

Fall

Weekly

Reader

Volume 8, Issue 18, November 4, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club

www.PlanoRotary.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 11/4 Jan Pruitt
"North Texas Food Bank"
- 11/11 Mike Simpson
"The Arts of Collin County and Performance Hall & Arts Park"
- 11/18 Krista Gibson
"Children's Medical Center Foundation"

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/2 SHAWN FOSTER
- 11/3 LISSA SMITH
- 11/5 OLIN JAYE
- 11/12 MARTIN JACKSON
- 11/22 ..JAMES YOUNGBLOOD
- 11/23G.A. DAVIDSON
- 11/24GARY MUELLER
- 11/29 PATTI SCHWARTZ

Greed isn't Good; it's the Best!

Process color is what produces the *Weekly Reader*. It is necessary to reproduce photos. It uses **CYAN, MAGENTA, YELLOW,** and **BLACK** (sometimes called the Four-Color Process)

to reproduce all shades of all colors. (Sometime I'll bore you with subtractive color theory, but not today. Lucky you.) **Kenny Wilson** understands it, but his press didn't produce any **YELLOW** for last week's bulletin, and he didn't have time to fix it, so the *Weekly Reader* had a distinctly anti-**YELLOW** or **BLUE** cast to it. You couldn't, therefore, accuse Kenny or me of **YELLOW** journalism last week. But I'll make up for it in spades this week, skewering *Babbitt*.



Prince John has misplaced the gavel again. He struck the poor, defenseless Rotary Bell thrice with a *Pitchfork* dinner knife. He called upon **Bryan Stamper** for the Prayer and **Ean Sullivan** for the Pledge ("Thanks, **Bob!**"), thanking **Ben Criste**, Ean, and **Kirk**

Bell for tag-team greeting. Then he summoned **SERGEANT JENKINS** away from "the PISD table" to welcome guests. Terribly cliquish those *PISD* mavens! Maybe we just have too many of them; they can outvote City of Plano minions!!

SKIP intoned, "How 'bout them *Rangers*?" in his best good-old-boy demeanor. Then he reminded us just how good (8-0) his *Michigan State Spartans* have become. **LB THE RADIANT** commented, "Even a *blind squirrel finds nuts*," to which **Cary Israel** replied, "Commenting on the **DISABLED**?" **SKIP** concluded safely, "Go, *Rangers*!"

Prince John warned us that the *Dallas North*

Rotary will likely hit us up for raffle tickets sometime in the next couple of weeks. Those of you who just can't wait for their pitch may check out



<http://www.dallasnorthrotaryLLC.com/>

There were only two Perfect Attendance pins to award this day: **Chuck Morgan** (1) and **Vance Bryson** (18).

Prince John queried, "Does Earnest ever not have an announcement?" as **Earnest Burke** arose to complain that he had none last week, a statement that drew applause. And he promised "only a brief announcement" (more feverish applause, to which he replied, "Thank you, **LB!**") before apologizing for having failed last week to announce (!) a two-for-one sale on *Paul Harris Fellowships*. Since we have only 89% PHF participation in the Club, and Earnest says we want 95%, he is reduced to incentives, and you can get a \$1,000 Fellowship for only \$500 outlay (on the first one, not subsequent ones). Someone asked why we weren't shooting for 100%, and Earnest said that he had baited that question. Surely "the *Flagship of the District*" can muster 100%. "Thank you for your question."



Ben Criste announced a *New Member Orientation* at **Tino's** in the Mall that very evening.



Alice Hobbs touted \$100 packages ("worth over \$5,000") to the SuperBowl XLV, but she meant \$100 Raffle Tickets for a pair of SuperBowl tickets. Habitual gamblers among you are directed to the PSO:

www.planosymphony.org/concerts/superbowl_drawprize.asp



She also recommended coming to the weekend's PSO concert in Hallowe'en costume. It was suggested that Prince John was already in costume and needed no other. (And, of course, she wants you to add your vote to the **pepsi** Challenge for their \$50,000 donation. Go to

www.planosymphony.org and click fast on the **pepsi** banner; it disappears in an instant, but you can recover it by backing out of the site and entering again. You have to sign up with **pepsi** and hunt for Arts & Culture "near me.")

John graciously accepted a Birthday



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

continued on page 2

Check from **Jessica** for a trifling amount. When questioned about that, she said, "Well, it must be me since **Martin's** not that young!" **John** concluded that at least she wasn't jailbait.

