



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: February 4, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Casino night turned out to be a good fund raiser. 70 people attended, including nearly 60% of club members and many spouses. Net revenue has reached \$4000. The event has relatively few costs, except in effort put forth by Jackie and her helpers in organizing the silent auction. The club applauded Jackie in absentia, who is on a much needed vacation. The club will send a card and check for \$100 to Mel of the Western Slope Poker Tournament for loaning us the gaming tables and some of his dealers. Please send any comments you may have to Marsha.

The Board of Directors is considering partnering with the Hotchkiss Fire Department on a pancake breakfast the weekend in May of the Sheep Dog Trials. Some members wanted to keep the breakfast in Paonia as is the tradition. It has been successful at generating ~\$1500 each year for our scholarship fund. Others thought it was time to live up to our name and do something highly visible in Hotchkiss. President Marsha will meet with the fire chief to determine logistics and potential income. More on this subject later.

Scholarship applications are available on the club's website - paoniarotary.org. The applications deadline is the end of April. The club foundation has sufficient funds for 5 scholarships. The awards committee would like to support 7 scholarships. As making these awards to graduating seniors from Paonia and Hotchkiss high schools is our flagship project, your financial support is highly encouraged. \$2000 buys one scholarship.

Doris is the new membership chair. She has set a club goal that challenges us to each recruit a new member. Adam Camacho and Ken and Shari Butcher have resigned from the club. We will miss them.

PROGRAM: Randy introduced Mark Eckhart, owner of Longhaul Productions, a folding kayak business. He watches how funds are spent in the county, looking for ways to grow our local economy. In a side note, when he was on the DMEA board, he blew the whistle on Asplund Tree Service showing they were not doing the job they were being paid to do.

Mark is concerned about economic development in Delta County. He sees a downhill slide in industry, jobs and talented people leaving the area. There are commercial vacancies in the towns and DMEA revenues are declining. "We need a plan to stop the decline," he said. "We need to get back into manufacturing. We sent a lot of jobs out of the country and are now supporting the Chinese economy." We all know this is a great place to live, but are there people with the necessary skills to attract business? His idea is to create a county college with local campuses that teach trades that are in demand. Colorado

has created standards for schools in the state to prepare students for college or specific trades. Currently trades are not being taught in Delta County.

One of the ways Mark sees paying for his idea is to get the State to assume the maintenance costs and debt on the US 50 bypass around Delta. Prior to its construction there were disagreements between the city and the state about its planning and building. Wanting to get truck traffic off its main street, the City of Delta constructed the bypass. However, the State Patrol has yet to designate the road as the official truck route, so truck traffic continues through the middle of town. Mark thought it was time to get the state back on board. He tried to communicate with CDOT. Having failed he has started a petition that demands CDOT take over the bypass funding. CDOT has apparently now supported the bypass as the official truck route, so perhaps there will be a change soon. Until Main Street is no longer the official truck route, it will remain dangerous, noisy and dirty, and the city will have no control over its maintenance.

So why should residents who live elsewhere in the county care about what happens to the bypass? It currently costs the city \$1.4 million a year. That money could be used for economic development throughout the county. As it is the county seat, we all benefit from the services provided by the hospital, courthouse, restaurants, and other businesses.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: Bobby Anderson was helping former freedom fighters in Aceh, Indonesia, adjust to life after combat when he heard about the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Anderson, who became part of the 2010 class of Rotary Peace Fellows, says the program allowed him to reflect upon the work he had already done and gain a larger perspective beyond day to day practicalities. “To be able to meet other people that had done similar work in other places and to be exposed [during field study] to the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration situation in Nepal was fascinating and helped me change how I think about the way I manage my own programs,” Anderson says.

Through its six peace centers, Rotary is developing leaders to become catalysts for peace in their communities and around the globe. The Chulalongkorn program offers a three month professional development certificate to individuals already working in fields related to peace. Chulalongkorn, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, has graduated 355 peace fellows from 69 countries. Its curriculum emphasizes equal parts instruction and learning from peers.

“There are two main aspects of the program,” says Jenn Weidman, deputy director of the center. “One is the academic skills, what you actually learn, the steps of mediation, theory of analysis, etc. The other is the transformation.” “We take professional people and remove them from their role, place them in the same space with diverse people for three months, and then challenge everything they’ve ever believed or held dear,” she says. “You get reflection, and we walk alongside and guide that, asking a lot of questions and creating a safe space for discussion. Some come and leave totally different people.”
[More next week]

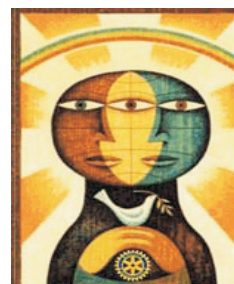
UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 11 - Sharon Fipps, All Points Transit

February 18 - Jack Ferrell and Cassandra Shenk, Teens on Farms

March 10 - Burnie Zercher of Pueblo speaking about The Rotary Foundation

April 14 - Dr. Jerry Nelson, topic "Climate Change and Food Security"



World
Understanding