006. In October 2009, he resigned from his judgeship to run for Collin County Criminal District Attorney. In 2010, with the help of so many citizens who care deeply about the County, Willis prevailed in both the primary and general elections.



Greg thought he'd speak about "a few things you'll not want to hear while you're eating." But that didn't put him off his feed. The non-draft Mission of the DA's Office is *Pursuing Justice Protecting the Community*. He does this with 126 personnel and an annual budget of \$12M. Half his staff consists of prosecutors and he oversees 25 investigators. As many as 40 law-enforcement agencies are in his jurisdiction, and, of course, Plano Police Department shines as the exemplar (no disrespect to Chief Greif; apples and oranges).

Of the 13,270 cases his Office processes each year, ~30% originate in Plano, but that's a significant improvement over the mid-90s when Plano accounted for about half! (Finally, something about the growth of the County outside Plano that **Bruce Mr. Clean Glasscock** can appreciate.)

Greg's presentation was rife with videos of Mayberry's PPD's **Don Knotts** and other sterling examples of police leadership. Surely that was not done for ridicule but rather to leaven the heavy dose of wickedness he had to present.

He queried us on the nature of misdemeanors and felonies. He quizzed us on the youngest age at which a person can be charged as an adult...17. And he noted that children as young as 10 can be prosecuted but that 9-year-olds "can run free," safe from the DA. But his Office does deal with youngsters through Protective Orders. (**Joe Camenara** began taking notes, muttering about having to consult with clients.)



Continuing on about adult cases, Greg noted that there were two basic filings; if the first results in a "true bill" from a Grand Jury, the case becomes an indictment. His staff juggled 11,000 new cases last year...fortunately misdemeanors outnumber felonies 2:1.

Felonies include the theft of >\$1,500, the third strike on DWIs, or, of course, murder. If not convicted of capital murder, the felon is eligible for parole. To illustrate a parole hearing, Greg used a *Saturday Night Live* parody of a serial cannibal. The Parole Board asked him what he wanted for his last meal. "A man."

Continuing the comedy (an odd profession for a District Attorney, stand-up comic), he related crimes that never were:

- Report of death of a soundly-sleeping individual.
- Report of a kidnapping when a mother couldn't find her daughter in her messy room.

Over the last six years, population is up 17% but criminal cases have risen only 7%, so the crime rate per capita is down.

Greg gave us an anecdote about a serial abuser caught by hospital staff, trained to recognize assault. The abused wife testified against her husband resulting in a 40-year sentence (out in 20).

In this connected era, enforcement challenges are being met by DNA analysis, body and social media recordings, *SnapChat*, *Twitter*, *Facebook*, and a dating website, *Tinder*. (Lights fires in newly-hooked-up couples?)



But it's also an era of the exoneration of unjustly imprisoned innocents. So the question on our lips: Is Justice Unjust?

His final homily was about Vietnam War Navy pilot, **Charlie Plumb**, shot down by an STA missile. He parachuted into enemy hands, was imprisoned, tortured, and returned home after six years. Sitting in a restaurant one day, he was approached by a man who recognized him; the man had packed the parachute that had saved his life. So Charlie lived because this man had done it right. The moral of the story was: "Everything we do, matters."



**Herb Hoxie** asked about a typical sentence for rape, hoping it wasn't six months. Greg told him it depends on the circumstances but with testimony and evidence, it can be 10-20 years. If it's less obvious, probation might result.

Dennis Hōgg asked whether the assault victim will be protected when her husband completes his sentence. Greg said that she can influence probation with testimony and letters as can the offender's previous victims.

John Caldwell asked about the **Ken Paxton** case. Greg has recused himself because he's a friend to the accused.

**Janis Allman** said that she'd "like the job" of preparing his presentations since it appears to involve watching and recording sitcoms all day. Greg offered no comment.

David offered the final paperweight with the final caveats, led us in the Four-Way Test, and sprung us at 1:04.



#### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest of
Jeff Beckley	Howard Matson
Todd Roberts	Marc Lewis
Juliana Rodriguez	Sara Akers

#### Visiting Rotarian

None

#### Home Club

Please send photos and or contributions to share with the club in the Weekly Update to

lpieper2@aol.com

Rotary activities/ volunteering, vacations, family additions or any interesting activities or events are welcomed.

**The more you share  
the more you connect!**

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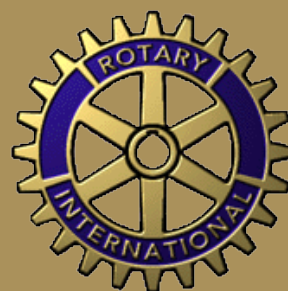
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