



# SUMMER Weekly

# Reader

Volume 21, Issue 02, July 15th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Akers Inc.

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**July 15th**  
**Dan Henry**  
*Fox4 Weather*

**July 22th**  
**Jasmine Lee**  
*Addison Octoberfest*

**July 29th**  
**Jeff Smith**  
*Plano High School Football Coaches*

**August 5th**  
**Michael Garrett**  
*Trusted World*



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joe Camarena	July 01
Sara Akers	July 10
Emma Smith	July 11
Larry Bisno	July 16
Peggy Fenwick	July 19
Kathy Taylor	July 20
Matt Jackson	July 22
Jim Monroe	July 22
Maria Mott	July 23

**I**n a miniscule meeting room, thoughtfully donated by the *Plano Chamber*, we met and were welcomed by nascent President **Joe Camarena**, whose simple act of greeting was met with applause, such was the relief at having lost ZOOM.



Joe corralled **John Caldwell** to give the Invocation and **Nancy Humphrey** the Pledge. He passed around a sign-up sheet for future Greeters. Joe introduced nascent **SERGEANT HAYDEN PADGETT**, who assumed he was assigned that duty for having missed a meeting. **SGT. HAYDEN** offered Visiting Rotarian **Michael McCormack** (Rotary Club of Edenton, NC, on the banks of the Chowan River off highway 17). Michael, who is being mercilessly recruited, says that he is an “active” Rotarian while being COVID inactive. Edenton’s meeting place, a church, won’t permit Rotary to gather. It’s his 3<sup>rd</sup> Rotary, and he’s held all the administrative posts therein. Not being a CPA hasn’t stalled his career as a Tax Accountant. He now works from home.

Joe ticked off the list of our Board Members (see pg. 3) and told us he was instituting a Rotary Mentorship program for new members. He’s seeking volunteers. With that accomplished, he turned to **Emma Smith** for our Satellite Club report.

Emma admitted the Satellite Club to be “*slow going*” (not yet reaching orbit?), but she was more enthusiastic about our response to the *Children’s Advocacy Center’s* call for back-to-school gear. She said the table at the **Party Barn** was groaning with backpacks. She told us to watch for the email blast detailing *Habitat* volunteer needs.



**Johnny Lewis** tried to award **SGT. HAYDEN** with his PHF at the **Party Barn**, but he’d skipped out on that. Johnny nailed him today. He noted that we’ve added **Jamie Schell** to the Major Donor list, and we’re approaching 100% PHF status that we lost in 2014. He also reminded PHFs that they’ve “recognition points” to share with new PHFs to ease the burden of the 1<sup>st</sup> \$1000.

Joe announced the existence of contraband of cupcakes polluting the food-free room. (Food-free except for the many bag lunches we all brought.) John Caldwell inquired if they were leftovers from the party a fortnight ago. Not wanting to grace that ungracious suggestion, Joe passed around the City and State Proclamations offered at that party.



Joe reminded us that *Prosperity Bank* and the Chamber “own” the first two rows of parking, so we’re to park further back. Instead of surprising members with being put in the spotlight for their Rotarian Moment, Joe “assigned” victims ahead of time (so they can prepare for the impromptu remarks). The 1<sup>st</sup> such was **Sainted Editor**.

Chris took the opportunity to add **Peggy Fenwick** to Joe’s not-quite-exhaustive list of Club VIPs. She was today’s (and tomorrow’s) photographer. He admitted to being a “*hypothetical chemist*,” earning his degrees at Berkeley and Caltech. He further confessed himself to be a retired UTD professor and undergraduate Dean. Had **Robert Reed** been in attendance, he’d have been reminded that he’s this year’s Vice President of the PSO Board. But as Robert was AWOL, Chris sat down.



Joe awarded Rotary Service pins to Hayden Padgett (6) and Nancy Humphrey (11). He had the group stumble through HB2U for the **BirthDay List** (see pg. 1). Joe informed us of **Kelly Palmer’s** absence due to his son’s illness; he asked us to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.



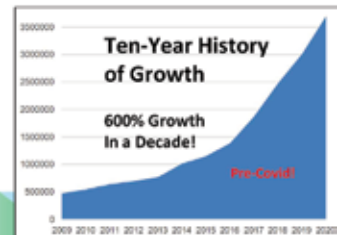
Joe introduced speaker **Sara Akers**. Sara earned her MS in Fine Arts from UT Austin. She founded the “*Dallas Children’s Theater*,” quickly corrected to “*Plano*,” with a grant from her parents!

