



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: December 8, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Glenn Dahlgren won the football pool, again. Only Frankye has won more. \$270 of football pool winnings have been donated to the scholarship fund so far.

The Salvation Army bell ringers have brought in lots of donations.

The election of Directors and Officers will be 12/15 as well as a discussion of the action plan. Our Assistant Governor, Sam Kevan will join us.

The club BOD has approved spending up to \$325 to replace our portable microphone.

Apparently these things are pricey.

Karri Polson is looking for volunteers to collect money at the door during PHS sporting events.

As the club agreed to do this project, please sign up.

Nancy Wood, President of the Delta Rotary Club, sold raffle tickets for their fund raiser to support nursing and other scholarships. Her club supported our Ducky Derby.

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.

Pam Bliss read some of the thank you notes from PES students who received dictionaries. Their use of language was very impressive for third grade students.

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: Dan Dean, the Interim Town Manager for Paonia, gave a biographical presentation in the absence of the Swing Choir (which promised to perform for us in 2017). Dean was born in Indiana, and received a bachelor's degree in sociology at Indiana University. He ran group homes for a while, then in 1980 came to a youth ranch in Colorado. He returned to Indiana to earn a Master's in Public Administration and returned to Colorado in 1985. For most of his career he was a "circuit rider" town manager in a number of communities in Northeast Colorado, Oregon and Nebraska. He returned permanently to Colorado in 1998. He was the Rotary Club president in Burlington, has 3 children and was the Mead Town Manager just before coming to Paonia.

Dean likens the role of Town Manager to how he relates to basketball. He plays and referees basketball; town managers have to offer leadership and maintain community involvement.

He finds Paonia's personality quaint; but that the town has been neglected. It needs some time

and attention to things such as the upkeep to streets and homes. “To be prosperous, the town needs to look prosperous.”

He considers the major challenges to be bringing jobs to make a stronger economy. There needs to be a consensus in the community about where to go and how to get there. Dean believes there is a real possibility to capture the Space to Create grant from the state. There can’t be a division in the town about where it is going.

While he was unaware of the current growth rate in town, he reported that the town planning board is considering annexing property to allow for growth. He reported that there are contracts on three properties along highway 133 near the sewer treatment plant. A subdivision will need to be created. As of this date, a new water line from the 2 million gallon tank is being brought into town. This is a step toward eliminating the numerous water leaks that have been a burden to the town for years. Thanks, Dan, for stepping in as emergency speaker.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: December is disease prevention and treatment month. In May, the Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA), a Rotarian Action Group. group held its third annual Family Health Days in Africa. Chris Pretorius, a member of the Rotary Club of Pretoria Sunrise, South Africa, was amazed by the turnout for the event. “One of the members of the health department said they had never been able to get so many children here on a day like this,” he says. “That in itself is success.”

The campaign illustrates how Rotary teams up with other organizations to expand its impact. Since 2011, RFHA has partnered with the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, which contributed \$450,000 for this year’s three-country event. Other partners were South Africa’s Department of Health, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USAID, Delta Airlines, and Nampak.

“We are proud to have partnered with RFHA and the Department of Health in promoting access to health screening services,” says Therese Gearhart, president of Coca-Cola South Africa. “At Coca-Cola, we invest in these initiatives because, together with our partners, we have a common vision of a South Africa that comprises healthy, strong, and thriving communities.”

Leaders of the Rotarian Action Group hope to reach more African countries through the event each year.

“Rotary is the catalyst organization in this event because of the power and [political] neutrality of our brand and the respect we receive worldwide for our ability to mobilize communities into action,” Bunch says. “This event represents the power of public/private partnerships. No one organization can do a massive event like this alone. Each partner has a defined role and set of responsibilities, and that’s why it works.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 15: Board elections; discussion of action plan

January 5:

January 12: Mayor Charles Stewart, State of the Town of Paonia

