



## **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:** April 13, 2017

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Jeff Skeels attended his third Rotary club meeting and will meeting with club leaders soon to discuss joining us.

Scholarship committee - Norm Lewark, Glen Dahlgren, Susie Coombe, Betsy Marston, and Felix Belmont, Chairman will meet today.

Ashley Trego is home recovering from surgery.

James Schott just got solar power turned on at his home.

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 Jeff Toby, a designer for Empowered Energy, which Brad Burritt started in 2004, and Mary Marshall, an Americorps Vista at SEI, to talk about their latest joint project. Beginning in 2015, SEI Americorps Vista workers started focusing on solarize projects in Delta County. [Non-profit organizations may apply for Vista workers for economic development projects.] Since 2015 the Solarize Delta County program has resulted in 42 new solar systems, primarily on residential properties, producing 272 kw of energy, costing \$900,000. SEI provided customer education and streamlined the installation program. There is still time to consider signing up for this program that includes a free site visit, and other cost savings.

The next phase of the solarize program is Commercial Property Assessment for Clean Energy (CPACE) for farms and other businesses. CPACE covers energy efficiency upgrades, wind, hydro, and solar power projects. It has a unique financing mechanism and will officially begin on April 18 through Empowered Energy with a special 3 month cost savings promotion.

Colorado adopted CPACE in 2010; Delta County adopted it in November 2016 due to the persistence of SEI and an Americorps Vista on staff. CPACE is a statewide financing tool to fund energy efficiency projects at 100%. The funds for these projects come as loans from investment capitalists, not from any governmental source. There are no up front expenses to the borrower; the loan term is 20 years - unusually long for this type of project - and the loan is tied to the property not the current property owner, which makes it a unique financial instrument.

The process: Empowered Energy looks at the property that is proposed for an energy efficiency project, then helps the owner make the official application. DMEA will do a free energy audit if

requested. If the application is approved by CPACE, their employees help resolve issues with a current mortgage holder if there is one. Repayment of the loan is automatically made through a county recorded special tax assessment. Both the county and CPACE administrators are paid a 2 - 4% fee from the loan to cover their costs.

Only a few states have adopted CPACE and Delta is one of only 12 counties in Colorado to have adopted it. Investment capitalists are mostly looking for projects that are larger than what Delta businesses might need, so Empowered Energy is looking for local investors. “We are leading the charge in this county with this unique program.” [Full disclosure, your editor sits on the SEI Board of Directors.]

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: April is Maternal and Child Health month. Rotary’s commitment to saving mothers and babies - Azka Asif, Rotary Programs Staff**

Everyone everywhere has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. However, gender-based discrimination often undercuts this right. It causes women to be more susceptible to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home. [www.unwomen.org]

Through projects focused in maternal and child health, Rotary members are committed to reaching United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Each year, at least seven million children under the age of five die from diseases, malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, Rotary members provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Nearly 80% of maternal deaths can be prevented with access to reproductive health services and trained health care workers. Rotary projects aim to provide education, immunizations, birthing kits, and mobile health clinics to support these causes.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

4/20: Art Trevena, Black Canyon Astronomical Society - the total solar eclipse happening this summer.

4/27: Amy Lockner, USFS, reporting on beetle kill in nearby forests.

