



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 11, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Casino night turned out to be a good fund raiser, bringing in \$3967.92 for our scholarship fund.

After last week's discussion about the pancake breakfast, the BOD deliberated and asked the members for more feedback. Their current thinking is to do two such events: partner with the Hotchkiss Fire Department on a pancake breakfast the weekend in May of the Sheep Dog Trials; hold our own breakfast in Paonia, either in June (as has been the custom) or during Mountain Harvest Festival at the end of September. The Hotchkiss event brings in 400 - 500 people. It would be an opportunity for the club to support another organization while creating a very visible presence in Hotchkiss. Our traditional June breakfast has been to celebrate our scholars and raise money for future scholarships. [Note: Rotary scholars will likely be away at school by the end of September. -ED] President Marsha will meet with the fire chief to determine logistics and potential income. The sense of the club was that 2 breakfasts would be OK.

President Marsha encouraged club members to attend our Kids in the Kitchen project at Paonia Elementary School, 3:30 to 5:00 pm on 2/22 and 2/29. The participating 4 - 6 graders prepared tacos last week, making everything including the seasoning and the salsa. It's a fun time. Do come!

Our President celebrated a birthday and made a donation to our scholarship fund. She said it was a significant birthday.

Jeneve Mitchell of Crawford is in the top 14 finalists for American Idol. You go girl!

PROGRAM: Betsy introduced Sharon Phipps of All Points Transit (APT). This is a Montrose County based bus system that serves senior (60+) and disabled citizens in Montrose, Delta and parts of San Miguel Counties. With 30 vehicles and 40 employees APT takes clients to medical facilities, senior nutrition sites and to stores. It provides door to door service. All Points Transit's mission is to help maintain a quality of life for those confined to their home. Seniors tend to get isolated when they can no longer drive.

In Delta County the service is paid for with federal, state, local monies and some fundraising. The bus system partners with the Area Agency on Aging. Clients pay \$3.50 for in town trips and \$5.00 for out of town travel. Eligibility depends on income level and being incapable or too fragile to drive. As the service has not been well known in Delta County, Sharon has been working to advertise it better. There are now 7 mini vans and small buses operating in the county. Since she began her efforts there has been a 40% increase in rides to medical facilities. She says she still needs to make Paonia citizens more aware

of the service. There is a fixed APT schedule during weekdays, which is published in the local newspapers. Clients should call at least two days in advance if their medical appointments occur at other times. Currently, APT is providing over 800 rides per month in the county.

Potential clients need to apply for the service. Once they are found eligible and are in the database, they may call to make reservations. Contact All Points Transit at 970-240-9205.

[For those of us who would not qualify for this service, we might look into Uber, which does exist in Montrose county.]



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: [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.]

Professors, from both Thailand and outside the country, are chosen each year for a curriculum that is constantly evolving. Fellows also complete two field studies, one in Thailand and one in a post-conflict setting outside Thailand where they put their training into action.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for me as an instructor in the program to be able to interact with people working on the front lines in Afghanistan, or Kenya or South Sudan, but then also the U.S.,” says Craig Zelizer, associate director of conflict resolution at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and founder of the Peace and Collaborative Development Network. “The diversity of participants and the change they are already affecting and what they’ll do as a result of this program are incredible.”

Jennifer Jacobson, a police constable in Canada, attended the center in 2012. She says the group exercises and interactions with classmates altered her views of her work. “A lot of it is bonding with other people, because you are together all day long, pretty much seven days a week,” she says. “I’ve taken something from every little piece of the program.” [More next week]

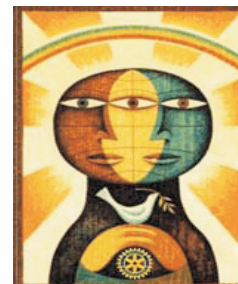
UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 3 - Jack Ferrell and Cassandra Shenk, Teens on Farms

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

March 17 - Steve Lyons, topic “Green Burials”

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



**World
Understanding**