



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 27, 2018

Glenn has Don's cards.

No Key Guest.

Program:

Today we have 2 groups speaking.

First Mike introduced Lenore Cambria, the District Administrator for the North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District and Niki Richardson, the Office Assistant is in charge of many things including Facebook, their website, etc.

The North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District is located on the same side of Hwy 92 as the Hotchkiss High School.

The North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District has applied for and received numerous grants to build ballparks (baseball and football) including but not limited to the GOCO Grant and DOLA. They've also some local funds from various sources.

The dirt track and a bike trail are still under construction as well, as trails for high country skiing and hiking. Currently they are waiting for the contract to be signed by DOLA after which they can then begin requesting bids from contractors. Some excavation needs to be done. The North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District hopes to have it all done in the fall, but is waiting for paperwork.

The North Fork Pool was the first big asset, built in 1995 with GOCO funds. They have been and are trying hard to be very diligent in making their equipment last as long as possible but they have had to replace some this year (heaters, spa covers, sand filter, etc.).

Nature Connection took over the Montessori school property nearby. They've built a bicycle pump track and some bicycle trails. These trails are open to everyone. There are Weatherport structures for shade. Did not get picnic tables so they are looking for contributions for tables at \$750.00/table and putting them under the buyer's names. They need 6 more.

A climbing boulder also going in, it is currently being fabricated. In 2004, the Roberts Family put in a baseball/softball field as a Memorial.

This will make the North Fork a hub for all sorts of recreational activities. The North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District can now host tournaments and will help the economy with multiple day stays for tournaments.

Moving into the future, the decreasing property tax rate is causing a loss of around \$20K for operating revenues. Expenses have increased (including increased minimum wage). They employ 30 people during the summer but have had to cut down some operating hours.

This project is needed for health and safety in the community; offering aerobics, swim lessons, physical therapy in the pool, etc.

The Recreation District wants to expand. Will be on the ballot for a mil levy increase in November.

Biggest push now is getting word out that the North Fork Recreation District is more than just the pool. The Apple Valley tennis/pickleball courts, built with GOCO funds in 2013, and the Town of Paonia Skate Park are also part of Recreation District. Pickleball players as well as the Paonia High School and Middle School use the Apple Valley courts.

Mike then introduced Kathy Steckel from the North Fork Ambulance District

Kathy has been in advanced care for 22 years. With Kathy is Steve Simpson the Quick Response Director and Kate, an EMR, who also came on behalf of the North Fork Ambulance District.

Kathy reported that the North Fork Ambulance District covers a 15000 square mile service area spanning three counties: Delta, Montrose (outside of Crawford) and Gunnison. This is a public non-profit charity formed in 1969, which brings quality advanced care quickly operating with on-call crews from three communities.

The best thing is saving lives. They are struggling with the cost of doing business. Medical equipment and software is expensive. They can do EKGs on the go and can also begin heart medications on the scene. Cost \$40,000 just for software upgrades to do EKG's. Their oldest ambulance is a 1998. The cost of training an EMT 22 years ago was \$400 and it now \$2400. Their ability to bring in funding is stretched to the limit. Memberships, donations and fees for service have provided funding. Have to write off 50% – 88% of the bills for Medicare and Medicaid patients and there is a big increase in medical patients. Only 1 out of 3 people in the valley are current members of the ambulance association.

There are growing calls for service. Volume has increased 22%. Delta County has twice the state average in people over age 65.

Causing problem with long-term financial stability. Have stretched funding to the limit, and they are now having to spend reserves in order to survive. Board decided to become a health service district funded by a tax levy on the ballot in November 2018. This will allow replacement of equipment and help attract providers and will result in \$41 tax per \$100,000 in assessed value. Should be able to fund the ambulance district for over 20 years. If the measure fails, ambulances will become less and less reliable, EMT's will have less training and marginal equipment. May not be available during certain hours.

Of all the local response agencies, the ambulance service is the only one not publicly funded.

It is always difficult to increase taxes. Some people just don't like any sort of tax increase; others are on fixed incomes and just can't afford an increase. 60% to 77% of polled voters are in favor of the tax increase. Memberships will go away once the ambulance district becomes a taxing entity. We will still be 502C3 for tax-deductible donations.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

10/18/18: TBD

10/25/18: TBD



ROTARY'S PEACE PRYAMID – *A plan to change the world!*

There are many **worthy** endeavors and NGOs in the world but what differentiates Rotary from these programs is Rotary has a six step plan for bringing more peace and stability to the world. It starts with purifying water and teaching basic sanitation skills to communities. Once learned this knowledge leads to the prevention of disease. Through THE learned knowledge of basic sanitation and by providing inoculations, maternal and child health improves. Healthy mothers can then teach their children to read and healthy children can learn. Armed with literacy skills people can earn a living reducing unemployment and civic unrest. Economic prosperity leads to a more stable society resulting in more peace.