At John Caldwell’s prompting, Sara allowed as how he was on the Children’s Theater’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Board. She said the group is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is dedicated to Quality Performance and Education, and it’s accessible to all N. TX residents.

Vision: Where participation and enjoyment of the arts experience is available and desirable by all.

### What is the North Texas Performing Arts?

- Founded in 1991, NTPA is a 501 (c)3 non profit organization incorporated as the Plano Children’s Theatre (d/b/a North Texas Performing Arts)
- Largest youth performing arts organization in country with facilities in Plano, Fairview, Frisco, Dallas
- Largest theatrical producer in US
- Surpassed \$3M in revenues in 2019
- Strong Financial Controls & Annual Audit
- “Theatre of the Decade” by Broadway World Dallas
- Won “2021 Outstanding Award” at Music Theatre International Competition



Since its founding in 1991, it has become the largest theater company in the nation. Next fall, it’s branching out to Tarrant County. It has recently won most Outstanding award in the Music Theater International Competition.

Renamed NTPA, it has served over 11,000 youths, aged 3-18, but it discriminates against the diapered. Its Starcatchers Therapeutic Arts program for neuro-divergent children and adults brings them into mainstream. Student thespians are prepared to college auditions. NTPA offered 136 workshops in 2019. During COVID, a CARES loan kept them afloat while they scrambled to offer programs online. Strict protocols ensured that no one got sick.

NTPA no longer fixates exclusively upon youth; it now includes a Repertory Theater for adult actors. It offers such PG-13 fare as *Cabaret* (Sept. 10-19), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Oct. 15-24), *Scrooge* (Dec. 9-19), *Disaster!* (Mar 11-20), and *Urinetown* (Apr 22-May 10). Tickets will be available at

[www.ntparep.org](http://www.ntparep.org)



## REPERTORY NORTH TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS

- Named Best Adult Theatre by Plano Magazine readers in 2019
- Mission is to deliver high-quality theatrical entertainment that inspires audiences and empowers artists from Broadway to the Burbs
- 15 Column Award Nominations
- Incredible talent from all over DFW- Darryl Miranda, Artistic Director
- Season and individual tickets
- 2021 Season: *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *In the Heights*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (July 16-25), *Cabaret* (Sept 10-19), and *Scrooge* (Dec 9-19)

As with every other aspect of NTPA, Sara would “love your help.” As with most performance venues, ticket sales make up a minority (~1/3) of the budget, even though such sales amounted to \$1M! So volunteers are *de rigueur*. They need help with lights, sounds, and sets. Rotary helps produce CELEBRATION STATION which highlights nonprofits in the community.



Having set her up, John Caldwell admitted that Sara had been “a learning experience.” (I’m sure he meant that as a compliment.)

**Mary Jo Dean** wanted to know what youth performances have been put on. Sara told her *101 Dalmations*, *Melaka*, *Sponge Bob*, *Rent*, etc. When Mary Jo asked how she chose those, Sara responded that she didn’t; she’s in development,

so volunteers choose the titles. She’s responsible for 100 of thousands of dollars in scholarships for which kids audition.

John Caldwell asked which cities benefit from their productions, Sara cited not only Plano but also Dallas, Fairview, and Tarrant County this fall. NTPA will mount 150 productions next year! The Tarrant facility is likely to be the Grapevine Palace Theater.

When someone posited “Rotary Day” at NTPA, Sara promised to have wine for us!

Emma Smith wondered how NTPA got the rights to *In the Heights* which has just appeared in cinemas. Sara said it’s been out as a musical for some time.

Joe thanked Sara and noted that our next program will be from the Fox 4 newscaster, **Dan Henry**. **Jerry Aris** bragged on his son who was recently promoted to Major General in the National Guard. **Karen Sheldon** insisted upon a group photo (top of pg. 2).

**Larry Bisno** reported that Plano Children’s Medical Clinic is returning “*in a different form.*” It will now be a full-time clinic serving families and adults. It will have full women’s health, and it occupies a 5K sq. ft. facility with 10 exam rooms. It’s currently being completed and will be sited spitting distance from the Chamber facility. Larry suggested he’d need a little help assembling furniture...not from IKEA. The only government funds it receives are for vaccines, other than that, it’s a “regular nonprofit.” Nancy Humphrey suggested he contact PISD.

Joe led us in the Five Way Test and released us with encouragement to carry away cupcakes!



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CARROLYN MOEBIUS | 11 YEARS

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Thank you Kenny Wilson

**The Plano Rotary Club**

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**Guests**

**Guest & Visiting Rotarians**

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**Guest of**

**Visiting Rotarian**

**Home Club**

Michael McCormack

Edenton NC

