



## **THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE**

### **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) [www.rotary5470.org](http://www.rotary5470.org) [www.paoniarotary.org](http://www.paoniarotary.org)

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

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LAST MEETING: October 27, 2016

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Peggy Szvetcz won the football pool.

The next meeting will be a club assembly, which will focus on the club action plan, developed from the strategic plan. We will also start developing a slate of officers and directors for 2017-2018.

The \$688 grant request for A Little Help has been accepted into the District's block grant package. It now goes to RI. We should hear whether the request is accepted in early November.

On November 6, there will be a fundraiser for the Paradise, featuring Jeneve Rose Mitchell.

We should consider recruiting to our club the directors of various local organizations.

Casino night will be January 28, 2017 with a venue change, possibly to the Blue Sage.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Many happy bucks for the Cubs and the Indians.

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

**PROGRAM:** President Greg introduced Randy Campbell and Sarah Bishop, who talked about Rotary's involvement in polio eradication. Campbell began by giving a history of Rotary's involvement in fighting this disease. The Rotary Foundation started its polioplus program in 1985, with the goal of eradicating polio within 15 to 20 years. We have come a long way since 1985 when Rotary launched this first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort. Our Club has donated \$10,000 to polioplus in the last 10 years.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments around the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and awareness-building. Today there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild polio virus: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Less than 75 polio cases from the wild polio virus were confirmed worldwide in 2015, which is a reduction of more than 99.9% since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases a day. So far in 2016, only 27 cases have been reported.

Though the goal of accomplishing polio eradication has seemed elusive at times, much has been learned about conquering this disease, and no one is giving up the fight. Bishop outlined the GPEI plans

for shutting down the polio virus. It will focus on strengthening immunization systems with new vaccines and closer community surveillance. Both the wild polio virus and vaccine-derived virus will be addressed. [Some children do not become immune after oral vaccination; the virus becomes active; they can then spread the disease. Through proper vigilance and injected vaccines, outbreaks can be eliminated.] The plan will also prepare for potential challenges such as carrying out the initiative in insecure areas. Just as the outbreaks of polio in 2013 in war-torn Somalia and Syria can be contained, they can be contained elsewhere. Finally, lessons learned can be transferred to meeting other health goals. The current goal for a polio-free world is 2019.

Every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year through 2018. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents. You too can help. Write a check to The Rotary Foundation today and designate your funds to go toward closing “The Final Inch.” [The above includes excerpts from last week’s Bulletin. ED]

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:** November is The Rotary Foundation Month. Help us celebrate the centennial of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). TRF transforms your gifts into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary, we tap into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into our priorities, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. We direct our efforts in six areas to enhance our local and global impact. Our most successful and sustainable projects and activities tend to fall within the following areas: Promoting peace Fighting disease Providing clean water Saving mothers and children Supporting education Growing local economies

Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact. Strong financial oversight, a stellar charity rating, and a unique funding model mean that we make the very most of your contribution. Give and become a part of Rotary’s life-changing work!

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

November 10: Tom Backhus, former collegiate football coach

November 17: Bill Challis - the methodology, market and legal climate for growing hemp

