



Fall Weekly

Reader

Volume 135, Issue 195, November 12, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

This Stuff Writes Itself

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov 12th

At Oak Point Nature & Retreat Center
Amy Fortenberry -
Director of parks and Rec

Oak Point Park Nature & Retreat Center
5901 Los Rios Blvd.
Plano, 75074
Meeting Rooms A&B

Nov 19th

Frank Turner-
"History and Future of Downtown Plano"

Nov 26th

No Meeting

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Allan Murovitz	Nov 03
Lissa Smith	Nov 03
Olin Jaye	Nov 05
Martin Jackson	Nov 12
Anthony Miller	Nov 20
Patti Schwartz	Nov 29



SERGEANT ★ BARBERA proclaimed this meeting the start of "No-Shave November." 'Tis the season for our erstwhile **SANTAS** to groom their beards for the holidays. Nathan doesn't have that excuse; it's just a convenient explanation to make for **Alisha** to permit him to become **Nathan Barberian**.

However, he must race to catch up to those already ahead



of him: **Ean**, who catches so many **SANTA** Calls that he can't remember them all (or is that old age?), or Saint-



ed Editor, who becomes **Sainted Nicolas** for Plano's Holiday Parade.

President Paperweight demanded attention at 12:15, summoning **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation and **Alan SPIRITWARE Feigenbaum** for the Pledge. Blair got the nod for Greeting as well. Nathan then mounted the podium to thunderous clap and



welcomed Visiting Rotarian **Jim Adams** from *Richardson Central*. Kelly announced his "Senior Vice President" guest, **Clay Curtiss**, **Lewis Tong** pleaded with us to make his boss, **Jeff Brother**, feel at home. **Jeff Fraunheim** fed daughter **Wendy**

Cassidy, a member of **W's Secret Service** detail, **Jerry Aris** welcomed **Al Hartwell**, and Ean fêted returning Fleet Leasing agent, **Jimmy Richardson**.

Apparently, we're being kicked out of *Gleneagles* next week in favor of a "contract commitment" made to others prior to ours. So we will be meeting at **Oakpoint Park** where we'll hear a presentation from **Amy Fortenberry**, Director of Plano's *Parks and Recreation* Dept. **Bruce** must be working overtime, to save our bacon. Speaking of bacon, we will be served BBQ.



Kelly stood in for the AWOL **Nancy Humphrey** to give credit where credit is due for our successful *Hendrick Scholarship Golf Tournament*. The committee is meeting soon to establish how much good we did for the Foundation, but it wasn't too soon to honor golfers, donors, and volunteers who assisted in the effort. Kelly asked those whose names he read stand, but most just raised their hand, and, as the list promised to consume the meeting, eventually gave up even that. They included **Hubert Aaron**, **Sara Akers**, **Bob Bauer**, **Larry Bisno**, **David Bowman**, **Lori Cecil**, **Jim Cooper**, **Cathy Fang**, **Alan Feigenbaum**, **Dennis Hogg**, **Howard Matson**, **David McWhorter**, **Maria Mott**, **Kelly Palmer**, **Lynette Pieper**, **Wally Reed**, **Blair Ritchey**, **Patti Schwartz**, **Jan Sullivan**, **Debbie Watson**, **Diana** and **Randy Wright**, and **Richard Wells** from the Foundation.

Bob Pikna announced our All Rotary hosted social at **HICKORY** (SE Tollway at 121) on Tuesday next. And Kelly reminded us of **SPIRITWARE** from Alan.

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Carolyn Moebius told us of the Annual **Christmas Party** to occur on December 10th (**Party Barn**). She says details will be available soon on our **facebook** page. (We have a **facebook** page?!? And we've all **LIKED** it, yes?)

Camille Ussery was exasperated with **Scary Bob's** paparazzo impression. "Will you **STOP?**" she pleaded. **Scary Bob** only smiled and clicked away. Camille was in his spotlight to note the **Angel Tree** event announcement on the back of the **Weekly Reader**. She also pointed us to the donation envelopes on our tables. Hint. Hint. We are to email her (Ussery@BTHBank.com) to volunteer.



