



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 23, December 16th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Dec 16th
Angel Tree Gift Wrapping Games, Treats and Prizes

Dec 23rd & Dec 30th
NO NOON MEETINGS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Jan 6th
Lieutenant General John Campbell
Campbell's Journey: Us Air Force to the Pentagon to CIA

Jan 13th
TBA

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



🐾 The Paws That Refresh 🐾

N95 dust-mask-wearing **John Caldwell** teased **Sainted Editor** about his own N95 mask. "You look like a duck." **Sainted Editor** bristled and replied, "I'll have you know that this mask was prescribed by a quack!"

He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena, belled us to order at 12:11, inviting Photographer **Peggy Fenwick** to give the Invocation and **Porcha Maten** to lead us in the Pledge.

Janelle Twyford-Silvis reintroduced her husband, **Ron Silvis**, and **Porcha Maten** reintroduced her buddy, **Lin Adi**, who explained how her



bank aids the community. **Sainted Editor** didn't get a chance to reintroduce his wife, **Pat**, who liked that a little too well.

Joe handed out nomination forms for December's Rotarian of the Month. Porcha mentioned that her Interact is raising funds for sponsoring children and working on the Four-Way Speech contest, about which more from John

Caldwell next week. Joe told us that he is ZOOMing with other Plano Club Presidents to arrange Four-Way cooperation.

In **Sara Akers'** absence, Janelle announced the game plan for next week's meeting: a 10:30-1:30 wrapping party for presents for *Samaritan Inn* kiddoes. Those presents aren't yet purchased (due to late arrival of the wish lists), and volunteers are needed for that. On the 24th, we'll appear with **Christmas Cheer** on the *Inn's* doorstep with donuts and hot chocolate at 9 am. **Ean Sullivan** and Ms. Claus will show up at 10. In response to a shopping query by **Rick Horne**, Peggy mentioned to meet Sara at the site noted in her email, but as **Nancy Humphrey** pointed out, it was light on specifics and buyers should carry a tax exemption notice.

Kathy Taylor and Joe noted that, while we sought \$2500 for Angel Tree, we garnered \$5,000 instead.

John Caldwell noted how organized was the gifting before COVID with all the kids in one room and all the gifts labeled with family names in another. **Maria Mott** agreed.

Janelle also decried the Club's slow response to her call for BBQ recipes, the deadline now extended to the end of this week. Rick asked whether cocktail recipes appeared, and Janelle denied it (but Pat had provided one for a *Texas Steer*, Rick, so you're covered).

Nancy wanted to know the goal of that effort and was told that was in progress. The recipe book will be sold, and Janelle's working for sponsorships.



Joe recognized a curiously present **Carrolyn Moebius** as a 7+ Paul Harris Fellow! She accepted the honor, mugging for Peggy's camera as she did so. (Nice pajamas, Carrolyn!)

Johnny Lewis was out with foot surgery, so a Foundation Report would not be forthcoming.

and support this goal. Accompanying them in this was **Skylar**, a very good boy by the looks of him.



Joyce said her job requires her to “play with puppies,” but she just gritted her teeth and did her duty for the good of the vets. She said that **PATRIOTPAWS** gets no assistance from the feds but does its good works with the help of 400 volunteers. Some 150 of them raise the puppies (it's a dirty job, but someone has to do it) at TAMU. They are then remanded to the custody of the Department for Criminal Justice for rehabilitation, which suggests that they aren't all good puppies. Actually, the inmates raise them for three months, after which recidivism drops to only 11% for their trainers, such is the behavioral modification potential of puppies. Win win...except leaving them is hard after 3 months of unconditional love.

One PTSD vet locked herself in at home until her husband convinced her to get a dog. She then came out of her shell, got her college degree, graduating with her service dog, **Gus**, in a cap and gown.

Eight weeks into training, the dogs learn how to focus, getting kibble rewards for looking the trainer in the eyes. That comes in handy when



Janelle introduced **Joyce Anderson** and dog trainer **Alexis Middlefort**, representatives from **PATRIOTPAWS**, whose mission is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. Patriot PAWS intends to build partnerships with state and community organizations to help develop

they're working with their vet, searching for signs of anxiety or physical needs. The dogs are given 60 cues for disabled vets. When someone with PTSD (post traumatic stress syndrome) evidences nervousness, the dog places a paw on the vet's foot and gets a walk as a reward for its calming presence.

The dogs learn to think for themselves. Joyce told of a dog fetching a phone for a stroke victim. It put the phone in the paralyzed hand then moved it to the unparalyzed one when the vet couldn't use it.

Since 1999, ~6,000 vets have died in combat, but 30x as many have died of suicide. A service dog will jump in a vet's lap when PTSD flares up.



Just as the dogs need training, the vets too are trained at **PATRIOTPAWS'** facility in Rockwall. When both have passed muster, the dog "*runs to the vet*" with "*instant love, changing their lives*".

skylar is an 8-month old golden doodle, an egregiously friendly, hypo-allergenic breed. He can "*sit and walk on a leash (sort of)*." They get dogs from breeders and from donations. Obviously smitten, Porcha asked if the general public could train them; no, Porcha, you must be a certified trainer.

Nancy Humphrey, with agenda firmly on display, asked if **skylar** could "*work the room?*" Alexis obligingly led him around the tables.

Joe proudly proclaimed that he too had trained his dog, but not, he admitted, to respond to 60 cues. Joyce said that they're even trained to push elevator buttons. (And they best children by not pressing ALL the buttons!)

Porcha would not be denied; she asked how to become certified to train; Joyce relented and told her to go to the website and volunteer.

www.patriotpaws.org

Then Joyce admonished us to pay attention if a service dog appears before us without its vet. We are to follow it to help the vet in distress.

Gary said that he had a daughter in need of obedience training; do they take humans? John asked if he was prepared for the **\$35K** expense.

Joyce brought our attention to the business cards and brochures on our tables. Then she noted that not all dogs complete the training; they are then offered as social companions to the public.



She told us that their facilities are open for tours on Wednesdays. Then she made a pitch for volunteers to go to TAMU and become a trainer.

Joe thanked her and reminded the Board of its monthly meeting today. He reminded all of us of the **ugly sweater contest** coming up at the next meeting, led us in the Five-Way Test, and closed the meeting at 1:05.

✍



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Guests

Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest of
Liz Adi	Porcha Maten
Ron Silvis	Janelle Twyford-Silvis
Pat Storck	Dr Chris Parr

Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
None	

