

Rotary



BE THE INSPIRATION
2018-2019

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Mar 14th
Colin Hegarty
Earth X - How Environmental
Issues have progressed from the
1st Earth Day

Mar 21st
Trisha Cunningham
Hunger in Plano and North Texas -
North TEXAS Food Bank

Mar 28th
TBA



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Johnson, Marshall	Mar 10
Hightower, Myrtle	Mar 11
Schell, Jamie	Mar 18
Garza, Gary	Mar 31
Glasscock, Bruce	Mar 31



WINTER Weekly

Volume 271, Issue 336, March 14th, 2019

Reader

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

A Charmaine-ing Speaker

A POLOGIES for the typos, misprints, and errors in the last *Weekly Reader*. I had corrected them but failed to notify the printer that the update was ready. The most egregious error was the mangling of dates of our Four-Way Contest wins, which should have read "2015, '17, and '18." 'Mi bad.

Carrolyn the Petite shot her starter's pistol at 12:11, anointing **Johnny Lewis** for the Invocation followed by **Jessica Jackson** with the Pledge. **PSO Exec. Dir. Robert Reed** was recognized for Greeting. Hmmm...his '19-'20 Season just went on sale; I wonder if that influenced his decision to greet?

Since **SERGEANT NANCY** was "poli-ticking in Austin," **Roy Reeves** became her Corporal. **Howard Matson** introduced **Mike Frasier**. **Larry FLASH Flannery** welcomed **Dr. Varun Joseph**, a dentist



taking over the practice of his retiring dentist. **Rick Horne** highlighted his climbing buddy, **Eric Eisenhard**. And **Joe Cama-**



rena was AWOL and so was not here to welcome his guest, **Peggy Fenwick**, soon to be a member.



Visiting from the *Vorarlberg Rotary*, Austria was Rotarian **Dietmar Amann** who "comes 3-4 times a year to Dallas" and declares emphatically, "I love this country." He cautioned us, "Rotary is shrinking," and suggested that we all have an obligation to "lift it up." For his stirring oration, Dietmar was awarded our Club Banner!



When Roy stalked the hall for 3 Minutes of Fame victims, he was shocked to find that



FLASH volunteered! Larry joined Rotary "in the late '70s or early '80s" when it was

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strictly “a **men’s** service organization.” He wanted to become involved “because of business.” His first car was a 1955 *Chevy Nomad* wagon, which he totaled. Favorite band: *The Four Seasons*. His TARDIS moment would be Thailand during the era of *The King & I*; that’d be Siam, and Larry’s old enough to have lived through that name change! He has no tattoos, so he claims, and one thing we don’t know about him was that he “*was born at a very young age.*” Dietmar said that he’d “*have to remember that one!*”

Carolyn the Petite announced that we would receive emails about the Thursday, 28 March, retirement gathering at the **Haggard Party Barn**, honoring City Manager **Bruce “Mr. Clean” Glasscock**. Those willing and able to help with the event are to contact **Jo Via** or Carolyn.



Mary Jo Dean recommended that, as our first Thursday meeting is canceled, we attend instead **Hendrick Scholarship’s TASTE OF PLANO** to be held that self-

same day at the **Classic BMW** dealership on Spring Creek at the Tollway. She told us about the auctions and the Scholars in attendance, but she failed to mention that ¾ of the restaurants would opt to bring desserts! **Sainted Editor** was in hog heaven.



With **Olin Jaye** also AWOL, **Justin Roche** was pressed into service introducing the day’s speaker, **Charmaine Solomon**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of **MY POSSIBILITIES**. It can’t have been too painful; Justin is a member of that Board. He IDed Charmaine as the “*Heart and Soul*” of the organization. He touted too the organizations new digs near the Bush Freeway off Coit. (It’s actually at 3601 Mapleshade Lane in Plano.)

Charmaine took the podium promising us “*the Cliff Notes version*” of her and the organization’s stories. She and her husband have lived in Plano for two decades, drawn by his job at *Cadbury* in the Legacy complex. They chose to live in Plano by the programs in *Renner Middle School*. While the big campii in Plano “were overwhelming,” the Special Education programs were the attraction, especially for a family with a special needs student.