Kelly returned to the lectern to introduce **Walt Coughlin**, ex-CIA, he said until Walt corrected him "ex-**Secret Service**." His topic: *Tales of the Secret Service*. (That's a clue, Kelly.)



Walt Coughlin was born on an Iowa farm on November 13th, 1934—the youngest of five children. His parents lost the farm in the Depression and moved to town. They had very little formal education, could not find a job, and had to place him in an orphanage in Davenport, Iowa. Walt kept running away from the orphanage, and finally his parents raised enough money to buy him a train ticket to Washington, D.C., where his older sisters resided.

Walt got a paper route in the 5th grade and was never unemployed a day in his life—"until I sold my company at the age of 74." Walt received financial assistance to attend a Catholic High School, not because of academics but rather because he was a pretty good athlete!! He received a Football Scholarship to the *University of Maryland*.

After graduation, Walt served his mandatory two-year military duty in the 82nd Airborne Division in North Carolina and Germany. From there, Walt joined the *Secret Service* in 1958 and was assigned to Charleston, WV, NYC, and finally the *White House* from 1961-1969, traveling to all 50 states and more than 50 foreign countries. After the *White House*, Walt was assigned to Louisville, KY, Omaha, NB, and Dallas, TX.

In 1978, the *Secret Service* attempted to transfer him back to the *White House* to take over the **Jimmy Carter** detail; he said, "No, thank you. I have my 20 years of service," and retired.

Walt opened his own security consulting firm that same year and worked with *Exxon* and *Hunt Oil* in the Middle East, mostly in Yemen, until he sold out in 2009.

He volunteers at *Scottish Rite Hospital*, is a founder of *John Paul II High School* in Plano, and plays a lot of golf. Walt married **Ann Duvall** in 1965. They have two children and five grandchildren, and he is blessed that they are all healthy and live in Dallas.

Walt said that we're all familiar with the *Secret Service* only from "its screw-ups." We're probably not aware that it was founded in 1865, not in response to the **Lincoln** Assassination, but as an enforcement arm of the *Treasury Department* tasked to ferret out counterfeiters! Indeed even the **Garfield** (1881) and **McKinley** assassinations (1901) and the attempts to assassinate **Taft** (1909) and **Roosevelt** (1912) didn't trigger its current mission. It wasn't until 1924 that the *Secret Service* was assigned to protect the Presidents.

(Since then, there have been attempts on the lives of every President except **Dwight D. Eisenhower**! Potential assassins must've figured that the 1st Supreme Allied Commander of WWII would know how to protect himself.)

When **Ronald Reagan** was shot, the first plan was to rush him to the *White House*, but *Secret Service* agent **Jerry Parr**, noting the extent of the injury, insisted on the *George Washington Hospital* Emergency Room, and in so doing, "Jerry saved his life."



Walt was assigned to **John F. Kennedy**, who was "admired for his youth, beauty, and **Jackie**." Kennedy's father, **Joe**, was friends with **Sam Giancana**, Boss of the *Chicago Mafia*. Joe used Sam to lean on **John L. Lewis** to ensure the union vote for JFK. So, with that and the cemetery vote ("if you die a *Republican* in *Chicago*, you become a *Democrat*"), JFK won the electoral but not the popular vote. While "**Nixon** won numerically, he didn't challenge" the results.



On 22 November 1963, the Presidential Motorcade in Dallas shunned protection in favor of political expediency. So there was no *Secret Service* Agent on the back of the car, ready to sacrifice himself after the first, non-fatal shot but before the second one tore apart the President's skull. After JFK's death, the agency and agents were shunned for presumed incompetence. Walt was not in *Dealey Plaza* that day, but, as with the rest of the world, was sickened by the news from there.

The Vice President, Little Baby Jesus, took the Oath of Office, but Walt's mother told him, "If you can't say anything nice..." so he shut up about **LBJ**.

Instead, he was detailed to new VP **Hubert Humphrey**, and followed him overseas, including to Vietnam. Peaceniks were tossing things at and spitting upon the "baby killers." Walt saw the same migratory protesters showing up in San Francisco and Miami days apart. It rendered him a conservative.

