



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

Vol 54 Issue 23 June 23, 2016

LAST MEETING: June 16, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fifth Thursday is on June 30 at the Grants beginning at 6:00. Please bring a beverage and a side to go with hamburgers. Plan on bringing guests, particularly potential members.

We have a KPP dinner scheduled for July 25 and will be having a Wine Grab at that event.

Marsha will be collecting the wine as usual, so please donate a decent bottle of something everyone might like. We will have one very nice bottle in the collection. Bring wine to meetings or fifth Thursday and give to Marsha or another board member.

The Polio Plus jar is always on the club meeting sign in table. Please fill it up.

Please sell tickets for the pancake breakfast on June 25 and give the money to Felix right away.

The club will have a float in the Cherry Days parade on Monday, July 4. There will be a large, inflatable duck on the float to advertise our Ducky Derby to be held on Sept. 10. The ducks will be released upstream of the River Park. They will be collected at the park, where a festival will be held. We will be selling chances on the winning duck during Cherry Days. This fund raiser will be a substitute for the coal shoveling contest we have sponsored in the past.

The Blue Sage Regatta will be held on June 25 in the afternoon.

PROGRAM: Doris Danielson reported on the Board's strategic planning meeting in May. The Board approached their task by reviewing the club's mission statement: to provide service to our communities, especially to children, with a focus on education and health. Then they reviewed which activities we are currently involved in and where they fit within the mission statement. They also looked at the issues of membership and our international participation. The Board looked at the areas that seemed deficient and set some goals for activities that would address the deficits. Her presentation focused on where we are (and in some cases, where we have been) and where we want to go in five areas.

I. CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY: Projects we are or have been involved in - road side clean up, Poulos Park, Cherry Days parade, North Fork Christmas party, library gazebo [Note: gazebo being used! - ED]; fund raisers - Kids Pasta Project, pancake breakfast, Mountain Harvest Festival breakfast, casino night, ducky derby. Club members suggested setting up a "disaster fund", e.g., support out of work coal miners' families; continue bell ringing for Salvation Army; get High School students to help with our events. A goal is to participate in community activities outside of Paonia area.

II. HEALTH: We have supported Kids in the Kitchen, Ambulance Assn. scholarships, and A Little Help for senior citizens.

III. EDUCATION: We provide scholarships to graduating seniors and to Vo-Tech students, and

give dictionaries to third graders. Speakers are part of our club education. The goals are to begin a Pizza with Professionals program - up to 10 students have pizza with a club member or others whose profession interests them; start a collaborative project with a local group that provides "tools for schools" - a backpack program for low income students.

IV. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION: Polio Plus, Jamaica Outreach, Paul Harris Fellows. Goal: setup a Rotary Youth Exchange that sends a student abroad from our club area and brings a foreign student here.

V. BUILDING MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER PARTICIPATION: Goals - have more fun, go somewhere as a group for a fun activity, do something different with 5th Thursdays, publicize speakers better, increase current membership, recruit guests to be members. [Another idea: Meet as a club in Crawford and Hotchkiss occasionally, offering a free lunch to anyone who wishes to attend. - ED]

Danielson also distributed a calendar noting when our fund raisers were usually held, our community events, and 5th Thursdays. [Well done, folks. I wish I could have been there. -ED]

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: RI President K.R. Ravindran closed the convention in Korea on Wednesday, 1 June, with a poignant story about his mother's fight to survive polio at age 30. When Ravindran was 11 years old in his native Sri Lanka, his mother awoke one day feeling weak and short of breath. Sitting down to rest, she found herself unable to move. The polio virus had quickly invaded her nervous system, resulting in paralysis. She was placed in an iron lung at the hospital to enable her to breathe, and was told that her chances of walking, or even surviving without a ventilator, were slim. Most Sri Lankan hospitals were not equipped with ventilators in 1963.

Ravindran's grandfather, a Rotary member, hosted a club committee meeting the evening after his daughter was rushed to the hospital. Rather than simply offer consolation, his fellow members went to work, using their business acumen and professional connections to find a ventilator. One of the members was a bank manager who called a government minister to facilitate a quick international transfer of funds. Another member, a manager at SwissAir, arranged to have a ventilator flown in. The next day, it arrived at the hospital. "There was so much red tape at the time in Sri Lanka, but somehow, those Rotarians made it all fall away," Ravindran told the packed audience at the Korea convention.

Ravindran's mother spent a year-and-a-half in a hospital bed, but her condition gradually improved. She eventually left the hospital walking -- with a walker, but upright, on her own two feet. "Fifty-three years ago, my mother's life was perhaps one of the very first to be saved from polio by Rotarians," Ravindran said. "We have saved millions of lives since then. "Tonight, I stand before you as her son, and your president, to say that soon -- perhaps not in years but in months -- Rotary will give a gift that will endure forever: a world without polio."

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 23: Annual business meeting

June 30: 5th Thursday - at the home of Marsha and Don Grant

