



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 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 55 Issue 34 October 19, 2017

LAST MEETING: October 12, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kids Pasta Project dinner will be held on 10/30 at Delicious Orchards. We need 50 people to attend. Donation jars will be set out for our different projects instead of holding a silent auction. Make your reservation at kidspastaproject.org.

Norm Lewark won the football pool and donated his winnings to the scholarship fund. "Even a blind dog gets the rabbit sometimes," he said.

Bain Weinberger reported that he and wife Nancy spent the weekend in Leadville. When asked what the attraction of Leadville was, he said, "We are still trying to figure that out." [Surely someone who reads this newsletter can answer that question! - ED]

The members present agreed to purchase a bronze plaque for the library gazebo in honor of Inge Lange.

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

PROGRAM: President James opened the third part of the fall business meeting. He reviewed the list of "Opportunities to Serve", noting the blanks yet to be filled. Jeff Skeels said he would manage the 4th of July Parade entry with President James' agreeing to provide and drive the truck and trailer. Norm Lewark agreed to help with the Ducky Derby. Randy Campbell will organize the Pancake Breakfast. Ulli Lange had already agreed to organize the Salvation Army Bell Ringing in December, and Bob Lario will conduct the Superbowl Pool. [Yeah team!] The one fund raising project remaining is Casino Night. If no one signs up to organize this event within the next two weeks, it will be cancelled. The President Elect Nominee position is also unfilled. [This person would become President in July 2019.]

When considering the various events the club either conducts or participates in, the members preferred an emphasis on visibility. We should continue the Scholarship Pancake Breakfast, because it is our signature event. To make it more effective, we need to engage the two high school communities whose students benefit from the scholarships the club donates. As for the Ducky Derby, we should emphasize this as our major fund raiser. Consider holding it during Mountain Harvest Festival. Consider inviting several other organizations to help sell tickets and share the revenue. Start organizing this event in early spring.

The Board of Directors of the club's foundation has a budget for this year showing projected income and service projects expenses it wants to support. The Board proposed that the shortfall between income and expense be funded by monies in the foundation account. The members at the meeting suggested that funds be raised in year one and spent in year two starting this year, and that this year's project expenses be paid out of the foundation account. The Chair of the Scholarship Committee stated

he needed to know how many high school scholarships the club was willing to support this year. The sense of the group was that we need to prioritize where our money goes. "Where we to put our energies needs to be done in a thoughtful way."

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: October is Economic and Community Development month, one of Rotary's 6 major themes.

Rise of the female Honduran entrepreneur. Marta Lopez bakes up to 100 items a day in a small clay oven. Higinia Reyes owns a corn mill. Remigia Dominguez is the head of a weaving co-op. All of these women live in rural Honduras and run their own businesses with the support of loans provided by the Adelante Foundation and Rotary International.

The rural villages of the Lenca Corridor in the western highlands of Honduras are home to some of the poorest indigenous people in the country. This is where the Adelante Foundation, a microlender, finds poor women who want to become self-sufficient business owners.

Adelante collaborates, through Rotary's global grants, with the Rotary Club of Real de Minas-Tegucigalpa (Honduras), the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps (California, USA), and several other clubs from District 5340 (California, USA). "Not only did [Rotary's] support enable us to provide loans, [it] also went towards the development of educational materials and other costs associated with the biweekly education program that we provide to our clients," says Gina Cappuccitti, a social impact analyst at Adelante.

Adelante takes a unique approach to microcredit 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 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. "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."

"We've recognized that prior to joining, the women we work with have not received the opportunities needed to fully realize their potential," she says. "And that opportunity, and the confidence that we place in them, is what makes the difference for so many of our borrowers throughout Honduras."

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Oct. 19 - Kathy Steckel or Katie Hedley, North Fork Ambulance Assoc.

Oct. 26 - Steve Smith, Media for Development International (Africa)

Nov. 2 - Steve Morris, West Elks Search and Rescue

Nov. 9 - Chris Jacobson, Paonia Bread Works

Nov. 16 - Kristin Lynch, Western, Colorado Community Foundation

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving (no meeting)

Nov. 30 - Fifth Thursday (evening social)

