

Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 113, Issue

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Commercial Academician\$

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 14

"Plano Rotary Club 70th
Birthday Celebration"

May 21

Memorial Day Holiday
Program: Jimmy Capra,
"Sacrifice & Legacy"

May 28

Memorial Day Holiday
Program: Jimmy Capra,
"Sacrifice & Legacy"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Huffines	May 01
John Priest	May 05
Chris Parr	May 06
Jason Rice	May 09
Howard Matson	May 11
Eugene Champagne	May 18
Kelly Palmer	May 20
Robert Epstein	May 21
Mary Jo Dean	May 27
Lenny Schwartz	May 27
Wally Reed	May 29
Randy Wright	May 29



Sainted Editor wants to thank a reluctant **Lenny Schwartz** and an eager **Jason Rice** for substituting for him while he was slaving away, cruising in the Western Mediterranean. One hopes they'll be available in July when he slaves away in the Gobi Desert or in September when he'll dodge Russian Separatist missiles in Yalta on the **Black Sea**.

President Wonderful called the rabble to order at 12:14, summoning **Jan Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Rick Maucieri** for the Pledge. (*Scary Bob* has *laryngitis*?) Earnest thanked **Lynette Pieper** (substituting for an **AWL Karen Sheldon**) for Greeting.



Earnest announced our Club's 70th birthday celebration next week which begins promptly at noon; so we were to arrive at least by 11:45. He's hoping for a full turnout. He also announced a Joint Plano Rotaries **Happy Hour** Fun Hour to be held Monday, May 11th at 4:30 in **West & Pioneers** Rotaries' bailiwick, the **GREEK ISLES** Restaurant, the north side of **Ruisseau Village**.



Earnest called **Howard Leidy** (*Sunrise*) to announce that, if our gathering on Monday overflowed the restaurant, we would spill into the one next door. He also hawked **PROUD TO BE A ROTARIAN** bumper stickers

for "whatever you think it's worth."

Jason Rice had a case of **Randy Wrightis** and felt compelled to have us study the last ¶ in his Bulletin which instructed us in the proper call and response when Earnest presents the speaker with our Club gift. We are all to chant in unison, "highly-coveted perpetual calendar!" So we had to practice it.



Returning to the meeting agenda, Earnest buttered up **SERGEANT BARBERA** by calling Nathan "smoother than a drink of **Johnny Walker Blue**," which set wife **Patricia** to salivating. (Well, at least I know now what to get her for our anniversary.)



Nathan welcomed Visiting Rotarians **Nathan White** (*McKinney Sunrise*), **Howard Liedy** (*Plano Sunrise*), and **David Goodman** (*Park Cities*). He also introduced us to **Grant Whittle** who had found us via the web site!! (Someone's seen it!?!)



Yoram Solomon welcomed fellow Leadership Plano member **Gene Murray**, but Yoram didn't follow the protocol, and was given an impromptu lesson by Randy.



For **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan chose **David McWhorter**, scheduled to be President in 2016-17 but for now, "Head Flunky," or Club Secretary.

David was born in Fort Worth, and his Dad worked for Coors Beer! He admitted to being a handful as a child but denied ever having a nickname.

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He played everything in high school then went on to take a baccalaureate at TCU. His first job after college was as a furniture repo man, in which, he conceded, he didn't do very well. Eventually he hit his stride as an insurance agent, handling commercial properties.

Favorite movie: *Unforgiven*. Musical group: *Led Zepelin*. Athlete: **Roger Staubach**. First car: Plymouth *Barracuda*. ("Oooo," went the audience.) Restaurant: *Javier's*. Beer: *Heinekin's*. Soda: **Dr. Pepper**.

He's been a Rotarian for four years, drawn to it to become "part of the community." His sponsor was **Ean Sullivan**. And his favorite Rotary moment: Soap Box Derby. As President, he hopes to emulate the greats, carrying on in the tradition of **CAPTAIN Kirk Bell** and **Kelly Palmer**, oh, and **Mr. Wonderful**, of course.

Earnest held aloft three Rotary banners from the Iberian Peninsula brought back by the *Wandering Editor*. He thanked Chris for being our Ambassador to Europe. He thanked **John Priest** too for his "very generous birthday donation!"

PISD Board of Directors President **Nancy Humphrey** introduced **Lynn Ojeda**, Principal at the *PISD Academy High* with a cry of "Go, Longhorns!" in honor of her alma mater.



Born and raised in Longview, Texas, Lynn Ojeda joined PISD in 1991 upon graduation from *Stephen F. Austin State University*, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, English, and Secondary Education. Ms. Ojeda's career in education encompasses 13 years as a Spanish teacher and earning honors including being named *Haggard Middle School's* Teacher of the Year as well as...Texas Middle School Spanish Teacher of the Year by the *Texas Foreign Language Association*.

Ms. Ojeda earned her Master's Degree in Secondary Education with specialization in English and Linguistics in 1999 from the *University of North Texas*. She later returned to UNT to earn a second Master's Degree in Educational Administration in 2007. Ms. Ojeda has served as school administrator for 11 years, most recently as principal of *Williams High School*, where she opened the *Plano ISD Health Science Academy* in 2013. Collin County LULAC Council named Ms. Ojeda the Educator of the Year in 2013.

