



FALL Weekly

Reader

Volume 218, Issue 283, October 12th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Waste Not Workforce

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct 12
DG Rick Amsberry

Oct 19
Corey Proctor
"Power of the Huddle"
- Former Dallas Cowboy

Oct 26
Nancy Humphrey
"Hendrick Scholarship Foundation
Presentation"



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| John Caldwell | Oct 06 |
| Justin Roche | Oct 07 |
| Rick Horne | Oct 08 |
| Janis Allman | Oct 18 |
| Jessica Jackson | Oct 26 |
| J. Marc Lewis | Oct 27 |
| Casey Stewart | Oct 31 |



MIKE ROBBETT was caught by *Scary Bob* sneaking into the meeting late as a two-fisted diner. *Sainted*

Editor can hardly chastise him for that; *SC* is himself a *four*-fisted diner: soup, salad, entrée, and dessert. But he *never* gets caught since he is the first to arrive, having to wolf down his lunch before the meeting starts, to be ready for (poison pen) reportage.

The Unpaupered Prince opened the conclave at 12:11, invoking **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation and pledging **Justin Roche** to the Pledge. **SERGEANT KRAMER** did the honors regarding no visiting Rotarians.



Alex Johnson extolled the virtues of his guest, **Sid Sharma**, Director of *Impact Leadership* and instrumental in the success of Alex's Interact/Rotaract Summit the previous weekend.

Mary Jo Dean welcomed **Catherine Bywaters** coming to us fresh from Leadership Plano. And Rick Horne welcomed back member candidate, **Francis Cartwright**.

Andy Sayers failed to provide an embarrassing admission during his impromptu recall of his many outside interests. Those



included his time with the *Muscular Dystrophy Association*, his church's summer camp, and other volunteering with like-minded "big hearts," such as Alex and others.

Alex led us in a stir-less rendition of *Happy Birthday* to Rick Horne who had just become a Senior Citizen. **Bruce Mr. Clean Glasscock** sought to console him with the thought of his newly-acquired property tax exclusion.



Rick struggled on to award Justin Roche his three-year Rotary pin and to fête PDG **Brad Keith** on his 46th year in Rotary! He continued by noting member October birthdays including

Casey Stewart's on *Hallowe'en*; he's obviously going as a ghost. No one's told him of the **Fred Moses** Debacle.

Jamie Schell promised more than his allotted Rotary Minute to tell us that the 30-year, \$1.5B Polio+ Project still isn't finished. However, there *were* only 11 cases reported worldwide, so we must "keep donating and one day it *will* be gone."



Alex noted that the Interact Club is celebrating Polio Day, and **Kelly Palmer** reminded us that former member and Past President **Ken Kersey** had been afflicted with polio. (Here he is in an archival photo with **Ray Huffines**.)





Jamie noted the Club Perk that matches your initial \$500 contribution to the RI Foundation enabling you to acquire a Paul Harris Fellowship for half price. He also recommended joining the Club's 33 PH Sustainers who contribute continuously to the RI Foundation. (*Sainted Editor* reminds one and all that half our donations come back to 5810 to be redistributed throughout the district, and we can apply for those funds.)

Jamee Jolly and Justin Roche announced the formation of **Plano Prime**, a sort of *Leadership Plano* for Senior Citizens, appropriate now to the President of the *Geriatric Club of Plano*. Flyers were available on the sign-in desk. Applications are due by November 15th.



President Horne read us part of a letter by **Neil Matkin**, President of *Collin College*, thanking us for the opportunity to speak, not to mention the **\$500** check he hauled away for scholarships.

Rick reminded us of the canned goods we were stocking up for **Minnie's FOOD PANTRY**. They were to be unexpired, not "*swelling*," and available by the end of this month. Volunteers are needed to package them up for the recipients.

He also noted the following weekend's **WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S** for which one can get a keen tee-shirt for a \$100 donation. Then he praised Alex for an "*excellent program*" with the Interact Summit serving 400 kids and garnering sponsorships, including the Club's.

Janis Allman begged for volunteers at Saturday's (Oct. 14th) **PLANO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** to be held in Haggard Park. Two-hour shifts begin at 11, 1, and 3. Plano Rotaries participate.



Nancy Humphrey, beleaguered liaison for *Hendrick Golf Tournament*, also needs volunteers for the Monday, Nov. 13th, event. Alex wondered if **Sarah Watkins** could excuse her Interactors to service the event that (school) day.

