



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: rotary.org rotary5470.org northforkrotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 59 Issue 24 – August 20, 2020

LAST MEETING: August 13, 2020 (In-Person meeting in Town Park)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: Bob McHugh (Montrose Rotary)

Other Guests: Josh Langille-Hoppe (Pastor, Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford United Methodist Churches)

Susan Capps (Recent arrival from Grand Junction)

Nancy Whelan

Soircha (Betsy's granddaughter)

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 83% turnout for the meeting in the park today.
- Past President Susie Coombe was given a present and pins in recognition of her service to the Club.
- New Presidents Randy Campbell and Pam Bliss were presented with Rotary President pins.
- New President Elect Ed Bliss was presented with a President Elect pin.
- While it was nice to see everyone in person at the Park, the consensus of the membership is that meetings should continue over Zoom for the time being.
- Anyone wishing to take over as Newsletter Editor is welcome to do so. Contact a Board Member.

PROGRAM: Farewell to Felix

To say farewell to longtime Rotary member Felix Belmont, who is leaving town after 40 years to stay with his daughter in Indiana, the Club had a rare in-person meeting in Town Park.

The proceedings began with President Bliss presenting Felix with a plaque commemorating his long service to Rotary in general and to the Scholarship Committee in particular.

Then, members took turns stepping to the mic and recounting memories and thoughts about Felix over the years.

One recurring theme was Felix' long support for KVNF, particularly his unique and remarkable capability at fund raising. He joined the station shortly after moving to town and realized the one thing he could do to help was to raise money. His prowess at this is legendary, and was marveled at by several of the members who took the mic. His direct approach (“We need your money”) was very effective, and he worked his magic on a lot of people. One member said that KVNF would have never survived without Felix. Felix, in turn, said that KVNF became his “thing to do” in retirement. He attributed his reaching 102 years of age to KVNF and what it meant to him. KVNF helped him survive as he had helped KVNF.

Felix was also long-time member of Rotary and chairman of the Rotary Scholarship Committee. He was recognized as having been a totally devoted chairman, partly because he himself was a recipient of a Rotary scholarship which paid his entrance fees when he started school at Johns Hopkins University. Felix also served as club secretary for a number of years.

Felix also supported the Blue Sage and at one point provided the community with a memorable evening when he acted as MC for a 1940's Big Band Concert. Felix, an expert on Big Band music, *became* Glenn Miller when he put on his white dinner jacket and took the mic. He said his interest in Big Band music began when Glenn Miller and his orchestra performed at his graduation ceremony from Johns Hopkins.

Some recounted Felix' participation in Rotary trips to Jamaica in support of Jamaica Outreach. He had also been active in recruiting members for the Paonia Chamber of Commerce.

Felix was lauded as an “institution builder” in the town, and in the process became something of an institution himself. He is a “remarkable person” and a “wonderful man” who “inspires love everywhere” and will be dearly missed by everyone in the valley who knows him.

And if you happen to be near the town of New Carlisle, Indiana. Stop by and say hello.



UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
8/20/20	Judy Livingston	Paonia Historic Society	Kevin Parks
8/27/20			Karri Polson
9/3/20			James Schott
9/10/20			Peggy Szvetcz
9/17/20	Cassandra Shenk	Crow Tribe leadership and tribal council	Greg Thompson
9/24/20			Bain Weinberger
10/1/20			
10/8/20			Judy Beggs
10/15/20			
10/22/20			Bill Bishop
10/29/20		Fifth Thursday	
11/5/20			Sarah Bishop
11/12/20			Norm Lewark
11/19/20			Nick Lypps
11/26/20		Thanksgiving	
12/3/20			Randy Campbell
12/10/20			Annette Choszcyk
12/17/20			John Coombe
12/24/20		Christmas Eve	
12/31/20		New Years Eve	
1/7/21			Susie Coombe
1/14/21			Glenn Dahlgren
1/21/21			Marsha Grant

