



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 28 – September 17, 2020

LAST MEETING: September 10, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Other Guests: Josh Langille-Hoppe (2nd pre-membership visit)

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 50% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- Ollie's will be closing on Sunday for the season. Come eat enough ice cream to last through the winter.
- Everyone is encouraged to attend a Blue Sage event on September 20th. Michael Gulezian will be performing an acoustic guitar concert benefiting both the Blue Sage and the Paradise Theater. It will likely be held in Poulos Park.
- A bronze sculpture by Lincoln Fox depicting a Native American and an eagle has been donated to the town to place in Poulos Park.
- The KPP lasagna dinner supporting Friends of Gueoul is October 5th.
- Committee Chairmanship positions available for:
 - Public Relations Committee. Facebook familiarity (or willingness to learn) would be helpful.
 - Fundraising Committee. Ideas for non-contact fundraising needed. Contact Pam or Randy.
- Anyone wishing to take over as Newsletter Editor is welcome to do so. Contact a Board Member.

PROGRAM: Update on Delta County Libraries

LaDonna Gunn – Acting Director of Delta County Libraries

Peggy introduced Ms. Gunn, who oversees the libraries in Paonia, Hotchkiss, Crawford, Cedaredge and Delta.



Ms. Gunn gave a presentation on the current status of the library district, particularly in light of the failure of the mil levy ballot measure to pass and the effects of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The libraries were closed in March due to the mandated Covid lockdown. But within a couple of weeks, the library began providing virtual programming, particularly “Story Time” for the little guys. The children’s librarians are providing this via the library web site, Facebook and YouTube. The library was also able to run the seed library and get seeds out to patrons by mail. Curbside book lending was initiated in May. All five libraries were able to re-open on a limited basis in mid-July. Hours, days and capacity are limited. Seating has been removed (except for computer stations) to allow for social distancing and to encourage patrons to get their materials and leave so others can enter the library. No in-person programs are taking place. Returned materials are quarantined for 72 hours.

The summer reading program was able to be continued virtually, and take-home kits were provided to the kids. Turnout was good, although fewer participants than normal could be accommodated. Another current program, “Storywalks”, is being provided in four of the local communities. This consists of a series of pages from a children’s story book set in panels along a trail. Kids and their families can walk the trail and read the story. Kits that tie into the Storywalks are also available from the library.



Storywalk Panel

The library district foundation is beginning their Fall fundraiser. T-shirts are available in return for a donation. Check out the library web site <https://deltalibraries.org/> for more information.

The library has also been working with the local schools and teachers to provide students with “e-cards” that allows access to all of the library’s on-line resources, such as research materials and databases. Over 2000 were provided last year and the same or more is expected this year.

Also, a grant has been received as part of the CARES act to allow the library to provide WiFi hot-spots to enable Internet access for those without access in the home. Students, senior citizens and others with a need to access social services can check out the hot-spots. Chromebooks will also be available. The loan period will be one week for these items.

The failure to pass the mil levy to provide additional funds to the library district has had a number of consequences. Immediately after the election, the library district undertook an overhaul and restructuring. With the goal of continuing to provide quality library services throughout the district, focus is on the staff to create a learning environment that fosters innovation. Ongoing opportunities for career growth focused on staff retention is another key goal.

Due to reduced funding, library hours were reduced throughout the district. Staff is now shared between libraries as teams throughout the district to help reduce the total number of staff needed to operate the libraries.

Ways to support the libraries include:

- Obtain a library card and use the library
- Join a Friends Group
- Talk up the library to friends and family
- Educate yourself about Ammendment B in the upcoming election to modify the Gallagher ammdement. More information is available at the “Building a Better Colorado web site”:
<https://buildingabettercolorado.org/>.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
9/17/20	Cassandra Shenk	Crow Tribe leadership and tribal council	Greg Thompson
9/24/20	Scott Horner	Small Potatoes Farm	Bain Weinberger
10/1/20			John Zachman
10/8/20	Cynthia Houseweart	Princess Beef	Judy Beggs
10/15/20	Luke Reschke	Water Commissioner	Jackie Parks
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 Choszczyk
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

