



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

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LAST MEETING: September 17, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Campbell presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Other Guests: None

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 61% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- If the Club would like to sponsor an exchange student for year '21-'22, we would need to let them know by November 20, 2020. Would also need a club member willing to coordinate the effort. Greg volunteered to explore that and will get the necessary information from Pam and Randy.
- The KPP lasagna dinner supporting Friends of Gueoul is October 5th. KPP Fall Schedule just posted yesterday, so event should now be available for sign-up. Need to raise about \$400, to combine with \$600 already donated by Club members to reach the \$1000 threshold for a matching grant.
- Senior Connections Fall Service Saturday to be held on November 7th. Meet in Town Park. Cohorts that consider themselves Covid-safe around one another will work as teams.
- Highway Cleanup scheduled around late October. Greg will let everyone know.
- Bill and Sarah coming home from rehab tomorrow.
- Everyone is encouraged to attend the 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 be held in Poulos Park.
- 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 Crow Tribe leadership and tribal council

Cassandra Shenk

Greg introduced Cassandra Shenk who he had learned about via a program she was giving for The Learning Council with the topic of collective leadership in the role of Council, with discussion around how indigenous practices that inspired the birth of our Democracy are still present and operating today. Today she will be presenting on the related topic of how Native American principles aided the formation of our Democracy and what we can do today to keep it alive.

Ms. Shenk began by acknowledging that this was not her field of study. However, she was raised on an Indian reservation and was therefore influenced by the people around her. Her professional background is as an environmental planner, while also being active in community development, youth development and education.

Today's talk is part of a webinar series that grew out of a conference planned to take place in the Spring around the topic of Native American influence in our society. When the conference had to be cancelled due to Covid, the webinar series was created instead. One area of interest for this webinar had to do with leadership and organizational structure. Members of the Crow tribe attended along with members of the Paonia community.

A main point that was discussed is that we all have a relationship to leadership. We are influenced by cultural paradigms that precede the founding of America. For those of European descent, our roots are in the Feudal system of top-down authority. The Founding Fathers, influenced by Native American ideas, sought to change that system.

Ms. Shenk then shared an article from Native Voices on how the organizing principles of the Iroquois Confederacy and those of the U.S. Constitution relate to one another. In 1744, the Onondaga leader Canassatego gave a speech, published by Benjamin Franklin, urging the Colonies to unite.

She also spoke of a letter Thomas Jefferson had written espousing the Enlightenment support of Democracy and arguing for an equal vote for everyone whose practical common sense would be valued versus an aristocracy where a privileged class made the decisions and kept power concentrated with themselves.

Ms. Shenk then gave an example from the Blackfeet tribe of how Native Americans operated. The Blackfeet and the Crow tribes warred against one another frequently in Montana. The practice was to have a Council if, for example, a faction of the Blackfeet wanted to war against the Crows. The question would be brought all around the circular council meeting to the members responsible for the health of the tribe, those responsible for the hunting grounds and food, those responsible for the family dynamics in the tribe, etc. until everyone had a say with none being more important than another.

Ms. Shenk then moved on to a discussion of the Total Quality Management (TQM) movement which emerged in corporate America in the '70s and '80s in reaction to competition from Japan'. The Japanese had improved quality by flattening the corporate bureaucracy and becoming more inclusive.

As part of this effort, W. Edwards Deming developed a model of systematic decision making and how action is motivated. The Plan-Do-Check-Act model, also known as the Deming circle, is an iterative four-step management method used in business for the control and continuous improvement of processes and products. It provides a framework for systematic problem solving by engaging those with the greatest insight into the problem at hand. This is an example of collective leadership as opposed to the traditional top-down approach.

One of the Crow leaders who spoke at the webinar had been trained in TQM. He spoke about the importance of placing wisdom and knowledge at the center of your organization rather than power at the top. Many areas of American society today are based on the ideas of Council and are important for decision making.

The third session of the webinar was focused on how we manage around and through conflict. The co-founder of the Global Negotiation Initiative spoke about The Third Way, a process for resolving conflict. Conflict can be used constructively and should be valued. For any activating force, one should expect a resisting force. Then consider the values underlying these two opposing forces. By deeply probing these underlying values, ways to reconcile these values can be found and the conflict resolved.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
9/24/20	Scott Horner	Small Potatoes Farm	Bain Weinberger
10/1/20	Randal Palmer, PHS Principal		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

