

Summer  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 76, Issue 138, July 24, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### July 24th

Dave Lieber, Dallas Morning News - "Moving to Texas: Is the Bark Worse Than The Bite?"

### July 31th

Robin Harwell - "It all Starts With the Horse: How Therapeutic Riding Rebuilds pathways to the Brain."

### August 7

Elizabeth McCormick - "What being an Army Blackhawk Helicopter Pilot Taught me about Life on the Ground."

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Skip Jenkins	Jul 04
Phil Dyer	Jul 06
John Ernst	Jul 07
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
L.B. Broach	Jul 30

# Dilbert Tells All

**I**T must've been 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Jitters that prompted President **Earnest** to lose track of the agenda. By the end of the meeting, he'd gotten around to the introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests, but, since his **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** was AWOL, he had to accomplish the task himself. In an effort to salvage his oversight, he stalked the hall, seeking out Visiting Rotarians and Hosts to introduce their guests. We'll see today if the agenda is really altered.

Earnest **Mr. Wonderful** Burke called the meeting to order late at 12:20, cajoling PDG **SECRET SANTA Sullivan** for the Prayer and **Ben Criste** for the Pledge. The Club must be following **Scary Bob's** example for he was all but drowned out! Earnest thanked **Larry Bisno** for Greeting then again for his **Birthday Check**. **David Bowman** was also recognized for **Birthday Buck\$** as was Earnest himself.

Rotary Anniversaries included **Nancy Humphrey** and **Bob Pikna** (both 4) and **Skip Jenkins** (19).

Larry Bisno hogged the spotlight for a third time, introducing the day's speaker, **Dave Fleming** as follows, straight off a PR sheet:

Dave Fleming is one of the top speakers and corporate trainers in the country. He is a workplace expert who specializes in showing people the many benefits of the humor found in their own office. He was voted the #2 Corporate Comedian in America by CBSNews.com. His pinpoint portrayal of the

challenges we all face at the office has resulted in him being described as the "**Jerry Seinfeld** of the office." (Not that there's anything wrong with that.)

His background includes over 20 years leading the marketing for companies like **Pit**

**Hot** and **Dr. Pepper**. He has also provided creative solutions to **DISNEY'S** #1 problem by creating games and activities for guest to play while waiting in line. (For E ticket rides?) Dave's book

*Inside the Cubicle: Discover What Really Affects Workplace Morale and Productivity* was published in September of 2013. (Ranked 2,443,183<sup>rd</sup> at Amazon)

Dave eschewed the lectern to do standup on the **Pitchfork's** stage. He asked if he could be seen by those "*in the better seats*" on the tier below.

He told us that "*the Office is hilarious, if you're looking in the right places.*" And that "*laughing in the office*" (but his talk was all about laughing AT the office) "*makes work better.*" (Especially if, like **Dilbert**, you have a pointy-haired boss.)

His first target was the conference call. He said, "*We worship the triangle-shaped super-phone*" because it carries "*voices from all over the World.*" The fun begins before the call does: "*Do you have the code?*"

"*I only have the participant's code. Who has the leader code?*"

Dave blasted the conference call for "*never starting on time.*" So we have to make small shout instead, "**IT'S RAINING IN DALLAS!**" The weather radar is showing purple "*someone is freaking out there.*" It's **AWESOME.**

Next comes the obligatory roll call.



continued on page 2



We all call out “here!” as we are recognized, and those unrecognized by the leader are miffed.

“And there’s always a complainer. Monotone Melissa in Montana” whines that she can’t hear, so (instead of having her increase the volume on her speaker) we all shout “one millimeter from the superphone so she hears better.”

Late entrants are signaled by a tone that initiates a chorus of “Who just joined?!?” seven minutes late, “as if we’re keeping score.” Dave offered these words of wisdom, “Do NOT rehash the 1<sup>st</sup> seven minutes” for the benefit of the tardy.

The mute button comes in for its share of abuse. Although it’s a toggle, participants “push it 17 times” to be certain that they can’t be heard for private discussions. (It’s a good thing it isn’t 16 or 18.)

“Email is also funny.” Especially interesting is our response to **recalled** email! You mistakenly send to an unintended audience, immediately realize your mistake, and send out an IGNORE FIRST MESSAGE email. Your first mail would never have been read, but the fact that you are desperate to recall it, makes it fascinating. Indeed, Dave wondered if it wouldn’t be an excellent ploy to ensure the 1<sup>st</sup> email’s perusal.

And he takes perverse pleasure in checking NO on the “Send read receipt?” request.

