



Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 105, Issue 166, March 26, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 26

"Memorial Elementary
Program"

April 2

David Taylor -
"The Future of Oil in Texas"

April 9

"Collin County Candidate
Forum" -
Joint Program with Plano
Chamber of Commerce

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Benjamin Criste	Mar 01
Marshall Johnson	Mar 10
Myrtle Hightower	Mar 11
Jamie Schell	Mar 18
George Wong	Mar 28
Louise Davis	Mar 31
Bruce Glasscock	Mar 31



Channeling Henny Youngman

HENNY YOUNGMAN was played today by **Dean Lewis**, whose name suggests he should be channeling **Jerry & Martin**. But he made the mistake of heckling this Club and received as good as he gave. Indeed, he said, "This is the first time I've been heckled at a Rotary." The explanation was swiftly provided: "This is the first time you've visited OUR Rotary."

President Wonderful drew our attention to a meeting he had inexplicably called at 12:13, empowering **Jan Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Bob Pikna** for the Pledge. ("Thanks, Bob!") He credited **Sarah Akers** with Greeting and vacated the lectern in favor of **SERGEANT BARBERA**, who counted *sotto voce* the applause he garnered.



Nathan asked for a show of hands for those who took a vacation over Spring Break. He chastised **Jessica Jackson** for not raising hers. Then he asked for a show of hands "if you needed surgery" subsequent to said vacation. Jessica, who had broken her leg skiing, countered, "I never saw you on that mountain!"

Greg Wood was welcomed from the *Dallas Downtown Rotary*, and **Matt Lagos** (Plano Sunrise) was not given an opportunity to stump for office.

Kelly Palmer introduced his guest and Director of the *International Student Foundation*, **Dr. Blair Ritchey**. **Alex Johnson** welcomed both **Mary Barnett** of the *Geriatric Center* and **Stephen Hood**, Executive Director of the *Wellness Center*. Missing from the list was **Reedy**



Spigner's daughter, **April** who scored a free lunch today.

Before he turned to **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan played a video of the last 5 seconds of a PWSH Wolves Basketball game showing them winning their tournament with a game-winning 3-pointer from **D.J. Högg**, son of proud Papa **Dennis Högg**, target of a follow-up interview about D.J.



Dennis was present to watch his son score 19 points to permit PWSH to beat Irving last Friday. But on Saturday "nothing worked" for the first 3½ quarters until D.J. scored 16 in the 4th, racking up a total of 22 points in the game that clinched the 6A championship. He's been awarded a full basketball scholarship to A&M. (Groans from the Texas alums in the Peanut Gallery.) Dennis confirmed that D.J. is still "in the clouds" over the win.

Earnest passed out a passel of Perfect Attendance pins to commemorate longevity of our members. **Jan Sullivan** and **Pam Little** (3), **Jamee Jolly** (4), **Sarah Akers** (6), **Kelly Palmer** (29), **Casey Stewart**

continued on page 2



and **Jerry Aris** (?), **Randy Wright** (43), and **Charles Milby** (20) got a Certificate, it being the only anniversary divisible by 5.

Jamee Jolly returned to the lectern to announce our annual **CANDIDATE FORUM** on April 9th to include only the City Council candidates before early voting begins. We were to pose questions for the candidates to Jamee prior to the event. She also invited us to join her in Austin for a state chamber event.



Earnest reminded us of the imminent 5810 Conference in Kerrville, TX, and was wondering if he'd be alone there. Not so; he'll have **Ean Sullivan** and **LB THE RADIANT** for company. The remainder of the Club sighed with relief.

Turning to the subject of , Earnest noted the Club celebrates a 70-year milestone with festivities next meeting. We are to contact those creating the program with our cogent ideas.

Larry Bisno welcomed the speaker with a record brief introduction subject to the *proviso* his full bio appear here:

Dean Lewis has appeared on *Last Comic Standing*, *CNN*, *The Ellen Degeneres Show*, and he is the winner of **Wendy's** Clean Comedy Challenge. Dean has also won an Emmy for writing in 2008. He has toured in Europe and has over 20 years experience working in the corporate market with his clean, customized shows. He is a father of two boys and the best parallel parker you've ever met.



Dean began his presentation, "*Finding the Funny—Stop Taking Everything So Seriously*," telling us that he'd stayed at a motel based on its assurances of "*clean sheets, clean restrooms*" until he discovered that to be a TODO list. "*That's the last time I'll stay at McKinney's Motel 6!*"

He said he was impressed with our members' longevity and asked to hear from a member of over 50 years how he had managed that feat. When **Herb Hoxie** began to tell him, he cautioned, "*Keep your answers short!*"

Apparently having prepared zingers for several of our members, he began calling out their names, "*Is Ray Huffines here?*" Learning otherwise, he complained, "*Thanks, Larry!*" Failing that, he picked on **Sainted Editor**, asking, "*You, taking notes, are you keeping up?*" **Lynn Schwartz** assured him of **Sainted Editor's** speedy fingers

while **Sainted Editor** apologized to Dean preemptively for being about to "*trash his talk*" in the *Weekly Reader*. He looked at Lynn and said, "*I like you.*" **Sainted Editor** was wearing red, so Dean decided, "*I'll call you Kris Kringle. What do you do?*" He paused, on learning Chris was a retired professor, so Chris added, "*of everyone's favorite hated subject.*" Dean bit, and Chris told him "*mathematical chemistry.*" Dean thought that'd surely resonate with everyone here, so Chris explained, "*It's really interesting; I study Molecular Ballet.*" Dean shot back that he could see rampant enthusiasm on all the members' faces. "*Well,*" he surmised, "*it'll enable you to stay awake during boring things.*"



