



SUMMER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 23, June 23, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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



WOUNDED WINGS

INDICATIVE of a remarkable confidence, 29 books were stacked for sale by today's speaker, **Colin Cahoon**. That's more than two for everyone who showed up. Clearly, we must encourage more members to attend or risk disappointing authors!



He Who Shall Be Named Joe opened the proceedings at 12:10, assigning photographer **Peggy Fenwick** to the Prayer and **Maria Mott** for the Pledge. **Jerry Aris** was today's Greeter.

Bob Kehr, member of PISD's Future Planning Task Force, introduced his guest, the new PISD Superintendent, **Theresa Williams**. Theresa betrayed her age by admitting to being 28 years in teaching. Although she started in Garland, Plano ISD has "always been admired" both locally and nationally, where she's been Deputy Superintendent for the last 4 years. She praised the Future Planning Task Force which meets one last time this summer to plot the way forward. Also in summer, she'll



meet with stakeholders committed to the mantra that "strong schools mean a strong community."



Joe credited **Sainted Editor** with the pizza delivery (but he got no tip)! Joe then noted AOL **John Caldwell** (who promised an appearance by 10:30) and **Porsha Maten** (summer vacation). He then asked **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** to recap the plans for our 6/25 Party at **Nancy Humphrey's** house. She said that only a dozen had RSVPed. Joe mentioned that we'd bid farewell to the outgoing Board, prompting **Sara Akers** to ask, "Can we roast you?" (Yes, please.) Attendees are to BYOB plus a dish to complement the supplied hot dogs and hamburgers. It commences at 6:30 and runs "til we're asked to leave."

Janis Allman offered a brag check (**Johnny Lewis** said we only accept cash from her.) for her fiancé's Mom turning 89, then passing away within hours. She'd grown up in McKinney.

Janelle said she'd update our **STATIONARY PARADE'S** link on our website this afternoon. We are to sign up for shifts guarding the (Stationary) Rotary



Float, which is under professional creation. (Presumably we can do that from the website.) The City of Plano is funding us to provide the float, so we're not out anything.

Joe then encouraged us to contribute to RI's Foundation fundraiser. It's used our funds (50% of which it returns to 5810) to create 189 grants in response to disasters last year.

President-Elect Janelle and Marco Solano attended the last RI Convention (in a Houston facility designed for 8K attendees...there were 10K). She noted the proceedings translated in half a dozen languages.

Sainted Editor made excuses for his guest, Greg Patterson, who was AWOL, preparing for the Virtuoso Society Dinner that evening. He dropped \$5 in the bucket to make the announcement that Greg would have about Ruby membership in the Virtuoso Society beginning at \$600. He failed to mention Emerald, Diamond, Platinum, and Beyond to be had at

<https://planosymphony.org/support/whygive/>
(OK, OK, I'll put another \$5 in the kitty today.)

Jerry Aris bragged on his son who has just retired after tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Egypt. Joe offered to pony up \$1 for vets or vet families starting with his own: a child who has seen the world via the Defense Dept. and a 2nd who joined ROTC then went to Iraq. Janis had a Dad in WWII. Mike McCormack had another who was in the Coast Guard and a destroyer. By the time Johnny Lewis came up with a WWII Father, Joe had run out of money, so he called up on Janelle to introduce the speaker!

Colin Cahoon is a writer of historical nonfiction and historically-based fiction, a patent attorney, and former Army helicopter pilot. He grew up in the Mesilla Valley of New Mexico and earned his B.S. in Chem. Eng. at New Mexico State University, which he attended on an Army ROTC scholarship. Colin received his Regular Army commission in 1983 and graduated with honors from the aero scout track of flight school at Fort Rucker, AL in 1984. He served with distinction as an Aero Scout Platoon Leader in the 307th Attack Helicopter Battalion of the 7th Army Division, where he accumulated over 1K hours of flight time in UM-1 and OH-58 helicopters. Capt. Cahoon resigned his com-

mission in 1988 to pursue a legal career, whereupon he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army's 2nd highest peacetime award for service. He subsequently earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from SMU School of Law, where he met his wife, Susan. Colin has served the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Dallas as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Stephen Minister, and Chancellor. Colin and Susan have 3 grown children and live in Dallas, TX, and Steamboat Springs, CO, where they both enjoy skiing, hiking, and fishing "the Boat."

Colin dedicated *Mended Wings* to the heroes of the Army Helicopter corps, although they wouldn't call themselves that. They say that honor they reserved for those who don't come back. "They're wrong." There were 40K helicopter crewmen in Vietnam, almost all of whom were shot down at least once. The book consists of the story of 10 of them, all but the last in chronological order. Each chapter deals with an individual, beginning with their flight into the Shadow of Death, backtracking through their youth, proceeding through their injuries, mental and physical rehabilitation, and finally where they are today.



Most flew Huey helicopter gunships, affectionately known as "hogs," for their being laden down with air-to-ground rockets. The first was Pruitt, a Devil-may-care kid from Aurora, CO, whose exclusive interest in girls and booze left him with grades too poor to support college entrance. So he joined the National Guard, was seduced by flying, so jumped ship to the Army,

where he flew a shotgun-wielding General whose only command was “*Show me where the enemy is, Pruitt!*”

On a fateful mission to rescue a unit surrounded by enemy near the N. Korean border, he flew into a barrage of AA fire, damaging the helicopter. But, as it was still flyable, he turned back into the fray and was shot down. His critically-burned crew chief pulled him from the wreckage just before it exploded. Both pilots suffered broken backs, but they hunkered down for 24 hours waterless in No Man’s Land before “*a surreal*” rescue. He awoke in a Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) with a priest given him the Last Rites because his (waterless) kidneys had failed and there were no working dialysis machines anywhere in Vietnam. His prognosis was to black out and die. He did black out but awoke on a medical ship at the only working dialysis machine in SE Asia. He was told, “*You’re the luckiest damn soldier in Vietnam!*”

Back home, he was awarded the Purple Heart by 1st Lady **Pat Nixon**. A paraplegic, he learned to ride a horse again by being tied into the saddle. Indeed, he married the horsewoman who trained him, had 2 children, and still lives, retired, with his grandchildren.

Eddie Hester was the youngest of 7 rowdy brothers. The 5th threw a chair in anger at the School Principal. The 6th tried to follow suit only to find the chair bolted to the floor! The Principal asked Eddie why he avoided this precedence, and Eddie told him that it was pointless: the chair was still bolted.

Eddie’s **Capt. Miller** was burned beyond recognition in a crash within one month of his retirement. Eddie mission has to evac ground troops who had made a one-helicopter landing zone in the middle of a firefight. He was the 2nd of 5 on this mission, and the 1st in took heavy fire. He came in using a high-G maneuver under fire that severed his safety belt. Hovering above the tree stumps, he took fire to the chest from a machine gun nest. His crew chief was out of ammo but had an RPG strapped (illegally) to his gun. It took out the nest, and Eddie navigated his wounded bird to the hospital where it died.

Finally home from a rough tour, he was spat upon by a “*long-haired youth*” in the airport, failing miserably to thank him for his service. He cut his leave short and reenlisted because “*America was not ready for him.*”

He offered books for \$18 and told us that the audiobook of *Wings* will be out 8/23. **Joe** led us in the 5-Way Test and released us at 1:02.



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