

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 19 - District Governor, Sandy Forster

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Lloyd Jenkins	Jul 04
Jayson Killough	Jul 04
Phil Dyer	Jul 06
John Ernst	Jul 07
Al Godwin	Jul 07
Howard Shapiro	Jul 12
Earnest Burke	Jul 14
David Bowman	Jul 15
Matt Jackson	Jul 22
Jim Monroe	Jul 22
L.B. Broach	Jul 30



No, I'm the True Conservative!

PRESIDENT LENNY (in Rotary parlance) didn't have to ID the Greeter today, since each of the candidates on the program was willing, eager, and available to shake hands and kiss babies. Unfortunately for them, the *Geriatric Club of Plano* is well beyond its Child Rearing Years except for the cougar or those of us with child brides. But even the latter are Trophy Wives and eschew childbearing. So, pucker as the candidates might, there *were* no babies for them to kiss.

Preparing for long-winded stump speeches, Lenny called us to order at 12:05, reciting a quotation from **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt** (the obscenely wealthy aristocrat who authored the New Deal...you can just never tell), *"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of Democracy, therefore, is education."*

He summoned **Ean Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Jamee Jolly** for the Pledge of Allegiance. **CAPTAIN KIRK** did the honors for the AWOL **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**, wryly commenting on the ironic applause with *"Now I know how Tom Cruise felt when got home last week."* In the interest of preserving time for political rhetoric, **KIRK** simply asked Visiting Rotarians & Guests to stand and be recognized. Then he did **Randy's** bidding and announced the presence of pink slips, *"not fun for JC Penney,"* with *"subliminal marketing"* on our tables. They were to shame us into contributing to the **HENDRICK GOLF TOURNAMENT**.



A double wedding ensued wherein **John Yeung** (Jo Via, sponsor) and **Kevin Hannigan** (Keith Sockwell, sponsor) were united with **PLANO ROTARY CLUB**. **CAPTAIN KIRK** read **Ken's** prose quickly, to hasten his duties as the eventual Candidates' Forum moderator or rather inquisitor. That accomplished, the

pinning ceremony ensued with dropped pins and bloodied initiates alike.

KIRK called the candidates to come forward and take their places on the dais. It was a case of musical chairs, because one candidate was left standing. Normally that would mean he's out of the race, but in this instance, it meant that he had failed to RSVP to the Chamber's invitation and showed up unexpectedly. **KIRK** gave **Bill Whitehill** (Place 2, Court of Appeals) a \$5 opportunity to endorse himself, which he took, reading the endorsements of his rivals who hadn't made it to the runoffs. **Kevin Keith** referred to him as *"a devoted family man"* and a *"scholar of the law"* with an even *"temperament and demeanor."* Midway between **Jeff Cohen's** quoted praise, *"know and respect him for his ability and integrity, even though he's my 2nd choice,"* **KIRK** called time on him, and he went back to his table.



www.whitehillforjustice.com



KIRK praised the Plano Chamber's **Tammy McSwain** and our own Jamee Jolly for doing the legwork on the day's program. He also mentioned the efforts of President Lenny. Then he moved into moderation mode, explaining the ground rules:

1. Opening remarks: 2 minutes
2. Question response: 1 minute
3. Closing remarks: 30 seconds, and
4. Strict obedience to **Camille Ussery's** time signals!

The privilege of opening the opening remarks fell to **Jon Cole** (House District 67). Jon noted that he was *"the only businessman in the race"* and *"had a proven record"* as a **conservative**. He



patted himself on the back for “*standing up for unpopular*” opinions and touted the (erroneous) endorsement of **Olin Jaye**. www.JonCole.org

His opponent, **Jeff Leach**, emphasized his commitment to “*knock on 10,000 doors*” in his efforts to get the vote. He played himself up as the hometown boy who played football for **Gerald Brence** at PSHS. His endorsements include legislators **Jerry Madden** and **Jodie Lautenberg** and Plano Rotarians including **Ray Huffines** and Jo Via. “*Who do you trust*” to advocate for you? www.JeffLeach.com



KIRK'S first questions were put to Jeff: “*What one thing wasn't accomplished that you would have liked to have seen passed during this last legislative session? What plans do you have for the next year/legislative session?*”

Jeff's reply was “*truth in budgeting*,” though one assumes that will never pass. He said that the legislature had cooked the books and exercised legerdemain to make it seem as if the budget would be balanced when indeed it had not. (He's looking for transparency, but since that implies accountability, one can expect Austin to duck it.)

