



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

Issue 41 July 9, 2015

LAST MEETING: July 2, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Marsha reminded us that we needed to bring a nice bottle of wine for the wine grab at the Kids Pasta Project dinner on July 13.

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

Happy Bucks - Let's keep them non-political.

Coal Shoveling Contest - Our club is co-sponsoring this contest with Mountain Coal Company in the park on July 4. To make the contest less dependent on human perception as to when the bin is empty, this year each team will shovel coal for just two minutes and the winners will be judged by the weight of the coal shoveled. Only 20 teams will be allowed to register for the contest, and the coal will be oiled to keep down the dust. Volunteers are needed to help with the betting starting at 12:30. The minimum bet is \$5. The club will receive approximately \$500 from the registration fees and sponsorships, as well as half of the bets. This should be a respectable fund raiser for the club.

Theme Pins - For those who were not in attendance last week, there are new "Be a Gift to the World" theme pins available.

Next Week's Speaker - Felix urged us to come to the next meeting to meet Miguel Jose S. Rodriguez, a Rear Admiral in the Philippino Navy. 43 years ago - 1972 - he was a Rotary exchange student with our Rotary Club. He stayed with Rachael and Don Foster. Apparently he had such an enjoyable stay that he is coming back for another visit! (To repeat what I said in the last Bulletin - ed)

The Pancake Breakfast brought in \$1446. A nice start on our 2015-16 fund raising.

NOTED: John Records was a visitor.

Barb and Mike Heck took their Denver grandkids to hear Malala Yousafzai speak. They were impressed by the dynamic 17 year old.

PROGRAM: Kathy Steckel, the Executive Director of the North Fork Ambulance Association spoke about the 50 year old volunteer organization. James Schott, a volunteer with NFAA, introduced her. She has been an EMT for 20 years, been on the Board of

Directors for 7 years, became the part time director about 4 years ago, and is now full time. Previously, the President of the Board had led the day to day activities of the organization. The job has become too big, so Kathy is now in charge.

NFAA responds to over 700 calls a year and is available 24/7. In 1970 there were 25 volunteers who responded to 60 calls. Now there are 50 volunteers, but 12 times as many calls from a 1550 square mile service area. NFAA is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends on donations, grants and fees, not tax money as some people believe. There is a real value to volunteers, as their costs amount to \$125k per year as opposed to \$1,155,320 for the same size group at \$22/hour. NFAA members are never billed for ambulance service. Medicare pays only 8 cents on the dollar. Of the estimated 5600 households in the service area, only 1800 are members.

As NFAA is currently operating on a deficit budget, it is considering different approaches to service. 1) Discontinue the service and depend on the Delta County ambulance service. This is the least desirable option because of the long response time. 2) Put emergency medical services on the tax rolls with 3 stations and 6 people on call. This would cost \$265 per household valued at \$180k. 3) Consolidate the three current stations into one in Hotchkiss. This would dramatically raise the response time in Paonia, Crawford and outlying areas. With one crew and 2 people on call, the cost per \$180k household would be \$104. 4) Maintain the 3 stations and crews with one crew in a quick response capacity. Response time would remain 12 to 15 minutes in most areas, there would be no tax levy and the cost would be \$40k per year, for which the organization would look for new revenue streams. This is the Board's chosen option. With a substantial reserve they will be able to continue their service and are hopeful about balancing the budget in a few years

Recently the Association held several community meetings to hear people's concerns about their service. The three biggest issues were need for a higher level of care, faster response time, and concern about costs. In response, 6 volunteers will attend an Advanced Life Support class in September. The Board will also launch a vigorous membership program and start billing insurance companies for non-member transport.

Kathy urged us to help her solicit members and volunteers. The service NFAA provides to our communities is so essential, perhaps our club should consider becoming an active supporter.

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 - ???

DG BOB DELEVAN has appointed each Rotarian in District 5470 to be Membership Chair for his/her Club. July is recruit a member month! Let's get busy.