While he wasn't in Dealey Plaza, he heard from those who were. They said that the shots were from the right rear of the President's car (the Book Depository). Agent **Clinton** told him the President's brains were splattered forward onto the windshield. And the scuttlebutt among them was that it was a Giancana hit for several Presidential slights, not the least of which was the choice of **Bobby Kennedy** for Attorney General and his ambition to break the mob. Then there was the absence of American airpower at the *Bay of Pigs*, which entrenched **Castro** and denied the Mob a return to lucrative Havana casinos. **Jack Ruby**, a friend of Sam's, was to have plugged **Lee Harvey Oswald** as he exited the Depository, according to this version of events, but Ruby couldn't get there in time, so he went to Plan B at the perp walk.

The last successful Presidential Assassination was 52 years ago. The average lull between them has been 34 years; we're overdue. But "see and be seen" *modus operandi* for politicians means that they'll always be difficult to protect...unless it's **Richard Nixon**. The guy "was a recluse. When he wanted to appear 'cool,' he loosened his tie."

Gerald Ford was the opposite; he "hung out with the guys." **Jimmy Carter** wanted to appear humble, carrying his own suitcase... "but it was empty." **Ronald Reagan** was loved by his *Secret Service*, but they could take or leave **Nancy**. Indeed, First Ladies gave the *Secret Service* greater headaches, especially if there were Presidential children involved.



Bush the First was "accommodating and well liked," and **Barbara** was motherly to the *Secret Service*, bringing jackets and insisting they wear them in the cold and rain.

Slick Willie was resented by his *Secret Service*, all 20 agents of which had higher draft numbers than did **President Clinton**. Of course, Walt insisted, he's not Democrat-bashing. The *Secret Service* must protect Presidential Candidates as well, and **Al Gore** was "a big blob of protoplasm from Tennessee" who cautioned his son to straighten up and fly right or he'd "end up like these guys," gesturing toward the *Secret Service*.

Barack Obama is apparently well-liked, but **Michelle** can be "a pain in the ass," so he hears. But then he recalls Jackie was that way about her children too.

He gave unheeded advice to all politicians: "The best way to treat us is to ignore us." He paused for a second, and then decided to ignore his Mama and tell us that LBJ dammed a creek flowing through his property until the ranchers downstream sold out to him. Then he released the water.

The *Secret Service* used to hire seasoned veterans, but "the kids" these days don't have any discipline. So they booze and whore and get caught at both.

Bob Botts asked if the screening process is at fault. Walt told him it's no longer local; everything is handled in D.C. A wisp of a girl applied to him, and he told her she'd probably get hurt. "You have to have meanness in you."

Scary Bob Epstein asked if training had changed. Walt said that it had improved!

John Ernst asked if they can be called before Congress. He was told "of course," and it would be less stressful than taking a bullet for your assignment. The *Secret Service* agents are the only people on Earth who, when they hear shots, make a target out of themselves to protect their charges.

Kelly gave Walt our dangerous paperweight, and he promised to talk to **Chuck** the *Gleneagles* manager when **Kirk** pointed out Plano *METRO*'s banner. **Lenny** bragged on his 10th grandchild; now "we can field a soccer team!" Kelly told us **no meeting** on Thanksgiving, led the 4-Way Test, and closed at 1:00.

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Please consider joining us with the support of your personal time or financial resources to help make the holidays brighter.

This year, we are partnering with Barron Elementary, Samaritan Inn and YMCA to provide a holiday meal, Walmart gift card and children's toys & necessities. Mr. & Mrs. Claus (aka Ean & Jan) will arrive to celebrate with the children which will put a smile on your face and a tear in your eye.

Shopping:
Thursday Dec 10th @ 7:30am; Walmart at 1700 Dallas Pkwy near Park Blvd.

Wrapping:
Tuesday Dec 15th @ 5:00pm to 6:30pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.

Party:
Saturday Dec 19th @ 2:00pm to 4:00pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.
(volunteer times may vary due to preparation and clean up)

Please email Camille.ussery@bthbank.com if you would like to volunteer your time.