In response to the same questions, Jon Cole cited “*the crisis in the budget*” and that “**Van Taylor** voted with the Democrats” against the Fiscal Matters Bill. (Guilt by association, one presumes.)



KIRK then reversed the response order on the following question: “*What are your plans to help Texas to find additional revenue sources?*” (He must have been grinning from ear-to-ear, posing the traditional “*presumes a fact not in evidence*” question that would raise an opposing counsel's objection.)

Jon wanted to take the reins off capitalism to “*grow the economy*” out of the need for anything as pedestrian as new resources. Likewise he wanted to take the reins off education with “*less regulation*” all around. Apparently businesses are holding their collective (!) breaths for “*a predictable business climate*.”

Jeff denied “*any such problem*” exists. The problem is with the outflow not the intake. All we need do is “*cut spending*” (conveniently ignoring that the Texas Constitution and Federal Courts conspire to make education the only lucrative source of budget cuts, but that's consistent with the Republican Platform in Texas which states, in part, its opposition to the teaching of “*critical thinking skills*”; to be fair, Jeff didn't write it).



The third question spoke to just that issue: “*Local school districts may be forced to raise property taxes to cover costs if the State makes more cuts in education. How do you plan to help ensure adequate funding to our local school districts while you are in office?*”

Jeff described how his children are in PISD even now. He said, “*I care deeply, and I want to get it right.*” But “*throwing more money at the problem*” won't solve

it. He touts Allen ISD's efforts to do more with less, and he wants to encourage such noose-tightening with more local (and concomitantly less State) control of education.

Cheerfully twisting Jeff's words, Jon “*disagreed*” with him saying that “*Texas can't tell ISDs*” to be more like Allen or Plano or anyone else. When the legislature cut the franchise tax, it promised to “*hold harmless*” education funding but was obliged to “*raid the treasury*,” further impoverishing ISDs in “*a second Robin Hood*.” He promises to end the first one.

The final question was “*Should we change the current thinking regarding the use of The Rainy Day Fund of \$9 B, and what would you use that money for?*”

Jon explained that the RDF is “*for unexpected expenses*.” That doesn't describe the State's deficit. He doesn't believe that the legislature could persuade itself to repay such a “*short-term loan*.” So there's nothing to spend.

Moving right along, Kirk skipped Jeff's response until prompted. He said that Jamee had left him a copy of “*Moderation for Dummies*,” which Jeff insisted had been written by Olin Jaye.

Jeff said that families “*don't tap their Rainy Day Funds to go on vacation*.”

Sharon Ramage's (County Court of Law #2) opening remarks included mention of being a Rotarian here for a make-up. She compared her 20 years of experience with her opponent's 7. She's been a criminal attorney (aren't they all?) and a prosecutor and had her share of business and family law cases.



www.SharonRamageForJudge.com



Her opponent, **Barnett Walker**, agreed that “*longevity matters*,” and he cited his 22 years of military service. He even conceded that Sharon was “*a fine attorney*,” but pointed out that 90% of the court's business consists of criminal cases. He's handle 650 felonies out of his 1,700 cases. He is a mental health magistrate endorsed by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the police.

www.WalkerForJudge.com

To the question, “*To what extent have you practiced in the area(s) of Criminal Law, Family Law, (and) Civil Litigation?*” Barnett had already responded. He used the time to drive home the notion that the Court handles few civil cases and no family law ones.

Sharon pointed out the many cases she has prosecuted “*involving crimes against children*.”

“*While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? What should be your role?*” Sharon pointed out that the Separation of Powers denies a legislative function to the judiciary. So her role is limited constitutionally.

Barnett thinks “*judges should do more*.” There are “*certain questions judges cannot answer, but not many*.”

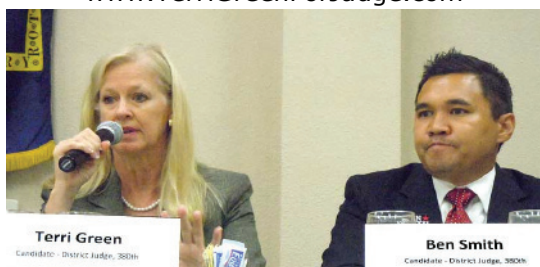
"Do you believe that volunteer professional and community service is a necessary commitment for persons holding public office? What forms of voluntary activities have you been involved with in the past and currently?" Barnett cited his Voluntary Service Medal for 5,000 hours during his military career. He donates his salary as Mental Health Magistrate back to the court. He has applied for Rotary membership. *"Help me out,"* he quipped.