Chuck Morgan rose to the challenge of offering the speaker's pedigree, and I quote:

Mark Sadowski is Region Manager for the Texas Association of Business, who represents business interests in Austin and Washington. TAB is also the Texas State Chamber of Commerce which includes over 200 Chambers of Commerce in the State of Texas including Plano, Frisco, and Richardson.

Previously, Mark was Division Manager for the US Chamber of Commerce and spent 20 years in the restaurant industry.

Mark is a graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He has been married to his wife, Jill, for 33 years, and they reside in Farmers Branch, TX. They have three children and three grandchildren.

In a laudable attempt to get out the vote, Mark warned us that "only 19 votes from Arlington" decided the majority in the State House. Other implications of that delicate balance are that lobbyists, like Mark, can be very effective in swaying legislation. For example, he claimed victory in killing legislation that would have permitted firearms to be carried into businesses. He also crowed about having preventing lawyers from lobbying the State Comptroller, then he allowed as how the attorneys present might have a different view of that victory.



He spoke of election results that were invalidated because more votes were cast than the number of registered voters in the district. He likened the process to elections in Chicago (where the dead are routinely enfranchised), and **Cary Israel** shouted, "Good!"

In another affront to his sensibilities, Mark noted that it was the Minnesota State Supreme Court that validated the election of **Al Franken**. (Oddly, he didn't complain about the Supreme Court's decision validating **W.**)

He mentioned that the Federal Legislature has recessed without passing the Federal Budget. He was distressed that \$182 B in healthcare and education languish, especially since the graduation rate in Texas is only 64%. However, he seemed justifiably proud that the \$7 B Texas education budget in 1990 increased 10-fold by the last budget. On the dark side was the fact that only *Austin*, *A&M*, and *Rice* are **TIER ONE** schools. He supports the current efforts to increase their number. He said it's needed to support a good "business climate."



But (surprise surprise) TAB opposes Obamacare. All of their efforts to derail it came down to failing to dissuade one vote last December. He seems to sympathize with the destitute being required to "buy a product whose cost is rising twice as fast as their income." And he predicts woe and damnation for businesses condemned to offer health care for all workers. And insurance companies will, according to Mark, refuse to insure children without their parents.

He reserves special vitriol for the obligation to insure pre-existing conditions, which he likened to being able to buy home insurance "when you smell smoke." As conservative as our members are, even they grumbled at his analogy, several voicing, "No." (He seemed to want to have his cake and eat it too since he complained about the obligation to purchase health insurance which, in turn, vitiates his home insurance argument!)

However, he praises Attorney General **Greg Abbott** for vowing to gut Obamacare, even though it's not his call. He predicted that all the healthy young people (**LB** thanked him) will fail to buy health insurance, preferring to pay the penalty. He cited Massachusetts as having the most expensive healthcare due to its purchase mandate. (But MA at \$6,700 per capita healthcare expenditure can't hold a candle to DC at \$8,300! See www.statehealthfacts.org)

LB, content that Mark had unloaded all the things he opposes, asked him, "What do you support?" The answer was "tort reform." He claimed that as a direct result, all Texas counties have a licensed physician and an ER physician. He stated that there are now 7,000 more doctors (who couldn't have practiced in the evil atmosphere of terror imposed by malpractice



suits). But he noted that resultant reduced costs have not been passed on to the consumer. So he advocates insurance reform (a remark that drew his only applause).

Of course, the market is the solution to all ills. So TAB supports competition and opposes the captive patronage implied in prohibitions on buying healthcare insurance across state lines. He says that there are virtual monopolies within any given state.

Mark is livid about the mandates of Obamacare on the State of Texas. He goes apoplectic considering that insurers will now have to support Viagra, hair plugs, and BIRTH CONTROL! (Heaven forefend that the federal government might interfere with unplanned pregnancies.)

All of this will exacerbate the State's \$20 B deficit.

Cary piped up again, correcting Mark, "\$25 B." Not to be outdone, Mark claimed the possibility of \$30 B by January. Cary wanted to know how those deficits will be cut, especially since there'll be no gubernatorial debate. He complained that \$1 B will be cut from the higher education budget. (But Cary knows that, as a direct result of Texas' fiscal mismanagement over decades, the courts—and the Constitution—have restricted legislative budget authority to higher education and little else. There's nowhere else they're permitted to cut.)



