



ROTARY REMINDER

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



CLUB NO. 63. DISTRICT 5870. AUSTIN, TX.

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 40

MAY 7, 2019

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Community Service—Mary Reynolds

Global Service—Girish Altekar

Membership Service—Tillery Castillo

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

5/14—Coach Karen Aston,
University of Texas Women's
Basketball Team

5/21—Derek Tinker & Bill Hays,
Switch Energy Alliance

5/28—Jonathan Coon,
Co-Founder of 1-800 Contacts

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

5/8—Downtown Austin Breakfast
Cluster Meeting, Magnolia Café
(on Lake Austin Blvd.), 7:00 a.m.

5/16—RCA MasterMind Group
Meeting, Mimi's Café (Arbor
Walk), 7:00 a.m.

5/17—EAFK Knighting
Ceremonies, Pecan Springs
Elem., 8:15 a.m. & Dawson Elem.,
1:30 p.m.

See page 4 for more details!

This Week's Program

Rotary Club of Austin Scholarship Awards Program for 2019

RCA's Scholarship Committee Chair, **Kimberly Gdula**, and members of the Scholarship Committee proudly announce the winners of the scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year. Austin-area high school seniors submitted scholarship applications, received recommendations from high school counselors and had personal interviews with members of the Rotary Scholarship Committee.

This year's selected student recipients' names are listed below. ***The 2018-2019 scholarship awards total more than \$71,000, bringing the total amount awarded by the Rotary Club of Austin, to-date, to well over half a million dollars.*** These scholarships are made possible by the contributions to the Austin Rotary Club Foundation through current annual gifts as well as by the earnings from named scholarship funds endowed to the Foundation.

With this generous help from members of RCA, these outstanding students will be able to pursue their goals through education.

Come meet, greet and congratulate these dedicated individuals as well as their family members and school mentors and encourage these students as they begin a new chapter of their educational journey!

***** *Special note:* In addition to our outstanding high school student guests we'll also be joined by the recipient of the John Hall Nursing Scholarship, **Asika Blessing!****

2018-2019 Students & Named Funds They Were Awarded

Arlyn Alcid, Taylor Fund
Juan Banuelos, Marshall Fund
Edwin Espinosa, Nash Fund
Matthew Garcia, Ingersoll Fund
Carolina Govea, Portman Fund
Alan Gregory, Payton Fund
David Hernandez, Hawkins Fund
Priscilla Oliva, Ravel/Karavel Fund
True Pham, Lowe and Wilson Funds
Yesenia Ramos, Bowman Fund
Litzy Rodriguez, Hang Fund
Will Slatton, Burton Fund
Phoibe Usabimana, Butler and
Evans Swann Funds
Alexandra Villegas, Pinckney
Braziel Fund

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Andres Alcantar — COO, Texas Association of Business (TAB)

April 30, 2019

Reported by Andy Swanson

President Julie called the meeting to order and led our saying of our *Vision Statement*. **Grant Sparks** led the pledges and **Leslie Bagby** gave our invocation of the day. **Gary Gerstenhaber** led us in saying the *Four Way Test*. **Alison Michels** greeted each member and guest as they arrived and **Caroline Valentine** introduced our guests and visitors.

Past President Barry Curlee announced that the “Brainstorming Session #3” will be held after our lunch meeting today. Everyone is welcome to attend to discuss fundraising ideas!

Mary Reynolds followed him and reported she needs volunteers to help pack bags of fresh fruit and vegetables during June and July to give to students at Hart Elementary. Please let her know if you can help.

Past President John Braziel provided an outstanding update regarding one of our past scholarship recipients – **David Padilla-Arenivar** – during the *Membership Minute*. David attended Del Valle High and was one of the top students in his graduating class. In addition to the scholarship he received from us, he also received a Gates Millennium Scholarship to cover the balance of his college expenses, including tuition and books. He was set to attend St. Edwards University to study graphic design when his mother became ill and his father left their family. He contacted John who presented a request to our Austin Rotary Club Foundation asking that the scholarship funds be used to provide money for food and housing to David’s family for three months. Without this generosity, he and his mother would have been homeless. David has since excelled in college, maintaining a 3.98 GPA majoring in computer science with a minor in graphic design. He will graduate and attend grad school at UT Austin. Congrats to David!

Tillery Castillo reminded us about our Spring Social/Membership event that will be held at **President Julia and Harold Benkoski’s** home on Saturday, May 18 from 4-6pm. Please plan to attend, and if you know someone who is interested in Rotary invite them, too! This will be a casual and family-friendly event.

