



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 Thursday at 5:00 PM at Rio Bravo in Paonia

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered

12/20/1922

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LAST MEETING: March 2, 2023

President Choszczyk presided

Visiting Rotarians: none

Other Guests: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 40% attendance at the meeting today.

INVIGORATING MOMENT: None today due to business meeting.

VoTech Building Letter of Support: Mary Bachran - Paonia Mayor

Mayor Mary Bachran gave a short talk in support of applying for a Congressional Discretionary Spending grant to help the Town of Paonia buy the old VoTech building. This requires a letter of support from the community. She invited the members to sign the letter as individuals and as the Club as a whole. The funds will not be available until the Fall of 2024. **Motion: The Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley supports the Town of Paonia's grant application for congressional funds to purchase the VoTech building. Passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS MEETING

- Treasurer Bishop lead off with an overview of Club and Foundation finances. Copies of the latest financial reports were distributed to all members present.
 - Due to the cost of the Centennial Event, there is less money than usual in the Club account. But there should still be sufficient money to fund the Club without having to raise dues.
 - We have only brought in \$6K against a \$10K budget. We have expended \$8K (drawing on reserves). The actual expected expenses are \$8.9K due to budgeted expenses that we will not be incurring (\$500 for equipment, \$500 for a membership event - as that was folded into the Centennial celebration - and a \$100 gift for catering we are not currently receiving).
 - \$2,115.00 annual expense for snacks at the weekly meetings is paid for by the \$7.10 monthly surcharge added to the Club dues.

- The Foundation fund currently has \$45,736.00.
- Part of this is a \$17,751.54 CD currently earning paltry interest. Treasurer Bishop will be looking into moving this money to an account with a higher interest rate.
- The Board has designated a “Reserve Account” of ~\$30K, comprised of the CD referenced above and an additional “accounting” fund of \$12,200.00. The intent is to provide a safety net in case fund raising is low for a particular year.
- On the Foundation Profit and Loss report, the Foundation expects to expend \$29K this year, as this is the amount raised last year for Foundation projects.
- Major fundraising projects planned for this year are:
 - Dollars for Scholars: The fundraising letters will be posted this coming weekend.
 - Pancake Breakfast: Raised \$2,900 last year.
 - Kids Pasta Project: Budgeted to raise ~\$1K this year.
- The \$2K for District Grants should be removed from the budget as these will not be applied for this year.
- The Scholarship Account is short on funding. This is money for scholarships received from Club members as well as others in the community.
- \$2K had been budgeted to fund an exchange student, but this has been deferred until next year.
- The \$2,550 budgeted for the Dollars for Scholars event will be much reduced as there will be no actual event again this year. The expense will be more like \$400 for the fundraising letters that are being sent again, as was so successful last year.
- There was no Superbowl Pool this year, so the \$250 budgeted from that will not be earned.
- The Dollars for Scholars fundraising letter will be going out immediately. If you have any names of folks who might want to contribute, please get these to Pam ASAP. She could use another 30 names or so.
- The Club will be participating with the Playback Group out of Boulder and The Blue Sage in an event on May 18. This will be the Club program for that evening, held at the Blue Sage. The theme of the event will be Rotary NFV’s Centennial.
- The Club will be sending two students to RYLA this year. The school will pick candidates and the Club will choose the finalists.
- Aspen Rotary is interested in purchasing our rubber duckies for a fund-raising event. The Club decided to loan them to the Aspen club instead so that we can get them back should we decided to try a duck race fundraiser again.
- Donation of \$400 approved for the Future Business Leaders of America club at the high school. This is to send a student to a state leadership program. 23 kids from the school qualified to attend. Suggested that this might make a nice photo op for the newspaper. Also suggested that a student who attended would make a good speaker for a Club meeting.
- The Pancake Breakfast will be held this year as part of Cherry Days.
- President Choszczyk presented the results of the Member Satisfaction Survey that was distributed to the Members over the last couple of weeks. She passed out a summary of the survey results to the members, detailing strengths as well as areas needing improvement. A copy of the survey itself showing the distribution of responses as well as Members’ written comments was also distributed. Only 56% of the membership responded to the survey. During the ensuing discussion, the following additional strengths were identified:
 - Giving away money
 - Community programs
 - Pancake breakfast
 - Dictionaries
 - Cleaning the highway

Areas for improvement were also identified:

- Need more penetration in the local business community – need more business leaders as members. In the past, several local businesses (banks, real estate offices, Ollie’s) had members in the Club. Now there are none. Idea put forward to sponsor a monthly “Meet and Greet” after hours for business leaders to get acquainted with one another. Would need to be in a more comfortable venue than Rio Bravo and provide refreshments.
- Identify speakers/programs far enough in advance to post a notice in the Merchant Herald.
- Not enough visible projects, especially those meeting community needs.
- Create links and develop projects with other non-profit groups.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
3/9/23	Matt Laimanger	Current law enforcement experiences in Paonia	Bob McHugh
3/16/23			Ruth Morehouse
3/23/23	Ben Lehman	Adventures in Central America	Jackie Parks
3/30/23		Fifth Thursday	
4/6/23			Kevin Parks
4/13/23			James Schott
4/20/23			John Seipel
4/27/23			Peggy Szvetecz
5/4/23			Sarah Bishop
5/11/23			Bain Weinberger
5/18/23	Eileen and Bob	Red Cross Service	Greg Thompson
5/25/23			Nick Lypps
6/1/23			Ed Bliss
6/8/23			Pam Bliss
6/15/23			Susie Coombe
6/22/23		Installation of New Officers	
6/29/23		Fifth Thursday	



The
Rotary
Foundation

