



## **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

Issue 56 December 3, 2015

**LAST MEETING:** November 19, 2015

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Glenn will take over responsibility for Don's cards from Greg Peterson. **Reminder:** purchase a Don's Market gift card for \$100. \$5 comes back to our club foundation. Support this painless way of building our foundation funds!

The second annual Casino Night will be held at the Glennie Coombe Gallery on Jan. 30.

The North Fork Children's Christmas party will be held Dec. 12 at Memorial Hall. You should have received a letter announcing this event and the opportunity to support a child at \$50 each. Bring a check to Pam Bliss or send it to the NF Children's Christmas Fund. Volunteer to help out at the party.

The club's Christmas party will be Dec. 10 at Davis and Becky Walton's home.

Ed won the football pool with 7 correct answers. Bill was second with 6 correct answers. The many upsets last weekend probably explains the low number of correct answers. Bill gave Ed's winnings to the foundation.

**PROGRAM:** Sharon introduced Kathy Steckel, the Executive Director of the North Fork Ambulance Association, and Cindy Owen, a volunteer EMT. Although Kathy had presented a program last summer, the club was eager to hear of the NFAA's recent accomplishments.

Since July, NFAA has raised more money than expected, though it is still in the red. Extra donations are coming in with memberships. Last year they amounted to \$1200; this year, \$50,000. Gift memberships will be available soon, along with monthly giving sustaining memberships. NFAA will begin a corporate sponsorship program at \$3000 - \$5000 for a three-year period.

It currently has 1700 members, with a goal of 2700. There are 5600 households in the service area, of 1550 square miles stretching from McClure Pass, up Steven's Gulch, to Curecanti, and out to Payne Siding. Kathy and others are making presentations to many groups, and soliciting members at local grocery stores. They are not reaching young families and people in the 20 to 40 age groups. They intend to go to schools and give safety presentations and literature to take home to parents.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities beyond becoming a driver or EMT. They need office help and professional help in planning, fund raising, legal services, and

accounting.

They are raising the level of care from the basic level of response. There are already two people who have completed the Advance Level of Service (ALS) training. Four more people have started the class. They hope to have 12 ALS certified volunteers within a year. With this certification, there are 24 drugs they can administer, including ones that can stop a heart attack. The cost of this training is \$3200 per student. Whereas the NFAA pays the training cost, the individual students have to spend 175 clinical hours in various wards at St. Mary's hospital, buy appropriate clothes - scrubs - and pay for some equipment. To reduce some operational expenses NFAA is going to invest in a quick response vehicle with an ALS EMT, who can assess the situation and then send for an ambulance if truly needed.

The cost of an ambulance run is \$800 - \$1000. NFAA members get a 60% discount. The Medicare cap is \$425. With secondary insurance, a member's cost is \$0. Half the calls are from members; 780 calls in 2014. 25% of the time, 2 ambulances are out at the same time. Once, all 5 rigs were out at the same time. NFAA will not refuse service to anyone. Their goal, should finances permit it, is to keep the rigs located where they are - 2 in Paonia, 2 in Hotchkiss, 1 in Crawford - and not consolidate them in Hotchkiss.

Bottom line: You never know when you will need an ambulance. No matter your age or your health, join the NFAA and donate to it generously. Get your friends and neighbors to do the same - ED.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 3 - PHS Swing Choir

December 10 - Christmas Party - evening

December 17 - Business meeting

[Program directors, please let me know who your program will be. Thanks. - Ed]

