



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: March 9, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jackie Parks announced the annual Beta Sigma Phi fundraiser St. Patrick's Day dinner and silent auction to be held at the Blue Sage 3/17. Tickets are \$20. Proceeds provide school supplies to kids.

PHS is asking us Rotarians to take tickets for the spring baseball games. There are 8 games beginning 3/31 at volunteer park. Games begin at 4 pm. Please sign up with Karri Polson.

President Greg announced there will be a survey to determine member interest in local service projects.

Board meeting notes: Financial assistance to prospective members discussed and will be presented to the club at the 3/23 business meeting that will focus on membership.

Speaking of members, Lisa Delaney will be inducted as a new member on 3/16. Welcome, Lisa! Jacquie Gannon will host 5th Thursday on 3/30 at 41282 Lamborn Mesa Rd.

President Greg encouraged members to attend the 4/20-22 district training and conference in Glenwood Springs. This is a great way to become familiar with our Rotary District and Rotary International.

Casino Night netted \$4153 against a budget of \$3700. Next year let's try to sell more tickets in advance.

The Mexican restaurant has re-opened as Rio Bravo.

Doris Danielson encouraged us to join the Paonia Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber and DMEA are getting together to promote broadband.

Felix Belmont wants to step down as club secretary. Somebody else needs to step up.

Give speaker ideas to Randy Campbell.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues!

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Ken Knight, the new town of Paonia administrator as of February 1, 2017. Knight has been an administrator for 20 years in small towns in 6 states, and hopes this is his last job. He noted that the last town council meeting had 14 items on its agenda, which resulted from "torch passing" and an interim administrator (the council not wishing to deal with certain matters until a permanent administrator was named.) He likes Paonia and thinks the town has a lot of potential. The fact that the town has no stop light improves the quality of life. [Bob Lario and the Marstons noted that there had been a stop light at 2nd and Grand. When it malfunctioned and became a

blinking light, it was eventually removed. Whether the quality of life improved after that is a matter of opinion.]

Knight is working with the mayor and the Board of Trustees to establish goals and priorities. He wants to work with the community and its interests at a pace that is comfortable. One focus is economic development. We need to find people who can bring their own job, as there are not a lot of existing opportunities for employment. The town submitted a Space to Create proposal, albeit with no commitment of matching funds. The state review committee will pay us a visit in a few weeks. Knight opined that the town council would not revisit the sale of marijuana; that the voters had shown their lack of interest at the last election.

On the personal side, Knight is a wine enthusiast, though not a connoisseur. He is happy to buy a morning latte and appreciates historic apple orchards.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: March is literacy month. More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults. How rotary makes help happen: We take action to empower educators to inspire learning at all ages. The Rotary Foundation supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

Rotary members make amazing things happen, like:

Opening schools: In Afghanistan, Rotary members opened a girls' school to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance.

Teaching adults to read: Rotary members in the United States partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to recruit and train tutors after a study showed that more than half of the local adult population was functionally illiterate. 500 adults raised their reading levels by three grades in Detroit

New teaching methods: The SOUNDS program in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the United States teaches educators how to improve literacy by teaching children to recognize letters by sounds instead of names.

Making schools healthy: Through a \$100 million grant, Rotarians are providing clean, fresh water to every public school in Lebanon so students can be healthier and get a better education.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

3/16: Paonia HS Swing Choir (their make-up for missing in December)

3/23: We will have a club business discussion on membership

3/30: 5th Thursday at Jacquie Gannon's home

