

Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 14, Issue 78 March 21, 2013

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 21

Jeff Crilley

"How to Over Deliver Without Going Over Budget."

March 28

Bill Dendy

"Pirates, Revolutionaries, and Rotarians"

April 4

Dr. Carey Patrick

"Your Eyes: A Window to you."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Criste, Benjamin	Mar 01
Wray, Wilson	Mar 06
Johnson, Marshall	Mar 10
Schell, Jamie	Mar 18
Craig, David	Mar 22
Pittman, John	Mar 24
Wong, George	Mar 28
Davis, Louise	Mar 31
Glasscock, Bruce	Mar 31



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

Anna ≠ Claus

NO ONE likes a **Sainted Editor** who rants, so I'll make this brief: the back page of our beloved *Weekly Reader* needs sponsors. You know this. Now please act on it.

PRESIDENT LENNY summoned our attention at 12:17, gifting us with a pair of quotations:

I must say as to what I have seen of Texas, it is the garden spot of the world. The best land and the best prospects for health I ever saw, and I do believe it is a fortune to any man to come here. There is a world of country here to settle.

Davy Crockett

Texas does not, like any other region, simply have indigenous dishes. It proclaims them. It congratulates you, on your arrival, at having escaped from the slop pails of the other 49 states.

Alistair Cooke

Of course, there is no dearth of opinion on so proud a state as Texas. **Phillip Sheridan**, then a cocky 2nd Lieutenant but eventually a Civil War General, once remarked, "If I owned Hell and Texas, I would rent out Texas and live in Hell." He said this while stationed in Eagle Pass, and **Maribelle**, about to move to Del Rio, would take strong issue with his assessment.

Since **Tim McCord** was AWOL this day, **Sainted Editor** thrust his point-and-shoot into the hands of his neighbor at table, and **John Caldwell** was anointed *Photographe du Jour*.

LENNY cajoled **IB the Good** to give the Invocation while **Kyle Walters** was enjoined to lead us in the Pledge. ("Thanks, **Bob!**") **Odysseus's** *appellation trompeuse*, **No Man**, was credited with Greeting.

SERGEANT DU MOIS Sarah Akers waited patiently at the lectern for **LENNY** to return to her the list of visitors and guests. She began by welcoming "all our wonderful guests," which drew a



query from **FLASH**, "Are they all wonderful, or just some?"

The only Visiting Rotarian was our tame ADG, **Kent Stone** (Richardson Central). **Cathy Fang** welcomed her guest, **Erlinda Montaniel**. **Dave McWhorter** prefaced his introduction of **Scott Wagley** with "Is Randy here?" Dave also sponsored **Michael Seates** who welcomed **Angelo Priez**. **Johnny Lewis** introduced **Chuck Ruckel**, and **Randy Brodhead** fed daughter, **Kristen**.

The *Geriatric Club of Plano* earned its name as **Bill Wray** was congratulated on his 100th birthday. At least that was the amount on his birthday check. **Jamie Schell** didn't appreciate the precedent.

Kyle Walters picked up his 13-year pin to a round of applause.

Rick Horne spoke about *Camp RYLA* for which he is our designated hitter. He works with InterACT to select RYLA scholars. The Camp will be held on 8-13 June and involves rising seniors in a "life-changing experience." Participants often go on to RotorACT.

District 5810 sponsors some 160 students. *Plano Rotary* is responsible for four of those but actually picks and sends six; the extra two are funded by *Metro*. All our students are drawn from *Plano Senior High*. *Sunrise* covers *PESH*, and *Metro* covers *PWSH*. Students with 3.9+ GPA qualify for interviews held this year in a 7-hour stint on March 27th. Rick says they're all worthy of going, and deselecting those not funded is a challenge.

During the event, he needs two drivers per vehicle to ferry the students to and from the RYLA site. Those available should volunteer to Rick.

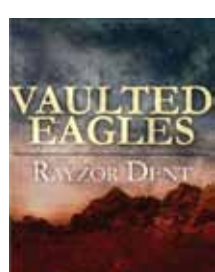


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LENNY reminded us that it's not too late to sign up for the 5810 Gala, which, as you read this, is now passed. He also pointed out that world polio cases have fallen from 22 last year to 9 this year. So we're "almost there." **Gary Basham** reiterated the phrase in connection with our attempts to become a 100% *Paul Harris Fellow* Club, deucedly difficult for a club our size. Only five more members to go. He announced that **Lynette** had turned \$11,000 into the Foundation for our Paul Harris commitment.

Larry Flannery told the congregation that Francis was not his choice for Pope. He was rooting for *Pope Nicola* of Milan and has heard the furloughed pontiff referred to as *Ex-Benedict*. **Bruce Glasscock** piled on with a comment about **Rick Perry** being considered for Pope, but he failed the interview when he referred to "The Father, the Son, and ... and ... and ..." **FLASH** also reminded us that we have to get "off the hook" before **LENNY'S** "regime" ends. **LENNY** let it be known that **HE** had until June 27th.



