



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 38 - December 10, 2020

LAST MEETING: December 3, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: Brad Kolman – Delta Rotary

Other Guests: none

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had a 67% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- Brad Kolman of Delta Rotary announced that the Delta Rotary Raffle will be taking place again this year. Tickets are \$20 each, 3 for \$50 or 6 for \$100. Four \$1000 cash prizes and four \$500 cash prizes will be awarded. The drawing will be on December 19th at Delta Hardware at 3:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit Delta Rotary educational scholarships, student reading programs, nursing programs and charitable contributions. Tickets can be purchased on-line or in person by contacting Brad (Pam has his contact information). They are also available at Ace Hardware in Delta.
- The Delta County Independent will provide 250 students the DCI in the classroom for a year if they can obtain 20 donations of \$50 each from community members. (The Club voted to provide a donation.) Contact Betsy for more information.
- Delta County Hope West (Hospice) has a new Facebook presence of their own. A virtual memorial will be available there beginning December 3rd. Local musicians will perform and members of the Hope West team will read remembrances. News and events regarding Hope West will be posted as well. Contact Annette for more information.
- Felix seems to be doing well in his new home
- 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: Midway Schoolhouse

Marsha introduced Jessica Elliott-Middleton, the owner and renovator of the Midway Schoolhouse. She is a historical architect and is thus the perfect person to take on a project such as this.

Ms. Elliott explained that she and her husband moved here a couple of years ago to a place in Midway near the school. Finding that the schoolhouse was for sale, they purchased it and along with local contractor Charlie Bishop, took on the project of renovating the building.

The land had been donated by Kevin Parks' grandfather in the late 1800's. The current schoolhouse was built in 1920 to replace a previous building that burned down. Classes were conducted there through the early 1950's. It was sold by the county and converted into a home in the 1980's.

The building contained two classrooms, one of which was still in original condition, as was the basement. In addition, the original walls and floors were still in place behind newer sheetrock and flooring, and most could be salvaged. The original windows were also salvaged. The original chalkboards (some still containing curriculum) were also found.

A full-sized kitchen was installed in the basement, with the goal of returning the building to the community as some sort of event space. This required replacing the original concrete floor as well as improving drainage to prevent flooding. An ADA-compliant bathroom was also installed in the basement. Signatures from Kevin Parks' father, grandfather and great uncle were found in the floor of the original coal room (which likely dated back to the original schoolhouse that had burned).

Jackie Parks located the original piano that had been in the schoolhouse which was donated back to the schoolhouse. It is now in one of the classrooms.

When the new septic system was installed, the original privy (a two-holer) was unearthed. The structure around the privy was no longer there. It not possible to salvage the privy and it had to be re-buried.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
12/10/20	John Gavan	Commissioner, Colorado Public Utilities Commission	Annette Choszczyk
12/17/20			John Coombe
12/24/20		Christmas Eve - no meeting	
12/31/20		New Year's Eve - no meeting	

