



McKinney Sunrise Rotary Club Sunrise Sentinel

April 12, 2017

Officers and Directors 2016 – 2017

President	Juli Smith
President Elect	Phyllis Davis
Secretary	Gary Taylor
Treasurer	Dennis Snavelly
Vice President, Fund Raising	Chuck Koehler
Club Service Director	Sandi Froese
Vocational Service Director	Bill Bilyeu
Youth Services Director	Larry Offerdahl
Community Service Director	Tom Parker
International Service Director	Trevor Castilla
Membership Chair	Bill Smith
Rotary Foundation Chair	Nathan White
Sunrise Sentinel Editorian/Webmaster	Gary Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ed Miles

Club Meeting Time and Location

07:30 Wednesday Morning
Eldorado Country Club
McKinney, TX

Today's Program



Past Presidents

2015-16.....	Larry Offerdahl
2014-15.....	Steve Mitas
2013-14.....	Bill Smith
2012-13.....	Gary Taylor
2011-12.....	Stacey Kemp
2010-11.....	Donas Cole
2009-10.....	Nathan White
2008-09.....	Pamela Zeigler-Petty
2007-08.....	Bill Bilyeu
2006-07.....	Tom Parker
2005-06.....	K. Lyle Froese
2004-05.....	Timothy Kocsis
2003-04.....	Scott Dillashaw
2002-03.....	Linda Paluga
2001-02.....	Steven Mitas
2000-01.....	Jeff Caserotti

Mayoral Forum

Rotary District 5810

District Governor.....	Bill Dendy, E Club
District Governor Elect	Rick Amsberry, Park Cities Rotary
District Governor Nominee..	Beverly Grogan, Grand Prairie Mtr

Rotary International

President.....John F. Germ, Chattanooga, Tenn. Rotary Club

The Four Way Test
of the things we think say or do....

1. Is It the Truth
2. Is It Fair to All Concerned
3. Will it Build Goodwill and better Friendships
4. Will it be Beneficial to all Concerned



Rotary Club of McKinney Sunrise, District 5810
Club Number 28762, Chartered May 22, 1992
P.O. Box 2244, McKinney, Texas, 75070
www.mckinneysunriserotary.org



Mayoral Candidates

Danny Bishop is a father, bus driver, and avid cyclist who has been living in McKinney, Texas his entire life. He runs on a platform based on party unity – a moderate who believes that bipartisanship is still an imperative ideology to our democratic society. He believes that the city of McKinney requires tax reform, more representation of the working class, and a stronger support system for those in need.



George C. Fuller is a community-focused businessman with a 25-year track record of building a better McKinney...literally. A developer, commercial property and custom home builder, retail and service businessman and leading philanthropist, George and his wife, Maylee, have actively contributed their time, talents and financial resources to the McKinney community for over two decades. "My name is George C. Fuller and I am the father of four wonderful children and husband to Maylee Thomas-Fuller. As a citizen, an active developer, home and commercial builder, retail and service business owner & co-founder of The Love Life Foundation, a non-profit organization established in the early 90's that benefits "at risk" women and children in our community, I have been actively investing in McKinney for the past 25 years.



For the past 6 years, I have led the revitalization of Adriatica. I've also served 5 years on the McKinney Community Development Corporation, coordinating community and economic development strategies and programs. As Chairman, I led the efforts to bring PSA McKinney youth sports and the Aquatic & Fitness Facility to our community. I am currently the President of the Stonebridge Commercial Association and am an active board member on the McKinney Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Directors for Meals On Wheels.

Randy Pogue, P.E. is a native of Dallas, Texas, and has been a resident of McKinney since 1996. He received his degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1992, and he is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and Oklahoma. He was the President/Owner of Pogue Engineering & Development, Inc., a McKinney based company, from 1999 until December 2015 when Pogue Engineering was sold to Westwood Professional Services. Randy is now employed by Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering as the DFW Commercial Market Leader. Randy is an active member of the community previously serving on the McKinney Planning & Zoning Commission, McKinney Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, McKinney's Texas A&M Club Board, and Pogue Construction Advisory Board. He has also participated as a member of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce Business Development Committee and the McKinney Christian Academy Strategic Planning Committee. Additionally, Randy has served on the McKinney Education Foundation Board of Trustees as well as the McKinney Christian Academy Board of Trustees. In 2013, Pogue was elected as an At-Large representative to McKinney's City Council.



8000 Kilometers to Peace

Rotary members in a small town of Nova Scotia, Canada, took action to bring two families from war-torn Syria to their country, where the refugees are starting a new life.

This explosion was close – much closer than the others that had rattled the village on the outskirts of Homs, Syria, where Sultanah Alchegade lived with her four young children. This one hit the school next door, blasting out one of the walls of their house.

