



Summer Weekly

Reader

Volume 128, Issue 188, September 10, 2015 Volume 127

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

4-WAY TEST STRESSED

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sep 10

Introducing Dr. Binggeli
(PISD Superintendent) to
City

Sep 17

Introducing Dr. Matkin
(Collin College President)
to Plano

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ean H. Sullivan	Sep 04
Rick Boyer	Sep 06
Satinder Baweja	Sep 16
Hubert Aaron	Sep 17



Our peripatetic *Sainted Editor* Chris Parr and Pat are touring world trouble spots starting with the Black Sea near the Russian annexed Crimea and the Russian separatists in the Eastern Ukraine, once again entrusting you to the backup team.

The audio mixer was on the fritz today, limiting the speakers to the podium microphone, which may be a good thing since today we did politicians. It was also a good thing for our September audio technician, who is doing the Weekly Reader. Word has it that the audio mixer will reappear September 10 fully repaired.

Negotiations regarding the contract for our new meeting site at Gleneagles continue. One thinks of the knotty negotiation between Begin and Sadat at Camp David, but who is playing the Jimmy Carter role in this affair.

Larry Flash Flannery greeted the incoming dignitaries and members. An attempt was made to reserve the two front tables for politicians, but it failed as the hearing-impaired backup editor set up shop there, followed by other Visiting Rotarians and members.

Promptly at 12:18, **President Paperweight** rang the bell and summoned **Ean Sullivan** to deliver the prayer. Ean was appropriately thankful for the food, but then he noted to the Almighty than we were Rotary and subject to the 4-Way Test. The politicians waiting to speak may have felt threatened by the obligation to truth. American voters have never tolerated truthful politicians, preferring to vote for those who told them what they wanted to hear. While we deliberated over that dilemma, **John Caldwell** led us in the pledge.

Kelly promptly handed to microphone to **Olin Jaye**, acting as Sergeant at Arms du jour, for the introduction of Visiting Assistant District Governor Lisa Leach, Visiting Rotarians, Guests, and Political Staffs.

Nancy Humphrey took the podium to remind us of the Hendrick Academy Golf Tournament scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at Stonebriar Country Club. Attractive flyers were on the tables as promised last week. Nancy appealed for Sponsorships, Donations,

Golfers and Volunteers. Contact her or visit the website. She reminded us of the young



graduates of PISD in need who are assisted by the scholarships from the Hendrick Academy. Kelly then called on *Citizen of The Year* **Olin Jaye** once again to introduce our speakers, leading off with **State Senator Van Taylor**. A seventh-generation Texan, Taylor was born in Dallas. He is a direct descendant of one of the founders of Humble Oil which later became Exxon-Mobil. He grew up in Midland, Texas, where he attended the Hillander School and San Jacinto Junior High School. He graduated from St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. He subsequently graduated in three years from Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from which he obtained a B. A. in history. **Nicholas Van Campen Taylor**, (born August 1, 1972), is a businessman from Plano, a veteran of the Iraq War, and was a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives



continued on page 2

from District 66 before becoming the District 8 member of the Texas State Senate this year.

Senator Van Taylor took the podium to reiterate the seventh-generation Texan boast. (He has the advantage over the average Rotary member there of being one or two generations younger, as well as handsomer.) He is one of 31 state senators, representing an average of 850,000 Texans each. He related an anecdote about his six-year old daughter saying she never wanted to be a politician because it was too much work. The senate meets in the beautiful pink granite state capitol building for 20 weeks in every odd year. (His daughter also asked how he felt about working in a pink building.) Van felt that this had been a good legislative session. The budget was passed with growth in spending limited to growth in population plus inflation. The rainy day fund was augmented. It is the largest state rainy day fund, and the largest per capita after Alaska. More money (\$2B) was reallocated to roads (it would be difficult to allocate less since the legislature in past years gradually cut road funding to a level inadequate for maintenance.) Some accounting gimmicks were eliminated. The franchise tax was reduced by 25%. The homestead exemption for state real estate tax was increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per home. More money was provided for pensions for state employees. Most of the laws passed were not of a partisan nature.

The review of laws passed was short because three house representatives, Jodie Laubenberg, Jeff Leach, and Matt Shaheen were also present and waiting to speak.

Jodie Laubenberg, graduate of University of Texas, has been a Republican representing District 89 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2003 and is "Momma Bear" to the Collin County delegation.



