

Spring
Weekly

Reader



Volume 6, Issue 129, May 20, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

FUTURE SHOCKED

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 5/20 Tom Harmon
"Rotary Wheelchair Program"
- 5/27 Patriotic Celebration
- 6/3 Troy Villarreal
"Medical Center of Plano"
- 6/10 Senator John Corona
- 6/17 Duncan Day Advertising
"Social Media Networking"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1..... RAY HUFFINES
- 5/5..... GARY BASHAM
- 5/5..... JOHN PRIEST
- 5/6..... CHRISPARR
- 5/11..... DAVIDALLISON
- 5/13..... GERALD BRENCE
- 5/20..... KELLY PALMER
- 5/21..... BOBEPSTEIN
- 5/23..... HARRY POLLY
- 5/27..... MARY JODEAN
- 5/27..... LYNN SCHWARTZ
- 5/29..... RANDY WRIGHT



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

LANELL Morold turned up after a year's absence in Dubai (as a corporate consultant). **Randy** said that he'd "fix her up" by which he meant that he would reestablish her acceptance into membership. And, indeed, **Jessica** will bring her before the Board next month to cross the *Is* and dot the *Ts* or some such. Randy had originally proposed her when she worked in a title company here in Plano, and she was approved by the Board then. And now she's back and interested to join! Way to go, **PRINCE JOHN**! Exceeding your membership quota *before* taking office!



PRINCE JOHN tolled the bell thrice in a ritualistic opening of our sacred conclave. Commenting on the death of **Jim Smith**, he called upon Reverend Gary Mueller. John nodded at **Jeff Butcher** for the Pledge. He didn't know who to thank for greeting, so he credited "*The Mystery Greeter*." Way to stay on top of things, John. Oh well, **president butterfly** will return from gall bladder surgery next week, but the next year is shaping up to be a rough one.

John did know who his **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** *du Jour* was, regular **Skip Jenkins**, current on his *Metamucil*. Skip thoughtfully removed the boa and tiara as "inappropriate" for John "not that there's anything wrong with that," but **Sainted Editor** could not restrain



a snide comment, "*If the tiara fits, wear it.*" The Veep was only modestly amused.

One visitor, **Thad Stammen**, guest of **CAPTAIN KIRK**, was noted by Kirk as having been approved for membership only this morning at our Board Meeting. Skip introduced new PISD Board Member **Carolyn Moebius**, whom he must be wooing for membership as well. That will please Randy no end for it will give him a chance to construct a *Möbius Loop* for the edification of the membership. (The "ö" is often spelled "oe" in languages like ours that eschew diacritical marks.)



Tino bobbled the introduction of guest, **Gary Curtis**, who has appeared more than once, leading **PRINCE JOHN** (first in the line of succession) to salivate still further.

He must, then, have been in full slobber as **Karla Oliver** (fourth in the line of succession) rose to induct **Jeff Hannigan** with the assistance of his sponsor, **Brad Shanklin** (second in the line of succession). Karla offered us no tongue-twisting



adjectival enhancements to **Ken Roberts'** deathless prose, not that she's incapable of it, mind you. She's just...um...considerate.

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Ken Roberts, in need of *Soap Box Derby* volunteers, asked **Ean Sullivan** to explain how to go online with *ClubRunner* and sign up for duties. Ean dutifully told us to go online and volunteer. “How to” apparently eluded him. John told us that the *Boys and Girls Club of Collin County* is not only mounting a **Kids’ Zone Carnival** for *SBD* but also has secured a major donor, *Bank of America*, who will not only fund but also produce 125 volunteers for Race Day, May 22nd. (Ken’s need extends to the setup on Friday, May 21st.)



Michael Baldwin announced a dinner on Thursday, May 20th cosponsored by *ONCOR*, *Collin County Realtors Association*, and the Chamber, at which one can ask questions about energy issues. Someone wanted to know if we can question our energy bills, but that’s not in *ONCOR*’s bailiwick. They deal in energy transmission not provision. (**Sainted Editor** recommends that you go to

<http://www.powertochoose.org>

to research alternative providers and energy savings. When TXU charged him 25¢ per kilowatt-hour, **SE** found a provider for less than 10¢ per kilowatt-hour that used non-polluting wind energy. A 66% savings and green-to-boot is well worth looking into!)

Those interested in the event can learn more about it at

www.planochamber.org/newsletter/2010/2009-images/Ask-Oncor-Plano-eFlier.pdf



Octavio Ortiz introduced the dynamic duo of speakers, **Monica Shortino**, the Executive Director of the *PISD Education Foundation*, and **Beth Webb**, its President.

