



## **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

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**LAST MEETING: March 3, 2016**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Roger Ptolemy and Wally Miller, both former DGs, are candidates to serve on the nominating committee to select an RI director for zone 27. Each club in the district was asked to help choose who should serve on the committee. The club voted 22 to 0 to approve Roger to the position.

Henriette Reindhardt, our most recent RYE student, has been selected by Rotaract Global Model United Nations to attend the Change the World conference in New York. This is a major international conference that encourages youth to convene conferences on the model of the UN. Young people's involvement in decision making is essential in achieving UN goals. Henriette will stay with a friend of Betsy's while in NYC. Ulli has supported her trip. If you wish to help support her, please see Ulli.

Thursday, March 31 is a fifth Thursday, which will be held at the Lange home.

The BOD decided against holding a joint pancake breakfast with the Hotchkiss FD. It would not be a good fund raiser for us. The club will hold its scholarship pancake breakfast in Paonia on June 25.

The Beta Sigma Phi sorority will hold a fund raiser dinner at the Blue Sage on Saturday, 3/12, 7:00 pm to raise money for school supplies. Tickets are \$20 each. See Jackie for tickets.

Bill Bishop auctioned off two tickets to the next classical concert at the BLSA. Kate bought the tickets with a contribution to our club's foundation.

The Kids in the Kitchen children sent us a thank you banner, which was hung on the front table. Francoise' key guest, Bob, was no longer invisible.

Bob's weekly update: Most of the interior of his new house is complete and ready to paint.

**PROGRAM:** Greg introduced Cassandra Shenk and Helen Dennison to talk about Teens on Farms. Helen is on the ToF board. Cassandra started ToF 7 years ago. She grew up in Montana, taught chemistry in the NF valley, and is now associated with ERO Resources Corp., consultants in natural resources and the environment, located in Hotchkiss. When she realized her students did not have summer jobs, she created ToF, whose mission is to take any youth willing to work and put them to work on local farms and ranches. The budget for this program has ranged from \$5000 to \$20,000. Among there financial supporters are Mountain Harvest Festival, the Kampe and Cocker Foundations, Slow Food Western Slope, and others.

She discovered that farmers did not have easy access to reliable youth, were unable to assume the liability of young workers, did not have the money to pay them, had limited time to supervise them, and were reluctant to take on the burdens of paperwork and insurance. Teens on Farms stepped in to change this story. Cassandra said it was easy to find willing youth, but harder to find willing farmers. However,

between 2009 and 2015 they placed 86 youth in 63 jobs on 25 farms. The youth gained 7651 hours of experience and earned \$46,000. Some of these funds came from the farmers after the young people had gained some experience. The young people wrote of their experiences: "My life as a farm hand was the best first job I could have. I learned to work fast while being precise." "Everyday was a happy time. I never had a bad day at the farm. It gave me a good perspective on farming, and helped me understand food." "I started out wanting a job, but by the end of the season I wanted to help the farmer." Another aspect of Teens on Farms is the youth market garden, "Plants R Us." With an initial \$10,000 grant and in partnership with 4H it is an ongoing project.

Cassandra enumerated some lessons learned:

Opportunities for teens to work alongside adults is highly valuable.

An active team is best for community organizing as it takes time and effort.

Sustained financial partnerships carried the program.

Our farms are schools; our farmers are treasured teachers.

Volunteers help and learn in the process.

The money stays in the community.

The future of Teens on Farms is currently evolving. As Cassandra is stepping out to the leadership position, ToF is re-organizing. They are recruiting 3 new people to a leadership team - a part time paid person and two volunteers willing to work 10 to 20 hours/week during the growing season. They hope to have this new team in place soon so there can be a program in 2016. While the market garden continues as designed, they are looking to strengthen the local farm program and develop a reliable revenue source, 80% of which would come from the farmers. Also, in concert with the FFA, they are thinking of developing a custom farming business that teaches older youth to use farming equipment properly, with a focus on irrigation and haying. Bill Barton noted that two of the ToF workers had been Rotary scholars.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:** For over 20 years, Michael Anyekase has crisscrossed Ghana drilling boreholes and installing hand pumps on wells to provide clean water. Water for drinking, washing, and flushing toilets. "There is nothing more satisfying than when fresh water comes out of the well and the children shout, 'Hey, water! Water!'" says Anyekase, who works for Water in Africa, a nongovernmental organization (NGO).

In partnership with Rotary members from across the globe, Anyekase's dedication has helped eradicate Guinea worm disease and lessen the cases of dysentery, diarrhea, and other common diseases associated with dirty water. In fact, Rotary has provided more sources of drinking water in Ghana than any other NGO, Anyekase says. Many water projects in Ghana are being carried out as part of the Rotary International/USAID H2O Collaboration. The effort is providing more than 100 villages with clean water through installation of boreholes with hand pumps, along with sanitation facilities and hygiene training.

According to a review of the partnership by Aguaconsult, an independent contractor, more than 85 percent of Ghanaians now have access to clean water, surpassing the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of 78 percent by 2015.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

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

March 17 - Steve Lyons, on "Green Burials"

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