Lynn and her husband, **Homero**, have three children, daughter **Maya**, a student at *Collin College*, son, **Jory**, who attends *Clark High School*, and **Jacob** at *Hedgecoxe*.

Ms. Ojeda served on the Visioning Committee for academy programs in Plano ISD, and is thrilled to join the Titan Family this year!

I have had the personal pleasure of knowing Lynn as the principal of Williams High School when both of my children were there. I've witnessed first-hand her passion for students and dedication to our district's goal of continued improvement in student learning. And as you will see shortly, she has an amazing gift for articulate communication. (No pressure.) It is under great campus leadership of principals like Lynn Ojeda that Plano ISD continues the excellence in education for which the district is known locally, statewide, and nationally.



Lynn thanked Nancy for such a warm introduction and said she was pleased to be a part of the growth of our district due to the efforts of the Board. She apologized for her wet shoes with the caution, "Beware where you are standing around 9th graders" with water hoses.

She is still in communication with her former teacher, **Ms. Strochall**, who "must be ancient" but certainly appreciative of the email she received from Lynn during Teacher Appreciation Week lauding her for the results of "her investment in a child...me." Indeed, she became a Rotary Exchange Student on Ms. Strochall's recommendation and spent it in Barcelona where she also picked up the colorful banner presented today by Chris (of Park Guell "Gway," the unfinished home of **Gaudi's** patron).



Ms. Ojeda described her Academy as "next door to *Harley Davidson*," the correctional-looking facility near the SW corner of Alma and Park. But far from a prison, it is a high school campus housing 9th through 12th grade students learning in an entirely project-based environment. For example, 10th grade is engaged in an entrepreneurial project inspired by Yoram Solomon. They are designing a 3D printed, Bluetooth mouse ring! (I wasn't aware that mice wore bling!) And it would lead to an internship that "could be life-changing."

Indeed all seniors need to do an internship of at least 30 hours. Some take advantage of **Mayor LaRosiliere's** internship program, but the difference is, the students become interns in "whatever they say they want." And those 72 rising seniors come up with a wide variety of requests, including equine science (that's one way to finally get a pony), engineering, medicine, etc. And it is Lynn's job to match those requests with appropriate internships in the community. She then made the first of several plugs for partnership with Rotarian businesses, indicating a list of interests on the badge table we could peruse. So she's "less of a principal, more of an agent."

Seniors complete a Capstone Project that can be anything from writing a symphony to assembling a collection of art. One recent one involved a study of repetitive stress injury among DFW baggage handlers! Needless to say, mentors are a large part of her effort.

Her first teaching position was in *Hendrick Middle School*, and she still recalls **Wayne's** visit to his school.

A more descriptive appellation for her High School Academy might be "*Loophole University*." The students



are exceptionally creative, and companies offering them internships can benefit greatly from innovative “problem-solvers.”

As an example, a student project fruit juice was pitched to **Pepsico** with the suggestion that the container be molded with Braille labels. They’d never considered that market. This sort of out-of-the-box thinking will “blow your mind.”



The 11th grade was challenged to sell a soluble, gas, and art project and came up with a business plan, *Thanks a Latté*, which was funded to produce acrylic discs cutouts to put the State of Texas in foam on coffee. So trust her to send you “my very best to do amazing things!”

She hawked sponsorship logos on the robots build by her “Rookie All-Stars” in their international competitions.

Ken Roberts asked “How many marketers” are devoted to this? “Just me,” came the reply, although members of PISD’s Education Foundation “also proselytize.”

She urged us to go to the website and register: academyhs.pisd.edu

Nancy mentioned PISD’s *Health Science Academy* as another magnet school.

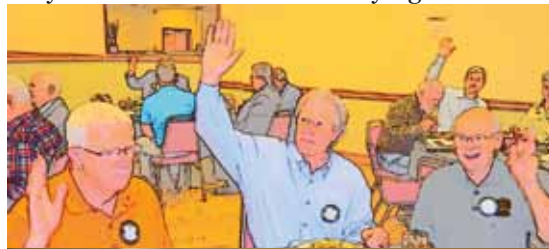
Alex Johnson wanted to know if Texas State legislation impedes her efforts, but she said that the expectations of the Teacher Education Agency are being met. “The test takes care of itself,” was her explanation. She examined the old saw about leading a horse to water and concluded “we make the horses thirsty for knowledge.”

Earnest wanted to know why there were no internships sought for CPAs, and Lynn

asked him if he were left off of dodgeball teams as a youth.

Randy noted that Lynn’s daughter had “played [trombone] at my birthday party,” although the relevance of that escaped many. He would say it makes a human interest story.

Earnest led the Club in the “highly-coveted” chant then the Bylaw and Constitution revisions were moved, seconded, and approved by the Club. He then led us in the 4-Way Test and sent rabble scurrying at 1:00.



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