



FALL
Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 16, October 21st, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 21
Bill Dendy
Rotary International Foundation

October 28
Food Football Trivia & Fun
*Wear your favorite team colors
Hot Dogs, Chips & Treats will be provided.*

November 4
Ron Silvis & Jeff Beckley
*"Where's My Order: The Supply
Chaine Dilemma"
"Foundation Update"*

November 11th
Mike Mazur
"Plano Arts Coalition"

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



Homeless Not Helpless

22 was the number of members who made it today, including **Cathy Fang!** Her return brought forth special mention from President **Joe.**

He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena,



opened the meeting at 12:11, summoning **Johnny Lewis** for the Invocation and **Robert Reed** for the Pledge. **Gary Garza** was credited with greet-

John Caldwell welcomed back member candidate, **Porcha Maten**, and **Brad Keith** brought his minder and better half, **Marna Keith.**

October 28th's meeting is described as a Fellowship Meeting (here in Chamber HQ). We will induct Porcha and **Carter House**, and we will announce the Rotarian of the Month, but beyond that, it will be football themed. We are to wear our team-colored jerseys. Johnny may appear in his referee stripes (that still fit).

Gary Garza reiterated his ReStore's need for volunteer staff. He said, "It's a great way to have an impact" on Habitat's \$1.7M annual budget. You can go online at HabitatCollinCounty.org

Janelle Twyford-Silvis announced the creation of the Club's **Blues and Red Hots BBQ Cookbook** with recipes we are to contribute (MS WORD preferred) to Janelle for BBQ, sauces, rubs, and side dishes: jt7446@yahoo.com Gary said he makes a mean BBQ tartar.

John Caldwell related the sad tale of 5810 being unable to send **SHELTERBOX**



contributions to Syria...something about a civil war. So it'll go to **SHELTERBOX** via England and trusted partners in Syria.

John continued that the Four-Way Test Speech Contest will retain, at least in part, the ZOOM aspect of the evaluations this year. He's hoping for the final venue to be at N Tx Fine Arts.

Joe notified us of a **Hallowe'en** event hosted by the *North Texas Pioneers Club*. He needs sign ups if we want this inter-club participation to work. (See the email blast for details.) Similarly, our **Christmas Party** at Haggard's **Party Barn** will be a joint Plano Clubs event. Joe's checking with **Rutledge** if 12/4 is available.

Cajoling **BRAG BUCKS FOR BUBBA'S BUCKET** from the eager crowd, Joe sweetened the pot with \$50 and a brag on his beloved *Iowa Hawkeyes*, who moved up to 2nd place with a squeaker of 23-20 against Penn State.



Johnny Lewis added a little something to the Bucket for his and Sharon's recent tour of New England's fall colors.



Not to be outdone, **Rick Horne** popped negotiable currency into the Bucket for completing a 104 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail in 8.497 days. He got “a great picture of bear scat.” And he suffered “bluebird skies” en route.

Mike McCormack ponied up his \$5 for Penn State’s loss. He’s enjoying *schadenfreude* for insufferable friends who “won’t shut up” about the team. Likewise Auburn’s loss to the Aggies; so shouldn’t that be \$10?

Joe extolled **Peggy Fenwick’s** virtuoso photographic work in the last bulletin. Gracious to the last, Peggy accepted on behalf of **Hayden Padgett** who took those in Peggy’s absence.

Gary Garza was tagged for his Rotarian Moment in the Spotlight. He chatted for a full three dozen lines in *Sainted Editor’s* notes! Born and raised in Corpus Christi (**Robert Reed’s** last abode), he “doesn’t miss the humidity!” He left at his earliest opportunity since he was interested in neither banking nor food service. He “wanted to go to law school, but the money was in retail.” He moved to DFW on 15 April 1991, and, since he was an Eagle Scout, took a job with BSA, hoping to work in Plano, but because he knew Spanish, he ended up for 19 years in Oak Cliff working two jobs. His insane hours drove off his wife, but they remain “friends.”

Habitat hired him as their Chief Operations Officer. He lives in Rockwall, works in McKinney, and joined our Plano Rotary Club because, of all he interviewed, this was the only one where “someone shook my hand!”