President Julie announced that if you are interested in becoming an advertiser in our newsletter, please contact Jenn! Cost is \$250 for six months. Then we enjoyed a solid ten minutes of fellowship!

Tarby Bryant introduced our speaker, **Andres Alcantar**, the COO of the Texas Association of Business (TAB). Andres has been COO at TAB since July 2018. He grew up in West Texas and attended college at Texas Tech where he received a bachelor and master’s degree in public administration.

He reported that, with a state unemployment rate of 3.8%, it is a great time to be in Texas! Texas has now had 107 months in a row of job growth and every sector of our economy has added jobs. Last year, Texas led the country with \$315 billion in exports, which is up 20% from 2017! Times are good but pressure from global competition is fierce, and we must be vigilant and strategic in order to continue on this path.

TAB is focused on growing the economy of Texas. Founded in 1922, they are the “state chamber of commerce” and work on behalf of all businesses in Texas. Texas is currently ranked as the top state to do business, and we are working to stay at the top.

Andres said that Texas continues to lead the country in corporate relocations, and due to all of the growth, we are facing many challenges. With state population growth of 18% since 2010, we must figure out ways to address issues caused by this rapid growth. The state Legislature is facing a number of challenges in the current session, but with the growth in tax receipts and use of the rainy day fund the state is in a good position to find solutions.

TAB works with state and local governments to address priorities including education, economic development, infrastructure and property tax reform. They are also focused on federal issues regarding trade and NAFTA 2.0 and need to address issues regarding tariffs and the need to get Texas’ fair share of the gas tax receipts from the federal government (Texas is the only state that is a net donor in the country).

TAB advocates and provides a number of benefits for its members. They are currently rolling out a health plan for their association members for companies with two to fifty employees. Please contact Andres if you would like information on becoming a member of TAB.

We recognized **Mark Johnson (IBC Bank)** and **Mike O’Krent (Life Stories Alive)**. Thank you for sponsoring the newsletter! **President Julie** adjourned with a *Thought of the Day* from Tina Fey.

RECAP FROM PROGRAM ON APRIL 23RD

Randy Clarke — CEO, Capital Metro

April 23, 2019

Reported by Andy Swanson

President Julie called the meeting to order. **Jackie Sinex** led the pledges and **Michele Heyman** gave our invocation of the day. **Jim Bryce** led us in saying the *Four Way Test*. **Maxie DeBlanc** greeted each member and guest as they arrived and **Russell Gana** introduced our guests and visitors.

President Julia introduced our newest member – **Rupal Chaudhari** (sponsored by **Mark Johnson**). Welcome, Rupal!

Paul Harris Fellowship Awards were presented to **Tom Anderson** (PHF Initial), **Vlad Bahrencu** (PHF +1) and **Rich Fikani** (PHF +2). Please congratulate them all!

President Julie noted that everyone is invited to a wine tasting at **Peter Pfeiffer's** home on River Road in Tarrytown on Friday, April 26. Please put this on your calendar!

Mark Kapner provided the *Membership Minute*. He has been a Rotarian for 18 years. He was brought up on the Hebrew tradition of “healing the world” and this led him to getting involved with Rotary. The moon landing in 1969 sparked his interest in engineering; and he studied engineering in college and then worked in the energy industry. He recently formed a company called Kapner Solar and is looking for investors.

Tillery Castillo announced our Spring Social Event that will be held at **President Julia and Harold Benkoski's** home on Saturday, May 18 from 4-6pm. Please plan to attend and bring your family or a friend! This will be a casual and family friendly event.

Andy Swanson gave an announcement regarding an upcoming service project with Habitat for Humanity. He is confirming the date for our group and will let everyone know once it has been set.

Ann Graham led today's *Thank Goodness Basket*, and we heard from a number of thankful Rotarians including: **Tom Locke, Sylvia Holmes, Mark Johnson, Michele Heyman and Sherry Workman**.

Tarby Bryant introduced our speaker, **Randy Clarke**, who is the CEO of Capital Metro. Randy has been CEO at Cap Metro since March 2018. He is originally from a small town in Canada. Thus, he is still learning about Austin, but he said he truly feels that Austin is the friendliest place he has ever been! He conducted a quick poll of the audience and found that a number of our members had never used Cap Metro or any kind of public transportation. He spoke about the value of transit and the need for continuing to improve our transit system as our population continues to grow at a rapid pace.