Monica took her bachelor’s at UNT and got a Masters in Management and Administrative Sciences at UTD. She has been managing non-profits ever since, first for the Bradley Group, then for the Real Estate Council, and finally for our *PISD Education Foundation*.

Beth is half of another dynamic duo, the Plano **CITIZENS OF THE YEAR**, with husband, **Duncan**, an attorney currently on the *PISD School Board*. They have one daughter about to graduate from A&M.

Monica cued up a video of **FUTURE SHOCK** that hinted at the difficulty of educating anyone in an Era of Exponentiating Information. You can see it for yourself on YouTube at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL9Wu2kWwSY

(You might want to disable the annoying sound track.)

After thanking Octavio, *Plano Rotary Club*, and the



many *PISD* Board members who have emanated from it, Monica turned to a *PowerPoint™* to capture our mesmerized attention. She asked us to extend the horrific scare-mongering of the video by recognizing what we’ve taken for granted that no longer exists: pay phones, VCRs, dictionaries, and “*staying out of touch*.” She asked us to imagine what will be obsolete in a decade: textbooks, homework, desktop computers, and the ACT.

She said that a kindergartener today will work until the year 2070 (don’t bet on it; with the rise of successful robotics, we will have to deal long before that with the enormous disruptions of mandatory indolence). “*What tools will be available in 2070?*” she asked. “*Education must answer that.*” (But, of course, can’t...until they’re developed.)

PISD, she told us, is among the 100 largest school districts in the State with 69 schools, over 55,000 students, and more than 7,000 employees. Apparently, they’re terribly satisfied employees in the main, as *PISD* has been voted one of the **BEST PLACES TO WORK** in the area (*Dallas Business Journal*).

For one of the richest districts in the richest county in Texas, 25% of *PISD* students still qualify for free lunches! But, true to historical accolades, *PISD* students perform 10% higher on their SATs than the average and produce the highest number of National Merit Scholars in the State. Twenty four of its schools have received the **NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**.

Moving with the times, *PISD* is working with *Twitter* and *FaceBook* and has concluded a successful ubiquitous laptop program at *Robinson Middle School*. Parents can now access homework and even progress reports online. But, with the ubiquity of two-job households, many problems have arisen for the schools that were in the purview of at-home parents in the past. So while becoming web-savvy, schools are also evolving in *loco parentis*.

Beth arose to tell us how the Foundation fits into all of this. Its mission is to help all students in Plano public schools achieve their full potential by providing financial support for educators and academic programs. She told us that the *Education Foundation* arose from what was once called *Plano Futures*.



It offers **\$1 million** annually in the form of grants approved by the Board and provided by checks from the *Prize Patrol*. She described the excitement in the eyes of the students when their teacher wins a prize.

The Foundation also funds pilot programs aimed at reducing the achievement gaps between students. They focus on the technical areas, particularly math and science that are important in the local economy.



This independent source of funding is a draw to new teachers and a retention tool for existing ones. In an era of limited state and local funding, it

becomes even more essential. She asked Monica to “close the deal,” recruiting Plano Rotary Club donors.

Monica impressed us with the reach of the Foundation, helping 20,000 students. She even took credit for the improvement of 17 out of 25 indicators of student performance, but **Doug Otto** and his crew may have had some small influence on that. The Foundation sent 700 fifth graders to camp this year. It funded ESL classes for some 425 foreign-speaking parents. And the graduates of PISD’s AVID program



amassed \$400,000 in college scholarship offers. So “the funds are working. Your investment is making a difference.”

The Foundation has some 3,000 donors now, some corporate, other foundations, and private donors, including PISD employees themselves who contribute about 10% of the Foundation War Chest! So, how can you help?

- General, unrestricted donations
- Restricted grants
- *SKI PLANO* annual gala
- Employer-matching grants
- Planned gifting

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?

- Honorary and memorial gifts
- Volunteerism

And Beth offered us a yard sign “I © PISD” for a \$100 contribution. She invited us (and 7,999 others) to *Ski Plano* in January. When there were no questions, John presented and retrieved the traditional flashlight.

Ken Roberts mentioned a Monday meeting (past as you read this) to finalize plans for the *Soap Box Derby*. John thanked the City of Plano for its cooperation and sponsorship of the Derby, led us in the Four-Way Test, and thrice belled us out at 1:04 pm.

Gary Mueller led us in a Moment of Silence for the passing this week of long-time Plano Rotary Club member, **Jim Smith**. His Memorial Service was to be held at *Grace Presbyterian Church* at 4 pm this day.



Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award
Chris Parr

Athena Award
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

Fred Moses Award
Richard Butterfly

Business Executive of the Year
Gary Base

Kersey Cane Holder:
Earl Simpkins

Citizen of the Year:
Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:
www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

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