



Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 86 May 16, 2013

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 9

Tom Moore
"Port of Corpus Christi
Authority"

May 16

Bruce Glasscock
"City of Plano Employee of
the Year"

May 23

Colonel John Antal
"7 Leadership lessons from
Our Military"

May 30

Miss Texas, DaNae Couch

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Huffines, Samuel	May 1
Basham, Gary	May 5
Priest, John	May 5
Parr, Christopher	May 6
Rice, Jason	May 9
Brence, Gerald	May 13
Palmer, Kelly	May 20
Epstein, Robert	May 21
Dean, Mary Jo	May 27
Schwartz, Lynn	May 27
Wright, Randy	May 29



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

Trading with the Enemy

OLD HOME WEEK was the best way to describe this meeting as **LENNY'S** brother-in-law, **Tom Moore**, and **Patti's** childhood friend, **Nancy Vuckovich**, coalesced to hear Tom's boosterism for the Port of Corpus Christi. Tom was touting the city's booming trade with **Castro's** Cuba, now that the embargo has been lifted on agricultural products. It has breathed new life into "the City [literally] on the Road to Nowhere."



PRESIDENT LAMP-LIGHTER summoned our attention at 12:18, noting his brother-in-law's presence and lamenting the loss of his other brother-in-law to a military accident. A karate expert, he killed himself saluting.

Someone accused **LYNN** of being **FLASH FLANNERY**, and **HE** quickly distanced himself from the association.

In a weak rehabilitation attempt, **HE** gave us a quote by **Thomas Aquinas** to ponder:

If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.

Naturally that port would be in Corpus Christi, but **LENNY** may be a bit biased.

He anointed **IB** the **Good** to give the Invoca-



tion, **Octavio Ortiz** to give the Pledge, and **John Caldwell** as Greeter. Then he called forth **SERGEANT-DU-MOIS Andy Sayers** to welcome Visiting Rotarians and guests.

One of each was present in **Cindi Bauer**, a Past President and Paul

Harris Fellow hailing from Alperia, MI, and the guest of John Caldwell. John committed the *faux pas* of announcing her name first, so **Randy Wright**, cognizant of the *Geriatric Club of Plano*, told him, "This bunch doesn't remember" from one end of his introduction to the other, so we're to give the name last.



LYNN bade us welcome Nancy Vuckovich, **Gerald Brence** introduced "the youngest Head Coach in PISD," **Carley Phillips**, but told us we're losing her to marriage (inconceivable) and Greenville, South Carolina (shocking), but not before she has brought PISD two State Championships! And **CAPTAIN KIRK** bade us welcome one "the age of your grandchildren," **Brian Joans**. Brian apparently deigns to associate with **UT**, so **LENNY** said that **Bevo** was smiling.

HE recognized birthdays-to-be for **Jason Rice** and Gerald Brence, then thanked birthdays-that-were boys **Keith Sockwell** and **Gary Basham** for checks and **John Priest** and **Chris Parr** for cold, hard cash! All of it will flow to our Foundation now that the cash flow in our accounts is tidied up.



Instead of just John Caldwell, Randy now harangued the entire congregation, try-

continued on page 2

ing to elicit its support for the weekend's (unofficial) Soap Box Derby, but try as he might and crackerjack salesman as he is, crickets were all he heard. The uncommitted remained uncommitted as he identified the team leaders for the event: **David Craig** for setup, **David McWhorter** for Track Director, **Jim Cooper** on Registration, **Sara Akers** for Park Activities, **Larry Bisno** as Finish Line Supervisor, and Kirk Bell for Storage. Despite our collective reluctance, Randy was applauded for his efforts.



LENNY thanked **Earl Simpkins**, **Ean Sullivan**, and Chris Parr (and, by extension, their families) for hosting the GSE visitors from East Africa. He also credited **John The President Formerly Known as Prince Ernst** and **Susan Iron butterfly Shuler** for opening their clinics to the group. He left off **Mary Jo Dean** who had done the same at *Presby*.

Then **HE** tried to ram through a vote for RI Presidential Nominees from our Zone 21, having emailed us the candidate résumés. But the rank-and-file knew neither the candidate from Arlington, TX, nor the one from Latin America, so Randy asked for a recommendation from Ean or anyone knowledgeable. No such entity stepped forward, so the nomination proceeded with a predictable landslide for the Texan attorney.



CAPTAIN KIRK strode to the podium, commenting, "It's been a long time since I've witnessed an election in Iraq." He was there not to quibble but to induct, so he intoned **Ken Roberts'** Deathless Prose to Fire Chief **Brian Crawford** under the pained gaze of sponsor **Bruce Glasscock**. Perhaps Bruce was reacting to Brian's question, "This doesn't require a vote, does it?" Someone impressed noted, "He'll fit right in," while **KIRK** said, "He got more than 50%, so there's no runoff."



