



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

Newsletter guest-edited by Bain Weinberger

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: January 4, 2018

Club President James Schott presided over the meeting.

Thanks to those members who helped with setting up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Karri Polson reported that the high school needs help with basketball ticket sales. This Saturday is covered by Bill & Sarah Bishop, but other openings are available. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Bain Weinberger reported the football pool results: Barb Heck won the last football pool of the season with 13 of 16 correct. Marsha Grant came in second. The club made \$274 in total and everyone contributed their winnings to the club. Bob Lario won 3 times, Peggy Szvetecz won twice. Kate, Bill, Norm, Greg, Karri, Frankie, Ulli and Marsha won once each.
- Jeff Skeels is resigning from Rotary as of Jan 15th. He was program committee chair, so the club needs a new program chair as well as someone to fill in as a replacement on the basketball ticket-taking schedule and a parade coordinator for 4th of July parade. Ben Lehman offered to join the program committee but not be the chair.
- New member Ben Lehman will be inducted on Jan 25th.
- Felix Belmont reported that the scholarship committee is currently in a slack period. He will update the application form and begin promoting this year's scholarships next week with high schools. All four of this year recipients have received their second payments.
- Sarah Bishop is our newly elected treasurer, taking over from Kate Zachman.

There were no Visiting Rotarians.

Francois Pretorius played piano for America the Beautiful. There was no other singing.

PROGRAM: Rotary Business Meeting

Topic 1: Membership:

- President Schott cited a report from the state membership chair that shows Rotary is losing membership nationally. The North Fork Valley club has generally maintained membership.
- President Schott seeded the discussion with the following questions:
 - Should membership be larger?
 - How can we attract more members?
 - What demographic should we target for new members?

- Francois Pretorius said the meetings are not that interesting and the club seems stagnant. The club needs more purpose. There is room for improvement.
- Pam Bliss thought that, although the programs this year were quite good, she agreed that the club seems to need more purpose.
- Bill Bishop said he thinks all the businesses in town should be members of Rotary. To that end, he will be walking Paonia's main street to invite business folks to join Rotary. He hopes to eventually include Crawford and Hotchkiss as well. There is a Membership meeting coming in June and businesses should be included.
- President Schott thought that when Bill Bishop meets with the local businesses he should take invitations for the membership gathering in June.
- Sarah Bishop agreed with Francois Pretorius that there is not enough awareness within the club of everything we do. We don't celebrate or talk about how we serve the community so the link between the club and the community at large is lacking.
- Pam Bliss related that she had a revelation that the club needs to work social media (i.e. Facebook) more. She had posted requests for help wrap gifts for the children's Christmas party and was amazed with the response. She got about 70 volunteers from her Facebook post, most of which were younger people she did not know. She did the same for working at the Christmas party and she got 100 people to come help! She thought Rotary should post club meeting speakers and other activities on social media.
- Randy Campbell also said there was a lack of excitement in the club. He would like to see more hands-on activities that directly help people in need. He thought the Christmas wrapping activity Pam had mentioned was a good example. He said "A Little Help" (ALH) is another direct activity of that type. President Schott and Randy Campbell will be meeting with ALH to see how Rotary can get involved.
- Norm Lewark thought there should be Rotary window stickers for businesses that get involved, i.e. "Proud Supporter of Rotary Club of the North Fork".
- Greg Thompson will be coordinating the membership meeting at Wiseheart Springs. The club invited the Chamber of Commerce last year and used the Chamber of Commerce membership list for invitations. A good speaker is the key, and he is open to suggestions.

Topic 2: Certificate of Deposit (CD)

- President Schott said the club had previously approved using money from the CD to help fund scholarships. This is the last year for which that had been approved. He wanted to get a feel from the membership regarding how much money the club should retain on-hand in the CD, and how much could therefore be distributed. There is around \$24K currently in the CD.
- Randy Campbell said that the Club needs to decide how to use the money, as a condition of the grant that funded the CD. It is currently being used to fund 1 - \$2000 high school grant and 2 - \$3200 grants to the Ambulance Association for advanced EMT training. Three scholarships are going to the Vo-Tech school as well. He also recommended using extra money from the CD is to seed potentially larger subsequent fundraising efforts. He had no specific recommendations.
- Greg Thompson thought that was a good idea. He thought that perhaps the Ducky Derby would raise more money if there was a larger prize.
- Sarah Bishop said she would like to see a fundraising plan to meet club obligations before deciding how to spend CD. She said fund raising activities are unlikely to meet budget commitments. The focus should be on the most efficient activities, such as the Ducky Derby (DD). However there needs to be sufficient planning to make these events successful.
- President Schott said we will promote the pancake breakfast as a "scholarship" breakfast and make a "big deal" out of it. He also said that the club will connect DD to Harvest Festival. The club will also work with schools and other non-profits on ticket sales (for a share of proceeds). Very few folks besides Rotary members turned out for the actual DD race.
- Jacque Gannon agreed that increasing the DD prize money from the CD might help increase sales. She felt advertising for the DD was sufficient and that it just need a bigger prize.

Other Discussion

- President Schott asked if this sort of business meeting is a worthwhile way to spend meeting time? The consensus seemed to be that it was, with a frequency of once a quarter or so.
- Sarah Bishop (who will be taking over as Treasurer) wanted to know how frequently members would like to pay dues. "Don't care" and "Quarterly" won over "Monthly" by a smidge. She also said dues should be paid in advance (she will propose this to the Board).

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Jan. 18 - Annette Pertorius, Happy Data Management