He stated that, like our *Four Way Test*, transit needs to be fair and it needs to be beneficial to everyone – it must treat everyone equally. Cap Metro has improved and added new bus routes. By taking more people off road and putting them on mass transit – this improves driving conditions for others.

Over the next 18 months they will be focusing on community engagement – looking for feedback from the community about wants and needs. Randy feels that Cap Metro must do more to contribute to the community, but he thinks that communication with the public is more challenging than ever. With proper planning, we can manage our growth, but we'll need to build infrastructure to support all of the new large developments across the region (i.e. Plaza Saltillo, Domain, McKalla Place). We must think regionally in order to build a cohesive plan for transit.

Randy discussed several of Cap Metro's rail lines, including two new ones: The Blue Line would run from the airport along Riverside Drive to the convention center. The Orange Line would run north/south through Austin. The existing Red Line needs to turn into the “workhorse” for commuters. Now have electric powered buses in service and are constructing an electric charging facility in north Austin near Burnet Road and US 183.

The Cap Re Map project has recently redesigned the bus network to better fit user needs. Since June 2018, ridership is up every month. Will be opening a new park-and-ride station at Westgate in South Austin. Currently working on Project Connect – a multiyear planning project to improve Cap Metro and build for the future (<https://capmetro.org/ProjectConnect/>). They are ready to try to help deliver solutions as the Austin area grows from 2M people to 4M people over the next 20 years!

Next week we'll hear from Jeff Moseley – CEO, Texas Association of Business. We then recognized and thanked **Corey Wilson (Kidd Rooding)** and **David Doran (Texas Systems Group)** for sponsoring the newsletter! Thought for the Day from **President Julia**: “Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.” - Norman Vincent Peale.

SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

***Wednesday, May 8—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Boulevard) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Thursday, May 16—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting
at Mimi's Café (in Arbor Walk) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Saturday, May 18 — Spring Fling for New Members
hosted by Julie and Harold Benkoski (at their home)
from 4:00-6:00 p.m.***

RSVP with Tillery Castillo

See flyer on page 6 for more details!

******SAVE THE DATE*** Wednesday, June 26 ***SAVE THE DATE******

***End-of-Year Changing of the Guard Party
at Matt's El Rancho (on S. Lamar) from 6:30-9:00 p.m.***

More details soon—but for now, SAVE THE DATE!!!

IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR CLUB

We'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the hard working members of our ***Hospitality Committee*** who helped us before our last meeting (on April 30, 2019).

Myron Burse,

Nick Hesselsweet,

Alison Michels, Carl Noble

and Caroline Valentine

Thank you all for your service! If you'd like to assist the Hospitality Committee at any of our weekly luncheons, please contact **Myron Burse** (or Jennifer Olsen).

PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 4/30

*“To me ‘YES, AND’ means don’t be afraid to contribute.
Always make sure you’re adding something to
the discussion. Your initiations are worthwhile.”
~~ Tina Fey*



ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

The following people are celebrating their birthdays this week:

Jill Johnson (May 7th)

Pete Meeker (May 11th)

Please join us in wishing them a VERY happy birthday!

**THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN
BREAKFAST CLUSTER MEETING...**

FROM LAST MONTH'S DOWNTOWN AUSTIN BREAKFAST CLUSTER MEETING (AT THE MAGNOLIA CAFÉ ON LAKE AUSTIN BLVD.) — THIS MONTH'S IS COMING UP ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8:

Bluebonnets have bloomed, the rain has fallen; welcome to spring and all the pollen. Tomorrow celebrate spring at **2nd Wednesday**. Your Rotary friends will be at the **Magnolia Café** on **Lake Austin Boulevard** at **7:00 am**. *Come join us!*

Good things happen in the spring, so come tell us about them while you sip some good Magnolia coffee and nibble on some of those delightful breakfast offerings. The South Austin Roosters are finally adjusting their crowing time to daylight savings, so you may hear one echoing in the distance.

Last month we talked about daughter's med school, SXSW, 17 to 3, horse, storms, Taos, deep snow, Camp Enterprise, SXSW (I know), spring break, children & grandchildren, Rotary Foundation, Big 12 (okay, ten), Ireland, K-Fire, Uncle Tony, Maine, 1-1/2 year old, daughter's birthday, chicken fried, Rebecca Creek Distillery, \$20k-30k, Puerto Rico, Rotary wheel, switched ID, TSA, Costco Driver's License, DPS, croissants, and level 2 soccer.