Sharon is a Rotarian (Frisco) and lives the motto *Service Above Self*. She is active in organizations her children use; for example, she was a Girl Scout Leader.

"What qualities, other than fairness and impartiality, would you specifically bring to the bench?" For Sharon, they were *"modesty and humility"* as well as the obligation of *"making correct legal rulings."* Barnett believes that judges should not be above budgetary considerations, and he has *"new ideas about cost savings."*

Terri Green (380th District Court) noted that District Court differs from County Court. It hears ~75% family & civil law cases and has been without a judge for 18 months! She has 32 years of legal experience, 23 as a trial lawyer. Her opponent, she claims, has 8. She is licensed has appeared before the Federal Courts of Appeals and is licensed to appear at the Supreme Court.

www.TerriGreenForJudge.com



Ben Smith believes in *"the Rule of Law not the Rule of Judges."* The judge imposes *"accountability in the court room."* He claims the role of most qualified due to his criminal and felony trial experience.

www.BenSmithForJudge.com

"To what extent have you practiced in the area(s) of Criminal Law, Family Law, (and) Civil Litigation? Percentages?" Ben responded "100 jury trials" being for the defense 10-12 times. He has had more limited family and civil experience. Terri has been involved with 175 family law cases and 150 civil trials. She has had no felony experience.

To the question about judicial activism, Terri responded that she would run her court efficiently, working with County Commissioners on the budget. Ben would *"let legislators know of the unintended consequences"* of their

actions. The court can terminate parental rights and even lives, so the responsibility is great.

Ben doesn't believe that judicial volunteerism is necessary. Helping bring victims closure is sufficient. Terri disagreed. She believes judges like everyone else have obligations to serve their communities. She served on the Frisco Chamber Board, the Junior League, **ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR**, etc.

To the question about other qualities brought to the court beyond fairness, Terri said that the ability to *"rule on the evidence"* is paramount. She noted her endorsement by **Senator Shapiro**. Ben took the opportunity to quibble with Terri's estimate of 10% criminal cases, saying, *"It's much more."* He touts his qualities *"as a listener."*

In closing remarks, **Jon Cole** reiterated his business and legislative experience not shared by his opponent. **Jeff Leach** commiserated with the audience having to put up with six lawyers; he likened it to *"drinking from a fire hose."* And he cautioned us to do our homework, starting with the candidate's web sites.

Sharon Ramage cited 67% judicial preference for her over 27% for her opponent. **Barnett Walker** noted he's President of *Collin County Criminal Defense Lawyers Assoc.* and has the endorsement of law enforcement.

Terri Green noted her endorsement by *Coalition for a Better Government*. **Ben Smith** cited his with *Collin County Conservative Republicans* and noted that the low expected voter turnout means that every vote counts.

CAPTAIN KIRK told us that Early Voting runs from **July 23-27** (election day is July 31st), and he wickedly called up the candidates for the Democratic Forum, but *"the answer there came none, and this was scarcely odd because they'd eaten every one."* (**Lewis Carroll**, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*)

Lenny thanked Jamee and the candidates then recommended to them the Rotary Four-Way Test as a motto that *"means something now and in the future."* He led us in the Test and belled us out at 12:59.



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PO BOX 864316

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*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?

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Tammy McSwain
Douglas White
Betty M. Mahan
Lawrence Goldman
Kathy Blank
Susan Etheridge
Mary Jo Hoch
Judy Groening
Dan Mugg
Joe Parkinson
Judith Parkinson

Guest Of

Plano Chamber
Plano Chamber
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Plano Chamber

New Member Proposal:

John Yeung
Classification: Restaurant
Management
Proposed by: Jo Via

New Member Proposal:

Timothy B. McCord
Classification: Signs Printing
Proposed by: Randy Wright

New Member Proposal:

Kevin Hanigan
Classification: Banking
Proposed by: Keith Sockwell

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award:
Randy Wright

Athena Award:

Rebecca Caso

Fred Moses Award:

Richard Butterly

Business Executive of the Year:

Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

(Continued on back)