

Volume 9, Issue 59, October 18, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club www.PlanoRotary.com

PRIDE OF LIONESS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 18:

Robert Epstein "D-Day--Battle for Freedom"

> **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Maucieri, Richard Oct 05 Horne, Richard Oct 08 Sullivan, Jan Oct 10 Botts, Robert Oct 20 Watson, Debra Oct 25 Jackson, Jessica Oct 26 Lewis, J. Marc Oct 27 Stewart, Casey Oct 31



ainted Editor wants to thank The Phantom Crocheter for filling in for him while he basked in the Paradise that is California. He frightened her



with tales absences to come, so we'll put out a general for volunteer editors to ease her burden. Presumably Hubert Aaron, former 5810 editor, will step up as might Rick

Maucieri, but there must exist others with the skill that are eager to have a go. We'll need

substitutes for the meeting days between November 1st and the 22nd. Although, since the 22nd is Thanksgiving, it will be a really brief meeting, so it's safe to assume we'll need only three meetings covered. (I'll think of you guys while I'm snorkeling in the Galapagos.)



Then in December, I'll miss the 20th (we'll all miss the 27th) and January 3rd and 10th. So another three editors must be dragooned then. (I'll think of you guys while tangoing in Buenos Aires.) Tim McCord will take the photographs and supply them (a) on your own Compact Flash Card, (b) as email attachments, or (c) on a CD,

Lenny the LampLighter summoned our attention at 12:17 and regaled us with pithy aphorisms relating to education, appropriate to today's speaker, Memorial Elementary School Principal Sarika Pride.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

--- Nelson Mandela

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

--- Aristotle

"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."

--- Daniel J. Boorstin



Lenny called upon Joe Foor for the Invocation and Tino Trujillo for the Pledge. ("Thanks, Bob!") He credited Reedy Spigner for greeting, and called SERGEANT-DU-John Parker announce Visiting Rotarians

On the Club's behalf, he welcomed Bill Langley and

and Guests.





Steve Vitasek (Metro), and David Craig (Sunrise). Joe Foor welcomed his guest, Rick



John Ernst lost his guest, Larry **Bisno**, to another table. (Larry is being published for membership.) Randy Wright witnessed the

Return of Prodigal Son, **Satinder Baweja**, to visit. **Cary Israel** introduced **Bracy Wilson**, a charter school tycoon. We should ask him about vouchers.



LENNY told us of the productive Board Meeting that preceded today's luncheon by a few hours. (Members, especially Newbies, are encouraged to attend, <u>and</u> there're donuts! Thus, Sainted Editor gets to indulge in A donut once a month.) **HE** mentioned

- 1. Our \$2,500 donation to the RI Foundation to honor END POLIO Month.
- 2. Bidding on an improved sound system for our meetings, one involving lavaliere microphones (which free the speaker to wander) and impedance matching mixers to feed Pitchfork's STATE OF THE ANT MONOPHONIC room speakers. (Sainted Editor couldn't argue stereo much less 5.1 since mono cost almost as much as the donation above!)
 - a. **LENNY** announced that **Herb Hoxie** had generously got us ½ way to that goal.
 - b. We were to include whatever contribution moved us in the bucket.

En passant, notice of Rotary themed Texas license plates was circulated at the Board Meeting. They've been

available for two years. \$22 of the fee goes toward the Texas Tuberculosis Program (which doesn't promote the disease, of course, but seeks to identify and treat illegals from the south who carry the disease



through Mexico *en route* to the U.S. Mexico has an illegal problem as well; immigrants from the rest of Central America often bring TB into their country, so we aren't the only nation seeking to secure our borders.) If you're interested, visit

https://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us/NASApp/txdotrts/SpecialPlateOrderServlet?grpid=60&pltid=335



Flash
Flannery
blamed Howard
Shapiro for
requesting a
repeat of the joke
about the disabled



pirate who scratched his eye out with a newly-fitted hook. You're

right; it is an inappropriate subject for mirth, but larry's point was rather to comment on his Off the Hook program for the Club. Our badges all now bear hooks (a fact confirmed by an impaled Ean Sullivan) that we can have removed by bringing a credible applicant to our

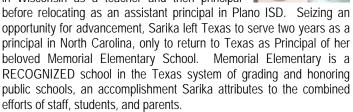
meetings. But it's not the last we then see of the device, because, if the visitor actually joins the Club, we get a **GOLDEN HOOK** attached instead! (That's <u>much</u> nicer by which to get stuck.)

