



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

Vol 54 Issue 35 October 13, 2016

LAST MEETING: October 6, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New member, Alan Wells, will set up a simple Facebook page for the club.

The fall highway cleanup will occur on October 28.

October 15 is the Paonia Chamber of Commerce October Fest to be held at Delicious Orchards. Ulli Lange will be the MC. He said he would speak Bavarian (really?) Buy tickets now.

A Little Help is holding a Service Saturday on Oct. 15, 8 - noon starting at Apple Valley. Everyone is welcome to lend a hand to those needing "a little help" with fall chores. Our club has submitted a proposal to the District to help support this new organization.

Visitors: Rotarian Laura Derby with husband Don Terrace from Alexandria, VA. (Laura has visited before.) Diana Yourell, Ex Dir., Paradise Theatre, and husband Steve Clisset, an instructor for the Colorado Roofing Association and a singer songwriter performing at Louie's on 10/14.

Frankye Wist won the football pool for the 4th week in a row! What is her secret?

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues!

PROGRAM: James Schott introduced Kathy Steckel, the Executive Director of the North Fork Ambulance Association (NFAA), a non-profit, membership supported organization since 1969. She started by thanking the club for its scholarship support of Intermediate EMT volunteers, who are able to offer advanced life support care. [Because club member Tami Meck published such a comprehensive article about NFAA in the October 5 issue of the DCI, your editor has quoted liberally from her work.]

"NFAA executive director Kathy Steckel and husband Rick have been EMTs with NFAA for more than 20 years.

The organization began its annual membership drive in September, mailing more than 5,000 membership packages. About 80 percent of the anticipated 1,800 membership forms they expect to be returned will arrive within the first six weeks of the drive.

A little over a year ago during a series of public meetings, citizens identified three areas of importance: the quickest response time possible, a higher level of care, and a financially stable operation." NFAA will keep the 3 North Fork community stations open, currently have 3 advanced life support EMTs and have reduced their \$190,000 deficit of a year ago to \$40,000, which Steckel hopes to have cleared by the end of the year. To help with the revenues, NFAA bills insurance companies and charges non-members for their services. Also, by simply requesting them, donations have increased from \$3700 in 2013 to \$40,000 in 2015!

"Since its inception the organization has relied heavily on volunteers. In addition to ambulance

crews, they created a network of more than 70 volunteers to help with non-emergency duties, from professional services like grant-writing, financial planning and community outreach, to stuffing envelopes and baking cookies.”

NFAA will offer CPR classes once a month, ranging from 15 minutes for the bare essentials to 8 hours for a more comprehensive understanding of life support.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: The Rotary theme for October is Economic and Community Development. Adelante [a micro-lender in Honduras] takes a unique approach to micro-credit loans. Rather than lending to individuals, it offers non-collateralized group loans. Four to six women take out a loan together, and if one member cannot make a payment, the others in her group cover the shortfall. Group meetings and assemblies led by credit officers foster a tightknit community that provides mutual support and encouragement. The credit officers, who also provide business advice and training, are often from the same region as their clients, and they work to build good relationships with the borrowers.

"The community now has access to badly needed products these new businesses provide, plus employment opportunities when the businesses grow," says Win Cox, international service chair of the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps, a partner club with this project. "And as repaid loans continue to be reissued, the money Rotary invested in this region will have a transformative impact in these communities and women's lives for years to come."

Adelante staff sees its clients as female entrepreneurs who have few opportunities rather than labeling them as poor. [To be continued]

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 13: Mary George, regarding a new commercial kitchen in Paonia

October 20: Laura Byard, Delta Regional Manager of Centers for Mental Health

