



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

Vol. 91 No. 26

January 8, 2010

## Editorial

### *Text Messaging- Does Anyone Talk Anymore*



**Greg Petrey**

Today while taking lunch tickets I overheard a Rotary member telling the story of a young woman that was visiting the Holocaust Museum the day of the recent shooting. This young lady dove for cover and began texting her friends on her cell phone. From media reports, they carried on quite a string of messages back and forth. Text messaging is the way today's young people communicate. As I recently reviewed my own monthly cell phone statement, I saw that my 18-year old daughter participated in over 12,000 text messaging sessions, while only using a handful of voice minutes.

Texting is here to stay. My colleagues in the emergency communications industry and I, have our plate full as we prepare for the emerging role that texting will play in 9-1-1 system redesign.

9-1-1 is more than a phone number; it is technology. 9-1-1 is telephony. Our primary responsibility at the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District is to ensure that your emergency call is delivered to the proper 9-1-1 call center. Sound simple? When is technology ever simple? You can rest assured that 9-1-1 system excellence is achieved 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with the staff of professionals I lead at the 9-1-1 district. My staff's relationships with AT&T, Verizon and the hundreds of other telephone companies that serve our county are crucial in ensuring call delivery excellence. We work closely with the 9-1-1 center managers countywide, elected officials and the public to ensure that everyone from decision-makers to everyday citizens are aware of what's needed

to make the 9-1-1 system function as it is designed and their role.

Texting to communicate with the 9-1-1 dispatcher, well, that capability does not exist, yet. Now, you may soon read about trials and studies being conducted regarding texting to 9-1-1, this IS NOT a universal feature as of YET.

This is one of the reasons that the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District is spending more than twenty-five million dollars over the next three to five years to upgrade your 9-1-1 system. The new system, will be able to process text, photographs and video as or with 9-1-1 calls. This is a monumental undertaking that will drastically change not only call delivery but also call processing. This upgrade will require substantial changes to every aspect of 9-1-1 including equipment located on site at each 9-1-1 answering point.

Tarrant County's 9-1-1 service fee has not changed in twenty-five years. If all goes as planned, the equipment in the fifty-one Public Safety Answering Points within the District will be upgraded without rais-

*(Continued on Page 4)*

**Program**  
January 8, 2010

**SPEAKER:**  
**Fearsome Foursome**

**Chairman for the Day:**  
*Sid Johnston*

FORT WORTH CLUB

# Last Meeting



**Charles Luke**

We all received quite an education “Last Friday” during the annual “Holiday Harmonies” program. An all-star cast, emceed by *Victor Mashburn* led us through the joys and trials of the year through a litany of song parodies. Through these “fractured” fables we learned all about the joys and sorrows of the first day of deer season and the difficulties faced in preparing our homes and ourselves for the holiday season. We heard how Santa Claus dumbed down his gift list for Christmas 2009 to fit the brains of our techno-byte children and how H1N1 plagued the North Pole where the elves are kept “enslaved by Santa Claus”.

We were informed how Jerry Jones received what he most wanted for Christmas this past year – think massive domed edifice with a gargantuan T.V. - how much it cost and who paid for it (ouch)! While we already knew that “somewhere in this country a woman gives birth

every five minutes” we didn’t realize it was only one woman nicknamed the Octomom until we heard it from our own band of troubadours. Apparently, Santa doesn’t give birth control pills.

We heard about the new meaning behind the name “Tiger” and how his nose tells the entire story. We were regaled with tales of the “The First Nobel” won by the President, cash for clunkers, airplane flights that went on way too long and the political catfight between the two “cheerleaders” running for the office of Texas Governor. A surprise visit by “Sarah Palin” *Labbe* was surely the showstopper as she “went rogue” to the tune of “Santa Baby” across the stage and out into the audience – detailing her future political plans as she crooned. About forty-five minutes and much laughter later the show came to an end and we all departed to our own Christmas stories.

In club business the officers for 2010-2011 were introduced. The officers for the Rotary Club of Fort Worth are:

- President – *Ames E. Fender*
- President-Elect – *Bo Soderbergh*
- Vice Presidents – *Marilyn Ackmann and Dennis Shingleton*
- Secretary – *Gleniece Robinson*

- Treasurer – *Phil Moroneso*
- Sergeant at Arms – *Libby Watson*

Newly elected directors are: *Steve Eason, Phil Moroneso, Jim Parr, Don Shisler and Libby Watson.*

Directors continuing on the board are: *Marilyn Ackmann, Ames Fender, Paul Paine, Gleniece Robinson, Dennis Shingleton, Bo Soderbergh, Kathryn Thompson and Sid Johnston.*

Directors retiring from the board June 30, 2009 are: *Mike Baylor, Cathy Neece-Brown, Barbara Lamsens, Tran Trong and Doug White.*

~Charles Luke  
Volunteers of America

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## Years of Service:

*Pat Evans, 28 Years*

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ROTARIANS: *Marianne Irvin, Jerry Hendrix, Charleen Goldston, Wade Wallace*

ROTARIANS: *Tim McKinney, Ann Rice, Sue Matkin*

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# Friday's Speakers



## "The Fearsome Foursome"

For 29 years, the first Rotary meeting of the new calendar year featured past President Jack Tinsley's Fearless Forecast. Tinsley, a former editor at the Star-Telegram, would regale the club with his predictions for what would make headlines in the New Year. He was rarely right but always amusing.

