



FALL Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 12, September 23rd, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Johnny's Favorite NP

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 23rd

Duncan Webb

Collin County Updates

September 30th

Sam Grief

Plano Fire Rescue & New Training Facility

October 7th

Dr Matkin

Collin College Update

October 14th

CC Homeless Coalition

Homeless but Working



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Hubert Aaron

Sep 17



Mike McCormack was having second thoughts. “Where,” he asked, “is everyone?” Fortunately, he concluded that there must be some overwhelmingly important event taking place which so depopulated Rotary today. **Sainted Editor** didn’t have the heart to disabuse him of that fantasy.

He Who Shall Be Named: President **Joe Camarena**, called us to order at 12:10, directing **Rick Horne** to give the Invocation and Mike McCormack to lead us in the Pledge. He credited **Jeff Beckley** with Greeting and passed **BUBBA’S BUCKET**. Jeff then explained not the origins but the fate of **BUBBA’S BUCKET BUCK\$**. First they go to our 501(c)(3) Foundation, then they fan out over such charities as the **HENDRICK SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**, **ShelterBox**, and **ANGEL TREE**, to name a few. Jeff sweetened the pot with \$5 & encouraged us to do likewise.

Local history maven (of local history), **Janis Allman**, asked leave to brag on *Plano, Texas; the Early Years*, **Maribelle Davis**’ contribution to the field. She alleged that it was funded with a “contribution” from **Sainted Editor**. He demurred, noting that he had only put up earnest money for the publication which turned out to be redundant as the Book Sale covered it handily. **Maria Mott** noted that *Texas Bank* at one time had copies on its lobby table. Janis offered copies to members at cost,

and Maria took her up on it. Janis noted that **Shirley Schell** and **Betty Harrington** worked on the tome with Maribelle. **Sainted Editor** chimed in with **Frances Wells**, and the pentafeminate was filled out with **Mozelle Campbell**. Janis put \$5 in the bucket for the brag, and, noting that he had set up the footnote process, **Sainted Editor** did likewise.

Joe noted the imminent commencement of **COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON**. He asked if anyone had any predictions for the scores of Big 12 games. **Gary Garza** said that he could predict the score before any game: **0:0**.

As **Robert Reed** was one of Mike McCormack’s noted absences (Robert’s visiting relatives in Kentucky), Joe reiterated the procedure for getting discounted PSO tickets for the 8 pm 9/25 concert (faux) **BEATLES MYSTERY TOUR**. Use Rotary2021 as the discount code at PlanoSymphonyOrchestra.org

Joe made **Gary Garza**’s case for volunteers for his ReStores. And he mentioned **N. TX Giving Day** or rather three-weeks from 9/2 thru 9/23. To the question about whether or not our Foundation is registered with NTGD, **Nancy Humphrey** said that if not, it’s too late. If you gave last year, you’ll get an email reminder this year. **Kathy Taylor** chirped up that the Y had **YDOG** (YMCA Day Of Giving) in March.

Rick Horne announced **Rick Grady** “vertical” and “doing well” after double knee replacement.



Referencing **ShelterBox**, Johnny Lewis noted 137K families Homeless in Haiti after yet another devastating earthquake with 635 after-shocks. **ShelterBox** has “boots on the ground,” coordinating with other NGOs on the scene. We will know by 9/30 whether or not our 5810 matching grant for **ShelterBox** comes through. Jeff urged us to give to our Foundation for **ShelterBox** (or you can go to them directly and credit Plano Rotary for your gift).

Joe awarded Years of Service to **Bob Kehr** and **Emma Smith** (both 2), **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** and Jeff Beckley (decidedly more than 2). He then honored **Birthday Boys Hubert Aaron** and Jeff Beckley. Johnny urged Jeff to donate his age, and Rick Horne snatched Jeff’s wallet to deposit in **BUBBA’S BUCKET**.

Joe, noting (with Mike) **John Caldwell’s** absence, couldn’t fête him as Rotarian of the Month but could urge us to enter nominations for the month of September.

Janelle rose to a Point of Omission: Joe had neglected to recognize her Visiting Guests and Balloon Festival Buddies, **John & Elaine Tanner**.



