



# THE DOWNTOWN PERSPECTIVE

Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine Texas

October 2022



## We're the Downtown Rotary Club!

Chartered August 18, 2022, we held our first meeting as the Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine on September 6, 2022 in our usual meeting place, The Redlands Hotel which has over a one-hundred-year history of hosting Rotary club meetings in Palestine. The evening was celebratory with champagne and a special cake. The official charter was presented to club president Sloan Shuffler by Assistant District Governor and District Governor Nominee Leon Willhite who also presented a very generous check --- "seed money" --- from PDG Hugh Summers.



### Charter Members and Officers

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Sloan Shuffler    | President                |
| Ben Moran         | Director of Admin        |
| Lisa Priest       | Secretary                |
| Rachael Johnson   | Treasurer                |
| Cory McCauley     | Director of Service      |
| Greg Gunnels      | Director of Membership   |
| Brenda H Johnston | Director of Foundation   |
| Jacque Johnston   | Director of Public Image |
| Brenda Walker     | Director-at-Large        |

## We're live!!

[downtownrotaryclub.org](http://downtownrotaryclub.org)

Charter Members and Officers con't

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mike Abrahamson       | Greg Laudadio    |
| Linda Dickens         | Renee' Laudadio  |
| Amanda Elling         | Allyson Mitchell |
| Becky Falconer        | Jean Mollard     |
| Kelli Gunnels         | Kathy Ray        |
| Carol A Herrington    | Ron Safford      |
| Kurt Herrington       | Kristin Steely   |
| Jeanette Westmoreland |                  |



### Rotarian Review

By Brenda H Johnston, Director of Foundation

At the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, I shared with the club an article entitled United in Friendship and Service printed in the August Rotarian Magazine.

Paul Harris, in his speech to the Rotary Convention in Edinburgh, Scotland, said, "The motivational power of Rotary is friendship."

In the most recent annual survey of membership conducted by Rotary International, Mr. Harris' statement held true: 45% of those surveyed cited friendship as the reason they remain in Rotary, while 42% cited opportunity to impact their communities. Rotary International conducts the annual survey, in part, for purposes of long-range planning and strategic success of the organization. In 2021, 70,000 Rotarians responded to the survey.

On a local level, the survey provides information we can use to attract and engage membership. Included are information about why members leave, demographics related to age and gender and the effects of the Pandemic on Rotary clubs around the globe.

Here's a short list of the survey findings about what respondents like and dislike about their clubs:

| Like                                 | Dislike                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Friendship and Fellowship            | Weak, unresponsive leadership                 |
| Learning new things                  | Virtual meetings with no in-person connection |
| Interesting discussions              | Poor time management in meetings              |
| Opportunities to serve the community | Uninteresting guest speakers                  |
| Hybrid meetings                      | Rituals like singing                          |
|                                      | Lack of diversity                             |

Check out the latest issue of the Rotarian Magazine for fascinating human interest stories and inspiration for our club from all over the world.

# Get to Know . . .

Cory McCauley



My name is Cory McCauley and I have been a Rotarian for nearly three years, all here in Palestine.

I was the first born to a firefighter and a teacher so I've always known that service to my community would be in my future either in my professional life, my personal life or both.

I was born and raised in Allen, TX in 1977. When I started high school, Allen was just about the size of Palestine today and I've always felt like that size city was just about right for me and my family.

I have a beautiful wife, Yvonne who I met in Dallas. After dating for a few years, we tied the knot in the best way we knew how: Las Vegas in front of "Elvis" and rolling into the chapel in a pink Cadillac.

In 2014, we were blessed with our little Katie Jo. She is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at University Academy and goes to chess club every Friday. Like most 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, she loves watching videos and talking with her friends and cousins on the computer. She once told me that her career path would be the following: "I want to be an astronaut and walk on the moon. When I get back, I'm going to quit my job and be a lifeguard You-Tuber." Chase your dreams, kiddo!

I started working for AT&T in the summer of 2003. I started in a retail store and after a couple of years moved to Account Executive for national retailers like Wal-Mart and Best Buy. I then moved into an operational role where I stayed before the sales bug bit me again and I was able to get an Area Retail Sales manager position. It was while I had this job that the East Texas area opened up and the prospect of more trees and less traffic really appealed to me, so I volunteered and moved out of the DFW area.

