

Spring  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 9, Issue 36, May 10, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com



## Geeks Win!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 10 - Lieutenant Governor

David Dewhurst

May 17 - Jim Faulk - Executive Director,

World Affairs of Dallas/Ft. Worth

May 24 - Van Taylor - Texas House of

Representatives - District 66

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 01- Samuel Huffines, Sr.

May 05- Gary Basham

May 05- John Priest

May 06- Christopher Parr

May 09- Jason Rice

May 13- Gerald Brence

May 20- Kelly Palmer

May 21- Robert Epstein

May 27- Mary Jo Dean

May 27- Lynn Schwartz

May 29- Randy Wright

**K**EN Roberts wants *Sainted Editor* and the Club to know that he took the hit for me in **Lori's** bulletin cheerfully. When challenged about that at Sunday night's *PSO Award Ceremony*, she looked like the cat that swallowed the canary, indicating that the roughing up of her spouse had been a guilty pleasure. But if she gets so easily sidetracked, we'll have to find a more focused substitute editor the next time that *Sainted Editor* is the program (perhaps for South America next year). Maybe we can persuade the Club's other pedant, **Hubert Aaron**, to come out of retirement for this noble purpose. One way or another, *Sainted Editor* needs to be slammed to restore balance to the Universe.



Prince John the Usurper struck the **GREAT ROTARY CONG** thrice, calling us to conclave at 12:16 with the notice that, at this hour, **Ean** and **Jan Sullivan** were winging their way EAST to Thailand (for a Rotary convention) via *Emirates*



*Air* operating out of Dubai! Eschewing the obvious and shorter routes WEST, Jan had found on the Internet an offer she couldn't refuse. She was even unfazed when *Sainted Editor* told her of the time he was stuck alone in an elevator with an *Emirates* stewardess and nearly melted. Jan did, however, give Ean blinders.

John persuaded **Jim Cooper** to pray and **Lynn McLean** to pledge. ("Thanks, **Bob!**") And he thanked Lynn for also greeting, killing two birds with one meeting, as it were, on her path to membership. The Valiant Prince summoned **CAPTAIN KIRK** to substitute for **SERGEANT SKIP**.



**KIRK** mounted the podium to the usual **CHORUS OF CLAP**, wiping the tears of gratitude from his eyes with his tie. In Ean's absence, **KIRK** introduced his guest, **Joe Foor**, and **Chris Henry** welcomed his invitee, **Michael Freeman**. **Ben Criste** had brought **Amy Lee**, and he is welcome to do it again anytime. **Karla Oliver** bade us make **Ben Harris** feel at home.



**KIRK** then welcomed a trio of visiting Rotarians: **Jeremy Bradford** (Hurricane Creek), the Mephistophelean Congressional Candidate **Jeran Akers** (Preston Trails), and **Roger Burns** (Richardson).



**Gerald Brence** popped up to note that his guest, *Plano West Girls Soccer Head Coach* **Carley Phillips**, had been omitted from the introductions. **KIRK** fined him \$1 for having failed to sign her in.

Perfect Attendance pins went to **Rex Lowe** (16), **Rutledge Haggard** (19), and **Scary Bob Epstein** (25). When John said something about **Bob's** stentorian conversation being the equivalent of one Apollo spacecraft launch in energy, **Chuck Morgan** commented sotto voce, "That's a lot of hot air!"





John thanked **Ray Huffines** for his National Debt birthday check and called Ben Criste and **Randy Wright** to the podium for **Soap Box Derby** announcements.

Randy warned us that if more of the Club's volunteers were not to step up, we'd be obliged to deplete the treasury and purchase mercenary help! Ben told us we'd had fewer than 50 racers sign up. The race is co-produced by **David, Jim & Kenny**. It was to be one of many events for that day in Haggard Park; others include cane pole fishing. Ben mentioned our spread in the recent **planoprofile** and reiterated Randy's call for us to sign up!

**Rick Horne** lost his **RED BADGE**, but, luckily, he found a **BLUE ONE**.

**Alan Feigenbaum** arose to tout the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual *Hendrick Golf Tournament* on 21 September to raise funds for Student Scholarships. He's looking for items to auction off at a Gala the previous night. We are to scour the Earth for them.

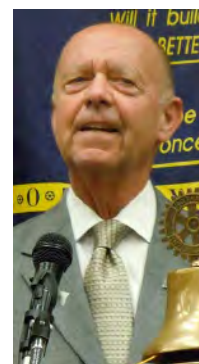


**Scary Bob**, dismissing the microphone (much to the consternation of someone who complained that they "couldn't hear him"), bellowed that the program next week would be from **Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst**, front-running candidate for the U.S. Senate. Presumably, we'll hear about Chinese counterfeiters as if they somehow don't deserve legal representation, but **Sainted Editor** can maintain an open mind. ☺

This week, however, the speaker was ex-President Clean, our esteemed City Manager, **Bruce Glasscock**. **Chuck Morgan** introduced him, explaining that he was here to fête the **CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**. As if we were uncertain about Bruce's credentials, **Chuck** explained that he has his B.S. in Criminal Justice with a M.S. in Public Administration. He began his Plano



career as Police Chief in 1990, moonlighted as Assistant City Manager starting in 1998, and finally relinquished his cops to **Greg Rushin** in 2001. He took over for (the shy and) retiring **Tom Muehlenbeck**, inheriting a \$400M budget and 2,000 city employees. Along the way, he earned international attention as the President of the Association of Police Chiefs in 2001.