David McWhorter introduced **Rayzor Dent**, author of "Vaulted Eagles," which has vaulted to 1,962,128th place on Amazon!

Texas-born writer Rayzor Dent has spent most of his life in the American Southwest. As an Air Force instructor pilot flying aircraft from bases in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, Rayzor gained a unique perspective of the country's physical beauty and magnitude. Later, while working at universities in both New Mexico and Texas, he became fascinated with the area's culture and rich history.

Rayzor has written short stories and poetry as well as regional and national magazine articles. The historical fiction, *Vaulted Eagles*, is his first novel. He is a member of the *Western Writers of America* and a *Paul Harris Fellow*. He and his wife of 39 years, **Nancy**, met during their freshman year at *SMU*, raised their two children in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and now live in Dallas.

Rayzor's topic is "Would Santa-Anna be a Good Rotarian?"

He praised Rotary, admitting that there might be a few "decent people" in Lion's or Kiwanis. And he said that "without Rotary's 1.2 million members to serve and do the right thing, the world would be a much different place." He wanted us to imagine the world before **Paul Harris**. He asked us to time travel with him to meet historical individuals who might be considering joining our Club.

He has travelled to the middle of the 19th Century, a time when Mexico was under transition from the second largest country in the world (after China, presumably). In the course of researching his book, he "met" many extraordinary people in the 1836-1855 span: **Stephen F. Austin**, **Jim Bowie**, **Davy Crocket**, and arguably the most important man in U.S. history, **Antonio Lopez de Santa-Anna**.



Eleven times the President of Mexico, he is best remembered for the Battle of the Alamo. He failed the first of the Four-Way Tests in 1833 when he ran for election the first time on a liberal ticket. But once in office, he abolished the Constitution and set himself up as dictator.



He failed the second test when he reformed church, state, and military, which proved to be fatally unpopular with important people, so he blamed it all on his Vice President, and “*led a bloody coup against his own administration!*”

He failed the third test by such callous handling of his own people that they fought against him “*to the last man.*” He slaughtered 1,200 men, women, and children “*sympathizers*” for “*permitting the rebels*” to exist in Zatecas. So all of Mexico knew of what he was capable.

He failed the last test during the Gadsden Purchase. Under his bumbling leadership, Santa-Anna had lost the Mexican/American war, ceding vast swaths of the American Southwest to the U.S. (see map on previous page). President **Franklin Pierce** sent **James Gadsden**, Ambassador to Mexico, to purchase railroad rights of way in what became southern Arizona and New Mexico. He was authorized to spend as much as \$15M on the deal which was to have included Baja California. But the partisan bickering in Washington (sound familiar?) concerned the Baja becoming a slave vs. a free state, so that part of the purchase was rescinded, and Gadsden only got the 30,000 square miles for \$10M. The \$10M fled Mexico with Santa-Anna when his fortunes fell.

But Santa-Anna returned to his beloved 480K acre estate to suspend the Freedom of the Press and abolish all state congresses. Apparently, you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Rayzor said that the “*most sobering*” thing he learned in his research is “*how dangerous the wrong man with power*” can be. He couldn't, in good conscience, recommend San-

ta-Anna as a Rotarian, but he insisted that others of his acquaintance in the era would serve well.

Scary Bob Epstein asked how America won the Mexican war. Rayzor responded that it was through the overwhelming incompetence of Santa-Anna. He fought more battles than did Napoleon and Washington combined, but he apparently learned nothing from them.



LENNY said that the talk has indeed taught him a great deal about consolidating power, and so June 27th may only be a suggestion. **HE** presented Rayzor with **OPERATION ONCE IN A LIFETIME** dog tags and told the congregation that the author would be autographing books after the meeting.

After referencing **Jeff Crilley's** talk, *Marketing Without a Budget*, next week, **PRESIDENT LENNY** led us in the Four-Way Test and belled us out at 1:01.



I want to thank the Academy, my Mother, our Substitute Photographer, my Wife, the Director, our Associate Editors, my cadre of Proofreaders, **alphagraphics**, Good Ole Orville Fudpucker, the Tea Party, Zeus, and the legions of those whom I have lampooned over the years for their forbearance.

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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	Guest Of	Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
Erlinda Montaniel	Cathy Fang	Kent Stone	Richardson Central
Michael Seates	Dave McWhorter		
Angelo Priez	Dave McWhorter		
Scott Wagley	Dave McWhorter		
Chuck Ruckel	Johnny Lewis		
Kristen Brodhead	Randy Brodhead		

AWARDS:

Athena Award:

Camille Ussery

Citizen of the Year:

Jamie Schell

Outstanding Corporate:

The Shops at Willow Bend
(Octavio & his team)

New Member Proposal:

Karen Thunert

Classification: Sr. Executive - BSofA

Proposed by: Nancy Humphrey



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