Document attachments carry with them curious emotions. You create and save a document, then spend a few minutes on the associated email wondering whether it should read, “Jim, call me with any questions” or “Call me with any questions, Jim.” Then, before clicking on ATTACH, you OPEN the document to confirm it hasn’t changed any by being saved.

When creating a PowerPoint™ presentation, you find you need a picture of a lightbulb. So you search the World Wide Web for the appropriate photo and get lost discovering “The 10 Most Livable Cities in America” or “5 Smart Ways to Save on Gas,” trapped by viral “cute baby” videos until you’ve lost all track of what you were there for.

Dave maintains that he is “out of passwords.” He’s used every child’s name forward and backward and every pet including goldfish that only lived for ½ an hour. He says he’ll have to “go to a county fair, win a fish, and name it” to create his next password.

He claims that the Break Room is clearly the most important room because “everybody goes there.” And we

spend our time hunting in the fridge for contents WITH NO NAME to be raided. This despite the voluminous rules posted on the fridge itself, the last of which is, “ALL FOOD WILL BE REMOVED AT 5 PM ON FRIDAY.” Dave imagines the “shock and awe” caused by the elves who carry out this threat.

Heedless of his audience finishing up their own lunches, he made explicit comments on the disgusting nature of food left on the Break Room table that is still ingested by a later patron. Since you’re eating as you read this, I’ll offer up only the least gagging: “Pink donuts, which are never consumed in the Conference Room,” make their way to that table and disappear with the next passer-by.



Dave offered two words of advice regarding the Break Room’s microwave. “Nothing that swims should be microwaved,” and “Orville (Redenbacher) deserves better than to be burnt.” Both smell horrific.

En passant he intoned that “A coffee-taker must be a coffee-maker.”

If almost all of us wear blue, the one who wears red must deliver the line: “I guess I missed the memo.”

Around the water cooler on Friday folks ask, “You got any **big** plans for the weekend?” Dave wants to know what small or medium-sized plans might be. “Does it have to involve Shamu to qualify as big?”

He chastised us for the use of corporate catchphrases, rattling off a full 60-second list ending with “because the Gatekeepers are expecting us to Over-deliver.” Better still to keep in mind the most powerful motivating power of addressing an unspoken question: “What’s in it for me?”



Although the office celebrates each and every birthday, it always maintains secrecy about them as if the celebrants knew not they were one year older today. We sneak the obligatory card from desk to desk in a manila folder, and Dave always reads all the comments before making his acerbic one. We maneuver the victim into the Break Room where someone begins the World's Worst rendition of "Happy Birthday," followed by a cake that pleases almost everyone.

Dave wants to know why "*we go offsite to treat onsite problems?*" The only advantage to retreats that he can think of is the chocolate chip cookie in the obligatory box lunch. And woe be unto he who draws the oatmeal raisin disguised as chocolate chip.

But now we "*know the code.*" Mute is a toggle. No microwaved fish. And "*all cookies should be chocolate chip.*"

Earnest offered Dave our Coveted Rotary Clock for his "*collectibles,*" and turned to the neglected **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** duties.



He recognized **Bert Kraft**, visiting from *Plano Metro Rotary*. Earnest then encouraged **Mark Johnson** to introduce son, **Kyle**. **Ray Huffines** bade us welcome son, **Sam**, just graduated from *A&M* and off to Houston. (Condolences, Sam.) **Rick Horne** introduced a Middle School Teacher of the Year, his wife, **Karen**. Larry Bisno welcomed a Senior Management Maven, **Charlie Hoffman**, who must have cringed a bit during the presentation. And **John Caldwell** welcomed back the

Director of the Assistance Center of Collin County, **Yvonne Booker**.

Earnest asked for a report on the recent Blood Drive, but none was forthcoming.

He commented that the survey form would remain open for another five days, and he hoped more than the current 42 respondents would be enticed.

After leading us in the Four Way Test, he dismissed the Happy Throng at 12:52.

Nary was a mention made of the most photogenic guest present, the speaker's daughter who was also his videographer.



### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

#### Guest

Charlie Hoffman  
Karen Horne  
Yvonne Booker  
Sam Huffines  
Kyle Johnson

#### Guest Of

Larry Bisno  
Rick Horne  
John Caldwell  
Ray Huffines  
Mark Johnson

#### Visiting Rotarian

Bert Kraft

#### Home Club

Metro

#### AWARDS:

##### 2013 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Myrtle Hightower

##### 2013 Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year

Huffines Auto Dealerships

#### New Member Proposal

Lynette Pieper  
Proposed by: Kirk Bell  
Classification: Financial Services

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