



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: August 24, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Scholarship committee report - We will not change our current policy, that of providing \$2000 scholarships to several students from Paonia and Hotchkiss and Vision schools as the budget will allow.

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

Greg Thompson will meet with Jim Cunningham in advance of his being inducted into the club.

Put some posts on the Club's facebook page.

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

PROGRAM: Lisa Delaney introduced Anita Evans, the Director of The Nature Connection. Evans, a former teacher in the area, started outdoor education activities for young people 20 years ago. What began as a small endeavor has become The Nature Connection, which is a coalition of many partners to get kids outdoors. It has provided skis for kids and now has 1700 participants. With full support from the Delta County School District, teachers have written curriculum for hands on science projects and other activities. Children have taken canyon and river trips. Eighth grade students learn about solar energy with site visits to Solar Energy International.

Having received a GOCO planning grant in 2015, Evans has just submitted a \$1.5 million follow up proposal called Programs, Pathways and Places. The Nature Connection already has a \$1.2 million match pledged from its partners to conduct this county-wide program. The proposal calls for a project in each of the 5 communities in Delta County. The Paonia project calls for expanding the River Park to the West. In Hotchkiss, there would be a story walk and boat ramp at the fairgrounds. The programs are mainly in schools plus equipment for boating, fishing and skiing. The pathway is to develop a youth outdoor network and show high school students career opportunities in outdoor endeavors.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: September is New Generations month. New Generations (Youth Service) joins Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service as the foundation of club activity. Before starting a project, Rotarians are asked to think broadly about how their club and its members could contribute within each avenue.

The Avenue of New Generations recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding. We have RYLA, Youth Exchange, Interact, Rotary Peace Communities, and more. Elevating Rotary's Service for Youth (amended to "New Generation") to be an Avenue of Service is not only important for the additional focus

on service ...but for the increase in potential strength and support of Rotary Clubs that comes from knowing our additional emphasis on youth.

Why Youth? ...The youth may be the key to attaining future Peace, Goodwill, and understanding whether internationally or locally. We invest and hope to affect future Peace with our peace centers. An investment of Service in youth will yield benefits for more years than any other service.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sept 7 - Quarterly business meeting

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

Sept 21 - TBD

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