Alchegade grabbed the children and ran into the night and the choking smoke and dust. A neighbor helped her carry her three-year-old twin boys, Mounzer and Kaiss; another drove the pickup truck they all clambered into. Over the next several days, as bombs continued to fall, the family – including daughters Kawthar, age six, and Roukia, a baby – took refuge in a nearby forest, sleeping under the trees as Sultanah tried to figure out their next move.

In neighboring Lebanon, Sultanah's husband, Mazen, frantically tried to contact his wife. For years, Mazen had shuttled back and forth across the border every few weeks to do construction work on high-rise buildings in Beirut. While the jobs provided an income for his family, he says, the separation was hard. But their situation had just gotten much harder.

With the Syrian civil war now engulfing his village, Mazen couldn't return. And it would be four months before his wife and children could cross into Lebanon.

Eventually, the family was reunited. They were alive. But they were refugees, seeking asylum in any country that would take them, hoping to get far away from the violence that had driven them, along with millions of other Syrians, into foreign lands.

The Alchegade family registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency responsible for resettling Syrian refugees, and waited. They were still in Lebanon nearly three years later.

Meanwhile, 8,000 kilometers away, Rotarians in the small town of Amherst, Nova Scotia, were watching images of Syrian refugees on television and looking for ways to help.



The Alchegade children enjoy playing in the snow.

A new culture

In September 2015, members of the [Rotary Club of Amherst](#) were thinking about their next international project. Over the years, the group has helped build and equip a school in South Africa, provided educational materials to students in the Bahamas, and raised funds for disaster-stricken areas around the world, but their thoughts turned to Syria as the plight of refugees dominated the news.

“We as Rotarians couldn’t ignore what we were watching each and every day,” says Ron Wilson, a semiretired civil engineer. “Families dying while making their journey to Europe or other places. Families desperately trying to flee war and, sadly, their homes. The heart-wrenching images were the impetus for our club to do something.”

Ann Sharpe had joined Rotary specifically to get involved with projects to help refugees. In 2015, she had attended the wedding of some friends in Turkey, which has taken in nearly 3 million Syrian refugees since 2011, more than any other country. While in Istanbul, Sharpe saw refugee children on the streets begging for food or money.

“I felt so guilty because I couldn’t do anything. It really touched me in a way that I never felt before,” Sharpe says. “We are fortunate that we don’t see those types of things in Canada. For me, Rotary was the best way to do something about this.”

In November 2015, Canada’s newly elected Liberal government began welcoming Syrian refugees in larger numbers. The country pledged to grant asylum to 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016. By February 2017, the total had surpassed 40,000.

Bill Casey, a Liberal member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester district and an Amherst resident, endorses the move. The country’s willingness to accept refugees, he says, will lead to a multicultural renaissance in communities and neighborhoods across Nova Scotia.

“We’re excited to have exposure to a new culture because there hasn’t been much immigration here in Nova Scotia for the last 100 years,” Casey says. “When Syrians come to Canada, many start a business. I think opening our doors to refugees will be something we can be proud of and learn from.”

At Sharpe’s first Rotary club meeting, members started to put together a plan to bring a Syrian family to Amherst. Her enthusiasm about the initiative led the international committee to make her a co-chair of the refugee project that night.

The club began by gauging the community’s interest in the project. They learned that two local churches, First Baptist and Holy Family, were also looking for ways to support refugees.

There was a logistical benefit to working with the churches: Both are sponsorship agreement holders, meaning they signed an agreement with the government to bring refugee families into the country – something that would take the Amherst club two years to obtain. In return, the club handled administrative tasks, communicated with the Canadian government, and led fundraising efforts. It also donated \$5,000 in seed money to get the project off the ground.

“Because of the organization that Rotary offered, it was a no-brainer for us to partner with them,” says Frank Allen, a member of the Holy Family congregation and of the project’s steering committee. “This took such a weight off us; we were able to concentrate on other parts of the project. It was a gift.”

Sharpe says the club members did their due diligence but didn't overthink things.

"Just take a leap of faith and do it," she advises clubs considering a similar project. "If we had thought it through too hard, we might have convinced ourselves not to move forward. But we all knew we were doing this for the right reasons."

The Canadian government administers the Blended Visa Office-Referred Program, which matches refugees identified by the UNHCR with private sponsors. The program provides up to six months of financial support, while private sponsors provide another six months' worth of funding as well as up to a year of social support, including translation services, language training, and employment counseling.



Rotary member Ann Sharpe helps Kawthar navigate the ice rink during the family's first experience with ice skating, a national pastime of Canada.

Within a few months, the partnership between the Rotary club and the two churches raised enough funds to sponsor one family – a minimum of \$27,000 per family is needed, the government estimates – and they filed the paperwork to be matched with a family. The group raised more than \$72,000.