After Tinsley's death in October 2005, it was time to retire that tradition. But what to do in its place? At the encouragement of our 2005-06 President *Mark Nurdin*, up stepped the Fearsome Foursome with their twisted take on "That Was the Year That Was." Presented in four segments, the program looked at the year's headlines in politics/government, business, sports and culture/entertainment.

It was such a success that the club voted to make it an annual affair. What, you don't remember voting on it? Huh. Wonder how that happened.

The Fearsome Foursome has a new member this year — *Doug White*. Returning will be *Wayne Carson* on business, *Gary Cumbie* on culture/entertainment, *J.R. Labbe* on politics. Newbie *Doug* has sports. The material is all new. And 2009 was a year ripe with fodder for comment. You won't want to miss Friday's meeting.

ROTARIANS: *Charlie Powell, Bill M cCoy, Mark Nurdin*

ROTARIAN: *Nancy Gibson*

ROTARIAN: *Walter Littlejohn*

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# Editorial

(continued from page 1)

ing this service fee. For Tarrant County, this upgrade is an investment in helping 9-1-1 keep pace with the ever expanding communications needs of our citizens of all ages.

I'll wrap up with a few important 9-1-1 basics.

**An informed caller is 9-1-1's best caller.** It's important that you know how to help 9-1-1 help you. In an emergency, seconds matter, so being knowledgeable and prepared can make all the difference.

**Know the capabilities of the telephone you are using.** 9-1-1 can be contacted from pretty much every device that can make phone calls (traditional landline phone, cell phone, internet or Voice over Internet Protocol phone service), but the call-back and location information that accompanies your call to the 9-1-1 center can vary drastically amongst technologies and between geographic regions. 9-1-1 and telecommunications professionals are hard at work to make sure 9-1-1 works the same on all devices in the future, but until then it is your job to be knowledgeable about benefits and limitations associated with various technologies. Take some time out of your day to call your cell phone service provider to learn about calling 9-1-1 from your cell phone.

**Know where you are.** This is probably the most important information you can provide as a 9-1-1 caller, so try to be aware of your surroundings. Make a real effort to be as detailed as possible. If you are outside and don't know the street address, take a look around and try to find landmarks or cross streets. If you are inside a large building or one with multiple levels, you can help emergency services by letting them know which floor you are on, which apartment you are in, etc.

**Know WHEN to call 9-1-1.** 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should only be dialing 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire, or medical assistance. If you aren't sure if your situation is an emergency,

you should err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1 and let the expert who answers your call make the decision whether to send help or not.

**Stay calm.** When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. Even though you may want to, try not to panic. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you are able to stay strong, pull yourself together, and answer all of the 9-1-1 operator's questions, the faster they can get the right services to your location.

-Greg Petrey

Tarrant County 911 District

## Personals

*Paige Hendricks* has two grandbabies that have first birthdays within 60 days of each other—nearly grand-twins! They are Mila Haffar and Miles Hendricks, both of Dallas.

*Ellen & Bernie Appel* have had a busy Fall . September - 15 days in Italy, October in NY for an extraordinary Bat Mitzvah for Bernie's granddaughter, Halloween in Atlanta for Ellen's granddaughter's 5th birthday party, November in Washington DC for Ellen's Thanksgiving Family reunion, and several more trips in the works-All on American Airlines.

*Bob Parmelee* has just been reappointed to the Board of Directors of the T (the FWTA), and has been elected as Chair for another year. He attended a very informative and useful seminar here in Fort Worth last Friday titled "Trains to the Future". Good information relating to the SW 2 NE Commuter Rail project the T is moving forward with, and for the Modern Trolley project the City, the T, and a number of other organizations are working on for our city, beginning (probably) with a downtown circulator, with extensions (on a time frame yet-to-be-determined) to the Hospital District, and then to the East, perhaps as far as Texas Wesleyan; down West 7<sup>th</sup> to the Cultural District and the North Texas University Medical campus; North to the stockyards area; and perhaps other routes. *Bob's* two children, spouses

and grandchildren visited right after Christmas. The grandchildren, consisting of 7 girls and 1 boy, range in age from 9 years to 9 months.

