



## **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

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LAST MEETING: September 1, 2016

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Re Ducky Derby on 9/10: 390 tickets sold so far. President Greg sent around a sign up sheet for selling more tickets in front of City Market. Club members should attend this event - 3pm to 5pm - and bring extra chairs.

As a show of Rotary support for PHS, Karri Polson volunteered to sell tickets at volley ball games.

Our second September fund raiser will be a pancake breakfast on 9/25 during Mountain Harvest Festival. Pam Bliss agreed to make hand bills advertising it.

Dan Dean, Paonia's interim Town Manager was Kate Zachman's guest.

There were lots of birthdays, anniversaries and happy bucks today.

**PROGRAM:** President Greg introduced Sam Kevan, our Assistant Governor, who introduced District Governor, Teresa Anson. She graduated from Colorado Mesa University and was a math teacher in Grand Junction for a number of years. Then she joined her husband, Cliff's, development company. Over the years she had done lots of volunteer work. On the day she joined the Grand Junction Rotary Club she became a Paul Harris Society member, one who donates at least \$1000 per year. She eventually became the third female president of her club. She has attended the Bangkok and Seoul Rotary International Conventions and highly encouraged us to attend the Atlanta Convention in 2017.

Her presentation to the club focused on Rotary facts and figures. There are 1.258 million Rotarians in 35,000 clubs in 200 countries. Clubs are organized in groups of 55 to 65 in 536 districts. Districts are then grouped into zones. RI Directors are elected from among the zones - one for every two zones. Directors serve 3-year terms.

Rotary membership is shrinking in English-speaking countries, while it is growing elsewhere in the world, where being a Rotarian is a high honor.

Jim Mundt, our district's representative to the Council on Legislation, brought forward an idea concerning meeting flexibility that was adopted by that body. Clubs may now meet twice a month if they wish, and count attendance at Rotary sponsored events - such as our Ducky Derby - the same as meeting attendance. Keeping track of attendance is important as it tells foundations, governments and others how dedicated we are to our organization and to service.

Other important aspects of Rotary are wearing our Rotary gear and taking advantage of training opportunities. Rotary leadership institutes allow for networking, fellowship and Rotary education. There will be such an institute in Montrose soon. April 20, there will be an institute in Glenwood

Springs, followed by the District Conference on April 21 - 22. As for the Atlanta International Conference, there will be 100s of breakout sessions, international quality entertainment and highly inspirational speakers. Governor Teresa wants 100 district members to attend. So far 34 have signed up.

A polio eradication update: It is still endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and now Nigeria is back on the list. However, there is still hope the virus will be eliminated by 2017.

As for fun and celebrations; there will be an Alaska cruise 7/14 - 21/17 that is open to Rotarians, friends and family. 2017 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in Rotary. We need to celebrate this. Also, 2017 is the centennial of The Rotary Foundation. We need to let everyone know about this. \$26.50 started this fund. Governor Teresa encouraged us to add at least that amount to our yearly donations. Every member of our club has an account with TRF. [We need to keep making yearly donations, whatever the amount. - ED]

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:** The Rotary theme for September is Basic Education and Literacy. In 2005, Razia Jan came up with a dangerous idea: to start a free private school for girls in her native Afghanistan. "I had seen the conditions and how badly the girls were treated. I had to do something. I thought, 'There are no schools for girls here. Why not build one?'" At that time, I was the president of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, MA and we decided to hold a fundraiser. We raised \$65,000 in one night. This was in 2005. In 2008, we held two events featuring Khaled Hosseini, author of the novels The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, which helped us raise more than \$120,000. The place where we decided to build the school was a community of seven villages, a poor area, and they had never seen a girls' school. My hope was that this school could help break the cycle of poverty.

When I first came to this village, a man came up to me and stared at me strangely. He said, 'Sister, why are you standing here? Please go inside and sit with our women and have a cup of tea.' I replied, 'I'm going to build this school. And I'm going to be standing here to build it. You have to get used to it. I don't think I'm going to sit inside.' That was one of the first times a woman had challenged these men. The day before we opened the school, more men approached me. This time, there were four of them. 'I hope you realize you still have a chance to change this school into a boys' school,' they said to me. 'Boys are the backbone of our community.' I replied, 'Unfortunately, you are all blind. I want to give you some sight.' They turned around, and I never saw them again. [To be continued]

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September 8: Alex Johnson, Executive Director of the Western Slope Conservation Center - the BLM Resource Management Plan currently in public comment period.

September 15: McKenna Palmer and Cyrus Malek-Madani - our RYLA attendees

September 22: Jason Cleckler, CEO of Delta County Memorial Hospital

September 30: "5<sup>th</sup> Thursday" at the Larios (no meeting on 9/29)