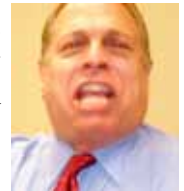
Mark's contention is that only cuts will amend the deficit because "we GOTTA keep taxes down!" The Federal Government is "throwing money around" at labor unions (must be counterproductive to a capitalist), states (surely they don't need it in this economy), etc.

Cary told him "I'm going to turn away 10,000 students because there's no advocacy for keeping community colleges doors open." But there's "a lot of language about

TIER ONE." And community colleges are essential for "putting people back to work, and that's more important" than **TIER ONE.**

Someone suggested he run for office. Mark demurred (why take a less powerful position?), but the commenter said, "No, I meant him!" in response to which Cary struck a campaigning pose.

In justification of the endorsement, Cary said, "I worked for the only Illinois governor who didn't go to jail." When he died, in the 70s, \$3 M was found stuffed in his mattress. Cary claimed that he was the governor's lawyer, and then he declared himself a write-in candidate and sat down.



Returning to the task of excoriating Congress, Mark told us that Cap and Trade legislation would increase energy costs 10% but that it is "stalled in the Senate, and I want to ensure that it stays there." If Republicans sweep Congress, they'll kill it, he predicted.



Even worse was legislation that would mandate that you report your employees' existence to "union bosses" with which they could unionize feudal businesses! (Clearly, it's the work of Satan.) And don't get him started on illegal immigration; we should "ship 'em all back." Instead there's the blasphemous suggestion that "they be made citizens! Raise your hand, if you're an illegal alien!" **George Wong's** hand was raised by

Cary Israel. Well, it's apparently "good to have you here."

Finally, he trotted out a letter from an incensed physician (**Stephen Fraser**) to Senator **Evan Bayh**. (It's actually a chain e-mail that was circulated anonymously in 2009 and, only months later, was attributed to a Dr. Fraser as a letter to Bayh. It referred to legislation under consideration that wasn't passed.) He cited

- a government committee that would

- determine your death
- free health care to illegal aliens
- government direct access to your bank accounts
- a mandate for advanced care consultation

and on and on. If you want to see a detailed fact check on this "letter" from politifact.com, point your browser at

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2009/jul/30/e-mail-analysis-health-bill-needs-check/>

Earnest Burke (rebuked by *Scary Bob* for not speaking up) said that in the absence of health care reform, the burden falls on states (ill-equipped to handle it), and he wanted to know



"How would you do it?" Instead of replying, Mark launched into a history of employer-provided health insurance. It arose as a benefit to offer workers when wages and prices were frozen in WWII. Competition ensured that all businesses had to adopt it. But now, Mark claimed, with the "public option, insurance companies will be going out of business."

Patti Schwartz questioned whether insurance of pre-existing conditions will put insurance companies out of business. She said that the rates of reimbursement by United Health Care cover only half of costs of treating clinic patients, and the clinic can no longer use that carrier.

Mark lamented that businesses offer insurance coverage that is "too good" and being penalized by a "40% tax on superior" Cadillac programs.

He predicted that all of this would be decided in the Supreme Court, and the swing



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?

vote of Justice **Anthony Kennedy** was unpredictable. He also predicted that, instead of overturning Obamacare, a Republican Congress will simply refuse to fund it.

Kirk Bell asked whether Mark thought that a lame duck Congress will permit the Bush tax cuts for the rich to expire. Mark said, "We support tax cuts for everybody. It's the only way to get them to hire." (It's as if employers only hire when they get tax incentives, not when they want to make a profit.)

Prince John thanked Mark for "giving us a lot to digest," which received applause. He went on to tout the Collin County Adult Clinic as among those institutions dedicated to serving the uninsured. **Bryan Stamper** said he'd waive the \$5 fine for John's advertisement.

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, John struck us gone at 12:59.

Sainted Editor encountered Mark Sadowski after his talk.

Chris: *You know that the richest 1% of Americans control only 80% of the wealth. That's too little, isn't it?*

Mark: *It is what it is.*

Chris: *So you don't care?*

Mark: *Do you?*

Chris: *Thank you!* (And armed with that damning quote, he sauntered off. Unfortunately, Mark wasn't through indicting himself. He called after **Sainted Editor**.)

Mark: *You know that the richest 1% is constantly changing. Some of the poorest 1% rise to there.*

Chris: *Of course!*



Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award

Chris Parr

Athena Award

Rebecca Caso

Fred Moses Award

Richard Butterly

Business Executive

of the Year

Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:

www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

Jerry Curtis

Proposed By: Timo Trujillo

Classification: Software Sales

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