



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 26 July 21, 2016

LAST MEETING: July 14, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: At the last Board meeting, the directors decided to apply for a District matching grant of \$688 to support A Little Help, the new senior assistance program that is starting up in the North Fork Valley.

There will be a dues increase of \$3 a month to accommodate the RI dues increase

Bill Barton has resigned from the club and the scholarship committee. The committee will now have only 4 members.

Sign up for the KPP dinner on July 25 and bring a friend. If you have not done so already, bring a bottle of wine to Marsha for the wine grab.

There will be a meeting in the Town Hall Community Room on August 4, so our club meeting will be a picnic in the park. Phyllis and Ashley will prepare sack lunches for us.

President Greg is recruiting a small committee to turn the strategic plan into an action plan and to set club goals. Committee members will not be Board members. This should be a 4 hour commitment, no more.

RI is suggesting that clubs consider changing their meeting schedules to fewer than weekly meetings to accommodate the needs of their members. Our club will consider that.

The Ducky Derby on Sept. 10 has received town approval. A county liquor license request is in process. The event will take place from 3 - 6 pm at the River Park. Sign up for tasks such as raffle ticket sales at events in the park this summer. The proceeds go to the PHS Booster Club and our scholarship fund.

PROGRAM: Randy introduced Caryn Gibson, Superintendent of Delta County public schools. Brought up in Olathe, she has been involved with education in the county for 26 years. This is her 5th year as superintendent. Tammy Smith, the School Board President, accompanied her.

Gibson reported that because of smart budgeting, the school district had some extra funds at the end of the school year, which have been divided among visible projects at all the schools. Of particular interest to Paonia folks is the \$100,000 dirt practice track at PHS. With the girls track team having won the state championship for 4 years, it is about time its members have a place to practice at home! Even though the district had excess funds this year, it is still facing financial challenges. Student enrollment has declined by 400 in the last 5 years, and district leaders are budgeting for 100 fewer students this year. At \$7000 per student support from the state, that is quite a large budget decrease.

The number of students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch is at 60%, the highest it has ever

been. The special education population grew by 2% last year. The \$51 million budget includes \$10 million in grants and is more reliant on state funds as the assessed valuation of property in the county declines.

On the brighter side, the North Fork School of Integrated Studies, the school within a school at PES, has been very successful. It has attracted a number of home schoolers. Paonia Elementary School has been a school of distinction for several years. The Vision School is now at the Paonia campus of the Vocational Technical College. The Montessori school in Crawford has doubled in size. There are lots of schooling options in the North Fork for young children.

As for consolidation of high schools, the School Board and Superintendent are working on a strategic plan. Closing a school building does not save that much money, as 75% of the district budget goes to salaries. Things they will be considering are community schools versus more options for students. They are looking at all schools in their planning. The availability of courses via Internet has changed the way students learn. However, Latin is no longer taught in the county. [Some of us older folks bemoaned that statement. - ED]

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: [The Rotary theme for July is Changeover. The official “handing over of the gavel” occurs during the International Convention.] United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was among the first to welcome Rotary members and friends to the 107th Rotary Convention.

Ban, the Korean national who has led the UN and its ambitious development agenda since 2007, thanked Rotary for its leadership and commitment to humanitarian causes. He highlighted Rotary’s contributions to the fight against polio, in both funding and advocacy.

“The United Nations is proud to be a partner in ending this debilitating disease,” he said, referring to UNICEF’s role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. “We must keep up the fight. Please continue to raise your voices, hold your governments accountable, and campaign hard.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 21: Reports by club members who attended the District Conference; Elaine Brett - upcoming Downtown Institute

July 28: Jason Cleckler, CEO of Delta County Memorial Hospital

August 4: Ken Nordstrom, Delta County Health Department director.

