



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

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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 46 August 20, 2015

LAST MEETING: August 13, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Marsha noted that frequently only one member shows up early to set up our meeting room. You all are invited to arrive between 11:15 and 11:30 to help!

Greg T. reported on the BOD meeting held on 8/11. Some folks are behind in their dues, thus the checking account is very low. Delinquent members need to pay up now.

The \$1000+ income from the KPP dinner will be divided up as follows: \$250 will go to the club foundation to support scholarships. The remainder will be sent to The Rotary Foundation with the instruction that \$19.50 should be credited to each member's Paul Harris account.

The BOD will revisit how the club's foundation funds should be spent. They are currently held in a CD, which earns next to nothing in interest. Randy will chair the CD Utilization Committee, which will develop some options for the club members to consider. Betsy and Kevin volunteered to be on the committee.

President Marsha suggested we read the guidelines to fines, which are included in our membership folder. She noted there is a \$25 fine for forgetting when you are responsible for providing a program. [See the end of each newsletter for the next 4 program sponsors. -Ed] She said she is going to start enforcing the fines.

Regarding membership: Pam Cocker has resigned; Ken Butcher is on leave; and Davis Walton will transfer into our club on August 20.



PROGRAM: Jackie Parks introduced Jan Tuin, the North Fork Valley representative on the Delta County School Board and long term music educator. On the screen was a picture of Karri holding a 10 hour old grandchild, who is also Jan's grand niece. [Not quite sure of the relationship; perhaps great grand niece. - Ed]

Jan's presentation started with the School Board's mission: One district, one vision; make a difference; student growth and

achievement. While there has been good growth in reading capability over the last year in the elementary schools, the CMAST scores in science and social studies have declined, so more effort will be placed on these subjects. The ACT scores for three of the four high schools have exceeded the state average, with Paonia HS scoring highest. Current funds balance is at \$1.5 million, which will allow step increases for staff and replacement of some busses. The school district has received over \$2 million in grants, including for counseling starting at 9th grade. The objective is to help students think about future options earlier in their public school years.

There are 5000 students, 600 staff and 24 instructional sites in the school system. New this fall is the North Fork School of Integrated Studies, a Waldorf style school housed at Paonia Elementary School. Jan expects that enrollment this year will be about the same as last year.

In setting goals for the 2015-16 school year, the School Board articulated three: Professional development based on teachers' requests for more training; developing more options for graduates; and building more community support for schools. In the professional development area, there is a new math curriculum, which Bob Bushta, a PES teacher helped select, and new emphasis on English language acquisition. Teachers will be guided on how to present these curricula. Jan reported that there was good feedback from the community from the several meetings held last year. However, there needs to be more parent involvement in the schools as well as efforts to keep older citizens informed and supportive of the schools.

At the School Board retreat they looked at district strengths - the people; weaknesses - population decline, large district size geographically, and imbalance between HS populations - e.g., Paonia = 170; Delta = 400; opportunities - advanced community engagement; and threats - politicians out of touch with rural areas, and loss of population, jobs and resources.

One final note, consolidation of schools is not currently on the table as the district is presently able to support/sustain all the schools.

Club members asked 3 questions that Jan said he would look into: 1) Are vaccination requirements state or local? 2) Could Paonia HS become a magnet school? 3) Are schools considering care for latch key students?

AFTER THE MEETING about a dozen members of the club helped dedicate the gazebo at the Paonia library. During Norm's presidency, he designed and lead the building of a magnificent gazebo on the library grounds to be used primarily by young people's reading clubs. Annette Chosczyk, Delta County Librarian and Rotary member, thanked the club for the structure. Norm described the construction process, which used mostly hand tools and large beams, and thanked the library for the table and benches. Now that the plaque is in place, the space is more than ready for use.



AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH Each August we celebrate Membership Month, an opportunity to thank our members for their commitment to Rotary. We begin 2015-16 celebrating strong membership growth of nearly 25,000 members this past year. The hard work and support of our members has led to successes such as the recent polio eradication milestones in Nigeria and on the entire African continent, both of which marked one year without a case of polio caused by the wild polio virus. Those achievements wouldn't have been possible without members' dedication and their continued support of Rotary and The Rotary Foundation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 20 - Betsy Marston

August 27 - Norm Lewark

September 3 - Marsha Grant, District Governor, Bob Delevan.

September 10 - Bob Lario

