

Winter  
Weekly

# Reader



Volume 6, Issue 121, March 18, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Not Underwater Basket Weaving

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 3/18 Rutledge Haggard  
"Hendrick Foundation"
- 3/25 Randy Wright  
"Albuquerque Balloon Event"
- 4/1 Chief Hugo Esparza  
"Station 12"
- 4/8 Dale Petrosky  
"Texas Rangers Director of Marketing"

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1.....BEN CRISTE
- 3/2.....MACO AMOYO
- 3/10.....MARK JOHNSON
- 3/18.....JAMIE SCHELL
- 3/24.....JOHN PITTMAN
- 3/28.....GEORGE WONG
- 3/31.....LOUISE DAVIS
- 3/31.....BRUCE GLASSCOCK

**B**EING a Dallasite now, **Sainted Editor** has lost the pleasure of voting for his friends. They were out in force nevertheless on this day. We had our



own **Earnest Burke** and **Dave Hammel** running for Collin County College Board (**Cary Israel** allowed as how he knew who he was going to vote for!) as well as imports, but still family, **Mabrie Jackson** and **André Davidson** running for the Legislature and City Council, respectively.

By the way, you're still stuck with **Sainted Editor** because, although Rotary membership can be determined by where you live, it can also be determined by where you work. And I volunteer at my library weekly. That's sort of work, hauling books...manual labor for a soon-to-be septuagenarian! Just when *do* I get a break? This "retirement" stuff is a scam.

Well, it does have its perquisites; I'm taking my adorable wife, **Patricia**, to China this June. We're going on a tour led by *Plano Multicultural Outreach Roundtable* Co-chair **Jian Li**, a Shanghai native. She's arranging an inclusive 12-16-day visit for less than we would pay for the airfare alone (!), so if you'd like to tag along, ask me. (Do I owe you \$5, **Skip**?)



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**queen butterfly**

tintinnabulated us to attention at 12:12, calling

upon **LB** the **Good** for the Invocation and **Mabrie Jackson** for the Pledge. (Missed you, **Bob**!) She thanked **Dwight McFolin** for greeting.

**SERGEANT JENKINS**

pulled out the **PLANO STAR COURIER** asking, "Who among us



*doesn't read it?*" His focus was a photo of **Phil Dyer** looking possessed as he gesticulated forcefully at a public meeting. Skip wanted desperately to gig Phil for it, but Phil was wisely AWOL. Skip thought Phil was giving a "*fire and brimstone*" (biblical name for "sulfur") speech or just ticked off at the expense of the run-off election.

Skip also wanted to congratulate Doyle Dean on his imminent retirement after 45 years with PISD, but Doyle too was AWOL. So he had to content himself with chastising Earnest Burke for his Ean-like introduction of Carol Coats. Carol told us that she was back; we hadn't scared her off her membership investigation!

The Sergeant-at-Arms also waved the \$5 fine (because he could) for political endorsements offered by **Mary Jo Dean** on behalf of André Davidson, and lavished praise on the "*best chili-cheeseburger in the City*" for Visiting Rotarian Sam McNeely's



*Country Burger*. Fresh from generosity toward Mary Jo, Skip declined to fine himself for cheeseburger endorsements.



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

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## Not Underwater Basket Weaving *continued...*

(That means that *I* get a pass as well, right?) Susan cautioned Sam that on his next visit, we'd expect complimentary sandwiches.



Perfect Attendance pins went to **Jerry Aris** (1, but still sporting his Red Badge!), **Sarah Watkins** (1 year last week, but present this), **Ben Criste** (3), and **Shawn Foster** (5).

**LB THE RADIANT** was dancing around as if he had to pee (no reference to his prostate, of course, like *I* can talk), so Susan surmised that he wanted first dibs on announcements. He told us that we had royalty in our midst: visiting us was



District Governor Elect (2012-13) **Sandy Forster** whose mission in life was to fix what **LB** had set amiss. The reason that she's royalty is that she

is the recipient of the *Service Above Self Award* (only 150 worldwide) and 5810's *Rotarian of the Year!* She has also won the *Rotary Foundation Advocacy Award*, so we know what she's going to push as DG.

**Alice Hobbs** rose to thank us for our support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Concerts (well, actually, 1<sup>st</sup> Rate Concerts to 4<sup>th</sup> Graders). We were to let Alice know if we request loge seats to the concerts next Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday at 10 and 11:30 am in the Eisemann Center. Unfortunately, Wylie ISD children aren't coming, and Susan decided then and there not to run for WISD School Board again.



**Randy Wright** brought his patented manic enthusiasm to his announcement of soccer at *Memorial Elementary*. He's co-opted his grandson and the (next door) *Bowman Middle School* Athletic Director, **Ryan Henderson**, to assist in the Monday-Thursday practice after school (4-5:15 pm). **Evelyn Molina** will phone *Memorial* parents seeking additional help, and Randy says that he needs Field Personnel and that all of us qualify regardless of our level of expertise (or interest) in soccer. We are to RSVP to him.

