



## **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 11

Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger

**LAST MEETING: April 23, 2020 (Virtual Meeting held via ZOOM)**

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: Judy Beggs (moving from Denver to Hotchkiss)

Chip Ecks – District 5470 Governor Elect

Other Guests: John Zachman (pending member)

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Rotary is suggesting that members consider joining a nationwide opportunity called Volunteer Surge which is working to enlist volunteers to answer phones at medical centers (after some training) to free up-front line healthcare workers for more acute needs. Information available at <https://volunteersurge.com/>
- Farm Runners has been providing food packages to families of students in need of food. Our club donated \$1000 toward this effort with another \$500 coming from a District Grant. A second \$500 District Grant will be applied for if funds are available. The program is intended to extend until the end of May. The photo (at right) showing the donation check being delivered (with appropriate social distancing) is expected to be published in the DCI.
- Our District has fallen behind in Rotary International Foundation giving this year. One third of Foundation giving is returned to the District three years hence, so the shortfall affects both local and international programs. It was suggested that the \$1200 stimulus check most folks received might be a candidate for donation.



- Pam and Randy will be sharing Club Presidency this coming year. To better understand club desires and direction, they will be interviewing each member individually in the next couple of weeks to determine what members are liking and not liking as well as suggestions on club activities and projects. Randy and Pam will incorporate these suggestions into their plans for the coming year.
- There will be a virtual Rotary International Convention June 20 – 26. More information to follow.
- Highway 133 cleanup is scheduled for May. Date to be announced.
- Hope West, High Country News and KVNF have all received Payroll Protection Plan grants. The local banks really stepped up in support of local business.
- Chrys Bailey, who runs the Valley Organic Senior Meals Program at the Trading Post, is applying for funding to start a local Meals on Wheels program. Rotary members may want to volunteer to help deliver the meals as a possible project for the Club.

### **PROGRAM: Paonia Gents Coffee Group – John Records**

Randy introduced John Records, a well-credentialed humanitarian who has formed a group of local men who began meeting monthly for coffee but who have been meeting weekly via Zoom since the lock-down began. The intent is to share information and resources around the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as it impacts the local communities. A focus is on finding opportunities to help.

John started by explaining that he and his wife Glenna have lived in the Valley for about seven years. Glenna spent a lot of time in Paonia when she was a kid, which is the basis for their connection to the valley.

He said that, about a year ago, he read an article in the newspaper about something called a “moai” which is a part of the Japanese culture. Young children are introduced into a moai with the expectation that children in the same moai will remain connected throughout their lifetime and provide a perspective on life as well as mutual support. It helps keep people in touch with folks from other walks of life. Although we here in the Valley did not start out as children together, there is still the possibility to reflect on the fact that we are growing older together in a small community. There are opportunities to become friends, to provide mutual support and to do some good things together.

There are a couple of doctors in the group as well as people with financial backgrounds. Topics have included how to support our children in these times, as well as finding out what the local doctors feel, think and observe about what is happening with the pandemic and its impact in the valley. The group has also engaged in informal tool sharing, and has provided support for a member with ongoing health challenges. Friendships among people who may have not known each other before are growing. There are currently 14 members in the group, with 6 to 8 joining the weekly Zoom conferences. Relationships are foundational to getting things done as well as for getting through hard times and celebrating the good times. That is a lot of the focus of what happens in the group.

John expects that this group will continue even once the current crisis is past and will continue to find ways to support one another as well as the local community at large. As most of the members of the group are retired and have the means to live here, the group is interested in how to support the community and our neighbors in need as many of the institutions we once took for granted appear to be crumbling. Many members have contributed to Farm Runners as well as to the Valley Organic Senior Meals Program Chrys Bailey is running at the Trading Post. The group is open to projects Rotary members might suggest to meet important community or individual needs.

It is hoped that the Coffee Group, as well as Rotary Members, will be among those responsible for (and have the capacity to) support the community whatever comes next as society rebuilds in an ongoing and eventually post-virus economy. The connections being forged in the group, as well as the resources and service orientation within Rotary will hopefully provide a good foundation to confront whatever comes next.

John then invited a couple of Rotary members who are also in the Coffee Group to comment. Ulli said the he joined the group just before the lock-down started. He and a couple of other members started talking about history and found they shared a profound interest in the subject. He also said he appreciated the insights provided by the two doctors in the group. He felt it was a good combination of people and he really enjoyed being a member. Bain agreed that it is a diverse and interesting group of folks, many of which he had not met before. He also said he found the emails, web sites and links being shared among the group were very informative and occasionally humorous. He said he found it to be a rewarding experience. Randy added that, although he has not been able to attend any of the meetings, being on the email list has allowed him to receive useful medical information from the two physician members that is not generally available.

While the group is not closed to new members, it would be up to the members to decide if the group can accommodate more without becoming gainly. Starting an additional, similar group is also a possibility.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Next Thursday is “Fifth Thursday” so there will be a virtual Cocktail Hour next Thursday at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Randy will set up the meeting and send invitations.

Also, regular weekly in-person meetings at Town Hall may resume in 2 or 3 weeks. No date is being set as of yet.

**MEETING PROGRAMS:**

Below are the next few upcoming speaker slots. Dates are obviously subject to change, but those on the list can be thinking about who to invite to speak.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Member</b>
4/30/20		Fifth Thursday - Virtual Cocktail Hour	via ZOOM
5/7/20			Annette Choszczyk
5/14/20			Marsha Grant
5/21/20	Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry	Delta County planning and economic development	Glenn Dahlgren
5/28/20			John Coombe
6/4/19			Barb Heck
6/11/19			Mike Heck
6/18/19			Ulli Lange
6/25/19		New Officers	