Come to the Magnolia tomorrow and see if you can top that! Talk about *what's happening in your life!*

RCA SPRING FLING FOR NEW MEMBERS —
COMING UP ON SATURDAY, MAY 18TH



Rotary Garden Party

The Home of Julia and Harold Benkoski
2300 Barton Creek, #3
Austin, TX 78735

Saturday, May 18, 2019
4:00pm to 6:00pm

Please Bring a Prospective Member and your
Favorite Beverage

**Family Friendly*

**Application Fee Reduced: \$250 to \$100*

**RSVP by May 13th, tillery@austincityrealty.net*



PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM ON APRIL 30TH



ST. DAVID'S PARKING GARAGE MESSAGE/INSTRUCTIONS



Premier Parking/St. David's garage manager, Angel, will provide 50 parking spaces in St. David's garage every Tuesday for our use, although they may or may not be roped off for us. Once those spaces are taken and there are no other parking spaces members should either try to find parking on the surface lot on the church property, if there are any spaces available, **OR**..

Drive over to Premier's Trinity surface lot which is on Trinity and 8th, catty-corner to St. David's parking garage. (It's the corner lot that is steeply slanted — *see map image to the left*.) You may also start there, if you'd like. If you park in this surface lot, go to the kiosk (on the lot) and punch in the numbers, **1905**. You will not be charged for parking in either the small, surface lot on the church campus nor this

Trinity surface parking lot.

Please continue to use your laminated barcode to enter the parking garage and don't punch the button for a paper ticket. Our code is read by the parking system and an accurate count of members will be reported. If you have a guest coming, they *will* take a paper ticket and then they will need to ask the Hospitality Team, when they check in, for a one-time use QR code to exit the garage. If any of your guests park in Premier's Trinity surface lot then they will need to punch in the numbers **1905** at the kiosk, too.

Club leaders continue to try to identify alternative parking solutions for us and welcome any suggestions from members.

AUSTIN CENTRE—OVERFLOW PARKING REMINDER

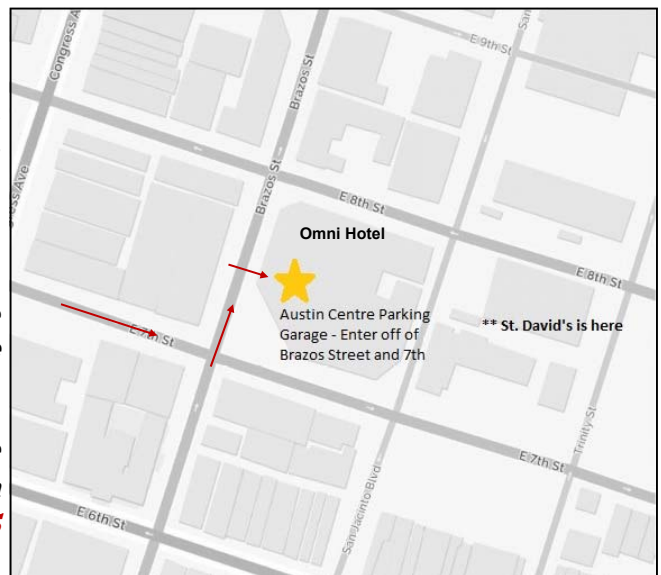
Don't forget that we still have an agreement with Austin Centre (the building right across San Jacinto from the Church...think the Omni, but not — *see map image to the bottom right*) where they will try to provide overflow parking in their garage on (most) Tuesdays during our weekly lunches!

This garage is MUCH more expensive for us than when you park in St. David's garage (or in the Trinity Surface Lot), however, since they charge us in 20 minute increments (not a flat rate).

If you park in the Austin Centre garage, you **MUST** request a validation ticket from one of the Hospitality members when you check in at the meeting! Please note that this is **ONLY AVAILABLE** from 11:00-2:00 each Tuesday and is unavailable on any other day of the week.

To enter the Austin Centre parking garage, come down 7th Street and turn left onto Brazos. The parking garage entrance is on the right.

******If you park there, don't forget to ask the Hospitality Team for a complimentary validation voucher/ticket! YOUR LAMINATED BARCODES WON'T WORK IN THIS GARAGE!******



SUPPORTERS OF THE ROTARY REMINDER (PAGE 1)



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President, Certified Pedorthist

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