



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 41 December 1, 2016

LAST MEETING: November 17, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kate Zachman won the football pool.

A Little Help is having a party on 12/1. See Randy Campbell for details.

Pam Bliss and helpers gave 84 dictionaries to North Fork third grade students. Bill Bishop reported that one child's grandfather had suffered from polio. The child was very grateful that Rotary is raising money to eradicate polio.

Please sign up to be a Salvation Army bell ringer. See Ulli Lange.

President Greg presented a slate of board and officer nominees : Felix Belmont, Kate Zachman, Pam Bliss, Randy Campbell, Glenn Dahlgren, Jacquie Gannon, Bain Weinberger, Karri Polson, and Doris Danielson nominated as Board members. James Schott as President Elect will become the President, Greg Thompson will automatically remain on the Board as immediate Past President, Belmont is standing for Secretary and Zachman is standing for Treasurer. A President Elect Nominee has not yet been identified. President Greg will decide whether the board shall consist of 11 or fewer members. The election will be 12/15 along with a discussion of the action plan.

Casino night will be January 28, 2017 at Shadescapes in Hotchkiss. It will be a dressy affair.

There will be a silent auction. Bring auction items to Jackie Parks.

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

The Parks will host a Christmas party on 12/15. (There will be a club meeting this day as well.)

There will be no meetings on 12/22 or 12/29.

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

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Bill Challis, who talked about growing hemp. He has lived here for 8 years, was a nursery owner and wheat farmer in eastern Colorado.

He planted hemp here 4 years ago. It is a good crop for soil management as it requires no herbicides or pesticides. This is a perfect area to grow hemp as the summers are hot, the soil good and there is adequate water. He raises only female plants to avoid cross pollinating with marijuana being grown in the area. He starts 7000 plants in a greenhouse and separates the males from the females. Male plants grow considerably faster than females. He harvests approximately one half to one pound of flowers per plant for CBD (medical marijuana) extraction, which has no psycho-active affect and is used to control epilepsy, chrons disease and lupus. Challis noted that hemp and marijuana are essentially the same plant, but marijuana has a high concentration of THC. To pass state inspection, his product has to have no more than .3% THC. He did years of research before deciding to grow hemp.

His major difficulty is getting a good line of seeds. A second difficulty is there needs to be a processing facility on the western slope to turn the flowers into cannabis oil. There are 17 hemp growers in Delta County, who have not found a consistent market yet for their product. 1000 pounds of viable flower could bring \$100,000 - \$300,000. It is a \$90 million industry in Colorado and expected to grow to \$1.5 billion by 2020. Almost every state is legalizing the growing of hemp, with Kentucky producing the most. Colorado is in second place. Most of the seed now comes from Kentucky.

There is no market for hemp fiber in this country as there is in India and China. However, it is one of the strongest natural fibers. It can feel like silk. Yet hemp rope is the strongest there is. There are 20,000 different uses for the plant.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: December is disease prevention and treatment month. Rotary's top priority is the eradication of polio, but our members take on far greater responsibilities to fight disease. They set up health camps and training facilities in undeveloped countries and in communities struggling with HIV/AIDS and malaria. They also design and build the infrastructure for doctors, nurses, governments, and partners to reach the one in six people in the world who can't afford to pay for health care.

Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, from supporting studies to helping immunize people to improving drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure. The world relies on Rotary to tackle these global challenges, and to set an example for others to follow.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 1: Thursday, John Poulos of West Elk Mine,

December 8: Paonia High School Swing Choir

December 15: Board elections; discussion of action plan