Then Bob Kehr had the unenviable task of introducing not **Jasmine Green** nor **Justin Clouch** but rather **Debbie Williams**, the Program Director for **CASA OF COLLIN COUNTY**. That’s the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (for abused and neglected children). The 1st two were AWOL, as Mike noted. Although she doesn’t look it, Debbie has been with **CASA** for 25 years after she picked up her Law and Social Services degrees from UT. She has two grown children, one of whom is getting married in January.

Bob admitted to conflict of interest: he’s on **CASA’s** Board. It’s his favorite NGO.



Debbie acknowledged that child abuse is “not an easy subject.” Then she proceeded not to sugar-coat it. Our reaction to horrific news reports is always, “Thank goodness they’ve removed them from harm,” but “the State of Texas is not a good parent.” Abused children find themselves at the mercy of Child Protective Services, and CPS “is overwhelmed.” That’s where **CASA** helps out.

Created by a judge in Washington in the 70s, “**CASA** speaks to the best interest of the child.” It presents facts which permit judges to make good decisions. Its volunteers are “trained to be the eyes and ears of the court.” **CASA OF COLLIN COUNTY** is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In common with several NGOs, **CASA** “would be thrilled to go out of business.” But as Collin County grows, so does its business. Debbie started in Dallas County but sees “the same things in Collin County.”

Since it’s better for the child, **CASA** often recommends “relative-placement” as opposed to a foster home. “99% of the time, the child wants to go home.”

CASA volunteers gather together all data in an objective way, including school academics, medical records, even occupational therapy! If the child is *“receiving services of any kind, we know.”*

The normal time limit for this hiatus from harm is one year with the possibility of an extension. But the pandemic has messed this up. Since the child wants to return to a home without abuse or neglect, **CASA** volunteers work with parents who often *“have their own trauma history.”* They *“make whatever changes are necessary.”* They monitor parental visitations during the hiatus year.

The kids are more *“comfortable sharing”* their traumatic experiences with **CASA** than with the court. In one case of a medically-fragile 18-month-old, the parents *“were challenged to understand its needs.”* When removed from the home, the child was put on life-support at *Children’s Medical Center* before transport to Houston for open heart surgery from which it (miraculously) recovered. **CASA** explained its medical conditions to the parents and got them the resources they needed to *“keep up support.”*

60% of children looked after by **CASA** are less than 8 years old. Another 25% are teenagers. The latter are a challenge for **CASA**; they must be counseled to provide for themselves when they age out of the system at 18.

Nancy Humphrey asked how to return the child to its parents if they’re incarcerated? Debbie’s response was that the wheels of justice *“turn slowly.”*

Gary Garza asked how many volunteers there were and how they were assigned. Debbie said that **CASA** has 230 advocates, 180 assigned as any one time. They look for strengths and try to take advocate’s preferences into account.

Joe asked who provides services to the parents. Debbie said that isn’t a service provided by **CASA**, but it recommends providers. He asked if one year was sufficient for the rehabilitation of parents. The answer was that it is preferable to foster care, so every effort is made to have it succeed.

Judge Johnny, whose court relied upon **CASA** when he sat in judgment, provided the International Student Association as a resource. It was **Herb Hoxie** who motivated Johnny to use **CASA** in the first place.

Janis Allman asked how many Texas counties sport a **CASA**. Debbie said there are only 72 **CASAs** which is insufficient for every county.

Jeff asked what kind of celebration is planned for the 30th year. Debbie said that an in-person Gala is planned for October.

Joe said we’d donate a library book in her name, led us in the 5-Way Test, and closed the proceedings at 1:06.



SEPTEMBER 2021 YEARS OF SERVICE

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ROBERT KEHR | 2 YEARS

EMMA SMITH | 2 YEARS

JANELLE TWYFORD-SILVIS | 3 YEARS

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FAX 972-985-7822
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plano@signsbytomorrow.com

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Jeff Beckley, CPA
President

1400 Preston Rd Ste 315, Plano TX 75093
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The Plano Rotary Club

P.O. Box 864316

Plano, TX 75086

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