



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 43, December 15, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

IMAGINE
ROTARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Dec 22
NO NOON MEETING
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DEC 29
NO NOON MEETING
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan 5
TBD

Jan 12
TBD

Jan 19
Henry Gentry
*What makes Henry's Ice
Cream so Special*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Johnny Lewis	Dec 10
Jamee Jolly	Dec 13
Nancy Humphrey	Dec 19



Non Idem

ACKNOWLEDGING his birthday, **Johnny Lewis** ↓ said, "There *is* someone older than me."



Sainted Editor ducked lower behind his iPad™.

PFL **Janelle** summoned attention at 12:09, calling upon **John Caldwell** for the Invocation and **Eleanor Knox** for the Pledge. **SERGEANT MIKE** began with the December Birthdays, prompting the surprising admission above, and segued into Years of Rotary Service, which included **Mark Geller** (47!),

and **Gary Garza** (7). Johnny then joked that to contribute his age to **BUBBA'S BUCKET**, he'd need to take out a bank loan.

Janelle mentioned that many members were out with the flu, like Sara Akers. And **Larry Bisno** was out with a torn Achilles tendon, at which notice there was a murmur of empathy. And **Joe Camarena** is still homebound in recovery.

She noted the Holiday Party at the Haggard Party Barn, at which we were to bring Coats for Cops. 75+ coats were collected. The event was catered by Ernie's BBQ of Greenville, TX, on the recommendation of Johnny and **Sharon Lewis**. **Porche** ↓ **Maten** won the Ugly



Sweater competition, but **Chip Stewart** was a close runner-up.

Porche took center stage to announce plans for the Plano HOLIDAY PARADE on 12/10. She had flyers out on our tables with a QR code which points to:

rotaryparadesofplano.com
where more info on the event resides



Rutledge Haggard came forward to accept a PRC \$500 check for the Hendricks Foundation.

Janelle then introduced **Stacey Ford** and **Wendy Crooks** (Director of Operations for Plano's **nonPareil**). Stacey thanked PRC "for what



you do," and said that "Rotary is always my favorite." **nonPareil** deals with differently-abled workers; indeed the name translates as "not the same." And the general population does not know how to approach them, even though everyone knows someone on the Autism Spectrum.

Jim Moore's phone rang, but Mike McCormack didn't notice it, so it didn't cost Jim.

Stacey told a story of **Alex**, struggling with autism on his couch playing video games. His Mom urged him to find a job, so he took one pushing grocery carts, but he quit, feeling that "he needed something more." No one would hire him. His Mom search Google for "AUTISM EMPLOYMENT PLANO TEXAS," and Google found **nonPareil**. Alex is now "part of our crew" at **nonPareil** and is a typical, happy employee.

Years ago, the CDC diagnosed 1 in 88 with autism. Currently, the factor is 1 in 40! Stacey then showed a brief video of testimonials from crew who said it was an opportunity to make friends and "the best thing that ever happened to me."

Plano's **nonPareil** lives "right down the road from you; take a left at Prestonwick," he said, adding that we were all invited to take a tour. He had left a brochure on our tables.

nonPareil seeks to "Build Better Futures" via post-secondary employment beginning with the design of computer games. The crew has designed Stripes the Safety Cone to replace ONCOR's Louie the Lightning Bug. They have built an archive of NFL stats for an app vendor. They have produced many PC games and VR titles.

When Stacey mentioned 76% of his crew go on to college or the workforce, someone versed in mathematics asked what is the fate of the other 24%? The answer is that some of them leave for health reasons and others leave because their families have moved away. But the 76% can't be sneezed at (without a tissue).

NonPareil was begun in 2009 to answer the question, “*What do we do when the bus doesn’t come anymore?*” A total of 850 crew have been served; the Plano facility stands at 270 today. And chapters have been open in Austin, Houston, Orlando with plans for 70 other cities.

Judge Johnny noted the paucity of other institutions handling “*at-risk*” persons. Stacey noted that the only other such was in North Richland Hills. The local ISDs are ill-equipped to work with them, especially after they graduate. And the increase in prevalence (from 1/88 to 1/40) is due to evolved diagnoses. The ISDs are adapting to the new needs.

30% of the operating costs on Plano’s **nonPareil** come from donations; the remainder from a \$1K/mo charge to families. Wendy said it “*fills the gap between school and work.*” A lot of companies would hire them, “*but they don’t know how to do it.*” **NonPareil** supports the companies as well.

Stacey said in their “*first term,*” crew members are introduced to technology, then they decide which avenue to pursue.

John Caldwell asked if autism is hereditary. The answer is a definitive “*maybe.*” There isn’t a chemical test for ADHD. So they focus on helping the diagnosed.

Rick Horne asked what “*...and MORE!*” means in the description of the training in their brochure. Wendy said it refers to graphic design, computer help desk support, 2D art, world building, floor plans, etc.



In response to **John Priest**, Wendy said crew members are encouraged to take part-time jobs, build résumés, and advocate for themselves. Stacey said that Apple apps have been avoided due to their frequent update requirement. But the portable tablet menus at Chili’s and elsewhere were designed in-house.

Janis Allman asked about age requirements. Wendy said they can’t start before age 18.

Porcha asked about job fairs. Wendy said that an Open House generated a lot of applicants. She’s after greater representation of females.

Jeff McKee asked if the \$1K/mo can be waived. Stacey said that we can volunteer, be advocates, and part with donations.

John Priest asked about PPP monies, and Wendy said **nonPareil** received those. Stacey mentioned a falloff in crew due to the economy.

Rutledge offered to will them the Soapbox Derby. “*You want the tracks? I know where they are!*”

With an admonition to remember Saturday’s Holiday Party and Johnny Lewis recommendation of Burlington Coat Factory, Janelle led us in the 5-Way Test and belled us gone at 12:57.



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RAY HUFFINES | 38 YEARS

SARA AKERS | 10 YEARS

GARY GARZA | 4 YEARS

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J. MARC LEWIS JD, LL.M., EA
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5045 Lorimar Drive
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TEL: (972) 618-8224
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Plano Symphony Orchestra
Hector Guzman, Music Director

Gregory Patterson
Executive Director

gpatterson@planosymphony.org

1635 Dorchester Dr. Plano, TX 75075
P: (972) 473-7362 x22 • M: (469) 652-6614
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Jeff Beckley, CPA
President

1400 Preston Rd Ste 315, Plano TX 75093
jeff@beckleyandassociates.com | 972-309-0002



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The Plano Rotary Club
P.O. Box 864316
Plano, TX 75086

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