

Rotary 



MAKING A DIFFERENCE
2017-2018

SUMMER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 215, Issue 280, September 21th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sep 21
Michael Hasty
Saving Smiles

Sep 28
Dr Mukesh Saraiya
Stem Cell

Oct 5
Judge Keith Self
State of the County



ENDPOLIONOW

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Clay Curtis	Sep 10
Hubert Aaron	Sep 17



**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

NEIL MATKIN, *Conférencier du Jour* and President of *Collin College*, gets the drafts of the *Weekly Reader*. It's

Sainted Editor's way of giggling him on his promise to consider joining *Plano Rotary* once his frenetic activity abates some. Unfortunately, that means I must treat him with kid gloves in this copy. But that's no fun, and Neil is into fun, so I'll oblige him.



The Prince Who Need No Longer Collude opened the festivities at 12:12, calling upon **Blair Ritchey** for the



Invocation and **Paul Hernandez** for the Pledge. There being no Greeter, we sped on to **SERGEANT KRAMER**, who announced no Visiting Rotarians. **Ross Shamshiri** welcomed Real-Estate-Mogul-in-Retirement, **Francis Cartwright**, and late into the proceedings, **Howard Matson** recognized his guest, gone back for seconds, **Matt Riahi**.



Jason called up **Jeff Beckley** to produce a nano-résumé *extemporare*. Jeff said he'd joined way back in 2016 and that his twin devotions are politics and running tri-

athlons, which, I suppose, is better than tri-athlons and running politics.

Nathan Barbara humiliated Jason with his 0:1 record in Plano Rotary's **FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**, but humiliation is at best premature. Jason has several games to lose yet.



Rick offered Rotary Anniversary pins to **Jeff Beckley** (1) and **Jim Cooper** (6). He then warned us to stockpile **Food Pantry** goods in hopes of a greater yield this year than last.

Pres. Horne urged us to consider attending the Rotary Board meeting next Thursday morn (7:30 @ *Gleneagles*) for a discussion of membership growth. In the meantime, we are all to scout out prospects. (Dibs on Pres. Matkin!)

Dr. Neil Matkin is District President of *Collin College*, which serves more than 53,000 credit and continuing education students at seven campuses centered in Collin County. Dr. Matkin joined *Collin College* in April 2015. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President of the *Louisiana Community and Technical College System* in Baton Rouge. He is the former President of the Central Campus of *San Jacinto College* in Pasadena, Texas, and before that, served as Vice Chancellor of the *Virginia Community College System* in Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Matkin is a veteran of the United State Navy <brief cheer>, and, in addition to his undergraduate studies, he holds two Master's degrees and a Doctorate from *Texas A&M University-Commerce* <brief boo>.

Neil mentioned that he'd addressed us before, commending us on our new choice of "upscale" digs albeit with upscale prices and an acoustically livelier room, but a "beautiful setting" nonetheless.

He presented a slick video ad he's used to sell the Bond Election, introducing it as akin to the coffee table book, "*One Day in America*," only about *Collin College*.



Its most telling graphic was a time lapse map of DFW showing the alarming growth of concrete in Collin County. There followed a timeline of Quad-C's (now *Collin College's*) development. Highlights included:

- 1985—First class & McKinney campus bought
- 1988—Spring Creek campus
- 1996—Preston Creek campus
- 2009—Park campus
- 2013—New Library building
- 2015—Neil arrives on an oyster shell.



But there're bigger things, if one can imagine it, on the horizon. "Still to come" are...

Bond Program Update

- AECOM Technical Services – Program Management Services
- Wylie Campus (Fall 2020)
 - Architectural/Engineering Services: Page Southerland Page, Inc.
 - Construction Manager-at-Risk: Skanska USA Building Inc.
- Technical Center (Fall 2020)
 - Architectural/Engineering Services: Perkins+Will, Inc.
 - Construction Manager-at-Risk: McCarthy Building Company, Inc.

...not to mention the Celina Center and Public Safety Training...all products of a successful bond program.

Neil told us that **Cary Israel**, his immediate predecessor, thought it appropriate to proselytize for his bond package only to be fined \$300 therefor. (Turns out its illegal for a county employee to politic for or against anything. By the way, Neil, Cary managed to find the time to spend his tenure here at *Plano Rotary*, and **John Anthony** did to; so you've a 100% President precedent.)

