



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: November 16, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Frankye Wist won the football pool on a tie breaker with Ulli Lange.

Karri Polson asked members to sign up as ticket takers for PHS basketball and wrestling.

Bob Lario celebrated the birth of his second great grand child. [Are you old enough, Bob, to be a great grand?]

President James announced that a slate of officers for next year would be presented on 11/30.

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

PROGRAM: Elaine Brett introduced Kristin Lynch of the Western Colorado Community Fund (WCCF). Brett had been a BOD member for 6 years, and watched the organization grow and do a lot of good work in Delta County. She and her husband have established a donor-advised fund with WCCF. Brett announced that there would be a conversation with Lynch after the meeting about setting up a type of satellite fund in the North Fork area.

Lynch announced the 20th anniversary of the fund that supports arts, environment, education, and manages donors' funds in 7 Western Slope counties. WCCF's primary mission is to recruit donors and develop a charitable legacy. It connects donors with worthy projects.

Currently WCCF holds \$60 m in assets. It distributed \$15 m in grants in 2016, including \$2.5 m in scholarships. WCCF's endowment distributes ~\$3 m per year. The rest of the funds come from donors. Delta County received \$184 thousand for scholarships in 2016. It has received \$900 thousand in grants since 2005 - 90% from donors and the rest from the endowment. To celebrate its 20th anniversary the organization received a matching grant from the Boettcher Foundation to give out six, \$20 thousand grants. There were 53 applicants from the 7 counties. Delta's ENGAGE project received one of the grants.

There is no formal application process. The WCCF website gives guidance on how to communicate needs. The organization talks with donors about needs and opportunities; BOD members make recommendations. WCCF holds endowment funds for a number of Rotary clubs. Their goal is to grow their own endowment and solicit unrestricted funds, of which there are currently very few.

Ouray County has set up its own community fund under the WCCF umbrella. It will support local non-profits. Local individuals give money to a specific area of need plus a percentage to the community fund. While WCCF manages the funds for a 1% fee, a local committee decides who will receive the grants.

WCCF has an investment advisor that focuses on community foundations. Their return on investment is 6% to 8% and sometimes higher. WCCF pays 4.5% of their funds yearly to grants.

Donors make a minimum investment of \$5,000 to WCCF; the minimum investment for a scholarship fund is \$50,000.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: November is The Rotary Foundation month. Six Rotary Global Women of Action were recognized during Rotary Day at the United Nations on November 7, 2015 in New York City for their dedication and service, which have improved the lives of thousands around the world. “The women we are honoring here today are leaders in Rotary,” said Rotary President K.R. Ravindran. “They are pushing the boundaries of Rotary service, pushing us all to do more, be more, and achieve more.”

Lakshmi Puri, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN Women, praised Rotary for its acknowledgment of the crucial role women play. “I’m very pleased you have picked this team of gender equality and women empowerment,” she said.

The six women, who were selected by Rotary senior leaders and staff from more than 100 nominees from around the world, are:

Dr. Hashrat A. Begum, of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West, in Bangladesh, who has implemented several large-scale projects to deliver health care to poor and underserved communities.

Stella S. Dongo, of the Rotary Club of Highlands, in Zimbabwe, who leads the Community Empowerment Project in the city of Harare. The project provides basic business and computer training to more than 6,000 women and youths affected by HIV/AIDS.

Lucy C. Hobgood-Brown, of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney, in New South Wales, Australia, who co-founded HandUp Congo, a nonprofit that promotes and facilitates sustainable community-driven business, educational, social, and health initiatives in underprivileged communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Razia Jan, of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, in Massachusetts, USA, who has spent decades fighting for girls’ educational rights in Afghanistan. An Afghan native, she is the founder and director of the Zabuli Education Center, a school that provides free education to more than 480 girls in Deh’Subz, outside Kabul, Afghanistan. She was also recognized as a CNN Hero in 2012.

Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart, of the Rotary Club of Nürnberg-Sigena, in Germany, who launched the Babyhospital Galle project after surviving the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. With a budget of \$1.8 million and the support of 200 Rotary clubs, the project rebuilt and equipped the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital, in Galle, Sri Lanka. The hospital has served more than 150,000 children and more than 2.2 million women.

Dr. Deborah K.W. Walters, of the Rotary Club of Unity, in Maine, USA, a neuroscientist who has served as director of Safe Passage (Camino Seguro), a nonprofit that provides educational and social services to families who live in the Guatemala City garbage dump.

Each of the women addressed attendees and led discussions on topics related to her work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving (no meeting)

Nov. 30 - Elaine Brett, Space to Create

Dec. 7 - Jay Bagley and Julie Bennett, Rubicon Roasting and Root and Vine

Dec. 14 - Amy Williams, Ayurvedic Consultant and Yoga Instructor

