

Fall  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 47, Issue 111 November 21, 2013

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**November 28**

Thanksgiving-No meeting

**December 5**

Dr. Al Johnson  
"The Wellness Revolution:  
Take your Health into Your  
Own Hands to Feel, Think  
& Live Better".

**December 11**

(Wednesday @ 6pm)  
"Holiday Party @ Haggard  
Party Barn and Coat Drive

**December 12**

No Meeting

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Smith, Lissa	Nov 03
Jaye, Olin	Nov 05
Jackson, Martin	Nov 12
Youngblood, James	Nov 22
Schwartz, Patti	Nov 29



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

## Stumpin' for Lt. Governor

**T**EXAS Agriculture Commissioner, **Todd Staples**, was being wired for sound by **Dave McWhorter** when he was asked for a sound check. Todd intoned, "This is David McWhorter," which prompted Dave to mumble that no one would confuse him with the Commissioner. One wonders who insulted whom.

**CAPTAIN KIRK** laconically drew our attention to the start of the meeting at 12:17, convincing **Jan Sullivan** to give the Invocation and **Bruce Glasscock** to invite us to join as a chorus to *Scary Bob's* rendition of the Pledge. Girding up **HIS** loins (sounds uncomfortable), **HE** asked **Rick Maucieri** to serve as **SERGEANT DU JOUR** in **Nathan's** absence.

There being no Visiting Rotarians, Rick invited sponsors to introduce their guests. We welcomed **Dr. Robbie Robinson** (Lissa Smith), **Tammy Hooker** (John Caldwell), **Al Valente** (Kirk Bell), **Shirley Egbert** (Jan Sullivan's mom), and **April Spigner** (Reedy's daughter).



found a reluctant victim in **Bob Pikna**, summoned as "Pitna" by Rick. Bob grew up around NY spending four years at *West Point*. The next 5½ years were spent in the Army where he met and married a fellow lieutenant from his division. Rick asked who was the commander of the pair and was told "she still is." In the quick re-



sponse segment, we learned that Bob prefers beaches, *Beetles*, action movies, **Frank Sinatra**, and his first ("non-gender-specific") kiss of other with family was had at age Sweet 16. Bob joined Rotary "because **KIRK** asked." A late revelation involved Bob's father running a brewery.



Rotary Anniversaries were celebrated for **Larry Bisno** (1), **Jerry Kezhaya** (5),



**Lissa Smith** (5), **Alex Johnson** (10), **Reedy Spigner** (11), **Larry FLASH**



**Flannery** (31), and **Tino Trujillo** (38).

John Caldwell introduced Tammy Hooker who proselytized for Jr. Achievement. She laid it on thick, referring to flyers

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on our tables that called upon business leaders to help Middle School students understand how to apply for, secure, and keep a job through one-on-many tutorials rather than one-on-one mentoring. She pointed out how supportive were **Nancy Humphrey** and **Carrolyn Moebius**, and asked that the rest of us step up to cooperate with the program.



Not to be outdone, **DG Ean** got his licks in for our Youth Exchange program, this year hosting a student from Argentina. He asked **Johnny Lewis** to tout the program, having hosted students in the past. Johnny sabotaged the effort explaining what a pain his student from Hanover, Germany, had been. But his son had been hosted in Chile, so Johnny came to the plate



swinging for the fences. He said that you grow a lot through that experience. And, as in his case, you become *in loco parentis*. Although the Argentine student is here for a year, he will have three or four host families, limiting their tenure to three to four months.

**Pam Little** came to the podium wearing two hats, figuratively. As membership chairman she mentioned the morning's Board meeting having approved Mike McCullough to join Plano Rotary. She also cajoled us to participate in our Angel Tree efforts.



**Sara Akers** got to exchange her Newbie badge for a Big People one, calling out, "*Larry, I did it!*"

**Jamee Jolly** introduced the Texas State Agriculture Commissioner, Todd Staples "*running to be our next Lt. Governor.*"

Todd is a true Texan and Conservative and like [many] in this room of Rotarians, Todd is one of the youngest among his peers of statewide officeholders. [That] just means [we] are surrounded by all of these great people with more wisdom than us, right?

Todd has served as Mayor Pro Tem of his local city council in Palestine, as a State Representative, and as a Texas State Senator. And, just as importantly, as a small-town girl from East Texas who learned so much about leadership during my years with the FFA, he is a former state vice-president of Future Farmers of America, a role that prepared him well for the job he does today as our Ag Commissioner. And he is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Commissioner Staples has worked hard to stop burdensome regulations that would eliminate thousands of Texas jobs. As leader of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Staples is diligent in his efforts to support private sector job creation and economic development across the Lone Star State; improve consumer protection from the grocery store to the gas pump; lead true eminent domain reform in Texas; and play an enormous role in continuing to improve the healthy lifestyles of young Texans.

