



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 (Temporarily Suspended)

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 59 Issue 37 - December 3, 2020

LAST MEETING: November 12, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Campbell presided.

Visiting Rotarians: Bob McHugh

Other Guests: Josh Langille-Hoppe (4th pre-membership visit)

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had a 62% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- The KPP Lasagna Delivery Dinner on November 23rd will benefit the Rotary Scholarship Fund.
- The Blue Sage will be holding its annual wine auction fund raiser. Information is available at the Blue Sage web site (bluesage.org).
- 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 1: Nick Lypps - Classification Talk

Ulli hosted Nick at his house for the Zoom meeting. It was Nick's first experience with Zoom. He said he had joined Rotary in Crested Butte the year after the club was formed, thirty-some years ago. He was elected President the following year (because no one else wanted to do it). It was a different and more formal kind of Rotary Club at that time. There was no speaker, but someone from the club would just get up and start speaking. The meeting was held at a bakery and members could order off the menu.

Nick said he was first in Paonia about 50 years ago. At that time and for quite a while after, Paonia was famous for "P-bud - marijuana extraordinaire". Every Fall, there was a caravan over to Paonia from Crested Butte.

Then four years ago, he was asked by a friend to look at some property in Paonia, so he came to town and walked up and down Grand Avenue asking about properties for sale. He realized he could help the community in a couple of ways. First by supporting farm-to-table enterprises, which can provide a value-add for local agricultural products. This led to involvement with both the Living Farm and Hightower's restaurant.

A second way he saw to help was in the area of affordable housing for working people. Wages are not very good. Rental property is being converted to short term rentals (such as Airbnb) which raised rents for the property that is available. He investigated whether he could buy and develop a property that could be rented affordably, and found that it was not possible. It is also no longer possible to buy and renovate older properties that could be rented affordably in Paonia. It is still possible in Somerset and Hotchkiss. The cost of building materials and labor is also prohibitively expensive at the present time. The community does not have the overall will and desire to provide subsidies for low income housing.

Some communities have tried to address the problem by allowing accessory dwellings on existing lots alongside the primary structures. Many lots have sufficient room to add a small dwelling that could rent affordably. The current moratorium on new water taps is only one of the impediments to this sort of solution, along with necessary changes to land use laws and fee structures.

Another option is to increase wages, but this does not seem likely any time soon.

PROGRAM 2: The Rotary Foundation

The following videos were shown over Zoom, but the quality was reportedly poor. If anyone would like to see the videos that were shown, they are available here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3P4OqVjbYk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coqag4TufB0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhXp8ZGkfwk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L9xgreBkTs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUtprGjIYqo>

Members were encouraged to support the work being done internationally on such initiatives as eradicating polio by sending money to the Rotary Foundation via Treasurer Bishop. Helping people in distant places one will never meet can be as rewarding as providing assistance in the local community.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
11/26/20		Thanksgiving - no meeting	
12/3/20			Randy Campbell
12/10/20			Annette Choszczyk
12/17/20			John Coombe
12/24/20		Christmas Eve - no meeting	
12/31/20		New Years Eve - no meeting	
1/7/21			Susie Coombe
1/14/21			Glenn Dahlgren
1/21/21			Marsha Grant

