



SUMMER  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 152, Issue 217, May 19th, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 19

Michael Ray Newman  
Zig Zigler International

May 26

TBD

June 2

TBD



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



## Ortega's Empire

**A** **Ean Feigenbaum** is promoting 3<sup>rd</sup> stage terror re: the back page. If we don't find new business cards adorning it, the Club will use the space for **SPIRITWARE** sales as well as event announcements. So throw your advertising dollars this way to avoid that eyesore.

**President Paperweight** opened the meeting three minutes late, thus earning himself 75% of the blame for our four-minute late departure. Kelly invited **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** to give the Invocation and **Larry Bisno** to lead us in the Pledge. No one earned the nod for Greeting. **SERGEANT BARBERA** was summoned.

There being no Visiting Rotarians, **Howard Matson** introduced returning guest and motorcycling attorney, **Roy Reeves**. Roy sought us out via advice from the RI website. **Maria Mott** welcomed **Kevin Giles**. Kelly bade us greet **Scott Klopak** who may be "smart enough for a 1<sup>st</sup> visit," to which Scott commented, "There's no guarantee!"



**Mark Johnson** bragged that his son, **Kyle**, has graduated from *U. Alabama* and been accepted into *Baylor School of Dentistry*. Nathan jibed that, with a recent acquisition, it's now *Texas A&M – Baylor Dental School*.

Nathan went on to bedevil **Bruce Glasscock** asking why he was awakened by pointless sirens in the wee smalls. Bruce was incredulous: "They went off last night?" ggesting he sleeps through such irrelevant

cies. Well, if so, then those at the switch "were a little anxious."

**Nancy Humphrey**, now **VICE** President of the **PISD** Board of Trustees, thanked one and all, especially **Camille**, for the resoundingly successful passage of the Bond package for the district.



Kelly then awarded Rotary Attendance pins to **Jan Sullivan** (4), **Rex Lowe** (??), **Jamee Jolly** (?), **Chris Henry** (6), **Cathy Fang** (6), and **Scary Bob Epstein** (29), who took no selfie.



**Jamie**, which he pronounced as the Spanish "Hymie," **Schell** embarrassed the majority of us by inquiring how many actually read the *Rotarian Magazine* we all receive in the mail. He pointed us to an article in the latest issue about "The Edge," which is a "who" not a "what." It chronicles The Edge's following in his Rotarian Father's footsteps down a philanthropic path.

He asked all multiple Paul Harris Fellows to raise their hands, then he added **Howard Matson** (+8), **Kelly Palmer** (+2), and **Jamie Schell** (+3) to their number. He asked all Paul Harris Sustaining Members to stand, and they were roundly applauded.

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**CAPTAIN KIRK** announced a new Trophy Guy was commissioned for the **STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** awards since last year's guy went bust. We've \$11K in sponsors but could always do with more. And as the event is only a few days away (25 May), we need to hustle. PISD Superintendent **Binggeli** is the Keynote Speaker and "*almost the whole school board*" will be in attendance, the majority of which are in our Club anyway. **Rick Maucieri** wanted to know if "*it'll be a double make up.*" **LB THE ONLY** commented that this is an event of which we're proud.



Alan **SPIRITWARE** Feigenbaum noted the presence of sign-up sheets being circulated for PRC gear. If you don't happen to catch those, see Alan.

**Olin Jaye** introduced the day's speaker, our current liaison with 5810, **Lisa Leach**. Her topic: *Rotary's Mission to Nicaragua*.

Lisa has been a Rotarian for the past 13 years and has served as the President of *Plano West Rotary*, and is currently serving as Assistant Governor of all Plano Rotary clubs save her own. She is originally from Mobile, AL, and is a serial entrepreneur. She currently owns *Chiavari Chair Rentals of Dallas*, where she provides chair rentals for the wedding and special events industry. She and her husband moved to Dallas to take a position with *Nortel Networks*. After the downturn in the telecom industry, she started a business brokerage firm, and sold companies for ten years. She has two boys and lives in Richardson.



She began her presentation asking for a show of hands of all who have been on a Nicaragua Mission for Rotary. Apparently pleased with the showing, she told us that she joined Rotary to do International Service Projects. But on joining, her oldest child was but six, so too young to join her or be left behind.

Now, however, he is 19, and when offered the chance to tag along, he said, "*Yeah, sure; I'll go.*" But she hadn't confided in him about the challenges. They went with the second group; the missions are scheduled around Spring Breaks which come in two flavors for the Dallas environs.