The Canadian government and the UNHCR conduct an intense vetting process for refugees being considered for potential resettlement in the country. It includes biometric and fingerprint checks, health assessments, document verification, and several in-person interviews.

But successfully integrating a refugee family into a community takes more than paperwork and tests; it hinges on the community's acceptance. The Amherst group held a public meeting in November 2015 at a local school to inform residents about the project, answer questions, and gauge opinions.

"There was zero resistance," says Sharpe. "We didn't know what to expect. There were many people in the country wondering if there was a security issue with bringing in refugees from Syria. I can honestly say I can't believe how much the community embraced the project. They came out with donations, in-kind support, furniture, and anything we asked of them."

With the Amherst community firmly behind them, the club welcomed its first Syrian family, the Latifs, in January 2016. The success motivated the group to work on bringing over a second family.

In August of that year, the Alchegade family boarded a plane for Canada to become group's second family. Their long journey to a new home had ended. Their journey into a new life was just beginning.

Rebuilding a life

Amherst is a sleepy Canadian town of about 9,000 that lies on the eastern boundary of the picturesque Tantramar Marshes, one of the largest salt marshes on the Atlantic coast. The streets surrounding its five-block-long main thoroughfare are lined with ornate Victorian homes. The nearest fast-food and grocery chains are two miles away.



Each week, Sultanah and her three youngest children visit Maggie's Place, a family resource center in town that provides social and educational programs to parents and their kids. There, the Alchehades get a chance to interact with other families in the area, a crucial step to their integration into the community.

While many Syrian refugees prefer to settle in Toronto or Montreal where there are more resources and jobs, the Alchehades wanted a smaller community, like the one where they had lived in Syria. There, they had land where they grew almonds and olives, and raised cows, goats, and sheep.

The family arrived in Amherst with what they could carry. Most of the furnishings in their new home, a two-bedroom apartment in a modest house on a street that dead-ends at the marshes, are donated.

The four children are energetic and open with one another and the Rotary members who visit.

They love playing in the snow and singing the alphabet song, which they quickly learned from English tutors who regularly visit their home. They sing it while watching TV, while playing outside, when guests come over.

The Rotary club helped connect Mazen with a job at Fundy Landscaping, which does stonework and builds retaining walls and decks. There, he is using the skills he learned doing construction in Lebanon.

"He does great work," says business owner Peter Michels. "I don't need to tell him anything twice. Everything we ask him to do, he runs with it. His skills and work ethic are very impressive."

Michels, whose parents immigrated to Canada after World War II, says he sees a little of himself in Mazen and his family.

"Everything you had is completely gone," he says. "Trying to start a new life in a place where you don't know if you're going to be accepted or if you're going to be rejected. I try to see things through his eyes. That's probably what my family went through – hoping that when they came to this country, there would be somebody to help them."

The town has rallied behind the refugee families, with teachers volunteering to tutor the kids and dentists offering free care. Mazen has earned his driver's license, and Sultanah has joined other mothers in the community for cooking classes, even leading a class on preparing Syrian dishes.

The kids are learning to ice skate, Canada's national pastime. These are small steps in the long process of integration that the club hopes will help them find their place in Canadian society. "We want them to be able to help improve this community and the country," says Wilson.

The Alchehades don't know if they will ever return to Syria. But right now, Canada is their home. This is where they want to see their children grow up.

While Mazen still struggles with English, he has no trouble finding the words to describe his dream for his children: "I want them to be pioneers."

Area Meeting Makeup Locations

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<p>11:45 Farmers Branch Rotary Club, Holiday Inn Select Galleria Area 2645 LBJ Freeway Dallas, Texas</p> <p>Noon Richardson Rotary Club Canyon Creek Country Club 625 Lookout Drive</p> <p>Edited 9/9/15</p>	<p>7:30 AM Frisco Sunrise Rotary Club Randy's Steakhouse, 7026 W. Main St.</p> <p>Noon Farmersville Rotary O.E. Carlisle Civic Center 201 Orange St.</p> <p>Noon Plano West Rotary Greek Isle Rest. @ 3309 N. Central Expressway</p> <p>7:00 PM Dallas Evening Rotary La Calle Dolce 415 W. 12th Dallas, Tx</p>	<p>7:30 AM Prosper Rotary Club Cotton Gin Cafe@ 204 W. Broadway</p> <p>Noon Allen Rotary Club Courtyard by Marriott @ 210 E. Stacy Road</p> <p>Noon Prestonwood Rotary Club Prestonwood CC 15909 Preston Rd., Dallas</p> <p>Noon Richardson East Rotary Club Canyon Creek CC 625 Lookout Drive.</p>	<p>Noon Frisco Rotary Dave & Busters Stonebriar Centre</p> <p>Noon Hurricane Creek Rotary 1800 Fairway Lane Anna</p> <p>Noon Plano Rotary Club Southfork Hotel 1600 N. Central Expressway</p> <p>7:30 AM Melissa Rotary First Baptist Church 2101 E Melissa Rd</p> <p>5:15 PM McKinney Sunset Hampton Inn 2008 N. Central Expressway McKinney</p>	<p>7 AM Plano Sunrise Tino's Two Restaurant 2205 Avenue K</p> <p>Noon McKinney Rotary Club Ricks Chop House 107 N Kentucky st.</p> <p>Noon Richardson Central Hyatt Regency-North Dallas Hotel 701 E. Campbell</p> <p>Noon Park Cities Maggiano's Little Italy 205 North Park Center, Dallas</p> <p>Noon Celina Rotary 320 S. Preston Rd TX Star Bank</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Online Makeup www.rotaryclubone.org</p> </div>				