*Lynda Tiedtke* and her husband, Eric, are building a house in the Ridglea area using universal design principles and green building techniques. They will soon have a website to follow their progress: [www.fwdreamhouse.com](http://www.fwdreamhouse.com)

*Joel Sawyer* has spent many weekend hours in the deer blind since the opening weekend of deer season with his eleven year old daughter, Sarah, helping her watch for "Hartford," the elusive big buck. Sarah is anxious to match thirteen year old sister Samantha's result from last year, and put a big trophy on the wall at the ranch. *Joel* reports that hunting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is quite different than when he was a kid. Now, Sarah spends down time in the blind texting Samantha, in a nearby blind, with messages such as "Have you seen anything?"

-Susan Morgan

## Next Week's Program

January 15, 2010

**SPEAKER:**  
**The Honorable Kay Granger**  
**Congresswoman**  
**District 12**

Chairman of the Day:  
*Wayne Carson*

# January Birthdays

- 2 Lou Martin, Lewis Wall and Bob Leonard
- 5 Elliott Garsek
- 9 Don Scott
- 10 Bernie Appel
- 12 Dan Barrett and Greg Shannon
- 13 Van Romans and Wade Wallace
- 14 Bo Soderbergh
- 15 Bertha Whatley
- 16 Jerry Sawyer and David Keltner
- 17 Linda Van Grevenhof and Terry Harden
- 18 Charles Nixon, Kay Granger and Scott Miller
- 19 Betty Harvey
- 20 Suzie Williams
- 21 Wayne Carson and Cathy Neece-Brown
- 26 Roland Jary, Linda Low

- and Vickie Powell
- 27 Shirley Little and Roland Johnson
- 28 Cheryl Kimberling, Frank Shiels and William Fitzgerald
- 29 Karen Holcomb and Pete Geren
- 30 Steve Dutton and Linda Christie
- 31 Jhani Wright-Williams, Stephen Stallcup and Corey Hines

# ROTAGRAPH

ROTARY CLUB OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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Amy H. Bearden, Associate Director

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John Miller, Arlington, Texas

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Ames Fender ..... President-Elect  
Gleniece Robinson ..... Vice President  
Bo Soderbergh ..... Vice President  
Kathryn Thompson ..... Secretary  
Dennis Shingleton ..... Treasurer  
Paul Paine ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

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| Marilyn Ackmann   | Mike Baylor       |
| Ames Fender       | Sid Johnston      |
| Barbara Lamsens   | Cathy Neece-Brown |
| Paul Paine        | Gleniece Robinson |
| Dennis Shingleton | Bo Soderbergh     |
| Kathryn Thompson  | Tran Trong        |
| Doug White        |                   |

## ROTAGRAPH

Drew Martin ..... Editor  
Associate Editors

Robert Gleason ..... Last Meeting  
Paula Parrish ..... Advertising  
Betty Harvey ..... Personals  
Pat Dohoney ..... New Members  
Drew Martin ..... Editorials



## BAILEY, SHARON G.



"Sharon" September 15  
**Associations-Learning Center of North Texas**  
Learning Center of North Texas  
101 Summit Ave., Ste. 612  
76102 817-336-0808  
[S.Bailey@thelearningcenterofnt.org](mailto:S.Bailey@thelearningcenterofnt.org)  
905 Quail Creek Ct.  
Southlake, 76092 972-814-7790  
2009

Sharon Bailey is the Executive Director of The Learning Center of North Texas. She received her B.A. (1982) as well as her M.A. (2000) at the University of Dallas. Sharon is the President of the Board of Directors for the Alliance of Technology & Women International, and was a board member and officer for WordSpace, a north Texas literary organization. She enjoys writing poetry and reading. Sharon is engaged to Johnnie Spruiell, and has 2 grown children.

## HALL, JESSIE L.



"Jess" October 3  
**Associations-National Kidney Foundation**  
National Kidney Foundation  
5429 LBJ Fwy., Ste. 250  
Dallas, 75240 214-769-0295  
214-351-3797  
[jess.hall@kidney.org](mailto:jess.hall@kidney.org)  
5324 Alta Loma Dr.  
Keller, 76244 817-741-3588  
Washington, DC 2009  
Fort Worth, TX 2009  
Joyce 2009

Jess Hall is the Division President – Texas for the National Kidney Foundation. He received his B.S. Psychology (1972) as well as his M.A. Urban Affairs (1977) at the University of Texas at Arlington. Jess was previously affiliated with the Washington, D.C. Rotary Club and our club, and is a member of Leadership Fort Worth. He also enjoys building computers, woodworking and music. Jess is married to Joyce Schmitt, and has 2 grown children.

**Your Dues are Due!**

*Dues statements went out on December 2nd for the period, January 2010-June 2010.*

*If you did not receive a dues statement, please contact the Rotary office.*

*Dues will be past due on January 15th.*

