



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

Vol 59 Issue 21 – July 23, 2020

LAST MEETING: July 16, 2020 (Virtual Meeting held via Zoom)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: none

Other Guests: none

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 68% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- Fifth Thursday will be via Zoom with breakout rooms. Randy will set it up.
- Anyone wishing to take over as Newsletter Editor is welcome to do so. Contact a Board Member.

PROGRAM: The Blue Sage

Ulli introduced Debra Muzikar, Executive Director of The Blue Sage Center for the Arts. She has been with The Blue Sage for about two years. She worked for eight and a half years at the Red Brick Center for the Arts in Aspen prior to coming to the Blue Sage.

Ms. Muzikar gave an overview of activities happening at the Blue Sage. Even though the venue looks quiet from the outside, things are busier now than ever before.



The mission for the Blue Sage is to provide education and expression in the arts and humanities and to cultivate and encourage the vitality of the community.

The Blue Sage just completed their first annual writing symposium. It was a big success. The presentations are available on YouTube (for a minimal cost). Planning has already begun for next year.

The final two concerts of the season are being rescheduled and season ticket holders will be informed of the new dates. Multiple concerts will be held at outside locations (with limited attendance) to minimize the potential for spreading the virus. No events are being held inside the Blue Sage for now.

Change is a constant, but the staff is working hard to make sure the community remains engaged during this period of lock-down and social distancing. A grant from the Goodwin Foundation is being used to purchase

professional quality equipment to live-stream concerts and events.

Staff is also working on developing a concert series for the Fall. The 2021 concert season begins in January. There will be Winter, Summer and Fall seasons for the concert series. The schedule should be available in the next month or so.

The Gallery is also active, currently showing works by Tammie Lane, Ryan Strand and Ashley Lieber. Hours are Thursday – Saturday, 11-3. Additional times are available by appointment. There will also be an exhibit in September of The History of the West in collaboration with the High Country News. It will show 50 years of history in the West and how High Country News was involved. Another activity in the Gallery is the annual Paint Paonia contest. This year artists are being asked to create work that can be shown as part of a Smithsonian exhibit being hosted in January of 2021. Artists are being asked to capture one of the four themes the Smithsonian exhibit is showcasing: Persistence, Community, Land and Identity. The exhibit is titled “Crossroads, Change and Rural America” and it being produced in collaboration with The North Fork Creative Coalition and the Historical Society.

There are plans to have additional events supporting the theme of the exhibit leading up to the exhibit itself. One of these events is Story Share, supported by a grant from the Next 50 Foundation. Stories are being collected from people whose families have been in the area for generations, showing how they have persevered and been able to remain in the community. There will be a story teller, a writer who will create poetry, a song or a non-fiction work, and an artist. KVNF will record the stories with help from a grant from the West Elk Community Fund. At the end of the exhibit in February, CU Boulder’s Playback Theater will create a dramatic production based on the stories shared.

The Next 50 Foundation has also provided a grant for a speaker’s program targeting the older generation. This will be in collaboration with Colorado Humanities. Anyone with ideas for this program are encouraged to contact Ms. Muzikar.

Next 50 Foundation has also provided a grant to fund tablets and training to help seniors connect to Blue Sage events as a way of combatting social isolation. This is being done in collaboration with the local libraries and other organizations that work with older adults.

Anyone in a position to do so is encouraged to donate to the local non-profits, whether The Blue Sage or something else. And thank you to those who have been supporting The Blue Sage.

Q and A

Q: The renovations going on are looking pretty good. What other historical renovations are in the works?

A: Thanks to the Colorado Historic Fund, the renovations on the façade of the bank building housing the Blue Stage are nearing completion, and are expected to be finished in a week or so. Next project is a new roof as well as repairs to some of the windows. Repairs are constant on a historic building.

Q: Would you talk about your finances. What is the state of your budget?

A: Doing fine right now. Covid relief grants and the Paycheck Protection Program have helped pay bills and keep the staff employed. Looking good through the end of 2020, but questions about 2021 should the pandemic persist. The annual budget is about \$250,000.

Q: What is the membership situation? Steady? Gaining members? Losing members?

A: Not a lot of new members historically this time of year. Holding steady with a little growth from new families in the area. The Blue Sage staff is working to develop programs (such as the recent writing symposium and “happy hours” with local musicians) to make sure the community stays engaged. Some concerts have had thousands of people watching them on-line.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
7/23/20	Lenore Cambria	North Fork Pool District and Ball Fields	Pam Bliss
7/30/20		Fifth Thursday	Zoom Meeting
8/6/20	John Poulos, Mountain Coal Company	Update on the West Elk Mine	Betsy Marston
8/13/20	Felix Belmont's Tribute	Honoring Felix' Service to Rotary	Jackie Parks
8/20/20			Kevin Parks
8/27/20			Karri Polson
9/3/20			James Schott
9/10/20			Peggy Szvetez
9/17/20			Greg Thompson
9/24/20			Bain Weinberger
10/1/20			John Zachman
10/8/20			Judy Beggs
10/15/20			Felix Belmont
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 Year's Eve	
1/7/21			Susie Coombe
1/14/21			Glenn Dahlgren
1/21/21			Marsha Grant

