



F a l l Weekly

Reader

Volume 292, Issue 357, October 17th, 2019

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

RYLARIANS ON THE SPOT

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 17th
Pursuing Through to Achievement

Dr. Stanley T. Crawford

October 24th
World Polio Event!
NO NOON MEETING

(Please see back of reader)

October 31st
NTTA – Current & Future Projects

Michael Rey

Nov 7th
NO NOON MEETING

(1st Thursday of the Month)

ENDPOLIONOW

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



LANELL MOROLD, professional photographer, was (presumably) humiliated to be holding *Sainted Editor's* slightly-malfunctioning Point'n'Shoot after she volunteered to take the pictures in this Bulletin. It isn't what she's used to, but that's the price you pay being so talented and sitting at *Sainted Editor's* table.

JOFFREY THE JOVIAL called for an end to our frivolity at 12:13, summoning **Blair Ritchey** to Pray and **Kelly Palmer** to Pledge. He thanked **Maria Mott** "in absentia" for Greeting and directed us to give it up for **SERGEANT RICK HORNE**.

Rick channeled **Elvis**, saying, "Thank ya vurry much." Then he recognized a multitude (by previous meeting standards) of Visiting Rotarians, including **Daniel Long** (Metro), **Jim Duffy** (Addison Midday), and the long-suffering **Sharon Lewis** (Plano Sunrise).

Janelle Twyford-Silvis welcomed guest and hotel magnate **Allan Shahan**, **Randy Brod-**



head fed wife Kathy and son-in-law **Colin Earp** (who, though he hails from Toronto-the-Good, is actually British and claims to be brave,

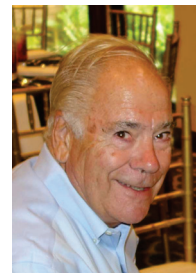


evidence of which is being married into the Brodhead family), and **Sarah Watkins** introduced the quartet of RYLarians to speak



today: **Jeremy Plenger**, **Riley Bautista**, **Samvida "Sam" Srivastava**, and **Madison "Maddie" Kriska**.

Sam took the mic and advertised her group's planning and creating a freestanding library in Haggard Park with a \$50 grant for materials. Readers can borrow and donate books to this micro-library.



Before he embarrassed anyone in his **3 Minutes of Torture**, Rick practiced embarrassment upon **FLASH**, calling **Larry Flannery** out as a "Visiting Rotarian." Then he turned his attention to new member **Bob Kehr**.



Bob was born in North Platte, Nebraska, but grew up in the Texas Panhandle, the tallest place within which was "the table." In 2001, he moved from Stockholm, Sweden, to Plano where he currently heads up *Kehr Technologies*. Favorite job: anything for which he can volunteer. Candy: chocolate. Dessert: yellow cake with chocolate (surprise surprise) frosting. Pet: dog. Vacation: mountains. Hobby: reading.

Johnny Lewis thoughtfully donated his *Rotary Minute* to the RYLarians.

JOEFF reminded us of our 10/24 meeting at **HUB Street Food Port** (1212 14th Street) at 5:30 instead of noon.

"Rock Star" **Janis Allman** begged for volunteers to staff the Rotary Booth at Sat-

continued on page 2



urday's **PLANO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** which runs from 11 to 5 in two-hour shifts. **Sainted Editor** noted the PSO's *Dancing with the Symphony* program with **PIF** at the Courtyard Theater starting at 5. (He and Pat attended the event, which exceeded all expectations. Next year, it will be SRO. You have been warned!)



Janis also mentioned that the 75th Anniversary meeting (TBA) will be on a Tuesday at **Tino's**. Manager **Raul** noted that he will open the place for a buffet and Happy Hour dinner.

Miraculously, **JOEFF** recognized the contributions of **Howard Matson**, sitting in for an AWOL **Karen**, out for her shingles shot.



JOEFF then called **Hubert Aaron** and **Mary Jo Dean** up to the podium to have the former gift the latter with a \$115 **Bubba's Bucket** contribution to the **Hendrick Foundation**. After a rouseless rendition of **Happy Birthday**, he invited **FLASH** to draw from a fez a lucky winner from among the celebrants present and Janis won, designating this month's pot to **Hendrick Foundation** yet again.

Blair Ritchey announced his passion toward the **International Student Foundation** which sends kids who age out of foster care to college.

Johnny Lewis then introduced Jim Duffy, active in RYLA since he joined Rotary in 1991. He has served as Camp Operations Director as well as on the 5810 Camp RYLA Committee. In addition, he

is a charter member of **Addison Midday Rotary**, a Paul Harris +5 Fellow, Benefactor, and Sustaining Member. His career has been in construction and development, and he has served on the Addison City Council.

Jim told us that 5810 has sent 6K+ kids through Camp RYLA, Youth Leadership Camp. All were rising seniors in high school. All had demonstrated leadership skills to get in and, while there, "*honed those skills*" receiving "*new tools*." This is the 30th year of RYLA. It is supported by RI with participants chosen by the Clubs in 5810. It is a one week camp, staffed entirely by volunteers. No one gets 1¢.

There are gender-segregated cabins of up to a dozen students plus two camp counselors. The cabins are paired into coed "*working groups*" run by the students themselves. Every student is on a committee; committees now include social media, movin' with the times. There are some 12-15 committees from which to choose.