Gov.-Elect **Bill Dendy** began the missions as a way to excite Rotoractors and Interactors to stick with Rotary. And it must have worked; on the current trip there were two families that each had three generations of participants. And the majority of the entire company was composed to young adults.

Next year they're looking to take 40, but more than that proves cumbersome. She was tickled to find that some of the participants had never before left Texas let alone the U.S. Two had attended Camp RYLA, and another two have been back every year.



She admitted to being geography challenged, but, Google Maps to the rescue, she soon located her destination. It was the City of Granada on the banks of Lake Nicaragua. There the company painted a school, set up basketball courts, ensured running water, and built both a kitchen and a classroom.

Due to a mixup regarding governmental permissions (insufficient bribe, perhaps?), the group went to a Special Needs School, *Corazón Contento*, or "*Happy Heart.*" Special needs kids are shunned by Nicaraguan society. At the school, they give the kids skills to aid their survival. The group helped them make paper ornaments to raise funds for the school. They helped teach kitchen and gardening skills. And splitting into two groups, they painted the inside and the outside of the school with murals. There was so much to do, that their time ran out and they had to leave some tasks undone.

Lisa showed a video produced by a local Nicaraguan videographer. It showed the children and the visitors dancing in traditional costumes. (Smooth Zumba moves, Lisa.) The group had brought musical instruments. They also participated in Physical Therapy sessions.

Lisa's son finished the mural left undone by the first week's visitors, and she praised **LB's** painting of the latrine. "*Oh,*" said **FLASH**, "*that's what you call it!*"



Her son also adorned the mural with a Turquoise-browed Motmot or, as Nicaraguans call it, “*The Ravine Guard*” or Guardabarranco, the national bird of Nicaragua. He must be exceptionally talented.



5810 contributed the funds for the kitchen and classroom. The before and after photos showed a dirt floor becoming a tiled showcase.

Nicaragua bests the U.S. on per capita sugar consumption! So diabetes is of even greater concern there. The school offers education in blood glucose and pressure testing.

The group travelled to one of the poorest areas in the country, an hour out of Granada. There they witnessed a barrio school and *The House of Dreams* which teaches English after school. Founder and Director **Jim Durham** established it in 2012. Fortunately, the 5810 group had brought school supplies, clothing, and shoes. *The House of Dreams* supplies one hot meal a day to those who would otherwise hunger.

They walked through impoverished neighborhoods, distributing candy (and, hopefully, diabetes education). They came face-to-face with the Third World.

On the plus side, they bonded as a group, getting to know one another while zip-lining. They were treated to the private island owned by the President of the *Granada Rotary*. (Way to contrast the 3<sup>rd</sup> World!) There was a lunch and a pool party beside but not in the lake; it is the only one with sharks.

After they returned, she was pleased to see a Facebook posting by her son praising the trip. He called it a “cool experience.”

Lisa suggested that *The Plano Rotary Club* sponsor an Interact or Rotaract participant at one of the two trips scheduled for 2017.

Olin asked about the availability of supplies. Lisa said it’s like shopping used to be half a century ago; there are no big box, general purpose stores. You must buy from individual vendors. Next time she’ll bring her own paint brushes.



**Patti Schwartz** asked about their access to sugar and was told that sodas are ubiquitous. Also rice and beans at every meal means lots of carbohydrates.

Ean, who has been on the mission, commented that security is not an issue. He and Jan walked unmo-

lest in the town square after midnight, tempting Fate. He “*strongly recommend(s) taking children and grandchildren.*”

Lisa mentioned that the legal age to drink in 18, but a very strict curfew is in place.

**Alex Johnson** praised Lisa’s presentation; she “*brought it to life*” for him.

Chris Henry mentioned that his son and daughter-in-law live in Nicaragua. He recommended one studies Spanish or has a fluent speaker among the travelers.

Ean said the trip is economical; \$1,400 pays for it all. Kelly asked if Ean had zip-lined and was told it required bigger harnesses.

Kelly then warned of the dangers of Rotary paperweights and announced that stragglers today will be shot. Another group needs the room directly after our meeting. He led us in the Four-Way Test and belled us out at 1:04.



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### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

#### Guest

Scott Klopak  
Kevin Giles  
Roy Reeves

#### Guest of

Kelly Palmer  
Maria Mott  
Howards Matson

**Visiting Rotarian**  
None

**Home Club**

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