



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 08, March 10th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Mar 10th**
Doreen Bruner – Camp Esparanza
"A Camp for Children With Cancer"
- Mar 17**
John Perez – Homeland Security
"Human Trafficking in Collin County"
- Mar 24**
TBD

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Robert Kehr	Mar 07
Marshall Johnson	Mar 10
Jamie Schell	Mar 18
GaryGarza	Mar 31



PUTIN'S PUTSCH

DG Max Duplant was here today not to execute a putsch, so President **Joe** is not in jeopardy. No, the putsch of the title is a reference to today's talk by *UT Dallas* Prof. **Clint Peinhardt**, who was kind enough to supply some of today's illustrations. I approached him for them with my name and email address written on a paper. He promised to send them but didn't recognize the name. Nice to know I left no lasting impression on *UTD*; that way I can't be blamed for anything! (After I left, someone told him who I had been, and he still drew a blank. Well, we'd not overlapped, so I didn't recognize him either.)



He Who Shall Be Named Joe belled us open for business at 12:03, calling upon **Peggy Fenwick** for the Invocation and **Rick Horne** for the Pledge. There was no Greeter.



DG Duplant said her tenure is just about up, so she's scrambling to get to all 5810's clubs, given the hit-and-miss COVID restrictions this past year. While 5810 loses about 75 members a year (to advancing years, if not COVID), the district has actual-

ly picked up 106 members over the last fiscal year; she thanked PRC for its efforts in that regard.

1. A new Suicide Prevention Club, begun with 27, now has 55 members.
2. A district-wide Human Trafficking program has many of 5810's clubs holding educational programs with special emphasis on the trafficking of girls.
3. A Strategic Action Plan reports monthly.
4. There's a push to expand outreach to the "Rotarians of today," who show the passion of youth.
5. A goal to increase donations by 5% has been addressed via bequests, although 5810 isn't encouraging death.

The Annual Conference, 22-3 April, will include leadership training by the incoming president. Held at *Pin Stack*, the conference will commence with 90 minutes of "bowling and fellowship" and conclude after dinner with one-hour passes to all that the entertainment venue offers "from bumper cars to rock climbing!" District-wide recognition will be awarded to accomplishments if 5810 is so informed. Cost: **\$170**.

Joe informed Board Members to stick around for 10 minutes to meet the District Governor.

Johnny Lewis motioned for applause as he rose to deliver an impassioned speech on behalf of Paul Harris Fellowships. He said that Rotary "boots on the ground" can accomplish what in



dividual donors cannot. Then he recognized **Nancy Humphrey** as PHF+1 and **Jim Monroe** as PHF+3. Nancy took the spotlight opportunity to note that PISD Board of Trustees has appointed **Theresa Williams** to fill the position vacated by the retirement of Superintendent **Sara Bonser**. Ms. Williams has served as Deputy Superintendent where she suffered a four-year “*job interview.*” Nancy also encouraged businesspersons to offer up Mayor’s Internships for the summer.



Janis Allman offered a \$5 brag on her grandchildren who graced the cover of *Life in Allen* even though they live in Plano. Such generosity of civic spirit!

John Caldwell asked 4 Way Test judges to get their results in by this day. Of the 11 finalist, the top 5 are separated by only 1 point, so every vote counts! A \$1000 scholarship awaits the 5810 winner, and our

contestants have nabbed the majority of prizes recent years!

Porcha Maten reported that her Interact Club’s bracelet project is stalled while the items are repaired. She is hosting a Storytime for Toddlers in both English and Spanish. And her Academy is offering Chinese calligraphy.

Joe gave our obligatory check to DG Duplant who mentioned that Porcha’s Interact club is welcome to “*participate in bowling.*”



Since **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** is hurting before her Friday-scheduled surgery, **Joe** gave us her update on our upcoming BBQ at Haggard Park. Our cookbook will be on sale for \$20, and

BBQ will set adults back \$15 with \$10 for children and \$2 for water. (Gee, children are a bargain!) It’s sponsored by **Maria Mott’s Signs by Tomorrow**. **Joe** asked for coolers and said that **Karen Sheldon** will email *SignUp Genius* to all. Nancy suggested Human Trafficking info be made available at our BBQ, as appetite-depressing as that may be.