A former rancher and businessman, Todd graduated with honors from Texas A&M with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Todd and his wife Janet have four children and three grandchildren. Palestine, Texas, is their home, and Todd has served as deacon at his local church, Norwood Heights Baptist Church, for many years."



## 2014 Humanity in Motion Gala

### Volunteers Needed



The final planning and preparations for The Humanity In Motion (Revealed) Gala is about to get underway. This is the 4th annual event, the major fund raising effort for the Rotary Foundation. This is where all of the District 5810 Club members and their guests gather to celebrate our Foundation, the major source of our charity.

The District is asking for volunteers to help with this party. They are looking for folks to help plan, install and execute the event.

Anyone who would like to assist with this exciting event please contact John Moser ([john.moser@txrr.com](mailto:john.moser@txrr.com))

Saturday, February 22 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas. (FYI, there'll also be a sneak peak party on Thursday, Nov. 21...more to follow.)





Todd admitted that he found our club “*entertaining*.” We hoped that he was still entertained at the end of his talk. He lamented that **Olin Jaye** was unable to attend, and he said “hi” to fellow REALTOR® **Randy Wright** then, as a nod to **Howard**, dropped the name of **Senator**

**Shapiro**. He mused that “*Nowhere is the American Dream more alive than here in this State.*” We’ve led the nation in population growth (3.6% in the last two years) and job creation.

The obligatory self-effacing joke followed: he checked in at a motel, announcing himself as “*Staples*,” and the clerk scurried off, only to return with the news that “*We’re out of staples; will a paper clip do?*”

Agriculture is a \$100B industry in Texas, representing 9.5% of the Gross State Product. He noted that 96% of the world’s consumers lie outside the U.S. borders, betraying recognition that the U.S.’s most important world trade items are agricultural. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> most important isn’t technology, it’s higher education!)

His name is on the Seal on every gasoline pump in the State. He has instructed his staff to remove it if gas hits \$4 a gallon but to add his photo if it ever falls to \$2.

Two questions top the list from site selection committees: the availability of water and skilled workforce. Todd’s convinced that we must build more reservoirs. (All lakes in Texas but one are man-made; only Caddo is natural.) Even with recent rains, our reservoirs are only at 62%. Zebra mussels aren’t helping. He’s even recommending desalination with plants fueled by cheap natural gas. The \$2B from Prop. 6 is good but “*a drop in the bucket.*”

As for the workforce, Todd believes “*we’re losing kids in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade,*” and “*jobs don’t require a 4-year degree, but do need advanced training.*”

As a reminder that he isn’t JUST an Ag commissioner, he secured the high ground on the immigration reform hot button. Todd said “*it’s easier for businesses to hire illegal aliens*”

than to hire legally documented immigrants. Farmers claim that they advertise for domestic workers “*but zero apply.*” So he recommends the solutions found in ***Broken Borders; Broken Promises***, a book with the author of which he is intimately familiar. He’d brought a copy today which the Club could use as “*a door prize or a door stop.*” It proposes a six-point reformation starting (surprise surprise) with border security.

**Scary Bob** pointed out that the Border Patrol is outgunned and outmanned. Todd said that AZ and CA have 14 agents/mile of Mexican border, but TX has 7. He advocates game cameras that report real-time border crossings and said that they had apprehended 1,500 individuals and “*tons*” of contraband.

He danced around John Caldwell’s question about the West, TX, explosion saying “*a panel*” will fix the problem.

He was accused of giving illegal aliens driver’s licenses, and he said, “*Some people will say anything to get elected.*” He had endorsed HB396 but illegals were getting licenses prior to that. Todd went on to advocate in-state tuition for properly-vetted aliens.

His sound bite for the afternoon was, “*I don’t want a government big enough to round up 12 million people.*”

**KIRK** mentioned that Todd was excited to hear that he’d not “*be getting a letter opener*” as his memento then presented him with a clock. After harassing Tino with “*you’re still here; good to see you,*” **CAPTAIN KIRK** led us in the 4-Way Test and bade us gone at 1:01.



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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Tammy Hooker

Robbie Robinson

Blane Langston

Al Valente

Shirley Egbert

April Spigner

### Guest Of

Yoram Solomon

Lissa Smith

Lissa Smith

Kirk Bell

Jan Sullivan

Reedy Spigner

### Visiting Rotarian

Mark Thomason

Louise Masters

### Home Club

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Allen Noon

### Awards:

#### 2013 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Myrtle Hightower

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