Gary Basham came front and center to award Paul Harris Pins to first-time Fellows **Dennis Fuller**, Gerald Brence, **Cathy Fang**, and **Jerry Kezhaya**. **Chris Henry** and **Tino Trujillo** received "Paul Harris Plus One," while **Brad Keith** trumped them all with a "Plus Three."



Cathy Fang returned for her 3-year attendance pin. Octavio got 6 and **Mike Robnett** racked up his 23rd.



LYNN presented the Club with a banner from the *Carpenteria Rotary*, home of the RI Presidential Representative, **Wade Normua**, who had graced our last meeting.

Then **HE** introduced his brother-in-law, Thomas S. Moore, Consultant to the Port of Corpus Christi. Tom graduated from *Annapolis* with (**Roger Staubach** and) a B.S. in Engineering in 1965. He earned his M.S. in Financial Management from the *U.S. Naval Postgraduate School* in Monterey, CA. He was a navy pilot in both the Atlantic and Pacific Commands. He became a consultant in Foreign Trade and Industrial Development for Corpus Christi's Port in 1985.

Tom told us that there's been \$13B of new investment in "this little coastal town" to which you must travel deliberately because "it's on the way to nowhere." His explanations for Corpus' good fortune were

1. Cheap gas
2. Available land
3. Great rail facilities
4. The deepest deep water port in the U.S.

He said that 5% of the nation's refining capacity is within its harbor, and the port handles the 5th largest tonnage of any in the States. Also it's "in attainment" of clean air and water, meaning there's more room for new (polluting) industries. Coupled with a foreign trade zone in a Right-to-Work (union-suppressed) State and tax incentives, Corpus Christi is apparently irresistible to bidness.



The BRACed (Base Realignment and Closure) Naval Station at Ingleside was a bummer in 2010 when the Navy handed back the keys to the City. But since the latest construction on site was in 2005, it was in good enough condition to sell.

In 2001, Congress permitted the export of agricultural products to Cuba under the proviso that they were cash-in-hand transactions (because, of course, there's no mechanism that can coerce Cuba to make good on unpaid debts). This puts a strain on the third-world nation, and Castro has only reluctantly bought rice and beans from the U.S. because shipments of rice from Vietnam come teeming with vermin after their long boat ride. (All this is from a nation that was a net exporter before the Revolution.)



Tom has been to the Embargoed Isle and reports back the existence of "exquisite Mojitos and cigars." It's a "severe environment" in which people are "poor, but not starving." It has free medical and tolerable education, but his cabbie held a jobless PhD. A matron begged him to take a baby's photo to relatives in the U.S. who were unaware of its existence. All in all, Tom's assessment is that Cubans are "spunky people who are totally surpressed." (In 1959, Castro promised to shave his beard for free elections.)

He attended a dinner with the dictator and 200 businessmen, eager, of course, to alleviate the suffering of his people. It was “*an embarrassingly sumptuous dinner*” while just outside the Presidential Palace, people wore “*tee-shirts and shower shoes*.” Indeed, the banquet went on until 4 am; Castro was eager to impress but completely tone deaf as to how to go about it. He had “*lost touch*” with the common folk.



Tom took lots of pictures of crumbling infrastructure and hopelessness, but he made the mistake of leaving the flash chip in the camera, from where it was thoughtfully removed by airport censors. With that revelation, he presented a slideshow concerning Corpus and Cuba.

In response to a question about leadership after Castro, Tom surmised that there would come no counterrevolution, merely slow improvements (as trade barriers were relaxed).



Tom quantified Corpus’ advantages telling us that gas that costs \$15 in Europe goes for \$3 here. And the Port is a mere 2-hour transit to open ocean. And goods leave Corpus by truck, rail, and barge! The **Inland Waterway** leads all the

way up the heart of the U.S. to Iowa and Pennsylvania. Barges can carry 15 rail cars worth of goods and up to 90 truckloads at economical rates.

Know someone who would
make a great Rotarian?
Invite them to be your guest
at Rotary!

He’s looking beyond Cuba to Africa, where “*900M people need a deep-water port in the U.S.*” He touts Corpus’ 1,100-foot pier as suitable for a carrier or a battleship so it should handle container ships with ease. He said that it’s “*almost Air Force quality*.”

PRESIDENT LENNY offered the former pilot **OPERATION ONCE IN A LIFETIME** dog tags, lead us in the Four-Way Test, and dismissed the gathering at 1:06.



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?

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Nancy Vuckovich
Carley Phillips
Brian Joans

Guest Of

Lynn Schwartz
Gerald Brence
Kirk Bell

AWARDS:

Athena Award:

Camille Ussery

Citizen of the Year:

Jamie Schell

Outstanding Corporate:

The Shops at Willow Bend
(Octavio & his team)

Proposed Members

Proposed member: Brian Crawford

Classification: Fire Chief

Proposed by: Bruce Glasscock

Proposed member: Wallace Reed

Classification: Insurance

Proposed by: Herb Boxie

Visiting Rotarian

Cindi Bauer

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