

## **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 15 – June 11, 2020

There was no meeting on May 28, 2020

Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger

**LAST MEETING: June 4, 2020 (Virtual Meeting held via Zoom)**

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: none

Other Guests: none

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We had 56% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- Pam announced that Rotary received \$3,600 from Mile High United Way. \$1,800 will go to Old River Trading Post and another \$1,800 to Farm Runners. There will be a photo op on Saturday afternoon to show the check being awarded to Old River Trading Post. Both the Delta Club and Rotary District have requested photos of charitable Rotary activities.
- Zoom meeting held Wednesday night for District Presidents and Presidents Elect. Pam reported that there was concern that participation in club meetings via Zoom is low, and there is fear that this will translate to older members not returning to regular Club meetings once they resume. Pam suggested members not attending Zoom meetings be called to ensure they remain engaged with the Club. Randy reported that he and Pam had recently surveyed all Club members, and no one had indicated that they felt disengaged from the Club. Susie indicated that it may be possible to begin in-person meetings in Town Park in July, with everyone seated 6ft apart. Might also be possible to meet in-person in the Berg Harvest back room. It has good ventilation. The yard of the Paonia History Museum was also suggested. Tables are available there as well, and might be fewer people around than at Town Park. Randy said that he would like to see fewer new cases of Covid-19 being reported in Delta County than are currently showing up before he would be comfortable meeting in person.
- Randy and Pam announced a new Club meeting schedule beginning in July when they take office. Every second Thursday the meeting will be held in the evening as a wine and cheese event. The idea is for members to invite potential new members to these evening meetings as an introduction to Rotary. Emphasis would be placed on having a “really good” speaker, and publicizing beforehand.
- Judy spoke of a project she has been involved with for 15 years in Senegal called Friends of Gueoul (<https://gueoul.org/>), working to educate very poor girls. She is currently gathering donations to send to Senegal to purchase rice for the students. \$4,300 is needed and there is a \$1,000 challenge grant. Individual members and the Club as a whole were invited to contribute. Several members said they

would like to contribute personally to the project. Individual contributions should be routed through the Rotary Foundation (P.O. Box 1543, Paonia). The Board will discuss a Club contribution at their next meeting.

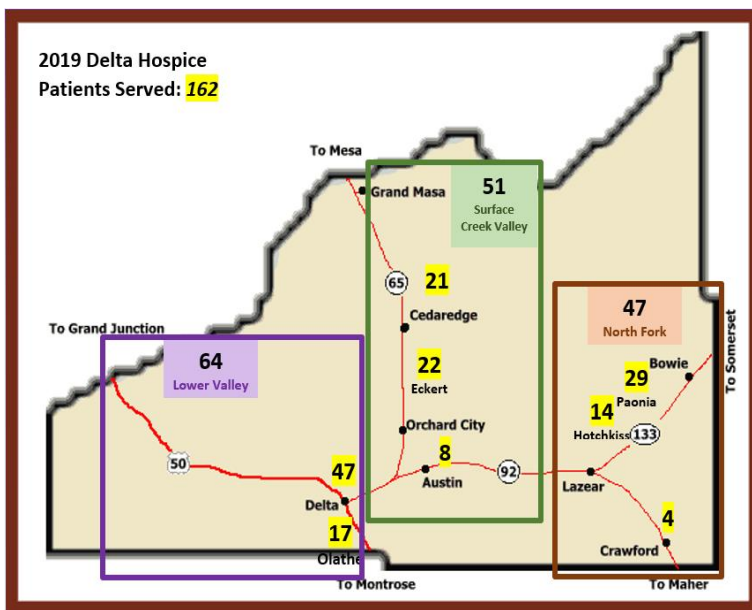
- Judy also indicated that, while the NFV Rotary club had been recommended to her as one of the best in the District, she is concerned about what the social distancing required to combat Covid-19 is going to do to the companionship, collaboration and relationships that are central to Rotary. She expressed concern that Rotary is in danger of being killed by the isolating effects of the virus. Zoom meetings are no substitute for personal interaction and collaboration. How can the warmth of the Rotary relationship be maintained when all you have is a screen full of faces? Members were encouraged to reach out by phone, especially to the new members who have not been able to interact socially as they normally would, due to the restrictions imposed by social distancing guidelines.

### **PROGRAM: Hope West Hospice**

Member Annette Choszczyk spoke of her work with Hope West Hospice ([hopewestco.org](http://hopewestco.org)). She just began her fifth year there, working as a chaplain.



The chart below shows a breakdown of where patients come from in the County. Patients come from all over the county, and may live in their home or in a facility.



The biggest challenge for Hope West during this time of Covid is fundraising, as none of the usual fundraising events can currently be held. In addition, the second-hand stores Hope West runs to generate funds have also had to be closed. To help generate funds, a concert event is being held June 17 at the Tru Vu Drive-in Theatre in Delta as well as on-line via Facebook. The concert lineup includes Tholow Chan, Hazel Miller, John Oates, The Kingston Trio and The Scones. Artists will appear on the movie screen at the Drive-in. This is the major fundraiser for Hope West and is critically important.

Hospice works as an interdisciplinary team with doctors, case managers (nurses), social workers, chaplains, nurse associates, etc.

The work of the chaplains is not focused on organized religion, but rather on the meaning and values of the patients and their families, and helping them go through this time in the best way for them. The main thing is that the services are highly individualized, with each person getting the kind of support they want to have. Support is provided to the families and caregivers as well as the patients. Some of the chaplains are ordained ministers in a particular faith and some are not. Each gets two years of training in pastoral care and counseling.

Social workers help with such things as insurance, veteran's benefits and assistance with moving to a nursing home. Hospice is an "all-purpose care service" to help a patient and their family with whatever assistance or support they might need. It is all about maximizing quality of life for everyone involved, no so much about end-of-life. Some patients even improve to the point of "graduating" from Hospice.

Hope West has been serving Western Colorado for 25 years, and is currently serving 601 patients. They also run a bereavement program, with counselors providing support groups, kid's camps and youth camps. There is also a restaurant (Spoons) and a coffee shop next to the care center in Grand Junction. In addition, Montrose,

Delta and Grand Junction have heirloom stores (thrift shops) where donations are sold to support the work of Hospice. They have just re-opened this week.

Due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, many of the services have had to be provided via telephone and tele-help using devices and computers. Nurses have continued to provide in-person services, but with full PPE. Not all nursing facilities are open to outside service providers (much less families) as of yet.

There is a large volunteer program of people to help out, especially patients who are still at home. Volunteers are always needed. Monetary donations from businesses and individuals are essential to keeping Hope West viable.

**UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:**

- June 11: Mary Bachran – New Paonia Mayor -- on Paonia Town Issues (Glenn Dahlgren)

