# Spring (Weekly



Volume 6, Issue 130, May 27, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club www.PlanoRotary.com

# **Doin' Wheelies**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

5/27	Club Celebration -65 years
6/3	Troy Villarreal "Medical Center of Plano"
6/10	Senator John Corona
6/17	Duncan Day Advertising "Social Media Networking"
6/24	Queen Susan Shuler

### MAY BIRTHDAYS





**OIN' WHEELIES** doesn't refer to our **SOAP BOX DERMI**, 'cause the cars have no engines...or any motivation beyond willpower and gravity. No, it refers to the jubilance in the recipients of Rotary Wheelchairs worldwide. Of course, jubilation reigns at **SOAP BOX DERMI** as well, but not all the racers share it. One wonders what the agony of defeat does to the character of the fallen. Let's hope it spurs them to successful efforts next year!

**oueen putterfly**, back from successful gall bladder surgery (which **David Allison** insisted on seeing for himself), opened the meeting at 12:20, calling upon



**Brian Stamper** to pray and **Gerald Brence** to pledge. (*"Thanks, Bol*!") She thanked **Alice Hobbs** and **Ben Criste** for greeting.

**SERGEANT JENKINS** was summoned to perform. **Lee Dunlap**, surmising that the Club was in need of therapy, introduced **Marcie Holloway**, a specialist in *Fear-Based Behaviors*. I'm trying to think how that will benefit the Club now that April 15<sup>th</sup> is passed. Of course there's always next year.



Skip himself introduced his guests, **Carol Moebius** and **Nancy Humphrey**, the newest PISD Board of Trustees members. And he urged us to congratulate **Sarah Watkins** for

landing the Plano Senior High School Principal's position, which **Doyle Dean** has been keeping warm for her for some time.

Susan congratulated **Gary Basham** for besting Route 66 by one. His birthday check was most welcome.



She awarded Perfect Attendance Pins to **Kenny Wilson** (2), and **Ed Rawls** (8).

**IFON BULKERFLY** told us she has only six weeks left (which earned her applause) to issue **ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH** awards. No **ROTM** but recognition still for **Robert Lee** and his tireless efforts on behalf of our **HENDRICK SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION COLF TOURNAMENT**  <u>AND</u> in organizing the Kids in Nashville program to assist in their flood recovery.



Robert rose to explain that the May 1-2 flood in Nashville brought 18" of rain. He offered us pictures on our tables of the devastation that wrought. He said that, in terms of per capita damage, it exceeded that of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, but, since Nashville was better off as a

municipality initially, its hurt is "a well-kept secret."

The 30-day supply of essentials from the Red Cross is about to run out, and only 1/3 of the markets are now open. So some 2,000 babies are being diapered in cloth (3<sup>rd</sup> World comfort) rather than disposable (1<sup>st</sup> World waste) diapers. So he has started KIN (Kids in Nashville) to collect and distribute baby essentials, not only diapers but also baby food, formula, etc. He has convinced Susan to take this on for Plano Rotary Club. The donations are warehoused and driven to Nashville by UPS. (That's what BROWN can do for you!) The website for KIN is

http://sites.google.com/site/helpourkin/

Susan told him that the **BUCKET BUCK\$** today would be dedicated to **KIN**.



Earnest Burke reminded us that this (last) Saturday would be our SOAP BOX DERBY. He touted the cooperation

of the *Boys* and *Girls Club* of *Collin County*, the recipient of the lion's share of our

(anticipated) profit. However, to maximize same, he called for 5-10 more donors. Indeed, he offered two tickets to the *Byron Nelson* as incentive for a \$500 donation, and Robert Lee took him up on it! (The



Club giveth, and the Club taketh away.)



Camille Ussery rose to introduce Tom Harmon, the day's speaker to speak on the Wheelchair Foundation. Tom holds a baccalaureate from Penn State and a Master in Business Administration from the University of Dallas. He was Senior Vice President of Human Resources for the PX systems on Army-Air Force facilities. As a Rotarian,

he served two years as Assistant District Governor for 5810. He is now its Co-Director for International Service.

Tom has recently delivered wheelchairs to a leper

colony in Korea and made four trips to Mexico. He surveyed water needs in Malawi, Africa, and spent four days helping to clean up Louisiana after Katrina. Last year, he was two weeks in Hyderabad, India, administering



Polio vaccine to babies.

Right off the bat, Tom hit us with his artificial leg...well, hit us with the *existence* of his artificial leg anyway. But with it, he still played basketball. He still walked up the Washington Monument (prior to 9/11), a feat that might defeat those of us blessed with two legs. One can understand, therefore, his sympathies

for those legless or lame from a variety of causes. He noted that it is especially hard on the young, since they outgrow their artificial limbs annually, and must shed them to obtain new. (Not unlike the penguins, come to think of it, but the youngsters don't have to stand still in some rock shelter for two weeks while their feathers grow in!)

