



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 09, March 17th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Mar 17
John Perez – Homeland Security
"Human Trafficking in Collin County"

March 24th
Janelle Twyford – Silvis
"Update on Texas Blues & Red Hots...ins and outs... preparation"

March 31st
Isaac McNary
"Rotary Outreach"

April 7th
Bob Kehr
"Nuts about Pistachio's"

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



The Camp of Good Hope

HE Who Shall Be Named **Joe** declared the match begun at 12:10, cajoling **Johnny Lewis** to give the Invocation and the quartet of **Janis Allman, John Caldwell, Maria Mott, and Marco Solano** to give the Pledge, the former in English, the latter in Spanish!

Joe welcomed **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** back from surgery and accompanied by her good husband, **Ron Silvis**.



Janelle said she was being minded by not only her husband but also her grandchildren. They were in the back of the hall on

their electronic devices.



He also recognized Visiting Rotarian and former PRCer, **Randy Wright**.

John Caldwell told us that he will present the prizes for the 4-Way Test Speech Contest to the winners in their classrooms to inspire even more contestants next year. We inspired one teacher to make a class project out of it

to encourage the youths to be able to express themselves coherently! (Something for which their elders will be grateful.)



Janelle touted **Texas Blues and Red Hots**, our BBQ challenge at Haggard Park on **March 26th**. The trophy will go to whichever brisket wins the most tips between the PPD and PFD. In addition to the tips, we'll garner \$20 each for the Plano Rotary cookbook of the same name. Janelle said we need the donation of a tent and **Joe** mentioned coolers.

Joe handed out appreciation pins to the Pledge Quartet.



Kathy Taylor noted her elevation to Executive Director of Family Life, charged with building a Board (PRC's willing, Kathy) and fundraising, but her \$5 **BRAG BUCKS** meant the fundraising was going in the wrong direction! Her \$70K goal fell short by \$1K, but a fellow showed up the following day to say that he'd had his Y membership paid by community donations when he'd lost his job, and now he was in a position to make up her goal. She mentioned that Randy Wright had been involved with the Y early on.



Joe teased us with the February Rotarian of the Month, citing generic skills first (leadership and interpersonal) before specifying ShelterBox, 4-Way Speech Contest, and Club Treasurer, all of which IDed John Caldwell, winner of ROTM for July 2021 as well. This time, he asked for the gray Rotary hat, upon which Randy Wright commented, “[it] takes 10 years off,” to which John replied, “I’ll take 3!”



Joe had a \$20 brag! It seems that his Iowa U football team ranked 3rd, his men’s basketball ranked 22nd, but women’s basketballers are going to the finals. And this year, Iowa fielded “a full women’s wrestling team!” (Mudless)

Johnny Lewis, Raconteur Extraordinaire, told of his oldest son, Mark, taking swimming lessons at the YMCA, but as the pool was incapacitated, the lessons were held at Randy Wright’s swimming pool. (One wonders if adult beverages were the order of the day, as when ~~Sainted~~ Editor and Pat were so honored.)

Janelle rose gingerly to introduce speaker and fellow Rotarian, **Doreen Brumer**, promising not to “tell her secrets.” Doreen’s been “on every cancer board that exists.” Currently, she and her husband run a camp called **esperanza** for young cancer patients. She does “everything from the heart.” She is camp **esperanza’s** Executive Director.



Doreen, now IDed as a Visiting Rotarian, said she hails from Arlington Rotary. And the camp is “near and dear to my and my husband’s heart ”

The camp is held at Camp John Marc in Meridian, TX, since 1991. The next instance of the camp starts the last week in July. It is “great for kids, siblings, and families.” Doreen began as a camp counselor in 1999, “a little older than the other counselors,” but Janelle has “beat her age,” she offered gratuitously. Next, she got into fundraising for **esperanza**, which translates from the Spanish as “hope.”



It serves 140 children between the ages of 6 and 14 with about half as many volunteers and a medical staff of 12. They take their required treatments in a building known as the Bandido Box.

She admires PRC’s “ideas for fundraising.”

Campers arrive by bus on Sunday and are given bracelets that inform staff of their conditions. On Wednesday, the camp holds a Visiting Day when potential clients come to “test it out.”

It offers the normal variety of activities that you’d find at any summer camp: swimming, fishing, horseback riding, arts and crafts, and even ziplining and wall climbing!



Each cabin holds 14 children and 7 staff members. Some of the kids are on therapy. Doreen was once asked to numb a patient prior to a procedure, and she was terrified that she'd hurt the kid, but all was well in the end.

COVID closed the camp for two years. When it reopened, children came in family cars rather than packed in buses. Emergencies which arose were handled by CareFlights to send the kids back. Of course, they didn't want to go.



On the last night, they hold a Dance Party with a Senior Night for 14-15 year olds who are aging out of the program.

Ron Silvis was a counselor in one of the cabins, and Janelle served as camp photographer.

Now they're restarting in earnest with a maximum of 85 kids for only one week, as a nod to the pandemic.

21 of the volunteers are former clients! Many are married and have children of their own. (Joe offered her a handkerchief, as she was tearing up.) Staffed exclusively by volunteers, the camp has

\$0 operating expenses, except that the medical staff is paid. And two former campers went to Medical School!

Donations and volunteer opportunities are at: www.campesperanza.org

Staff is certified and they and volunteers are trained mercilessly including sensitivity to child abuse. So no "frontal hugs."

In response to a question from **Mary Jo Dean**, food is prepared on-site.

Camp John Marc is used for other clients, such as muscular dystrophy.

Esperanza provides tee shirts, towels, and dog tags! Janelle related a story of one camper with a recently amputated leg who wanted to go swimming, but the leg hadn't yet healed. With his doctor's permission, he not only swam, but also learned to dive, break dance, and zipline!

Joe offered the kerchief to Janelle. Then he thanked Doreen, led us in the 5-Way Test, and released us at 12:51.




MARCH 2022 YEARS OF SERVICE

JERRY ARIS | 3 YEARS

PAMELA LITTLE | 10 YEARS

CHIP STEWART | 2 YEARS

CASEY STEWART | 18 YEARS

MARIA MOTT | 7 YEARS

CHARLES MILBY | 27 YEARS

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Guests

Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest of
Ron Silvis	Janelle Twyford-Silvis

Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
Randy Wright	Plano East

