



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: April 14, 2016

NOTE: Your newsletter editor missed the April 7 meeting and could not find a substitute note taker. She will try harder next time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be a cleanup on Highway 133, Friday, May 6. Meet at the storage units at 9am.

The pancake breakfast will be held June 25, for which we will all sell tickets. Put the date on your calendar.

We will not hold a coal shoveling contest during Cherry Days. Instead we will have a Ducky Derby in September, probably around the 10th when, hopefully, there will be enough water in the river!

Bob's weekly house construction update: WE ARE LIVING(?) IN THE HOUSE!! (He admitted, however, that it was among boxes.)

PROGRAM: Randy introduced Dr. Gerald Nelson of Grand Junction, talking about climate change and food security. He is professor emeritus of the University of Illinois at Champagne/Urbana; worked at the International Food Project Institute in Washington, DC; and has advised the World Bank, USAID and others on global food security. He is still actively conducting research in his field of expertise.

Food security challenges will grow even without climate change. These challenges include life expectancy - now 60 to 70 years world wide - increases, population growth, increasing income levels, and the desire for a better diet. Now some have too much to eat, while others get too little. Climate change makes getting adequate nutrition even more difficult. Weather issues include: higher temperatures, uncertain precipitation, more extreme events, and more ozone. For farmers, change is probably the new normal.

An overview of climate change: Average temperature is trending up. The 1.35 degree C increase worldwide in February 2016 over February 2015 was considered shocking by climate scientists. The causes of warming/cooling are sunlight, greenhouse gases (water vapor, CO₂, volcanoes, burning organic matter, methane, and NO), clouds, and dust particles. CO₂ decreased steadily since 4 billion years ago until humans appeared. From 1960 to 2010, CO₂ ppm increased from 320 to 400. Examples of agricultural changes: As average temperatures increase, rice growing is moving further north in China, coffee is growing at a higher altitude. So far, the US has experienced relatively modest effects of climate change on agriculture.

However, how do we get ready for what will happen here in Colorado eventually? In the last 30 to

50 years, Colorado's climate has warmed significantly. Projections say the temperature will increase 2.5 to 5 degrees C by 2050 as wintertime lows are warmer. There will be greater irrigation needs. Snow melt and runoff will be 8 to 14 days earlier and less of it. There will be more extreme events.

Some agriculture adaptation options: grow heat tolerant crops; encourage more research on heat tolerant plants; grow less water dependent crops; line or cover irrigation ditches. Some climate change mitigation options: reduce coal burning; expand bike lanes and public transportation; require more insulation in buildings; reduce amount of fertilizer used; consider biochar as an option to ag burning. In short, climate change is an existential threat. We need to adapt, adapt, adapt. Mitigation is crucial to the welfare of our children.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: The April Rotary theme is The Rotarian Magazine. Below are excerpts from a lengthy essay Paul Harris wrote for the first issue of The National Rotarian.

Vol. I. January, 1911. No. 1. "RATIONAL ROTARIANISM", by Paul P. Harris, National President.

[Part 2] If I were by Providence to be placed on a platform in some great coliseum where I had the eye and the thought of every Rotarian on earth, I would like to propound this question. "What is the philosophy of Rotary as you understand it?" [To] modify my question I would ask: "Does Rotary stand for anything beyond or besides giving business and influencing business to fellow members and getting business from fellow members and persons influenced by them?"

Is there to be no place in Rotary for the man who believes that Rotary ought be something more than a mere business exchange? Is there no place in Rotary for him who recognizes the fact that he, as an American citizen of this day and age, has been the recipient of a vast heritage, the result of efforts of generations who have passed beyond, and who thinks it his duty to do something toward balancing his account by doing something for the public present and for generations that are yet to come?

I have been thinking of the Rotary scheme as a compensatory arrangement. It makes it possible for one to do something for his community and to pay his personal and business expenses, and probably make something besides, while he is doing it. Most commercial organizations call for considerable sacrifice both of money and of time on the part of their members for which there is almost no possible prospect of return. In many instances, the members can ill afford it. Now, I am not unaware of the fact that it does not require great courage "to cast bread upon the waters when the tide is flowing back one's way" and that there is no great credit in charity which calls for no sacrifice but, courage or no courage and credit or no credit, Rotary gives us a chance to do something to square our accounts with the world without entailing the necessity of loss of money or time.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 21: Ron Godin, on Growing Hops

April 28: Mark Roeber, "State of the County"

May 5: Kathy Welt, on West Elk Mine and the coal industry

May 12: Brian Wegner, on his time as a nuclear sub commander

