



## ***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 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 58 Issue 37 – October 24, 2019

Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger

**LAST MEETING: October 17, 2019**

Former President Heck presided.

Visiting Rotarians: none

Key Guest: none

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- World Polio Day – October 24. All donations to the bucket that day will go to the Rotary Polio Eradication Fund. Think of good reasons to contribute to the bucket that day.
- Paonia Senior Connection will be having a Service Saturday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a good time, followed by pizza. James passed around a sign-up sheet.
- Ulli won the football pool for the second time in a row. There were two entries.
- Barb looking for a speaker for Mike's slot on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Kids Pasta Project fundraiser for Rotary (in support of Rotary International) on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Pam passed out flyers for distribution around town. Members are reminded to bring wine next week for use in the Wine Grab that will be part of the dinner. Members are encouraged to attend and bring lots of friends.

**Shelter Boxes:** Barb announced that ShelterBox USA had responded to the Club's \$2K donation check with an email stating that they are not accepting disaster specific donations and that they are currently doing assessments on Abaco. However, there is currently not sufficient infrastructure to warrant deployment of Shelter Boxes on the island. Other options were presented on how the money might be used by ShelterBox, as well as the option of simply returning the money.

The consensus of the members present was that the money was collected with the expressed purpose of helping the Bahamas hurricane victims. By vote, the membership decided that the money should be recovered and re-deployed for that purpose. The Board will come up with some suggestions on how the money can be used to support the hurricane victims and come back to the membership with some ideas.

**Program: Service Activity Report – Pam Bliss (Service Chair)**

Pam displayed a poster board that had been used at the Wisheart membership events showing some of the service activities our Club conducts throughout the year, both locally and internationally.

## **Local Service Projects**

### **Dictionaries to Third Graders**

The Club has been distributing dictionaries for years and years. This year the Club is distributing dictionaries to over 100 third graders in Paonia Elementary, Hotchkiss Elementary, Crawford Montessori, North Fork School of Integrated Studies and Vision School. They will be distributed the first week in November. It is the most fun event that we do.

### **Scholarships**

Originally a single \$500 scholarship, the Club now awards as many as ten \$2000 scholarships to graduating High School seniors in a year. This has helped a lot of kids in the North Fork Valley. Scholarships are also provided for EMS training at the Technical College of the Rockies. Plans are underway to partner with Delta and Cedaredge clubs to expand these scholarships awarded for the Technical College of the Rockies. The Club holds fundraisers throughout the year to support these scholarships.

### **Highway 133 Cleanup**

In the Spring and Fall, the Club removes litter from the side of the road between MM5 and MM6. The upcoming Fall cleanup will be Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM. Greg is in charge of this activity.

### **Other Local Service Activities**

**Poulos Park Cleanup**

**Paonia Library Gazebo** (dedicated to Inge Lange)

**Handicap Bathrooms at the Blue Sage**

**Tools for Schools**

**Salvation Army Bellingring at Christmas**

**North Fork Children's Christmas Party**

**North Fork Senior Connection**

## **International Service Projects**

### **Polio Eradication**

Rotary International has been working to eradicate Polio for over 30 years. Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% since the program started in 1979. Rotary has helped immunize 2.5B children in 122 countries, contributing \$1.8B toward the effort. Continued work is necessary to maintain immunity throughout the world.

### **Jamaica Outreach**

Since 1987, Pam and Ed have helped improve conditions in orphanages, schools and homes on the island. The couple started by taking groups of high school kids and others to Jamaica to work on various projects. In addition, loads of clothing, supplies and books were taken to the island by the volunteers. Teams of doctors, dentists, optometrists and construction workers were also taken down.

Jamaica Outreach was created as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2000. Eventually, the local primary school in St. Mary's Parrish, Mason Hall, became the focus of activity.

In 2010, a team of volunteers created the first garden, which would become a huge, ongoing project involving Rotary. The largest identified need of the students at the school is nutrition. In addition to the garden, a nutritious breakfast program was created. Paonia Rotary partnered with a local Jamaican Rotary club to create gardens and support the breakfast program. In the end, 140 gardens were created at the homes of the students. The breakfast nutrition program was eventually taken over by the Jamaican government in 2016. This has been demonstrated to have a huge impact on literacy.

Jamaica Outreach also participated in the construction of a new library for the school, and help fund

additional teachers. Over the years Jamaica Outreach, with the help of the NFV Rotary club, has stabilized Mason Hall primary school and helped secure its future in St. Mary's Parrish. Small local schools are essential to the education of Jamaican children because the only transportation available for students is by taxi, which families cannot afford.

Finding a way to help students attend remote high schools could be a good next project for Rotary, but the school is more interested in fencing the school for security. The value of this is questionable and security might better be served by an additional guard rather than a fence.



**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Member</b>
10/24/2019	Jim Farmer	Live the Bus Ballot Issue – Delta Public Schools	Barb Heck
10/31/2019		Marsha and Don Grant's house	Fifth Thursday
11/7/2019			Mike Heck
11/14/2019			Ulli Lange
11/21/2019			Bob Lario
11/28/2019		no meeting	
12/5/2019			Betsy Marston
12/12/2019			Jackie Parks
12/19/2019			Kevin Parks
1/2/2019			Karri Polson

