



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: rotary.org rotary5470.com 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: 4/6/ 2023

President Choszczyk presided

Visiting Rotarians: none

Other Guests: Jackie Davis and Julie Huffman
from Delta Hospital
Bruce Lumiere - Ruth's guest

HOSPITAL UPDATE:

- Jackie Davis and Julie Huffman (interim CEO) announced recent leadership transitions at Delta Hospital with the retirement of the previous CFO and a “parting of ways” between the previous CEO and the hospital board. Medicare reimbursements were being reduced to repay Covid-related advances made to the hospital, leading to financial difficulties. This has now been resolved. A new interim CFO with experience in healthcare finance is on board with fresh ideas to help the hospital succeed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 64% attendance at the meeting today.
- Highway cleanup is scheduled for Friday, May 5th at 9:00 AM. Meet at the self-storage on Hwy 133 as usual.

ROTARY MOMENT: Ruth spoke of Rotary International's “Seven Areas of Service” and “Two Areas of Focus.” These include: Eradication of Polio, Promotion of Peace, Providing Clean Water, Fighting Disease, Saving Mothers and Children, Supporting Education, Growing Local Economies, Protecting the Environment and Providing Disaster Relief. She gave examples of how our local Club is working in several of these areas.

The
Rotary
Foundation



PROGRAM: Nicki Poulos – Coal Mining in the Valley

Nicki Poulos, a fourth generation Paonian, gave an interesting and informative presentation on the current state of coal mining in the Valley. She works as the environmental engineer for the West Elk mine, the only remaining mine in the North Fork. She gave an overview of how long-wall mining is done, along with how the coal is prepared for shipment and how the trains are loaded. Once mining operations are completed, the environment is returned to its previous state or better. The mine is the third largest employer in the county (behind the schools and the hospital).



UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
4/20/23	TBD	TBD	John Seipel
4/27/23	Rob Miller	Pickin in the Park	Peggy Szvetcz
5/4/23	David Larcker	Corporate Governance	Sarah Bishop
5/11/23	Eileen and Bob	Red Cross Service	Greg Thompson
5/18/23	various	CU Boulder Playback/Blue Sage collaboration	Bain Weinberger
5/25/23	Frederick Zimmer	Construction Projects on Grand Ave.	Susie Coombe
6/1/23			Ed Bliss
6/8/23			Pam Bliss
6/15/23			Nick Lypps
6/22/23		Installation of New Officers	
6/29/23		Fifth Thursday	