Jodie thanked Van Taylor for not introducing her as the Senior representative. Jodie gave kudos to the staff member present, giving them credit for the research and the work and noting that if the worst happened, they were convenient for throwing under the bus. Covering some of the same ground, she expressed satisfaction in limiting the growth in spending to growth in population and inflation. Transportation funding was improved by ending some diversions from the fund. Education funding was greatly increased (although not enough for some of the districts who have filed a lawsuit over inadequate fund-

ing.) Franchise tax was cut by 25%. Real estate property tax was cut by adding to the homestead exemption. Legislation was pro-business.

At this point, having exhausted her four or five minute allowance, Van Taylor attempted to retrieve the microphone from Jodie, who was clearly loathe to desist in orating. Then Van Taylor introduced Jeff Leach.

Born (6-10-82) and raised in Plano, **Jeff Leach** graduated from PSH and Baylor University, where he was elected to serve two terms as student body president. During his time at Baylor he served President Bush in the White House Office of Political Affairs and at the Republican National Committee where he worked to elect Republicans across the country. Following graduation from Baylor, Leach earned his law degree from SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas. He specializes in general civil and commercial litigation, real estate and construction law. Jeff and his wife Becky have three children and are lifelong members of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, where they have served for several years in the Young Families Ministry. Jeff has served as District 67 Representative since 2013.



Jeff noted that it was a honor to sit next to Olin Jaye, Citizen of the Year. He expressed relief that his high school coach Gerald Brence was not present. Jeff spoke clearly and well, and it was clear why he should have received the female vote. Jeff had seen on our Reader that the program was to be Van Taylor and guests, so he expressed satisfaction in being Van's guest.

Jeff drops his son Brady (second grade) off at school each day, and he daily urges him to be a leader as he leaves the car. When he started his first day as representative, his son called him and urged him to be a leader. Brady was right; the representatives were elected to be leaders. Jeff covered some of the same ground again, expressing satisfaction with improving funding for transportation, noting the rapid growth of Collin County and the need for roads. He then noted that about 700 new laws went into effect this week (a figure that startled and alarmed the backup editor who had taken comfort in the false assumption that the legislature had not done much.)

Jeff was followed by **Matt Shaheen**. A native of Virginia (1965), Shaheen received a degree from Randolph-Macon

College, at which he received All Conference honors as a player on the college football team. Shaheen also holds a master's degree from SMU. Since 2004, he has been a technology and management consulting executive, with Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Services. Shaheen is a deacon at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano and directs a Bible study for inmates in the Collin County jail.



Trim and fit, Matt could not match Jeff's beautiful hair, but he had done his best with what he had by polishing his head to a bright shine. Matt has been a member of Frisco Rotary for years, and he often makes up with Plano Rotary. Matt complained about drawing the last slot for bragging about the legislative accomplishments. He added to the previous remarks that 2 District Courts and a County Court of Law have been added in Collin County. They are made necessary by our population growth; 70 to 80 people move to Collin County daily. Also a separate Mental Health authority has been established instead of the 7-county mental health authority that Collin County formerly belonged to. Matt noted with satisfaction that over \$800M has been allocated to

border security (but since that is a federal bailiwick, one wonders where the \$800M is going.) Van Taylor then opened the meeting to questions, and demonstrated his management skill in assigning the questions to the three Representatives to answer. In response to a question about the 25% franchise tax reduction, we were told that the intent is to completely eliminate it over a period of time. Asked about a drop in oil revenues affecting state revenue, we were told that production increases (900M BBL in 2009 to 2.4B BBL now) more than offset the lower price. Considerable additional obfuscation was appended. An earnest request to get rid of Central Expressway's HOV lane was supported at length but avoided with reference to federal dollars and federal mandates. Light rail connecting Houston and DFW SMSA's was discussed, but rural opposition was noted. Van Taylor then terminated the questions with "Blessed are the brief, for they shall be reelected." Kelly thanked the senator and the representatives for their presence and news. He asked about Governor Abbott's concern about armed forces exercises in the state, and Jodie dismissed that tempest in a teapot with the observation "It's Texas." Kelly passed out Rotary paperweights to the speakers with the usual caution about magnetism. Uncharacteristically Flash passed up the opportunity for a joke. L. B. wished Ean happy birthday. We closed with the 4-Way Test and went away to consider those 700 new laws.

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