Tom considers himself lucky to have received his limb from the generosity of the State of Pennsylvania. Others aren't so lucky.

5810 has coughed up over \$600,000 for wheelchairs over the years. They're going to Haiti and Darfur, Ethiopia, these days. Tom had a video presentation that Sainted Editor botched up left and right. First, the sound was disabled on the computer, and then Chris activated the wrong video. But it eventually settled down to make its points.

There were photos of kids crowding around the photographer, laughing women, crippled persons riding pig-a-back, walking on hands, walking with sleds, being lifted into Rotary-provided wheelchairs, chanting African women, thumbs up from a wheelchair recipient, Rotarians shaking hands, and an Arab father pushing his daughter in her wheelchair.

The video concluded, Tom scolded us "for taking our mobility for granted." He asked for a show of hands from members who have been on a wheelchair distribution trip. He mentioned that Medicare funds wheelchairs for its clients. But those without insurance have to wait for donations. And those donations needn't be toward the new wheelchairs; secondhand wheelchairs will do as well. He asked us to keep our eyes peeled for available, serviceable wheelchairs.

Although the Chinese wheelchairs that Rotary donates cost \$150, we can get them for \$75 through a matching grant from the Wheelchair Foundation.

**Ean** (who was *Photographe du Jour*) wanted to know where they're going now. Tom told him that they're going to Haiti where the need is matched only by the level of corruption. It is extremely difficult to get anything into Haiti without bribing officials who are reaping a bonanza from international do-gooders. So Rotary is looking to South America if Haiti collapses



under the weight of its graft. Phillip

**Bozzo** wanted to know if the demo chair was

representative. Tom said it was a 20" version and very sturdily built for

all terrain. A child r e q u i r e s a smaller unit.

Susan explained t h e flashlight bait-and-



switch scheme, receiving batteries ("We've never had batteries before!") and playing with the light. She commented that a patient at the Plano Children's Medical Clinic received a wheelchair from Rotary for which she was very grateful.

She handed Robert Lee the 350 collected during the meeting for **KIN**. And she noted that the  $24^{th}$  is her last day, so please remember to



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?

bring her parting presents. If they are insufficient, she'll be forced to stay on another year. Prince John would not approve.

Susan challenged us to remember what we're doing Saturday. **SOAP DOX DERBY.** David Allison reminded us that he needs help with setup Friday afternoon. He also noted that **president butterfly** "doesn't know where our largest project is" being held.

**Ken Roberts** asked for volunteers to drive the trucks that haul the racecars (and occasionally the racers) back uphill to the starting line. He asked for a show of hands of those who will attend and was pleased with the response.

Susan had Lynn and Patti Schwartz stand before the assembly while she told us that "32 years ago, Patti said, 'I do,' and we <u>still</u> haven't figured out why." When they'd left the stage, Susan murmured, "I feel so much better with my gall bladder out! The next six weeks will be different."

And after leading us in the Four-Way Test, she rapped us on the knuckles and dismissed us at 1:01.



## Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award Chris Parr Alice Hobbs 2008-09 Fred Moses Award Richard Butterfly Business Executive of the Year Gary Base <u>Kersey Cane Holder:</u> Earl Simpkins <u>Citizen of the Year:</u> Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website: www.rotaryeclubone.org New Member Proposals:

#### Plano Rotary Club Board of Directors 2008-2009

President Susan Shuler President Elect John Ernst Vice President Brad Shanklin

Secretary Lenny Schwartz

Treasurer Karla Oliver Past President

Rick Maucieri

Sergeant at Arms Skip Jenkins

Membership Chair Nathan Barbera

Membership Vice Chair Ben Criste

Service Chair David Ellis

Service Vice Chair L B Showalter

Public Relations Chair Mehrnaz Iranmehr Public Relations Vice Chair Bob Bauer

Club Admin. Chair Camille Ussery

Club Admin Vice Chair Octavio Ortiz

Foundation David Allison

Foundation Vice Chair Earl Simpkins

At Large Chris Parr Boyd Craig Earnest Burke Kenny Wilson Kirk Bell Casey Stewart

Bulletin Editor Chris Parr

Bulletin Photographer Ean Sullivan

**Bulletin Designer** Kim Oliva Alphagraphics

Printing by Alphagraphics Park & Coit

The Plano Rotary Club PO Box 864316 Plano, Texas 75086 972.596.2585

Support Our Advertisers

