



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

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

**POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428**

**WEB SITES: [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) [rotary5470.org](http://rotary5470.org) [northforkrotary.org](http://northforkrotary.org)**

**Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall**

**District 5470**

**Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22**

**Vol 59 Issue 6 – February 20, 2020**

**Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger**

**LAST MEETING: February 13, 2020**

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

Other Guests: Ulli brought Barbara, his brother's daughter

Randy brought John Zachman (his second visit)

Betsy brought her son David

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Pancake Breakfast (June 20<sup>th</sup>) needs volunteers to be on the committee to take on various aspects of the event. Pam, Ed and Ulli have already volunteered. Let James, Susie or Randy know what part you want to play.
- Jackie announced a Mardi Gras fundraiser supporting Tools-for-Schools at the Blue Sage Saturday, February 22 from 6:00 to 8:30. See the posters around town for details.
- Pam wished to remind everyone that the movie "The Providers" will be at the Blue Sage February 24<sup>th</sup>. It has to do with opioid addiction in New Mexico.
- Susie announced that her son Davis will be available for Q&A after the movie "Liyana" February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Paradise. It is part of the Cabin Fever Series and will be playing Feb 21-23 and 25-27.

### **2020-2021 Board Nominations**

The Club is past due in identifying Board members for the coming year. Those willing to serve this coming term should identify themselves. And a President Elect will also need to be designated.

### **PROGRAM: Paonia Elementary School**

Sarah introduced Amelia Baldwin, Principal of Paonia Elementary. She said the school had come to her attention when she heard that it had been awarded the Governors Distinguished Improvement Award as well as the John Irwin School of Excellence Award. She wanted to hear more about the school, and so invited Ms. Baldwin to come speak to the club.

Ms. Baldwin began by thanking Rotary for everything the Club does for the elementary school as well as the other schools in the valley, and for the community as a whole. She gave a brief account of her history in the valley, having attended school in Crawford and Hotchkiss. She attended college at Colorado State and CMU.

She has taught school in California and on the Front Range, and she is amazed at what the Delta School District and the teachers offer students here.

There are 197 students in the school, which offers K-6 grades. Preschool is also offered. Enrollment is growing rapidly. The school is 21% minority and 8% English language learners. 14% of the students are in Special Education programs and 4% are in Gifted and Talented programs. There are 13 certified teachers and 36 staff members. Class size is around 25 to 29 students.



The goal of the school is to grow all of the students individually, and she listed a number of awards the school has received for having done that consistently over the years. These results were attributed to teamwork among the administrators and staff, the parents, the volunteers and community support and involvement. Everyone makes it a point to connect and make an impact with the kids. This is coupled with high expectations of the students who are pushed and challenged at the level that is right for them.

The values the school strives to embody include enthusiasm for teaching and learning, valuing each child, a strong social-emotional foundation, teamwork, independent problem solving, creative self-discovery, a challenging and caring learning environment and community partnerships. These values are actions, not just words.

Funding is a major concern. Out of 178 districts, Delta Schools rank 174 in terms of funding. This was attributed to State funding formulas.

She had a lot more to say about the school and the students, and a robust and informative Q&A session followed.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
2/20/20	Pete Kolbenschlag & Lisa Delaney	CO Farm and Food Alliance	Sarah Bishop
2/27/20			Ed Bliss
3/5/20			Pam Bliss
3/12/20			Randy Campbell
3/19/20			Annette Choszczyk
3/26/20			Marsha Grant
4/2/20			Glenn Dahlgren
4/9/20			John Coombe