Mary Jo Dean introduced the Founder and Chairman of **MY POSSIBILITIES**, **Charmaine Solomon**, charmaine@mptx.org. From the organiza-

tion's website:

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered Play Therapist based in Plano, Texas. My professional experience includes working with at risk youth at *CITY House*, and most recently private practice with *Fletcher and Associates*. Utilizing a solution focused approach my specialties include play therapy, adolescents, special needs, adults, as well as family therapy.



In my role as a wife of a corporate executive, mother of a blended family of four children, one with special needs, I have gained a unique and personal understanding of the complexities of personal dynamics. I am very passionate about helping my clients overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

I was born and raised in South Africa and have worked and studied in South Africa, England and the USA. After completing my undergraduate degree at the *University of Texas, Dallas*, I completed my Masters degree in Counseling at *Amberton University*. With my personal and professional experiences on three continents I feel I am able to share a richness of cross-cultural diversity, international, corporate and counseling experience with my clients.

Christian Counseling is available to those who desire it. As a Christian I hold personal beliefs in Biblical principles, promises, and the power of faith and prayer however I am very sensitive to my client's positions regarding their own personal beliefs.

I am a current member of both the *American Counseling Association* and *The Association for Play therapy*.

On a more personal level, I am an active church member. I believe in being an active community member and enjoy making a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities in the Plano community. I have been an active CASA volunteer for more than 8 years, as well as one of the founding members of **MY POSSIBILITIES**. **MY POSSIBILITIES** is a continuing education, adult day program for adults with special needs in Collin County.

Charmaine began by explaining that **MY POSSIBILITIES** is "*meeting the needs of so many HIPsters*," an acronym she promised to address later and did. (Hugely Important Persons, really?) She introduced us to "*several new programs*," which we had the "*opportunity*" to support. She introduced herself as "**Kyle's mother**," referring to her special needs son. Her company moved the family to Plano, and Kyle was put into *PISD* Special Education, but they were concerned with his well-being AFTER that service was done. There is "*a Black Hole after graduation*" that grants special needs children "*few opportunities*." "*Life-long Learning doesn't exist*" for such people; it is "*devastating*" to "*put them in front of a TV*" for the rest of their lives.



Seeking out other mothers of special needs children, she asked, "*What do you do?*" She created an organization of such mothers and was gratified and surprised when "*100s of people showed up*." It was a DIY project, but they first had to locate a rental location which was difficult given the prejudice against the challenged. Finally a landlord with a special needs daughter was found and the group located to a Custer Road venue.

The next challenge was financing, so \$200K Bake Sales later, they enrolled their first 10 students...and it's "*growth is now exponential*." It would have to be to serve the 1/4 million in the nation. So prevalent are they that 1/3 of everyone knows at least someone with a special needs

child or adult. **MY POSSIBILITIES** benefits not only the students but also their families by permitting caregivers to go to work worry-free.

MP has purchased property near Coit and Independence and must move in by April 2018 as they have outgrown the current facility.

MP teaches Lifelong Learning Skills including educational, social, and financial. They take the time to “*find out what they want*” rather than telling their clients what to do. Some focus on musical skills; one was found to have perfect pitch. It’s that sort of thing that “*changes your life when exposed to them.*” The organization is “*the first of its kind in the U.S.,*” and its expansion requires \$25M, 15 of which has been secured.

Students become depressed when they leave the security of high school “*until they make friends at MY POSSIBILITIES.*” And **MP** serves 500 kids every week. It could not continue without the many volunteers (check out the unending staff list online) and donors. For their clients, it engenders thoughts of “*This is where I belong, where my community embraces me.*”

Mary Jo asked Charmaine to share what kind of jobs her clients can do. She told us

- Hospitality industry
- Catering
- Restaurants
- Janitorial services

And one issue is that the employers must be trained in “*how to work with special needs workers.*”

Alex asked if **MP** is similar to *Mosaic*. He was told that they have a similar therapy program and they cooperate with **MP** to transfer clients.

Olin Jaye asked how **MP** is funded. Charmaine said that it has a Gala, a Golf Tournament, and a 5K Run raising \$1.2M. It gets grants from *United Way* and foundations. And the Culinary Department is self-sustaining.

President Horne gave her the multiport charger, reminded us of the **DG’s** visit next week and the Board meeting at 10 then, led us in the 4-Way Test, and belled us out at 12:54.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Francis Cartwright

Catherine Bywaters

Sid Sharma

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None

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Rick Horne

MaryJo Dean

Alex Johnson

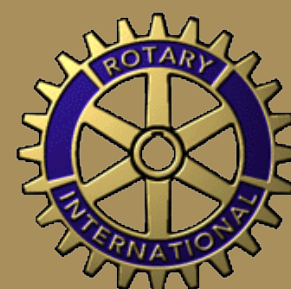
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