A year ago, I was approached by AT&T with the opportunity to provide services to East Texas ISDs and other K-12 schools. These services help to keep our kids connected and safe while at school and I couldn't think of a better use of my time. As I approach 20 years with AT&T, I couldn't be prouder of the role I currently have.

I was introduced to Rotary by Lisa and Sloan and was invited to come to some meetings as a guest to see what it was about. I had been saying that I was looking for a way to be more involved in my new community and help in any way I could. Rotary has provided that outlet for me, and I am always in awe of the projects that the club comes up with and the services we provide. I appreciate the club welcoming me with open arms as I learn and develop as a Rotarian.

I'm excited about the future of our newly chartered club and I can't wait to see what the Night Shift will accomplish going forward!

*Note: Cory is club Director of Service.*



Check out our Facebook page for pictures and more:  
<https://www.facebook.com/downtownRotaryclubofpalestine>

# Remember our Blessings Box . . .

Those who use it don't have a kitchen --- or a can opener or a microwave or frig or a pot to cook in.

**Individual serving, ready to eat items are best --- plus water, toiletries, etc.**

Those who have a kitchen --- a way to cook --- can easily get food from our local food banks.



## Service Above Self

|     |  |                                    |
|-----|--|------------------------------------|
| Oct | Decorate Meals on Wheels for their fund raiser<br>Christmas for Kids in Care | Rachael Johnson<br>Brenda Johnston |
| Nov | Christmas – Nursing Home   | Greg Laudadio                      |
| Dec | First Baby   | Jacque Johnston & Allyson Mitchell |

## Opportunities to Serve

In this space, watch for a listing of scheduled work sessions and deadlines for submitting donations.

In this article is also where you will find a link to the project sign-up web site.

October 15 – decorate at Meals on Wheels  
 Details to follow



Thanks to Rachael for creating this amazing basket of homemade goodies to be auctioned off for #PolioPlus & thanks to Jean & Mike for the winning bid! We are on track to hit our fundraising goal to help fight polio.

# What you missed!

By Ben Moran

Just wanted to recap the Sept 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for those who were unable to make it.

- Several members arrived early to enjoy a time of fellowship preceding the meeting
- We called the meeting to order by striking our new Rotary bell!
- We discussed care and concern
  - Sharon Grizzle is doing well. We continue to keep her in our prayers
  - Sloan Shuffler's surgery was a success. She said she is moving slowly, but moving. Praying that she recovers from surgery quickly and sees a drastic improvement in her back.
  - Keep the Fifer family in your prayers
- Brenda Johnston shared a summary of several articles from Rotary magazine focusing on literacy.
- We discussed several celebrations from our Sept 6<sup>th</sup> inaugural meeting including the seed money we received from Hugh Summers.



Only *some of the crew* that worked on a refresh at the Crisis Center. See our Facebook page for more great photos of even *more* Rotarians in action

- The waiting room at the Crisis Center is looking great! Thanks to all who pitched in to help with painting. A sign-up went out for one final paint session. Probably only need about 4 people to help finish up painting the trim.
- We discussed upcoming projects
  - At our next meeting we will have details about what is needed to decorate for the Meals on Wheels banquet on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - We will also spend some time organizing that project so we have a good game plan.
  - Also in October, we will kick off our Kids in Care Christmas drive for children in CPS care. Brenda Johnston said she should have a detailed list of what is needed by our October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting
- We all logged in to MyRotary and created accounts. We plan to spend some time in our next meeting helping everyone navigate to the site to donate to Polio. Brenda Walker shared that Polio giving worldwide was down significantly last year, and with several new cases, including in the US, Polio continues to be a top priority.

That about sums it up. We had a great time. Look forward to seeing everyone on October 4<sup>th</sup>!



Our leadership team: (back row L to R) Greg Gunnels; Lisa Priest; Brenda Walker; Ben Moran (middle row L to R) Brenda H Johnston; Sloan Shuffler, (front row L to R) Jacque Johnston, Rachael Johnson, Cory McCauley.

Assistant DG Leon Willhite presents Charter document to President Sloan Shuffler.