Bruce first thanked **Karla** for having hosted City Councilman **Harris**; that meant that she, not the City, paid for his meal. She's being good to the budget.

He explained that the beauty of the process is that the City employees themselves nominate the **CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**, of which there were 16 candidates this year. A review team makes the final decision, but it's nice to know there are that many exemplary folk in City employ.



Noting that he's "*not sure who's [left] working*" in the City, he introduced Director of Technology Services, **David Stephens**, Systems and Programming Manager, **Danny Housewright**, City Councilman **Pat Gallagher**, and Assistant City Managers **LeShon Ross** and **Frank Turner**. He also drew our attention to **Michele Haram** from *Central Market*.



The Man of the Hour was **Rick Figueroa**, who began as a Database Administrator in 1997 but is now a Senior Programmer Analyst responsible, among other things, for all City employee paychecks. Bruce surmised, "*That's more important than what I do!*" No wonder he was nominated!

As an example of Rick's dedication, Bruce related an anecdote in which Rick texted back to the office instructions on how to deal with a problem that had arisen while he was enduring a root canal at his dentist's. The problem solved, payroll was not missed.

Dave Stephens told us that Rick has an excellent attitude, and when he can't answer a question "*off the top of his head*," he is willing to do whatever it takes to come up with the right answer.





Explaining that even though Rick is responsible for the entire system, Dave told us he can focus on the problems of a single employee until they are solved. He *“exemplifies what a good employee should be.”* So saying, he presented Rick with a bouquet that was mercifully taken over by wife **Diana Figueroa!**

**Mayor Phil Dyer** spent half his allotted time recognizing City mavens like **Lissa Smith, Lee Dunlap, Nancy Humphrey, and Carolyn Moebius.** Then he thanked Plano Rotary for the “big deal” of **CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR** honors, and said that those “16 superstars make us look good.” He held up a Proclamation but promised not to read it, because it would expose that he “*wasn’t a graduate of the Plano School System.*”

Phil explained that Rick works with **PeopleSoft** (a management system that stymies **UT Dallas** to this day; *they* could use Rick’s help!), making overnight updates to ensure minimal disruption to City offices.

Bruce displayed Rick’s portrait that will hang in City Hall lobby for one year, after which he may have it “*to do with as you wish.*”

Michele Haram, noting **Central Market’s** 10-year anniversary, presented Rick with “*organic treats*” in an ornate basket, mercifully taken over by Ms. Figueroa.



Prince John presented Rick with our Plano Rotary Club Check in “*appreciation for all your work done and to be done.*”

The Honoree was then presented with the microphone, and he thanked G\*d, his Mom and Dad, Diana, and his daughter. With the birth of his youngest, he and Diana wanted to travel less. A friend was working for a municipal government and recommended it to Rick. Thus, he became the first employee in the City hired by a web page advertisement! But their email server at the time was **Higgins**, a museum piece that was serving only one other institution in the world. Everything ran on an HP 3000 mainframe.

Rick said he did the conversion of 500 City computers to Win95 at night (to minimize disruptions). And he was impressed by Bruce’s use of a Palm Pilot (which he and Bruce still use).

Rick believes the key to problem solving is the effective sharing of knowledge. He still thinks Plano is the best place to work and live.

Prince John offered Rick our Four-Way Test coin and promised a donation to **Shoes for Orphan Souls** in his name. Then he scoured the audience, looking for Bruce. When John found him, staring up from the nearest table, he said, “*All those suits hid you!*”

With the recitation of the Four-Way Test, John ended our conclave at 12:46!



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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

Joe Foor  
Robby Horne  
Michael Freeman  
Amy Lyle  
Lynne McLean  
Carlie Phillips

#### Visiting Rotarian

Jeremy Bradford  
Jeran Akers  
Roger Burns

#### Guest from CITY OF PLANO

Rick Figueroa  
Diana Figueroa  
David Stephens  
Danny Housewright  
Ben Harris  
LaShon Ross  
Frank Turner  
Michelle Owens

#### Guest Of

Ean Sullivan  
Chris Parr  
Chris Henry  
Ben Criste  
Bruce Glasscock  
Gerald Brence

#### Home Club

Hurricane Creek  
Preston Trails  
Richardson

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR RECEIPT  
Rick’s Spouse  
Director, Technology Services  
Systems & Programming Manager  
Council Member  
Deputy City Manager  
Deputy City Manager  
Representative – Central Market

### Member NEWS

#### New Member Proposal:

Joe P. Foor  
Classification: Memory Care  
Proposed by: Ean Sullivan  
New Member Proposal:  
Lynne McLean  
Classification: Children’s Advocacy  
Proposed by: Bruce Glasscock

#### AWARDS:

**Harold Sullivan Award:**  
Randy Wright

**Athena Award:**  
Rebecca Caso

**Fred Moses Award:**  
Richard Butterly

**Business Executive of the Year:**  
Gary Base

**Kersey Can Holder:**  
Vance Bryson

**Citizen of the Year:**  
Beth and Duncan Webb