Care is taken that the students all start out as strangers. No two students from the same school are billeted in the same cabin. So they are encouraged to "*step out of their comfort zone*" to make new friends, and, judging from past student presentations, they keep those when the camp is finished.

The day runs from calisthenics at 6:30 am to lights out at 11 pm. All the hours in between are chocked full of activity. But all of it depends upon our support, so please continue to do so.

PSHS Principal Sarah Watkins (above left) put in her 2¢; she said that she was always amazed as "*year after year, the kids gush about RYLA*." She described it as "*cloaked in mystery*" until we hear from the participants. "*A couple of our grads became Assistant Counselors!*" She was pleased that social media is now a feature of Camp RYLA; it was "*not there at the inception*."

She had brought four RYLarians to speak to us today. They are a part of a group of 12 PSHS students, one in each cabin. The first up to address us was Jeremy Plenger.

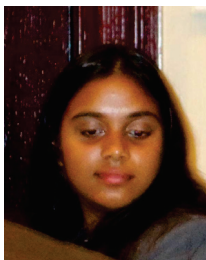
Jeremy is part of the Lacrosse Team, "*if you know what that is*." He's also in the Marching Band. (And I didn't know Lacrosse Teams rated marching bands!) He said he received a note to "*come to the office IMMEDIATELY*," which caused him no small amount of trepidation. He was instructed to apply for RYLA without being told its purpose. But, dutiful in extremis, he did so.

As the list was narrowed down, his name kept percolating up until at last he was chosen. He arrived late; the camp was already at calisthenics! He jumped in.

His experience tracks that of others: he is still in contact with friends made at RYLA, which "*feels like family*" by the end of the week.



Our second speaker was Riley Bautista. He was not bothered by the secrecy involved with his summons. *"The best way to get me to go" is with a "compelling mystery."* RYLA *"changed my perspective"* on leadership. Having returned, he has become a Student Congress Chair, planning *"big events."* RYLA *"helped me trust what happens around me."* He is also in AP Environmental Sciences.



Samvida Srivastava has become involved in INTERACT at PSHS. She is President of the Marching Club. Sam explained that RYLA is like an amazing bubble; she described arriving, being pulled from the car and doused with water. *"Everything is so positive."* At the volleyball competition, you root for the other team! RYLA taught her *"about myself and my interactions with others."* And she thanked us for our sponsorship.

Madison Kriska admitted to being a little paranoid until she hit the *"bubble of encouragement"* that is RYLA. She said that the groups *"cheered for failures."* They engaged in Olympic Outdoor Games like canoe racing *"and corn holeing"* (!). (Not sure what she meant by that last one.) She cheered on a canoe team that was slowing down, it sped up and came in 3rd, which generated some points. Although *"it didn't come in first, we made them feel they'd done their best."* As evidence of the change wrought in her, Maddie told us that she could not have given this speech before RYLA.



Jeff Beckley asked the first question regarding the application's competition. Jim Duffy responded that 191 students were selected from around 1800 applicants. A few years ago, RYLA tried to accept over 200 students, but that large a group *"didn't have the best experience. When groups get large, they don't learn."* But, since there are last minute cancellations, RYLA maintains a waitlist. So there are campers and alternates. Since not every club selects alternates, Jim encouraged us to do so. These kids *"are at the top of their game"* and are *"worried about competing,"* but RYLA's *"bubble"* is a *"safe place."*

He told a story about one student who was going to be a doctor because both her parents were in medicine. But she really wanted to be a dancer. RYLA gave her the courage to confront her parents about her choice, and, to her astonishment, they were supportive! She's *"now dancing in New York."* So RYLA permits you to *"step outside your comfort zone by being a risk-free zone."*

He put the RYLarians on the spot asking who among them is aiming for Rotary; four tentative hands went up.

Rick Horne told of being on the selection committee during the interviews with Sarah Watkins. *"It was too stressful!"* Sarah took all the credit, saying, the students *"make us proud."*

Johnny Lewis reminisced about driving four incipient RYLarians to Bridgeport Lake in 1989. One anxious mother made him promise that her son would be safe; he turned his ankle at RYLA. That was awkward at pickup time. The students who began quiet soon were conversing among themselves while Sharon slept. *"Thanks, dear!"* Sharon said. But on the way back, by the time they'd reached Midlothian, they were all sacked out!

When asked for a description of RYLA in a single word, the students hazarded **NEEDED**, **BEAUTIFUL**, **MAGICAL**, and **EYE-OPENING**, which, being hyphenated, was accepted as a 'single' word.

Hubert's phone rang, and he was charged a \$5 fine. Jeff led us in the 5-Way Test and dismissed the body at 12:59.



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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

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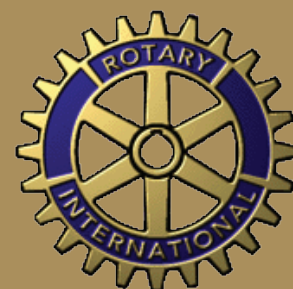
Guest of

Janelle Twyford-Silvis
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Randy Broadhead

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Visiting Rotarian Home Club

Daniel Long	Metro
Sharon Lewis	Sunrise





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ROTARY'S
WORLD POLIO DAY
ONLINE GLOBAL UPDATE
24 OCTOBER 2019

Visit the Rotary International Facebook page to RSVP
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