



FALL Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 14, October 7th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 7th

Dr Matkin

Collin College Update

October 14th

CC Homeless Coalition

Homeless but Working

October 21

Bill Dendy

Rotary International Foundation

October 28

Fellowship Meeting



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| John Caldwell | Oct 6 |
| Justin Roche | Oct 7 |
| Rick Horne | Oct 8 |
| Janis Allman | Oct 18 |
| Marc Lewis | Oct 27 |
| Casey Stewart | Oct 31 |



Greif's Grief

FIRE CHIEF Sam Greif was back, none the worse for wear, having endured a COVID attack that had laid him out. His only regret was being laid out during the ice storm that laid out the City! Nevertheless, his able 2nd, **Chris Biggerstaff**, handled the crisis with aplomb (& an apple to the needy).

He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena, rushed back to his car to retrieve the Rotarian of the Month Certificate he'd been carrying into every other meeting in hopes that the recipient for August would be present. She was today.

Thus, Joe started the meeting a bit late at 12:15, calling on **Peggy Fenwick** for the Invocation and **Bob Kehr** for the Pledge. Following those, he credited **Sainted Editor** and **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** for bringing sustenance (pizza) and dessert (cupcakes), respectively.

He passed out the Greeter Sign-up Sheet for next month and encouraged us to nominate candidates for Rotarian of the Month.



John Caldwell reported that the *Hendrick Scholarship* Workshop that he mother-hens is open to all. The kids themselves have chosen the topics which include time, financial, and stress management! He took the opportunity to laud the (faux)

BEATLE'S MYSTERY TOUR that lit up the *Eisemann* with lighter substitutes during the playing of *Hey, Jude!* The two dozen or so songs were well-received (as was the merciful intermission), and a nice crowd was on hand. Joe thanked **Robert Reed** for giving a shout-out to Rotary from the stage. The Club Social preceded the concert, and there was spontaneous dancing in the aisles during *Twist and Shout*.

Joe reported that N TX Giving Day scarfed up >\$66M in this, its 13th year. He recommended a like amount for **BUBBA'S BUCKET** in the form of **BRAG BUCK\$**. He started it off with honoring his favorite college team; Peggy followed suit with Arkansas which Joe predicted to be the Game of the Season. Janelle tossed in a contribution on behalf of Sam, for his having saved her life in 2016!

Sainted Editor bored the assembly with an offer of N95 masks for those who hadn't received one from him. **Sara Akers** accepted one and wore it like a hat, to **Sainted Editor's** chagrin. She graciously accepted instruction in the proper use of it.

Then Joe fêted her as August's Rotarian of the Month, citing her great love of the arts, her great leadership in the Club, and her recent recognition with a Lifetime Achievement Award! Nominators had written, "*she took the lead in the Christmas Gift Drive,*" and "*she took the lead in our 1st social.*"



Currently, he's Chair of the Intern'l. CAD Consortium and the Medical City Plano Board of Trustees. He is Chair of the Terrorism & Homeland Security Committee for the IAFC. Sam's Dad is a Lieutenant with FWFD. He enjoys golf, entertaining, camping, and community service.

Sam admitted that covid kept everyone in PFD busy, especially him. Nevertheless, his longed-for Fire Training Facility came to fruition during the pandemic. It's at 4637 McDermott on the NE corner of Robinson Rd. diagonally opposite of Station 8. He credits Rick Grady with helping pass the Bond Election which funded it.



Previously, PFD sent firefighters and EMTs out of the City to train. They burned down old houses to practice, but the EPA objected. They trained with swift water and other technical rescues. PFD had grown to ~400 members who, with their gear and equipment, were absent from the City during training. The average fire in the City calls for 4 to 5 major pieces of equipment, and to have those gone jeopardized our coveted ISO-1 rating. We were the 1st Texas city to be so honored, and we're not giving that up! So to keep up the service in firefighting, hazmat, and special rescue operations, we can't be spending time in McKinney; we need our own training facility. As Battalion Chief **Cooper** has said, "You don't train until you get it right; you train 'til you can't get it wrong."



Apropos of nothing, John Caldwell noted that the City of Plano considered chicken coops in City limits. **Rick Grady** said, "Livestock requires great care. Say 'goodbye' to vacations." **Maria Mott** then piped up that her son keeps 65 chickens. John Caldwell had but three letters for her, "KFC"



Janelle introduced speaker, Sam Greif. Joining the FWFD in '85, he worked his way from firefighter up to Asst. Chief, overseeing 42 stations and 800 personnel. He became PFD's Chief in 2015. He has a MPA from Midwestern State and is a grad of the IAFC Fire Service Executive Development Institute.

Actually, you care deeply about that ISO-1 rating; without it, your home & business insurance premiums rise! So 4 acres of prime Plano real estate isn't too much to ask.



On his displayed map, the site is just up the street from the cupcakes which represent the Police Dept substation; Sam thought that appropriate. In this artist rendition (complete with tornado in the background), the red tower holds the classrooms. Beyond is the 2700 sq. ft. Plano home (downsized from reality) and an office tower complete with parking facilities, and four sub-basements! Basement firefighting is the scariest! You can't see, and all the water you've poured into the levels above finds its way down here. It'll *"be the envy of all the other departments in the area."* (They're all masochists.)

Every floor of the high rise is a different challenge. One may be apartments, another a commercial kitchen, while a third is office space. To control the experience, the "fire" is all propane on concrete, but that produces no smoke. So a theatrical smoke machine is used which dissipates once outside, so the EPA doesn't grumble. Even the concrete is lined with *"an endothermic material"* (meaning it absorbs heat). Nevertheless, it

gets very hot and is very realistic, but deadman switches are at the ready in case the students aren't.

Bob Kehr, resident IT expert, was called in to assist Sam in getting his video to play. An ALT-TAB later, we were treated to a drone flyover of the current state of construction. The rock score used was *"Don't Stop Believing"* by the *Journey*.

In other PFD news, Sam lauded his team sent to Louisiana to help in their flood emergency. Such is the reputation of PFD that they're on call for State and Federal emergencies!



Sam also touted his media presence, e.g., @PlanoFireRescue on Twitter and PlanoFire.org

Janis Allman decried the failure of drivers to pull over when approached by an emergency vehicle. Sam said his drivers now anticipate that.

John Caldwell asked how the stations fared in the ice storm. Sam said that they all had backup generators, but a few malfunctioned and *"several pumps had to be repaired."* He called it PFD's *"damned close to finest hour"* even though he was covid AWOL.

Joe told Sam that the book *"Granite Mountain"* would be donated to Plano Public Libraries in his name. Joe led us in the 5-Way Test and blessed us to depart at 1:03.



Porcha Maten

Proposed by: John Caldwell

Classification: Education

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL



Carter House

Proposed by: John Caldwell

Classification: Real Estate

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Guest & Visiting Rotarians

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Guest | Guest of |
| None | |
| Visiting Rotarian | Home Club |
| None | |

**OCTOBER 2021
YEARS OF SERVICE**

BRAD KEITH | 50 YEARS

JUSTIN ROCHE | 7 YEARS

SAM GREIF | 6 YEARS

