



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 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: July 6, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President James thanked everyone who rode the Rotary entry in the Cherry Days parade. He noted that many of those not on the hay wagon were serving elsewhere. He gave special recognition to Ulli Lange, who organized a particularly wonderful parade this year.

Bob Page from Partners announced their 20th annual golf tournament July 20th at the Cedaredge golf course. He is looking for hole sponsors - the Delta and Cedaredge clubs have already signed up. Partners is a 30 year old mentoring program for at risk youth. Mentors spend at least 3 hours a week involving their assignee in lots of activities. There are currently 45 children on a waiting list.

Club members were asked to sign up to sell Ducky Derby tickets at City Market every Friday between now and August 12, race day. This event is our biggest fund raiser. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20.

Felix Belmont thanked everyone for their birthday wishes. He rode in Don Grant's beautifully restored 1927 Buick during the Cherry Days parade. When the car stopped in front of Ollie's, Susie Coombe ran out with an ice cream cone for him.

The club still needs a President Elect.

Randy Campbell is looking for a replacement as program committee chair to join Betsy Marston and Lisa Delaney, who are the other committee members. Give speaker ideas to committee members.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues.

PROGRAM: Sarah Bishop introduced Mike Gwinn to talk about Mountain Harvest Creative. When Bill and Sarah Bishop stepped down from the Board of Directors of that organization, Gwinn and others stepped up and are doing an excellent job of directing it. Bishop characterized Gwinn as one of the most generous people she knows, as he is always willing to donate his time and talent to a good cause.

Gwinn started his program by playing and singing "Money Slips Through my Fingers", a most entertaining tune. Mountain Harvest Creative (MHC), the home of the Mountain Harvest Festival, is a year round enterprise that supports young people in agriculture and the arts. The organization is lead by Heidi Hudek, its Executive Director, and an 8 person Board of Directors and Festival founder, Rick Stockton, as Emeritus member. It is partnering with the Blue Sage and the Learning Council in the Arts for All program, which is currently teaching circus arts. Previous classes involved orchestra, dance and painting. Next up is movie making. The three organizations see this program as supplementing the minimal arts programs offered by the Paonia Elementary School. MHC is also supporting marimba workshops in the Hotchkiss K-8 school, and is looking forward to getting young people involved in an agricultural project like Teens on Farms.

Gwinn encouraged the club to help and/or be a part of the Mountain Harvest Festival. This is its 17th year, and it brings several \$100 thousand to the valley each year. “Volunteerism is what we do for each other to support our community,” said Gwinn. Gwinn, who has played music all over the world, thinks there is an unusual collection of musicians, artists and other creatives in this valley that make both MHC and its festival so successful. [Editor’s note: our Rotary club has been involved with the festival since its inception. In the beginning the organization was managed by a committee made up of members representing various organizations, including Rotary. For several years we presented the Bountiful Brunch on Sunday morning. As former President of both our club and Mountain Harvest Creative, I will be sad if we do not find a way to continue supporting at least the festival part of this organization.]

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: July is Rotary Changeover month. Newly installed Rotary International President, Ian H.S. Riseley, states that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary’s goal of sustainable service. Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. “They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda,” he said. “The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary’s concern. It is, and must be, everyone’s concern,” he said.

Riseley challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming. “It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring,” Riseley said. “I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 12 - North Fork Ambulance Association update

