



FALL
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 38, October 27, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

IMAGINE
ROTARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Oct 27

Duncan Webb

*State of Affairs in
Collin County*

Nov 3

Henry Gentry

*"What Makes Henry's Ice
Cream so Special"*

Nov 10

**Plano Rotary Club
Remembers**

A Walk Down Memory Lane

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

John Caldwell	Oct 06
Justin Roche	Oct 07
Rick Horne	Oct 08
Janis Allman	Oct 18
J. Marc Lewis	Oct 27
Casey Stewart	Oct 31



YOU'RE TOASTED!

PFL Janelle quelled camaraderie at 12:06, impressing **Johnny Lewis** for the Invocation and **Paul Hernandez** for the Pledge. There was no Greeter.

SERGEANT MIKE fined no one today. He must be feeling generous. **Janis Allman** introduced fiancée **Dar-**



rell Woods saying that he "kept everyone entertained" at the **PLANO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. She also thanked everyone that contributed to its success. Since that constituted a brag on PIF, she forked over \$5 to **BUBBA'S BUCKET**. Janelle continued the recognition, thanking all and sundry including the High School volunteers.

She then pointed out opinion polls on our tables covering aspects of the club. She noted that ShelterBox has given us \$3K credit for donations well in excess of that...to be amended. She wowed us with RI statistics: 1.17M members, 36% of whom are in Asia compared with only 25% North America. She advised us the Heritage Farmstead is seeking volunteers; more information is forthcoming. And three other Plano Rotary clubs will join us for the

12/3 **Party Barn Holiday Party**. The City is still expecting us to mount a downtown parade on 12/10, and we've **Angel Tree** to contend with on 12/24.

Janelle then treated us to an anecdote about being taught to body surf as a callow youth only to be sent skinny dipping by a thoughtless wave. She snatched up the pieces of her suit and a handy blanket and "hid my face in the sand until it was time to go back to school." She presented this embarrassment without the hesitant "umms."

That segued nicely into today's talk by **Jeff McKee** about **TOASTMASTERS**.

Jeff began with an extended silence, broken only by Paul Hernandez's comment, "nice tie."



Finally, Jeff broke his rhetorical silence to ask us whether we knew of the "two forms of communications." Class whiz kid and fellow **TOASTMASTER**, **John Caldwell**, piped up, "What you say and what you do." Jeff agreed and went on to tell us what a major distract-



tion it would be if he gave this talk while chewing gum noisily. It would detract from the import of his presentation.

He pointed out that *“your tongue can build you up or cut you down,”* and that knowledge leads you to be very aware of what you say so as not to ruin your impression *“even with the best of intentions.”*

He then proceeded to butter us up, emblematic of his last point. He said that he was *“honored to be presenting to such a prestigious club in such a prestigious venue. I open my arms with gratitude.”* After this over-the-top gush, he settled down to business.



He’s been in **TOASTMASTERS** *“for almost a decade.”* His current real estate efforts aren’t his first career: that was as *“Remote Support Technical Engineer.”* He was troubleshooter for school principals who couldn’t get their building A/C working. He could manipulate their systems remotely, but he had to have their feedback about the results. *“Grab a ladder, pop a ceiling tile, and find the relay”* he’d just influenced. In one such episode, a mentor dropped by, inviting him to lunch with someone who could *“help you doing your job.”*

He was taken to a **TOASTMASTERS** meeting, where *“a world-renown speaker”* gave a flawless presentation followed by a newbie hemming and hawing. He learned that **TOASTMASTERS** is a *“place to become a leader.”*

When required to give a “Table Topic,” a one-minute speech that had to include the *“word of the day,”* he spoke of a family expedition to get a Christmas tree that earned him the award for the

best presentation of the day. He had successfully used the word of the day.

He asked us which we should focus on, our strengths or our weaknesses. He maintains it is the former. In consequence, he worked on becoming a better public speaker, had improved relations with his mentor, and finally learned what a relay looks like so he could better explain it to the clients!

Rotary and **TOASTMASTERS** are teaming up, because *“to be an effective servant, we must become effective leaders”* who speak quickly and confidently. There are three members in our Club who are **TOASTMASTERS**: John, **Maria Mott**, and himself. That organization began in 1924 and now boasts 358K members. His club, Plano Talkers, *“sounds a lot like Rotary,”* it starts its meeting with the Pledge. It meets at 7 am each Tuesday in the Original Pancake House. He offered yellow pad papers on each table as a sign-up sheet for interested prospects. It can be contacted at www.planotalkers.org

Its district summit occurs 11/5 at which topic such as *“Building Effective Evaluators,”* and *“Wielding Humor as a Sword”* will be on offer.



John Caldwell then took the floor to speak of his 9 years in **TOASTMASTERS**. During that time, he’s prepared 50 speeches because *“you can’t wing a 5 to 7 minute speech without preparation.”* The experience has been invaluable for him as a substitute teacher because you must be able *“to hold the audience.”* He is also the 4-Way Test Speech Contest guru wherein our contestants have one 5810 three out of the last seven times! That’s because we recruit the best 9th to 12th graders from Dallas up to Sherman, and we

have very good judges, including **TOASTMASTERS**, UTDallas and Collin College faculty. Last year we had 47 speaker and 35 judges and handle the load with YouTube videos. All contestants get judges' notes, and the top 10 are given the opportunity to refine their talk.

John emphasized that he needs a succession plan. He must groom and understudy for when it becomes too great a burden.

Jeff told us to remove our badges IF we DIDN'T want to be called upon for a Table Topic. The clicks were deafening. But two of the remaining brave souls were chosen to speak on any topic of their interest AS LONG AS it included the word EMBELLISH, which he defined.



First up was new member ↑**Eleanor Knox** who began with *"please don't judge me."* Then she told a story from her misspent youth involving cutting off her bangs while accusing her brother of having done so. That embellishment caused her to rethink drastic changes. She was about to sit down when Jeff informed her that her 60 seconds hadn't yet expired! So she launched into a second piece of embarrassment involving changing her hair color only to discover that bright red *"wasn't my color."* Thankfully, Nature and hair growth solved both.



Chip Stewart explained his involvement with Boy Scouts. (His son has made Eagle Scout.) He fondly recalled camping with Scouts a Stonemont and the wonderful fireworks. He embellished the experience with ziplining only to discover that Scouts *"have rules to a purpose."*

Jeff praised him for finishing his 60 seconds and said that **TOASTMASTERS** have STOP signs that turn red when you must wrap up; 30 seconds beyond earns you a *"punishment."*

Mary Jo Dean thought **TOASTMASTERS** and RYLA a good combination. Jeff said, *"You and I are going to talk!"* **Mark Geller** agreed. He said many need an opportunity to speak to the public (read our Rotary Club). Johnny Lewis asked if there is anything for Middle and High Schoolers. Jeff said he didn't know. Maria Mott said the Chamber had **TOASTMASTERS** presentations. She volunteered to do a workshop for several students. Mary Jo asked the number of members in his club and was told ~20. Jeff offered *"breakfast on me"* to whoever came.

Janelle thanked Jeff and reminded us cowards to replace our badges in the box. After the 5-Way Test, she scooted us out into the Real World at 12:58.



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Thank you Toni Wilson

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Darrell Woods

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