Collin College plans a "full campus" in Wylie serving 8,000 students. And the Technical Center will be "at the

junction of" Plano and surrounding cities. (So that puts it near **Robbie Robinson's** moribund Performing Arts Center. Let's hope it fares better.)

The College had its pick of 19 architects and 17 construction engineers among the bidders, a reflection of the booming economy in North Texas. The Celina and Farmersville Centers as well as an IT Center at Frisco are scheduled to begin construction May 2018 and be in service by the Fall Semester 2021. The Celina campus is expected to serve 2,500 students, a reflection of the growth of homebuilding in that location.



Neil then assumed the mantel of Karnac, challenging us to guess the questions to his (numeric) answers:

- **\$1.42** (monthly hike in taxes due to the Bond Program)
- **\$229M** ('17 budget)
- **37%** (of Public Safety Training Center completed)
- **435** (# support piers needed for it)
- **\$222K** (electric/mo)
- **\$0.08** (tax rate per

\$100 assessment; down from \$0.081)

- **2090** (# of 3-peats...students tripling down on courses)
- **\$46, \$88, \$149** (increase in-, out-District, out-State)
- **6.5%** (increase in Fall Headcount: 31,666)
- **5,625** (# of dual credit students, up 24%)
- **5,556** (1st-time frosh this fall, up 9%)
- **16,601** (# of continuing students, up 2%)
- **7,860** (# distance education [web] courses, up 6%)
- **11** (new Certificate programs)
- **6** (new Degree programs)
- **11** (new buildings over next 18 months)
- **3,239** (# employees)
- **372** (wifi nodes, up 106)
- **6,500** (# of daily wifi accesses)
- **41,241** (# of math-lab uses)



He waxed lyrical over a Monkey Wards catalog fishing rod he received as a 6-year-old and even more so over the 17.5" bass he caught and destroyed, dragging it all over the neighborhood to "show off." This story was in service to *Collin's* efforts to encourage impoverished high schoolers to take algebra to ready them for college.

Neil said he has big plans for 3D Fabrication, Electronics Engineering Technology, Manufacturing & Energy Logistics, and other pipe dreams.

Nancy Humphrey wanted him to gush over the new 4-year degree in Nursing (at his 2-year college). He obliged with a paean to **Jody Laudenberg** for shepherding HB2118 through the Texas House. He described himself as “glued to the phone,” awaiting news of its passage. With new State and Regional Accreditations, three Baccalaureate degrees are in the works.



Kelly Palmer dug deeper, “What about Master’s degrees?” Neil was forced to admit that they’re “not coming. The universities are not for it.”

John Caldwell asked about the latest awards for the award-winning college. Neil told him that *Collin* has “the largest number of Carnegie [recognized] teachers” of any in the nation.



Alex Johnson inquired about *Collin College* support for its recently established Rotaract Club. Neil was “pleased you do that,” but, not having been to one yet, he couldn’t speak to that except to say that he knows “it’s well attended.”

Bob Bauer wanted to know about faculty. Neil said that *Collin* receives “plenty of applications.” He mentioned that 2/3 of the faculty are Adjunct (perhaps giving universities pause to endorse Master’s degrees?). And *Collin* apparently economizes on salaries since “the Cost of Living here is prohibitive.”



Rick Horne gave Neil and assistant **Jennifer McDermott** both multiport chargers AND a check for \$500 to go toward scholarships.

Then Rick asked the \$64K Question: why not join Rotary? Neil demurred saying that his schedule is such that he never knows where he’ll be from day to day. To cut off Rick’s obvious comment, “You gotta eat,” Neil said, “No, I don’t! I’m serious about losing weight.” Rick let him off the hook with “when the time comes, we want you to consider us.”

With that, he led us in the Four-Way Test and released us early for Good Behavior at 12:57.



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Matt Riahi

Guest of

Ross Shamshiri

Howard Matson

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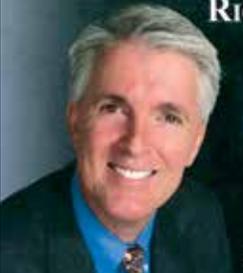
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