



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

Vol 54 Issue 17 May 12, 2016

LAST MEETING: May 5, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The pancake breakfast will be held June 25. Eight tickets were distributed to each member. Please sell them! Also, sign up to help out.

Greg Thompson and Randy Campbell attended the District Assembly on April 30. Randy attended the session on global and district grants. As he was the only club foundation chair in attendance, he got the full attention of former DG, Clyde Church.

The club board of directors wants to hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday of Mountain Harvest Festival. The two members of the Mountain Harvest Creative board of directors in attendance thought that was a pretty good idea.

Please fill out and return the strategic plan questionnaire you received via e-mail.

The KPP dinner on June 13 will be held at Delicious Orchards. It is supporting Jamaica Outreach, a program your Rotary Club also supports. There will also be a silent auction, for which items are needed.

The Ducky Derby will be held Sept. 10, probably at the River Park. The thought is to engage youth groups in selling tickets for us, an approach that has been successful elsewhere.

Marla Korpar was the key guest. She is the newest Americorps-Vista at SEI. She was president of her Interact Club and a Rotary scholar. She is working on the SEI sponsored Solarize Delta County, which I am told we will hear more about soon.

Bob Lario reported his move to the new house is complete. I guess the next announcement will be the house warming. . . :)

Alan Wells of High Country News has attended several meetings and was interviewed by the membership chair about his interest in joining the club.

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Jessica Loveland, substituting for Kathy Welt. Loveland is a civil engineer, who has worked for the West Elk coal mine for 5 years as an environmental engineer. She also runs the underground survey. The mine, which is owned by Arch Coal, is the last one producing coal in the valley, and it wants to continue doing so. It currently employs 310 miners. Among company goals are to continue to maintain excellent environmental conditions and good relationships with area communities. West Elk works hard at reclamation. The mine recently won several safety awards. So far this year, there has been only one sprained ankle. It has experienced 9 years without a notice of violation from the federal government.

West Elk continues to operate even though Arch Coal filed for bankruptcy earlier this year. Of

all Arch Coal mines, West Elk has the best quality coal and is the most profitable. It is low sulphur and ash and high BTU coal. The mine capture methane to heat its own operations. Its markets are power companies on the east coast, but it has no long term contracts. Selling coal abroad does not seem feasible. The projected mine life for West Elk is until 2026, depending on the markets and whether it is permitted to expand into the Sunset Trail area.

The railroad is running only 16 trains a month and thus has cut back on crews. There are only two crews that may work only an eight hour shift. Sometimes a full coal train is idled until there is a rested crew available.

As for the other mines in the valley, Loveland said that Bowie had geologic issues that are causing the mine to suspend operations. Oxbow had both geologic issues and a fire that caused the mine to close.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: The April Rotary theme [there is no May 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 5] If Rotary is ever accused of anything disagreeable, it will be accused of selfishness. Our exclusiveness [not so much anymore - ED.] may subject us to criticism on that score. Tell accusers that the antithesis of egoism is altruism and Rotary gives members an opportunity to help as well as be helped. Many members who, in joining, have been animated largely by a desire to be helped, have, on the maturing of acquaintance, found their chief pleasure in helping.

What a satisfaction it is to take or to send business to a friend. I have never felt myself under positive obligations to patronize anyone in Rotary and yet I do patronize Rotarians. In a nut-shell my ambition is to do as much for the other club members as any one in our club. I will take my chances as to the recompense, and after I have gotten through doing things for individual club members, I want to do something specifically for the good of the club and for the good of the city in which I live.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