LENNY reiterated mention of Jan Sullivan's birthday now that she had deigned to show up. Someone asked about the "frowny face" attached to the lectern, and

LENNY said that it expressed sadness at the recent loss of *UT* to *West Virginia*. (It will be doubly sad after *UT*'s performance during the *Texas-OU* game.) **LENNY'S** contention was that *UT* had simply "run out of time," and, someone mentioned, possession of the ball.

Chuck Morgan introduced the day's speaker, *Memorial Elementary* Principal Sarika Pride.

Sarika Pride began her career in education in Wisconsin as a teacher and then principal



After 15 years in education, nine of which have been as an administrator and three of those as Principal of Memorial Elementary, Sarika is still excited about her work, still feels honored to work with such a wonderful group of educators, and still feels like her only home is Memorial Elementary.

This year in particular can only add to Sarika's excitement and sense of accomplishment as Memorial Elementary transitions into a new building. And though she has much to occupy her time as principal, mother of two, dramatist and children's ministry volunteer in her church, she bids each of us to stop by anytime, as her door is always open to members of the Plano Rotary.

She bounced to the podium begging forgiveness for her stage fright (even though she's faced us down twice before).

She showed us slides of the new building at *Memorial*, moving them even closer to *Bowman Middle School*.

She explained AYP (adequate yearly progress) measured by the STAAR test. Then she revealed that *Memorial* had failed two of four AYP measures by 1%, but, to the State, a miss is as good as a mile. That was in 2011. By 2012, the measure



was a tad worse. So *Memorial* has been pulling itself up by its own bootstraps. The feds have applied a goal of 100% AYP by 2013.

And it seems to be working. Proficiency rates have increased from 80 to 87% in English Language Skills and from 75 to 83% in Math. (If Memorial can make the same progress for the next two years, they'll make the goal!) And this is in the face of a two-year disruption due to the construction and subsequent moves. Only four families left *Memorial* for other schools. It shows loyalty.

Memorial has held a "Strong Father" event drew 150 that supportive fathers. One little girl was devastated; "I forgot my father!"

They have also held Student Council Elections for the first time. The students took their duty as citizens quite seriously while electing class officers.



However, we Rotarians can help. school needs **MENTORS**, and we father- and mother-figures can fill that void. It also needs FUNDING, especially for teacher-appreciation events (not sponsored by PISD) and the Student Council. These would normally be in the purview of the PTA, but, with the economic level of the neighborhood, we need to lend a hand. Sarika is after lunch money for required Saturday in service and other teacher meetings. She would also like to get the teachers some tee-shirts and the students posters for their council elections.

She touted Kenny Wilson's donation of yearbooks for all the students! And she sought field trip funds for **Debbie Watson's** Plano Symphony Orchestra's Children's Concerts and trips to the Science and Technology Discovery Center.

She thanked Plano Rotary Club for its past support of some of these efforts and for its Citizenship Awards, suggesting that the Four-Way Test medallions may encourage future Rotarians!

The renovations are (almost) finished, and Memorial will be re-dedicated at 6:30 pm on November 8th. We are all welcome to attend.

Tricia Johnson, standing in for Annette Maule, President of the PISD Council of PTAs, told us that their goal is to have all Plano children sharing the same educational opportunities. But they now have different experiences due to their different campii. For example, some Title IX schools have 90% of students qualifying for free lunches. It is the Memorials, Barrons, and



Mendenhalls of the system who need help sending children, for example, to the PSO concerts. In those neighborhoods, those living in poverty have increased from 24 to 27% during the Great Recession. (Thank you, Phil Gramm and Barney Frank; even bad politics makes strange bedfellows.)

Tricia recommended we join their efforts on facebook at Plano PTA Cares. She had distributed sponsorship envelopes to our tables.



Earnest Burke had the Giant Check made out to Memorial in the amount of \$1,500. Sarika surmised that we had given

her our Sound System funds! Lenny presented her with ONCE IN A **LIFETIME** dog tags, and, referring to Kenny's generosity, noted that Plano Rotary Club is special "because we serve." He led us in our Four-Wav Test and belled us out at 12:52.



Member NEWS

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, sayand da

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest Rick Ford

Larry Bisno Satinder Baweja **Bracy Wilson**

Guest Of

Joe Foor John Frnst Randy Wright Dr. Cary Israel

New Member Proposal:

Reedy Spigner Classification: Law Proposed by: Earnest Burke

AWARDS: Athena Award: Camille Usserv Citizen of the Year: Jamie Schell **Outstanding Corporate** Citizen of the Year: The Shops at Willow Bend (Octavio & his team)

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