However, the care given to such students lasts only as long as they are in the school system; when they age out,



they lose that advantage, and then what is done with them? Charmaine gathered a group of like-minded parents to discuss that very problem. Since the students might not be ready for the workforce, many are dropped in front of a TV to be entertained henceforth. The waste inherent in that drove the discussion.

100 people showed up at the first gathering at a local Starbucks. Over cups of coffee, they outlined the first plan for what became **MY POSSIBILITIES**.

In June of 2008 they opened the doors of a “*college-like environment*,” built to capitalize on student potentials. Its old facilities are now at maximum capacity.

90% of special needs kids live with their parents until the latter die. They represent a population of about ¼ million. “*One (couple) in four have a challenged child or know someone who does.*” **MY POSSIBILITIES** is “*building an inclusive community*,” and it is “*trying to be affordable*,” especially as the costs for residential care are between \$50K and \$80K per year. **MY POSSIBILITIES** is grateful for the community support.

Word of their success has spread; people have come from “*all over the world*” asking, “*Can you bring MY POSSIBILITIES elsewhere?*” the answer to which is always “no.” However, they can share the knowledge of how they “*improve the lives of people we serve.*”

They were told, “*Get a building and people will come*,” so they did, and “*people don’t want to leave our building.*” This residential community is unique. 650 adults are in that building each day.

It is supported by fundraising events such as Golf Tournaments, Galas, and a Musical Evening. Charmaine called **MY POSSIBILITIES** magical and praised “*our community, our people, and our mission.*”

Robert Reed asked whether the service stops a city or county borders and was told that **MY POSSIBILITIES** is not geographically bound. They’ve even had out-of-state clients.

Kelly Palmer asked Charmaine to speak more about the funding. She explained that **MY POSSIBILITIES** receives \$1.4M annually from foundations and galas. There is a Career Services building supported a “*local workforce team.*”

Roy Reeves asked about population capped at 600. He was told that figure was for one building. When the campus is done, a population of 1,500 will be supported.

John Caldwell asked about **MY POSSIBILITIES** teachers. Charmaine said that the organization had “*no shortage of professionals.*” As an example, she cited the group’s coach as certified by the Cooper Clinic. “*The chef is a chef; the artist is an artist.*”

Jason encouraged us to visit and tour the building. It is a “*hub for volunteers*” with businesses bringing teams to assist. The suggestion was, however, to “*let me know when you are coming.*”



Charmaine referenced the handout **MY POSSIBILITIES LEARN LIVE GROW** on our tables. Then she received our flash drive from a **Carrolyn the Petite** who was “*blown away by how it has grown.*” She continued, “*It was very much needed in our community,*” and she was “*not surprised*” that it has attracted people from all over the world.

Carrolyn then reiterated the **TASTE OF PLANO** event benefiting Hendrick Scholarships, promised not to ring the bell prior to the 4-Way Test, and closed us up at 12:41.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

The Plano Rotary Club

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Mike Fraiser

Dr Varun Joseph

Eric Eisenhard

Peggy Fenwick

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Dietmar Amann

Guest of

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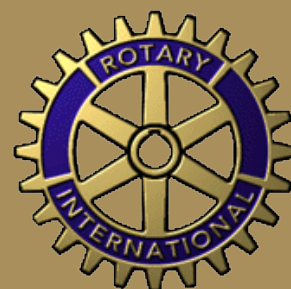
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NEW MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS



Peggy Fenwick

Proposed by: Joe Camarena

Classification : Insurance

Peggy has been representing Allstate insurance since 2013 and is a Plano Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. She has two daughters and three grandchildren. She loves music and theatrical productions, various sports, and loves to travel and see new places



Eric Eisenhard

Proposed by: Rick Horne

Classification: Financial Advisor

Eric is a financial advisor with Raymond Jones. He is actively involved in Christ Church Plano and running youth basketball coaches' clinics. Eric is married to Megan and have two boys, Owen and Henry. The four of them enjoy traveling, sports, exercise, and wrestling matches in the living room.