Service Awards went to **Jerry Aris** (15), **Pam Little** (10), **Chip Stewart** (2), **Casey Stewart** (18), **Maria Mott** (7), **Charles Milby** (27!), **Peggy Fenwick** (3), **Jamee Jolly** (11), and **Martin Jackson** (25).

We sang HB2U badly to **Bob Kehr** (3/7), **Marshall Johnson** (3/10), **Jamie Schell** (3/18), and **Gary Garza** (3/31).

Joe determined by a show of hands that the club will meet during Spring Break.

Speaker Clint Peinhardt is a Professor of Poli. Sci., Public Policy, and Political Economy at UT Dallas. He is also a UT Regents’ Outstanding Teacher and departmental Graduate Advisor. He serves on the Core Curriculum Committee (founded by ~~Sainted Editor!~~) and was Chairman of the Committee on Educational Policy. He was the recipient of a Rotary Fellowship in the Netherlands, and he says he utilizes Polio+ in his class lectures!



Clint tells us that every expansion of NATO frightens Russia, which means it frightens Putin.

Successful democracies on his doorstep should indeed scare him as at least 40% of deposed tyrants in non-democratic states are subject to punishment or death. So the possibility of Ukraine someday qualifying for NATO membership has driven him to invade for national and self-serving reasons. His invasion, however, has galvanized NATO and the West and brought both closer to the Umbrella of Comfort that is the U.S. (Indeed, Sweden and Finland are seriously reconsidering their neutrality! Belarun is lost, while Moldova has Article 11 of its Constitution that enshrines its neutrality.)

So Putin's War of Choice (so sorry...*"Special Military Operation"*) has succeeded in undermining his position at home and abroad. And former Soviet Republics are fleeing; Bosnia/Herzegovina and even Georgia are interested in ties to the West. But NATO is a purely **defensive** alliance, thus no direct threat to Russia or Putin. So he must be surprised at the unanimity of the EU, UK, and US sanctions (which he maintains are a Declaration of War; however, establishment of a no-fly zone by the alliance would be a REAL declaration of war. So sanctions are a figmentary declaration?)

Putin maintains that *"Ukraine is not a real country"* even though the **Kievan Rus** (Vikings) founded what is now Ukraine long before they reached Russia. Indeed, the modern nation of Ukraine *"existed before the Russian Republic"* during the 1991 breakup of the USSR.

Roughly Ukraine's eastern half is Russian-speaking. Ukraine is the *"Breadbasket of Europe"* (and even further afield: Egypt is suffering bread shortages now due to the war). Past President **Yanukovitch** wanted friendlier Russian involvement, but he was voted out in favor of

Western-allied politicians **Poroshenko** and **Zelenskyy**. So it's no surprise that Putin has issued Capture or Kill orders for Zelenskyy; it follows from his treatment of all who oppose him: poisoning or imprisonment or both in the case of **Nevaldy!**



John Caldwell asked if Belarus will attack. Clint said they're readying troops.

Babushkas (Slavic grandmothers) tell Russian soldiers to *"put sunflower seeds in your pockets so flowers will grow over your grave."* (The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine.)

The Baltic (NATO) countries are most concerned. Kazakhstan, a traditional ally, has refused Putin's request for help. Previously, it was possible to address the Russian people via reviews of Russian stores on Google! Rick asked if Putin wasn't *"batsh*t crazy?"* Clint allowed as much as *"weird."* He relayed the latest joke: *"Don't drop your iPhone; it's your last one."*

Joe thanked Prof. Peinhardt, led us in the 5-Way Test, and dismissed us at 1:04.



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Max Duplant	DG 5810

