



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

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LAST MEETING: October 13, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The fall highway cleanup is October 28.

Casino night will be January 28, 2017

Board meeting report: **DISCUSSION** - BOD gave the mission statement to the action committee to inform its recommendations. There is a need to keep expenses in line with income, so expenses will be cut. There will be a leader named for each fund raising event. Dictionaries will arrive around Nov. 1 and will be distributed soon thereafter. Ashley Trego has resigned; Kate Zachman will conduct an exit interview. **DECISION** - A letter explaining the need to pay dues on time will be sent to members whose account is 60 days in arrears. The club will sponsor some number of new members, who need financial assistance in order to join. The BOD will ask the membership to increase club dues by \$1 to build up the fund to support these members. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - \$3812 was raised at the Ducky Derby. The September pancake breakfast brought in \$743. The Action Plan Committee is still at work.

Peggy Szvetecz broke Frankye Wist's winning streak in the football pool.

Two visiting Rotarians: one from Waynesville, NC, who stated that the Great Smoky Mountains was the most visited national park; the other from Marysville, WA just north of Seattle, who was in town for SEI training.

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

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Mary George. She and her husband John Mattox owned Back Country Bistro for three years. They are now organizing the space in a warehouse on Clark Street to accommodate a commercial kitchen and other activities. They applied for a USDA grant but were unsuccessful. Based on feedback on their application they may try again next year. They may also look for assistance from the Colorado Dept of Agriculture. The Health Dept. has approved the proposed use of the building. People who are in the cottage food industry could use the space to create a wholesale business. George and Mattox are catering, making bread and hot sauce there. They hope to open a restaurant by next summer that will feature guest chefs.

They are creating usable space that is open to the public, perhaps as a incubator for new businesses. Already there is a pottery cooperative at one end of the building. Elsewhere is sending some of its residents there to use its work space. Eventually there will be event space, and George hopes to put outside areas to good use.

In addition to her culinary talents, George is also the current President of the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition. She announced a state funded program called Space to Create that Paonia has the

opportunity to apply for. The Creative Coalition and others are just beginning to work with the town council to determine the interest and feasibility of applying for this Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) grant, which will require an investment on the part of the town. The purpose of the grant is to provide affordable housing as well as work space for “creatives”. The definition of creatives is very broad including all kinds of arts and value added food products. The Vocational Technical College could provide usable work space, and there are buildings in town which might provide living space.

The first CCI project was launched in Trinidad, which received an economic boost from real estate developers and new retail establishments. Ridgway is just starting its project. Paonia's likely competitors are Carbondale, Crested Butte and Greeley.

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. "We've recognized that prior to joining, the women we work with have not received the opportunities needed to fully realize their potential," says Win Cox, international service chair of the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps, a partner club with this project. "And that opportunity, and the confidence that we place in them, is what makes the difference for so many of our borrowers throughout Honduras."

Cox, who has traveled to Honduras to meet with Adelante's staff and clients, says it has been both inspiring and humbling to see that the Lenca women can start sustainable businesses with as little as \$50 each. Cox's Rotary club has supported a number of microcredit projects, but this global grant project is the largest, and that's because of Adelante's verifiable results and willingness to work closely with both host and international clubs.

"Adelante has proven to be an excellent partner -- cooperative, credible, fiscally sound, culturally sensitive, and extremely knowledgeable about how to administer a microloan program in almost inaccessible areas of Honduras," Cox adds.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

October 27:

November 3: Quarterly business meeting - consideration of club action plan

