



## ***THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE***

### **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) [www.rotary5470.org](http://www.rotary5470.org) [www.paoniarotary.org](http://www.paoniarotary.org)

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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**LAST MEETING: February 14, 2019 (no meeting on 2/21/19)**

Key Guests: Larry and Sherry Perkins brought by Karri Polson  
New Key Holder: Mike Heck

#### **Program: Guest speaker: Neal Schwieterman - Arts 4 All**

Sarah introduced Neal Schwieterman as the guest speaker for Rotary. Sarah mentioned the first time she saw Neal he was on a bike; he was bicycle policeman in Paonia and the Paonia Mayor for 9 years.

After he left the mayor position, he let his hair grow so he would no longer be mistaken for the mayor. He is a kayaker and skier with a wonderful and exceptional wife and daughter. Neal is now involved in Arts for All – Where We Deliver the Arts to Students.

Paonia is a special place. Arts 4 All started in 2016 during the recession. It is an after-school art program for students. The School District was broke and had to cut arts programs so the art program went from daily to once a week.

The Learning Council, The Blue Sage and Mountain Harvest Creative collaborated to create the program. They use the “Gift Model”, so that any student can join regardless of income. Students can “pay” by giving back, helping the teacher, bringing snacks or volunteering in the classroom, etc.

2006 was critical evidence of how art and music has been proven to benefit student achievement.

Students in Paonia are required to play an instrument in 6th grade.

Neal’s daughter sky-rocketed due to her Math teacher being good at motivating kids (threw tennis balls at slackers).

Art also increases vitality of community. Kids become more excited about school and better students overall. Just thinking about doing art and music supports development of new neural pathways.

Fall 2016 movement classes had 13 students.

2016 and 2017 strings program had 15 students.

2017 circus arts had 15 students taught by folks in the North Fork Valley.

2017 chorus had 12 students

Movie making/animation summer 2017 had 19 students

Spring 2018 drama had 14 students

One coal miner's daughter, in our community, was brought out of her shell. Her father was thankful for what the class did for his daughter.

After 2 ½ years Arts 4 All has provided art classes to 245 students. The entire population of Paonia elementary school was 204 students in 2017/2018 and 235 students in 2018/2019 school years.

Arts 4 All is working to bring classes to Hotchkiss.

Arts 4 All also provides activities for kids at Pickin' in the Park.

Some outreaches, aka 'fun in school' are:

- Use some funds to send musicians coming to town for concerts into the schools
- Gamelan 20-piece Balinese orchestra.
- Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet (who had rubber gloves on the top of their bassoons)!
- Guitar Duo Outreach
- Musekiwa Outreach

February 23, 2019 will be the Hub Music outreach for the Valley Youth Orchestra.

I Indian Funk Band with Fareed Haque

The 6th graders in Paonia are currently working on a mural for the elementary school.

Arts 4 All had the Kendama Club with David Alderdice in the Hotchkiss Elementary but only 2 students attended so they need to learn how to effectively reach parents and students in Hotchkiss.

Neal is happy to accept donations.

Q&A

Sarah: Send testimonials from parents of students in Arts 4 All home to parents of prospective participants.



**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- 2/28/19: Travis Loburg - Paonia Public Works (Ed Bliss)**
- 3/7/19: TBD (Pam Bliss)**
- 3/14/19: TBD (Randy Campbell)**
- 3/21/19: Lori Lenhart – PACE (Karri Polson)**
- 3/28/19: TBD (Peggy Szvetecz)**
- 4/4/19: TBD (Glenn Dahlgren)**
- 4/11/19: TBD (Marsha Grant)**
- 4/18/19: TBD (Mike Heck)**
- 4/25/19: TBD (Ulli Lange)**
- 5/2/19: TBD (Bob Lario)**
- 5/9/19: TBD (unassigned – was Ben Lehman)**
- 5/16/19: TBD (Norm Lewark)**
- 5/23/19: TBD (Jackie Parks)**
- 5/30/19: Potluck**
- 6/6/19: TBD (Kevin Parks)**
- 6/13/19: TBD (John Coombe)**
- 6/20/19: TBD (SEI)**
- 6/27/19: Swearing in of new President and BOD**

