



# **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

Issue 42      July 16, 2015

**LAST MEETING:** July 9, 2015

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The funds raised at the Kids Pasta Project dinner on July 13 will go toward international projects.

Fifth Thursday will be at Norm Lewark's home on July 30. More details to come.

Happy Bucks - Felix apologized for a happy buck that might be considered a political statement. It was suggested that anyone over 90 should be exempted from criticism for such misdeeds.

Coal Shoveling Contest - Jackie thanked the sponsors and volunteers. She noted the diversity among the shovelers and the crowd. The event attracted folks from Olathe and Delta and raised nearly \$1800 for the scholarship fund.

Membership Folders - Barb handed out new membership folders. Well done. We appreciate the effort. The program host list was included. Please note when you are responsible for a speaker and let the Bulletin editor know in advance.

Board Meeting - At the Board meeting, the Directors decided the Bulletin would now be distributed electronically via e-mail and placed on the website. Your editor intends to send it out in advance of the meeting. The minutes of Board meetings, once approved, will be posted on the website. The library is going to put a table in the gazebo. As construction of this building was a Rotary project, we will dedicate in sometime in August. There will be an audit of the Club and Foundation financial statements, a practice recommended by RI. Randy has been appointed the New Foundation Chair and has joined the Board.

**NOTED:** There were 43 people attending the meeting, 13 of whom were guests.

It was Inge Lange's birthday.

Bob is now a great grandfather.

Key guest, Emma Stopher-Griffin is continuing the Local Foods First business



with wholesale buyers.

There were 4 former Navy officers in attendance, our guest speaker, Don Foster, Greg Thompson, and guest Brian Wegner, a former nuclear submarine commander.

**PROGRAM:** Felix introduced our speaker, Rear Admiral Miguel Jose S. Rodriguez of the Philippine Navy. This was his second trip to Paonia. 43 years ago at the age of 14 he was a Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student here. One of his 4 foster families was Don and Rachael Foster. After his time here, he attended military school, and became a naval officer, retiring in 2013. He is currently a member of the Loyola Heights RC (RCLH) in Quezon City, Philippines. Joining him on his trip to the US were his wife, his sister, her husband and two children, the later family from Wisconsin.

Miguel stated that the gift of travel broadened his horizons. Traveling half way around the world by himself at age 14 turned a boy into a man. He credited the RC of Paonia as having a hand in this change. He discovered that you are never a stranger among Rotarians as they are friends one has just not yet met.

He learned a lot in school and from his foster families. He discovered mail order catalogs and learned to ski and ride snow mobiles. One foster family was the Methodist minister, Rev. Cole. One day, Rev. Cole brought a salad to the table claiming to have just invented "cole slaw". "It will become world famous", he claimed. Miguel said it was years before he realized the joke.

Miguel said he learned important values from each of his foster families. From the Fosters he learned about farming. Don said that Rachael [who passed away several years ago -ed] should be here, as she was the one who really made the RYE experience important. Miguel credits Rotary as having influenced his decision to join his country's military, as both institutions are about service.

The program concluded with an exchange of banners and a gift of rum from one of his club's members. Miguel agreed with his Rotary Club, to work on. The rum will be

Thank you Miguel and  
We enjoyed your company and  
here.



proposed a sisterhood  
which President Marsha agreed  
opened at 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday!  
family for coming to Paonia.  
look forward to your third visit

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:** The publishes a slick magazine each of the many service projects the many good deeds the club was recognized this past year as the Most Outstanding Club in its district. Miguel gave us an even fatter publication that listed all their other awards, 23 in total! Let us be inspired by a Rotarian and his club, who was in turn inspired by our club members, 43 years ago.

RCLH has 125 members and  
week! It is filled with pictures  
club participates in. For their

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:** July 16—ADG, Sam Kevan about his trip to Cambodia

July 23—Dave Mitchell, Celebrate the Fork

July 30—Fifth Thursday at Norm Lewark's home

August 6 - Kevin Parks, speaker host

**DG BOB DELEVAN** will be visiting our club on September 3. Let's be sure there is a big turnout.

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