Heads Up! Programs and Events

April 12-----Mayoral Forum – early mtg 7:15

April 13-----Valerie Gotcher – Brain Injury Network of Dallas

April 19-----Nathan's White Rotary Service Trip to Cuba

April 20-----Susan Lavery – Kiddo Comforts

April 26-----Pub Night to Replace Meeting

April 27-----Club Assembly

April Basket Charity – Habitat Project

Today's Thoughts in Honor of

International Moment of Laughter Day – April 14

You can't deny laughter; when it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants.

- Stephen King (1947 –)

National Stress Awareness Day – April 16

If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD – 180 AD)

So, here we go--the top 12 suggested names for Wal-Mart Wine:

12. Chateau Traileur Parc
11. White Trashfindel
10. Big Red Gulp
9. Grape Expectations
8. Domaine Wal-Mart "Merde du Pays"
7. NASCARbernet
6. Chef Boyardeaux
5. Peanut Noir
4. Chateau des Moines
3. I Can't Believe It's Not Vinegar!
2. World Championship Riesling

And the number 1 name for Wal-Mart Wine

1. Nasti Spumante

The beauty of Wal-Mart wine is that it can be served with white meat (possum) and red meat (squirrel).



Member Name	Work	Home	Cell	Classification
Fred Bahrenburg			469-506-3346	TV Cable Installation, ret.
Bill Bilyeu	972-548-4698	214-686-1329	214-686-1329	Collin Co. Admin
Jeff Caserotti	972-548-1199		214-850-4841	Auto Insurance
Trevor Castilla	972-569-9193	972-529-6534	469-371-5409	Civil Engineer
Weldon Copeland	972-548-3811	972-562-0838		Judge – Probate
Phyllis Davis			972-658-5800	Real Estate Broker
Ruben Delgado	972-548-3728	972-548-0326	214-686-6998	County Engineer
Lyle Froese		972-569-8843	972-523-8350	Ed Admin
Sandi Froese	903-815-4779	972-569-8843	903-815-4779	Ed Admin
Marc-Andre Gagnon		214-227-6744	469-247-1894	Leadership – Bus Consult
Joe Jaynes			469-853-8760	Educator
Stacey Kemp	972-548-4136	972-837-2534	214-356-4808	County Govt. Admin.
Tim Kocsis	972-547-6404	972-838-1808	972-670-3850	Comp. Programmer
Chuck Koehler	214-449-6868	972-529-1110	214-449-6868	Financial Mgmt
Brian Loughmiller	972-529-5554	972-529-9030	214-924-6900	Atty – Family Law
Ed Miles		972-540-1541	214-673-5284	Psychologist
Steve Mitas	972-547-6404	972-837-4474	972-670-1197	Comp. Software
Scott Oesterreicher			214-504-8668	Financial Manager
Larry Offerdahl		972-562-5722	806-672-0680	Retired Parks and Rec
Scott Parker	214-385-4142	972-727-9852	214-287-0737	Financial Consultant
Tom Parker	972-540-2180	972-540-2180	972-832-5590	Ed. Admin – Pers.
Bill Smith	972-731-4014	972-569-8811	985-774-4048	Financial
Juli Smith	972-562-6996	972-562-1866	972-658-9977	Non-Profit
Sy Shahid				Museum Director
Dennis Snavelly	972-771-2155	972-562-3796	972746-6920	Business Communications
Gary Taylor	972-548-5140	972-984-1052	972-984-0661	Groc. Store Mgmt
Kyle Therrian				Criminal Defense Atty.
Nathan White	972-979-9204	972-562-6445	972-979-9204	Judiciary
Shane Williams	972-548-4419			Law Enforcement/Constab
Bobbi Wright			707-245-8212	Escrow Officer

Honorary Members

Connie Yeager

*Note: Please notify Dennis Snavelly if there is a change in your phone number or e-mail address. Thank you
Having your number here makes it a public record, please notify Gary if you prefer not to have it listed here.*