



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 34 October 6, 2016

LAST MEETING: September 22, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Ducky Derby brought in \$3800. The BOD had projected \$2000 from this fund raiser. Way to go club members!

President Greg and the Bishops reported on what a fun event PHS volley ball games are. They were substitute ticket takers for Kate Zachman and Karri Polson, who have signed up for this Rotary service project. You might want to arm wrestle Zachman or Polson for the privilege of working the gate.

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?)

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

PROGRAM: Betsy Marston introduced Jason Cleckler, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) administrator. She reported that Cleckler had been seen on Grand Ave. looking for office space, as DCMH is infiltrating the North Fork. He acknowledged that the hospital is looking at several locations in Paonia to open an urgent care clinic.

He is a Delta Rotarian and noted that Rotary has a focus on public health worldwide.

Cleckler has been with the hospital for 8 years, 4 of them as CEO. He declared it to be a tumultuous time to enter healthcare management. During this time he has hired two OB-GYN physicians, an internal medicine doctor, and nurse practitioners in urgent care. New equipment includes a 3D mammography machine, which increases earlier detection of breast cancer and has resulted in a 47% decrease in repeat mammograms. Also, a first for Colorado and the fifth in the nation is a biopsy table that makes biopsies painless. These two pieces of equipment that the hospital foundation board wanted are a big investment in women's health. One other piece of new equipment is a bone scanner.

The hospital has made a recent investment in property in Hotchkiss where it will construct a state of the art clinic. A contractor is being sought to break ground by early November with a May or June opening, depending on the weather. At the time of this land purchase, Paonia still had a clinic. Now that it has closed, Cleckler is looking for space and hopes to have an urgent care/walk in clinic up and running in two to three months. It would be open 5 to 7 days a week with one or two providers.

Revenue for hospitals is now driven by out-patient care, not by treating illness in the hospital. It used to be that full hospital beds were the revenue source. Now the ideal situation is to concentrate on wellness and preventive medicine. Treat health problems like diabetes and congestive heart disease before hospitalization is necessary. DCMH currently owns 9 clinics. Alternative medicine is being incorporated into local health care. He mentioned acupuncture and tai chi. A new oncologist is taking

an integrative approach to controlling cancer, finding new ways to control nausea from chemotherapy, and incorporating massage therapy. Her treatments are so popular, people are coming from as far away as Rifle, Meeker and Telluride, and the oncology department is running out of space. DCMH partners with the Montrose hospital in treating cardiology patients.

DCMH has been through challenging times. 275-300 hospitals have closed nation-wide over the past several years. Insurance payments are decreasing, bigger hospitals are taking over smaller ones. DCMH is currently the largest employer in Delta county at 605 employees. It is ranked in the top 100 hospitals in the nation and one of the top 20 rural hospitals. Cleckler gives great credit to the hospital foundation board of directors. The hospital is funded as a special tax district and thus owned by the taxpayers and governed by an elected board of directors.

Cleckler fielded some questions. Regarding Obamacare, health care reform had to happen for economic reasons. The US had the most expensive healthcare system, but far from the best and needed to improve. Low cost, quality and access to health care were the primary goals of this health care reform. "We cannot go back to the way it used to be. If the government were to repeal Obamacare, it would have to replace it." He believes the act needs to hold insurance, pharmaceutical and medical supplies companies more accountable. But there is also personal accountability for ones own health and welfare.

[Well done, Mr. Cleckler. We are proud of you and our local hospital. - ED]

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: The Rotary theme for October is Economic and Community Development. Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. Our members promote economic and community development and reduce poverty in under-served communities through training, well-paying jobs, and access to financial management institutions. Projects range from providing people with equipment to vocational training. Our members work to strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

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), and several other clubs from District 5340 (California). With the help of Rotary, Adelante has been able to provide business training and 600 loans to its clients. [To be continued]

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 6: Kathy Steckel of NFAA (North Fork Ambulance Assoc.)

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

