



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

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WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

Vol 54 Issue 11 March 17, 2016

LAST MEETING: March 10, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: James has agreed to be a candidate for the club's President Elect Nominee (PEN). Thanks, James! The PEN election will be held on March 17.

There is still some concern about covering Henriette Reinhardt's costs to attend an international conference in NYC. Ulli will match any donations our members make. There is some concern about her obtaining a visa in time. If she does not attend the conference, any funds raised on her behalf will go to our club's foundation.

Betsy will host the Fifth Thursday social to be held on Thursday, March 31.

The "Back Page" of this week's DCI featured our "Kids in the Kitchen" project. The pictures are particularly wonderful in this great article. Thanks Tamie! [President Marsha should send it along with her report to the District on the use of its grant funds.]

Felix reported that the BOD had approved 5, \$2000 scholarships for 2016. Because there is \$1000 left from the 2015 account, he has put \$100 toward being able to offer a 6th scholarship this year. He asked for matching donations. Two members donated an additional \$400. One of those two donors challenged the club to raise the funds to support 7 scholarships. This year's scholarship winners will be selected the first week in April, so make your donations soon.

Bob's weekly update: Interior painting of his new house is ongoing.

PROGRAM: Randy introduced Burnie Zercher to speak about The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Burnie is a 30 year Rotarian, having served as both President of his club, Pueblo 43, and then as District Governor in 1997-98. He has been in the construction business and in his spare time he is involved with EPIC - Executive Partnering to Invest in Children.

He noted that he was last in Paonia 19 years ago. There have been a number of changes since then: Apple was an unreliable computer, but now a large number of us cannot live without its products; in 2001 9/11 occurred and we became an angrier, scarier, and more needy world; his son was killed in an automobile accident in 2004, which changed him dramatically. He started thinking about what he could do to make positive changes in the world and decided to make periodic and automatic donations to The Rotary Foundation. When a coke was 50 cents, that was his periodic donation. Now he has raised that to \$5, the cost of a Starbucks plus tip. His donations have made him a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

TRF - doing good in the world is its motto. Its mission is to promote world understanding, peace and good will through the Foundation's 6 avenues of service: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and

literacy, and economic and community development. TRF projects are not all “some place else” in the world. Local projects in the US can receive TRF funds. EPIC has been funded as has our Kids in the Kitchen project. He asked what our local issues were. We responded, hunger, employment and health care. He encouraged us to do projects that address these needs.

Burnie spoke of his experience with a polio immunization project that vaccinated 25 million children on one day. He also spoke of polio surgery camps where hundreds of patients are attended to in one week.

TRF has changed its operations somewhat. No longer are funds donated to the Annual Fund held for 3 years before they are distributed. Members can designate where their donations go. 50% of funds come back to the districts that clubs might use for local or international projects. 92% of funds donated go to programs; 6% goes to fund raising and 2% to administrative costs. This exceptionally low overhead makes TRF a worthy recipient of our funds. Become a Paul Harris Fellow with a \$1000 donation. Then continue donating: EREY– Every Rotarian Every Year. Our continuing support, keeps TRF alive and thriving.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: WATER CURES, EDUCATES – Samuel Obour, assistant governor of District 9102 in Ghana and a member of the Sunyani Central club, has spearheaded several water projects. Last year, Sunyani and Canadian Rotary members installed latrines at a primary school in Sunyani and a washing station and toilets at a busy rural market, with funding from a global grant.

"We have so many people traveling from villages to the market. There was no [sanitation] facility of convenience," says Obour. Market-goers would eliminate outdoors and feces entered the water supply, he says, causing dysentery and diseases like Buruli ulcer. If caught early, this flesh-eating disease can usually be treated with antibiotics. But if left untreated, the disease causes irreversible deformity and sometimes life-threatening secondary infections. Obour and other Rotary members have worked with the Ghanaian health service to educate villagers about the importance of early detection and to supply hospitals with necessary treatment tools. "People who thought Buruli ulcer is caused by spirits will now come to understand that they need to go to hospital for identification," says Obour.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 17: Steve Lyons on Green Burials

March 24: Dave Noe, geologist, "The Story Behind the Scenery"

March 31: Fifth Thursday

April 7: Brad Harding, DCED - economic development

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