**Earnest Burke** asked us how many cars ran in the 1<sup>st</sup> *Soap Box Derby* in Akron, Ohio. (19) Be that as it may, our *Soap Box Derby* (May 21-22) needs sponsors, especially those beyond the Club. Earnest asks us to rat them out, and he will close the deal.

**PRINCE JOHN** confirmed the need



for sponsorships and called for a meeting of Soap Box Derby volunteers at 1 pm, following Rotary. He then introduced the day's speaker, **Wes Cunningham**, Ed. D., Principal of the Frisco ISD's Career and Technical Education Center. In his own words\*: I have a BA from Southern Methodist University, with a major in history. I was

awarded a Master of Education Degree by Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2002 and my Doctor of Education Degree by Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2007. I have been a teacher, an athletic trainer, and assistant principal in Richardson ISD. I was an assistant principal at Centennial HS and Liberty HS in Frisco ISD prior to being named Principal of the CTE Center and Director of Career & Technical Education in Frisco ISD in the spring of 2007. I am blessed to be married to a fantastic and supportive wife and we have two wonderful children.

\*<http://www.friscoisd.org/schools/cte/>



Wes described the *CTE Magnet School* as an economical alternative to *CTE* distributed over all of FISD. He said that it was essential to combat dropouts and to motivate students to attend and perform.

They begin with no need for a firm commitment to any career. They try on careers through semester-long courses until they find something that excites their interest. Then they take off on it.

Vocational Education has a bad rap. It is viewed as the dumping grounds for students who have no aspirations or academic abilities. But his *CTE* is not for students "*who can't hack it.*" Instead, it concentrates on innovation, creativity, and critical thinking just as do the college prep curricula. Indeed, their students are encouraged to go on to college, and a significant number of them (93%) do.

In 1997, FISD decided to bring rigor to *CTE*. They went on the road, searching for Best Practices at 60 existing *CTE* operations across the Southwest. Susan mentioned later that they did research on Wylie's *CTE* programs. FISD was looking for excellence in curricula, but it also interviewed students for their opinions.

What resulted was what Wes clearly thinks is a model for *CTE*. It includes a 126,000 square foot building designed for just that purpose, housing real-world learning laboratories. It incorporates stores, managed and staffed by students.



There's a TV studio and Animation Workshop as well as a restaurant-deli run by the Culinary Arts students and open to the public.

Essentially co-located across the street is the Preston Ridge Branch of *Collin College*, which offers joint credit for many courses. And the campus is the site for a future Frisco

high school.

FISD busses the 1,800 students from their home campii to and from their classes at *CTE*. These students have a higher

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## Not Underwater Basket Weaving continued...

attendance and graduation rate with lower dropouts than those without access to the program. And this improvement is not confined to FISD but rather is observed throughout the State.

Wes treated us to a PowerPoint™ tour of his facility with its ubiquitous plasma screens constituting graphics boards on which are touted the current achievements of its student body. He is proud of his flexible class spaces and green technology wherein floors, sinks, and even toilets are made from recycled materials. But while the Physical Plant may be from old materials, the curriculum is cut from current standards. For example, the Animation Studio runs on what is now standard in the industry, Apple's *Final Cut Pro*; students earn their certification on that software. The Design Studio is abandoning the old standard, AutoCAD, for newer ones. Staff and students are learning to think "outside the box." (So Wal-Mart is not their final destination.)



Health Sciences currently is certifying 90 nurse's aides. And Wes is contemplating *CSI Frisco* as he adds a Forensics Laboratory.

**Herb Hoxie** asked about CTE's budget, and Wes told him that the building itself took \$33 million with a 1/2 million operating budget.

**Cary Israel** talked of vocational tracks compared with college and spoke of students bouncing in and out of careers as part of a four-year plan.



Shawn Foster asked about tuition costs and was told its part of ADA.

**Carole Greisdorf** wondered how the public facilities run when the students are coming and going throughout the day. Wes said that the stores, restaurant and deli are staffed serially.



Susan explained the flashlight donation to *Memorial Elementary*, and then mentioned that she had only two more meetings to go before she retired. When confusion raised its ugly head, she said she referred to her WISD tenure as School Board Chair. She had 16 *Rotary* meetings to get through before her release.

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, she put one more meeting behind her at 12:57.



*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?

## Member NEWS

### AWARDS:

**Harold Sullivan Award**  
Chris Parr

**Athena Award**  
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

**Fred Moses Award**  
Richard Butterfly

**Business Executive  
of the Year**  
Ray Huffine

**Kersey Cane Holder:**  
Earl Simpkins

### Citizen of the Year:

Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:  
[www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)

New Member Proposals:

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