Having vamped sufficiently to cover not having delivered his prepared zingers, Dean began in earnest. He told us that most of us are afraid we can't use humor when he has successfully transformed his students into joke writers. He directed our attention to sheets on our tables entitled "**Six Ways Comedy Can Change Your Impact**," and to the pens provided so that we could copy down his pearls of wisdom.

1. Humor **increases retention** by 19%. (Brown U.)
2. It increases your **likeability** (assuming your audience is laughing with and not at you).
3. It puts people into "**a playful mood.**"
4. It improves **bonding**.
5. Using humor, you appear **more intelligent**. "*It doesn't work with Larry...Larry (Flannery) and I are both Irish.*" Larry responded, "*I'm ticklish.*" Dean asked, "*Is that an invitation?*" destroying his clean reputation. "*Then I must change my likeability!*"
6. The **endorphins** thus released "*put you in a better state.*" ("*Hawaii*," **Sainted Editor** wondered.)

He concluded, "*Comedy can be taught.*" Whereas some comics are born, referencing the late **Robin Williams**, most have to learn the trade, and he was here to teach us.

We were to draw a vertical line down the center of the reverse side of our list, entitling the left half **CAR** and the right **OLD**. We would learn a listing technique for **exaggeration**. Such a technique "*goes back 100s of years, right, Larry?*" We were to brainstorm associations with each heading.



And away we went on free association, shouting out words and phrases with Dean choking only those of **Sarah Akers**, whose suggestions spoke of an interesting past.

CAR	OLD
TIRES	BIG BANG
AIR BAG	PYRAMIDS
DEALER	LARRY★
ALARM	MEDIEVAL
BACK SEAT	HEMORRHOIDS
...	...
DRIVER	VIAGRA

★But Larry contended, “I was born at a young age!”

Then, acknowledging that performance is perhaps 80% of humor’s success, he contended that the script, which we were about to write, was, nevertheless, essential. Dean spoke of the 20 writers on **Jay Leno’s TO-NIGHT Show** that had to produce 50 jokes daily (for use nightly). So Jay had 1,000 from which to choose his monologue for each show.

So, he said, we need a NOUN and a VERB to make an exaggerated association. (Whereas we had created a noun and an adverb, but who’s counting grammar?) He started us off with “**My CAR is so OLD, that the OWNER’S MANUAL is written in SANSKRIT.**”

After a minute or two, we began to present our nascent humor.

Randy Wright offered, “**My CAR is so OLD, I had to clean DINOSAUR POOP out of the BACKSEAT.**” (among others)

John Caldwell countered with, “**My CAR is so OLD, I see DINOSAURS in my REARVIEW MIRROR.**”



CAPT. KIRK suggested that, “We just connect **BIG BANG** with the **BACK SEAT** and be done with it.”

(Larry’s protégé.)

Dean told us that he won an Emmy with just such kinds of jokes. When preparing a speech about a subject, find some exaggeration to make and you’re home free.

To murmurs of “*this ought to be good*,” Earnest offered, “**My CAR is so OLD, I burn out my heels trying to stop it.**” Then he presented Dean with our perpetual calendar.



“Can I say what a thrill this gives me,” Dean responded, looking at Sarah Akers.

John Caldwell, Foundation Chair, called Randy Wright to the podium where he honored him for making “a substantial contribution toward the goal of international understanding and peace” by having become a Major Donor to the RI Foundation. Randy received a Diamond Pin for investing \$10,000 in the Rotary Foundation.



Since we had 3 minutes left in the hour, Randy called up his sponsored inductee **Maria Mott** and her pinner, **Alice Hobbs**, and read a personalized induction speech:

What do our Bylaws and RI say about Rotary? What makes a club, and what makes a member?

- A club shall be composed of active members, each of whom shall be an adult person of good character and good business, professional, and/or community reputation,
 - Engaged as a proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or manager of any worthy and recognized business or profession,
 - Be a community leader who has demonstrated through personal involvement in community affairs a commitment to service and the Object of Rotary.

Well now, I know Maria from her extensive volunteer efforts for the *Plano Symphony Orchestra*, and I know she and her husband have a sign business, “*Signs by Tomorrow*.” Maria sells ‘em; Richard makes ‘em. What a team.

Maria, you are qualified. So, Maria, will you join with us at the *Plano Rotary Club* and participate weekly through attendance or service, abide by the Four-Way Test and place Service Above Self?

With her assent, Alice pinned her and the crowd went wild.

With that, Earnest led us in the Four-Way Test and ushered us out at 1:00 on the dot.



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Cuisine for a Cure Progressive Dinner

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Benefiting Plano Children's Medical Clinic.

Bob Pikna is Event Chair

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