



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: September 7, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sarah Bishop asked that the club approve a delay in the start of the Poulos Park face lift project until the town can get the ongoing vandalism under control.

SEI (Solar Education International) will become the first corporate member of the club. Beata Ramza attended today's meeting.

Jim Cunningham to be welcomed as a member on 9/14.

Club agreed to take tickets at PHS sports events. Sign up with Karri Polson.

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

PROGRAM: President James convened the quarterly business meeting, which was focused on developing club leadership. A meeting of former club presidents was held to discuss leadership succession, club member participation in ongoing activities, and a calendar of club events.

Regarding club leadership: It is the club's responsibility, not just the President's, to fill leadership positions. Perhaps we should have committee co-chairs to make the job less intimidating for any one person. Need to regularize and formalize the process. Key posts should be filled on a regular basis. Some people get on a committee for life. Committee chairs need a term limit. Feeling on part of group that every member should take on a leadership responsibility. The problem is finding people to take on leadership roles (not so hard to get general volunteers).

Establish calendar of events (copies passed out). Need a nominating committee soon (perhaps made up of previous presidents).

Discussion with club on how to approach filling positions. When Mike Heck was VP/President Elect, it was his responsibility to recruit board members. Barb Heck observed that there was not much continuity from year to year, causing repetition of effort. Are we committed to our mission of providing scholarships as a club? Should we reevaluate the mission?

The mission of the club is education and service to the community. Our major educational project is providing scholarships to graduating seniors from the two local high schools. Club distributed \$20K last year - \$16K for scholarships to high school seniors, EMT trainees, and vocational students. The rest went to our RYLA students, dictionaries for third grade students, Jamaica Outreach (our international project), and several local non-profits. Do we want to sustain this level of commitment?

Fund raisers provide opportunity to support our projects as well as to connect as members. How many members did we lose this year – 3 or 4. Need to find ways to get younger people in and make it fun. Just fund raising is not fun.

John Coombe: Need to address continuity. But changing presidents every year is disruptive.

Need to have a longer term. Also, so much time goes into something like the ducky derby, which exhausts human capital. What is our return on investment/net energy? What do we get from such an event beyond the money?

Jeff Skeels: We need to get sufficient results out of an activity to make it worth the effort. Need to agree on what we want to do to achieve agreed-upon goals. Set a goal, then set up a process to reach that goal on an annual basis. [Last year's survey did that. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves of the results occasionally. - ED] Need to engage social media to attract younger members.

Sarah Bishop: The position of President is already intended to be a 4-year commitment: One starts as President Elect Nominee, then President Elect, then President, then Past President (when one finally completes ones presidential project!).

Felix Belmont: Committee chairs should be more involved in budget process. He is concerned that some members of club are not committed to scholarships.

Jim Cunningham observed that the town of Paonia is not well connected to entities involved in developing the town.

Several members volunteered for club chairmanships: **Jeff Skeels - Program committee;**
John Coombe - Public Relations; **Felix Belmont: Scholarship.**

President James thanked the members for their participation. By the end of October he will reconvene the former Presidents group to create a systematic way to develop club leadership and hold another business meeting to continue this discussion.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: September is New Generations month. (Following is a description of a RI program that clubs can participate in.) New Generations Service Exchange is a short-term, customizable program for university students and young professionals up to age 30. Participants can design exchanges that combine their professional goals with a humanitarian project.

What are the benefits?

- Make connections with service-minded community leaders in another country.
- Learn another language.
- Build your professional skills and gain international experience.
- Travel and explore a new culture while giving back through service.

What is an exchange like?

With your host Rotary district, you'll plan activities that can include networking, relationship building, humanitarian service, professional development, and leadership training. Exchanges:

- Last from a few weeks to six months.
- Can be arranged for individuals or groups.
- Need not be reciprocal.

How much does it cost?

Costs vary by Rotary club or district. To reduce expenses, Rotary members often provide home stay options, arrange no-cost internship or job-shadowing programs, and offer other financial assistance.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sept 14 - Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry, Community and Economic Development Director, Delta County

Sept 21 - Sarah Palmer - Center for Mental Health

Sept 28 - Lisa Ganora, Director of CO School of Clinical Herbalism

Oct 5 - Natasha Leger, Citizens for a Healthy Community