Program Chair Janelle was tasked with finding a chat regarding homelessness. So she asked someone who would know, Councilman **Rick Grady**. He put her onto **Shanette Eaden**, a City employee who works with Collin County Homeless Coalition. She is Plano’s Housing and Community Services Manager. She oversees the Day Labor Center (corner of Ozark and Archerwood) as well as the Great Update Rebate (why don’t we hear about that?) and SMART Energy Loan Programs. Starting from PESH, she earned her Anthropology B.A. from UT and her M.P.A. from the George Bush School of Govt. and Public Service at TAMU.

She is a heavy duty volunteer as a Baptist Sunday School Superintendent and Member of the Boards of Plano Youth Leadership Council (does she know about RYLA?) and the CC Jr. League!

Shanette apologized for her jacket which covered up an embarrassing salad dressing spill. Although a product of PESH, “I’ll become a Wildcat whether I like it or not” as her daughter is scheduled for PSHS. **Nancy Humphrey** counseled her that her daughter can go out of PSHS jurisdiction if she chooses programs only available at PESH (like the International Baccalaureate).

Shanette picked up on something Gary Garza had mentioned: “Government can’t do it alone.” She said, “We have experts in Plano, so” the City should fund them when it comes to the homeless. Whereas her topic was Collin County Homeless Coalition, she would focus on Plano which has the majority of the homeless population. From 2020 to 2021, the “unsheltered” population of the City went from 92 to 127, a 38% increase. Even those living on City monies in a hotel are categorized as homeless. What is surprising is that 54% of the homeless held down jobs, and 39% of those were full-time positions. So you can work full-time and yet not earn enough to house yourself and your family. (But, of course, the minimum wage shouldn’t be raised. That would be socialism.) Plano is a “midsized city with big city problems.”



The City receives State funds to offer Referral Housing to put the homeless into apartments. It is currently assisting 37 families with \$200K from the State. When they get on their feet, the lease becomes in their name.

As with every other aspect of existence, 2020-21 has been a challenge due to the pandemic. But the City contracted with Plano’s nonprofits to make it all work.

Hospitals contact the City after treating homeless people because they can't recover properly back on the streets. So they are at least referred to a shelter if not better digs. However, some are stubborn, insisting "*I don't need your help. It's my right to sleep (rough). I don't want anyone else here.*" So homeless agents must be patient, and "*persistence pays off.*" They eventually accept help.

The City prepares CARE packages of food, water, and hygiene supplies to take to urban campers. And they go out as a team with PPD officers. (That can't be intimidating!) Indeed, Shanette has quarterly meetings with Plano Fire, Police, and Paramedics to determine the best way to help the homeless. For example, COVID has had a vicious impact on renters, but mortgage assistance, which IS available, helps IF renters know about and receive it in time.

In response to Nancy's comment about high school choice, Shanette commended PISD for its partnership with the City. PISD deals with a larger number of homeless than even the City knows about, so the school district refers families in need to the COP. It's a case of "*pay me now or pay me later*" when it comes to the homeless. For example, PISD has dedicated buses to take kids to hotels or The Samaritan Inn.

Johnny Lewis asked the percentage of homeless that have criminal records. Shanette admitted to no knowledge of that, it not being a statistic they keep on their "clients." It was a rhetorical question, as Johnny told her it was just barely in the teens; the large majority of homeless are not criminals.

Joe asked whether the homeless are safe on the streets. Shanette told him that PPD have a good idea where the homeless live and sleep. But sleeping rough in the City is inherently unsafe, regardless of Plano's designation as a safe city.

Porcha Maten asked whether the City works with Charter Schools (especially hers). Shanette said that it would provide the same information to charter schools as to PISD. She related an anecdote about a homeless woman living on the grounds of the First Christian Church, cheek-by-jowl to Legacy Prep, Porcha's school. While the church permitted her to stay, as of 1 September, a City Ordinance forbids the homeless to sleep outside. (Surely unenforceable.) She assured Porcha, who knew of the incident, that the woman is well even though her location is, at present, unknown.

Shanette left us with an admonition NOT to give panhandlers money they request. She wants them to seek City and nonprofit services instead. There is, of course, the fear that not complying with such requests would morph them into demands, but Shanette said "*the homeless are more afraid of us than we are of them.*"

Joe thanked her for her presentation and noted that a book entitled *Serving a Sick America* would be donated in her name at a Plano Public Library. Then he led us in the Five-Way Test and released us into the wild at 1:02.



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Guests

Guest

Porcha Maten
Marna Keith

Visiting Rotarian

None

Guest of

John Caldwell
Brad Keith

Home Club

Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarian

None

Home Club

