



SUMMER Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 22, June 16, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 16th

Colin Cahoon/Author
"Mended Wings"

June 23rd - Rotary Social

Lunch Provided: Build Your Own Sandwiches plus Potato Salad and Veggies

Program: Three Questions - Plus Who Are You Trivia (there will be prizes)

June 25 SATURDAY

Rotary Social

Please read weekly email for details

June 30

NO MEETING

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Charles Milby	Jun 07
Mark Waterbury	Jun 08
Mark Geller	Jun 09
Bradley Keith	Jun 12



Aged Out Long Ago!

Photographer du Jour was **Rick Horne**, who introduced the speaker, **Curtis Howard**, to **Sainted Editor's** guest, **Greg Patterson**, as an attorney, "but don't hold that against him!"



He Who Shall Be Named Joe belled us at 12:14, choosing **John Caldwell** for the Invocation and **Sainted Editor** for the Pledge. No one was Greeter.

(Last meeting's Italian lunch provided by **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** wasn't all consumed by the Club, so the leftovers were given to an incredibly grateful homeless man. Today's fruit platter brought by **Marco Solano** and pizza supplied by **Sainted Editor** were scarfed up by hungry members.)



Janelle introduced **Greg Patterson**, who waxed eloquent about his past and present. Originally from Canada (Toronto the Good, like **LB**), he gave up the study of Law (a mistake, said his Father) in favor of Arts Management. He has worked with several ballet and theater companies before moving to DFW to manage Water Tower Theater among others. He retired and was seduced by **Robert Reed** (who has moved to Madison "for the warm climate") to be the PSO's Director of Development. He has now inherited Robert's post as Executive Director. He thinks that the Arts "contribute to the fabric of

society." The marketer in him insists they're a great community investment.

To the Social at **Nancy Humphrey's** home (6/25), we are to bring spouses, side dishes, and **Libation(s) of Choice**. It will be a Changing of the Guard event as well as recognition of Rotarian of the Year! So be there or be square. (That dates me.)

John Caldwell noted that our 4-Way Test winner won 5th place at the 5810 competition. We had a good year, garnering 47 competitors and 37 judges.

Janelle said that the City has assigned us (all Plano Rotaries) a Mock 4th of July Parade complete with floatless floats and organization booths in Oak Point Park (and Collin College's parking lot). We are to volunteer to her.

Johnny Lewis, when prompted for a RYLA report, commented, "I'm exhausted," but "it was really good again this year." We "got everyone there and back," including the campers who didn't want to leave. He's bringing our participants back to report in September. **John Caldwell** asked **Johnny** to forward any thank you letters from the kids so he can present them at the Chamber of Commerce.



Janelle reported a triplegic amputee speaker at the RI Convention in Houston who attended RYLA and come away from it the "biggest supporter."



Johnny went on to describe the miraculous change in an alternate who got to attend. He began as a non-verbal introvert who blossomed into an extrovert who declared RYLA “*the best week of my life!*” He talked all the way back home on the bus.



John Priest, who also volunteered at RYLA, almost didn’t make it back. He boarded the wrong van!

Porsha Maten declared today her last of the semester! She also reported that an Interact graduate is going to UNT in the fall.

↑**Jerry Aris** bragged on his son, a Major General in the Guard (one of only two in TX) and a lawyer in Dallas. (But we won’t hold that against him.)

Janelle introduced speaker Curtis Howard, whom she has known since Leadership Plano, “5-10 years ago.” Curtis is Police Services Manager, and attorney with PPD. She reconnected with him via a Facebook story about a girl transitioning out of foster care into college. She praised his work with CPS.

Curtis admitted to having been a prosecutor with Collin County dealing with cases from Traffic Violations to the **Death Penalty**. But mostly he dealt with Child Abuse “*which happens more times than you would believe.*”

He told the chilling tale of a young lady removed from her abusive mother’s custody. In such cases, the norm is to keep them in the family, so she was remanded to the custody of her uncle, the twin brother of her mother. But then he also abused the girl!



Curtis remains in contact with “*a handful*” of victims even after leaving the Prosecutor’s Office after 14 years to become the attorney to the Plano Police Department. (Someone must keep them on the straight and narrow!) He has been working with nonprofits throughout. So he was appointed by **Duncan Webb** (Collin County Commissioner) to the Board of Directors of CPS (Child Protective Services). The County provides funds for the maintenance of foster children. (So for troublesome foster parents, it’s a cash cow.) Some foster children are special needs cases which can’t be fulfilled by local foster homes; these cases are “*dispersed all over the State.*” And they can be expensive: helmets for brain damaged kids, for example, are prohibitively costly, and they are provided by CPS. But there are countless needs not met by CPS that can be provided by other 501(c)(3) nonprofits.



One problematic aspect of CPS is that children “age out” of the system (at 18). They lose their guardianships about when they’re college-bound. CPS does help with some expenses, providing computers for wards they are about to lose.

However, in high school, foster children are 3½ times more likely than others to be suspended or drop out. Moving from home to home often involves school to school, and the absence of stability takes its toll. For example, almost ½ of all foster children have had two schools in one year compared to 7% of other children. 67% of Texas foster kids don’t attend college; <4% earn degrees.

There are ~600 charges of abuse/neglect filed every month, about 1/2 of which are serious enough to warrant investigation. (Dallas has ~2,100 cases per month.) In Collin, roughly 10 children per month are removed from abusive homes, but the criteria for such removal are stiffening.

Johnny Lewis was concerned about the shortage of foster parents in Collin County. Curtis told him that at least the special needs must be moved out of the County. But there's good news from Rockwall, which moved 0 children this year! "Not the norm."

93% achieve "permanency" through

- Family reunification
- Adoption
- Custody by relatives, or
- Aging out.

The latter is problematic, but State Colleges waive tuition for former foster children.

Johnny decried the high percentage of former foster children involved with drugs. Joe wanted to know about "alternative schools," and Johnny told him they were the holding tanks for those who "act out."

Porsha worried about the lack of advice and support for former foster children, and Curtis said there was mandatory place for them.

Janelle asked what Rotary could do. Curtis said it could find nonprofits appropriate to these tasks. Some provide free therapy for life.

Greg Patterson asked about mentoring and was told that CPS is trying to privatize that. Greg thought that to be a mistake. (Another cash cow.)

Janis Allman inquired about the age range for foster parents. Age wasn't critical; CPS looks

for safe places to put its charges. Johnny mentioned that the International Student Foundation helps the aged out foster children.

DFPS, the Department of Family Protection Services, is enduring exceptional challenges at present:

- 87th Legislature changes in removal rules
- CWOP, Children Without Placement
 - Difficult cases
 - Used to stay in offices!
 - Now put up in hotels
- Community Care Transition
- Litigation (over failure to protect)

As we were approaching the witching hour, Joe told members that they were at liberty to leave, and those with further questions were at liberty to stay. He then thanked the speaker with an honorarium gift, and told him that he would speak to our Foundation Committee about donations.

Potential donors are directed to:

<https://fosterfriends.org/>



JUNE 2022 YEARS OF SERVICE

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RUTLEDGE HAGGARD | 27 YEARS

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none	

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