



# **THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE**

## **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

**POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428**

**WEB SITES: [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) [rotary5470.org](http://rotary5470.org) [northforkrotary.org](http://northforkrotary.org)**

**Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall**

**District 5470**

**Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22**

**Vol 59 Issue 7 – February 27, 2020**

**Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger**

**LAST MEETING: February 20, 2020**

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

Other Guests: CORRECTION: February 13<sup>th</sup>, Ulli brought his daughter Barbara, not his niece.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senior Connections is holding a “Death Café” March 19 at 6:00 PM. It is a relaxed setting in which to discuss whatever issues people want to discuss regarding death. It is not scary or macabre. Admission is by donation at the Creamery in Hotchkiss.

### **2020-2021 Board Nominations**

The Club is past due in identifying Board members for the coming year. Those willing to serve this coming term should identify themselves. And a President Elect will also need to be designated.

### **PROGRAM: Colorado Farm and Food Alliance: Cultivating Climate and Conservation Action from Farm to Table**

Sarah introduced Pete Kolbenschlag, who has been a leader in conservation and environment.

Mr. Kolbenschlag said he has worked with a number of non-profit groups and NGO’s for over 20 years on a number of issues around conservation and climate change locally as well as nationally. He is now Director of the Colorado Farm and Food Alliance (<http://www.coloradofarmfood.org/>) which he helped found about four years ago.

The idea of the Colorado Farm and Food Alliance is to local agricultural producers with opportunities to enhance and strengthen local food networks and local food security by promoting markets. They also work to tie that movement in with opportunities to work toward sustainable communities and to take action around conservation and climate change.

The main topic of focus of todays presentation was the Rural Prosperity Project with the goal of understanding what creates prosperity for the rural community.

Their work is done through a set of activities including leadership development as well as working collaboratively with other organizations.

They work to understand what rural prosperity means to the various stakeholders and to identify how to enhance and support rural prosperity. Economic shifts and transformations are taking place at a rapid rate. Communities need to prepare and adapt to these rapid changes and align their economic activity in order to prosper through these transitions. Inhibitors to rural prosperity include such factors as scarcity, lack of capital, absentee ownership and extractive economies. These can be countered by focusing on abundance to identify local resources, circulating more money locally and developing business models that look more toward ecological services a rural area can provide as well as building out local markets and expanding local work opportunities.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Member</b>
2/27/20	Stuart Sinclair	Division of Wildlife	Ed Bliss
3/5/20	Moni Slater	Kids Pasta Project	Pam Bliss
3/12/20			Randy Campbell
3/19/20			Annette Choszczyk
3/26/20			Marsha Grant
4/2/20			Glenn Dahlgren
4/9/20			John Coombe
4/16/20			Barb Heck
4/23/20			Mike Heck
4/30/20		Fifth Thursday	Coombes' House
5/7/20			Ulli Lange
5/14/20			Bob Lario
5/21/20			Norm Lewark
5/28/20			Nick Lypps
6/4/19			Betsy Marston
6/11/19			Deanna Olsen
6/18/19			Jackie Parks
6/25/19		New Officers	
7/2/19			Kevin Parks
7/9/19			James Schott
7/23/19			Peggy Szvetecz
7/30/19		Fifth Thursday	

