

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Estes Park's Newsletter

Meeting will be on **Zoom Only** this week

Due to Larimer County's **Safer At Home Level Red** guidelines, our meeting venue, Nicky's Steakhouse, is closed for in-person dining. Our Dec. 17 club meeting meeting will be conducted solely on Zoom.

Scott Thompson will be our Zoom Host. Join the program by clicking on the Zoom link before noon:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7985707369

This week's program Special guest: Olga Ortega

Our speaker this week will be Olga Ortega, a well-known restaurant owner whose support of the Hispanic community in the Estes Valley is inspirational. She will present a short program and then answer our questions.

This description of Olga comes from Sybil Barnes as part of the 100 Years - A Celebration of Women series:

The guiding principle of Olga Ortega's life is that all good stories never come without painful stories. She came to Estes in 1992 as one of the second Latino families to stay year-round. Olga has dealt with painful circumstances including family mental health issues resulting in the suicide of one of her siblings.

Olga is grateful for the community she found here. Initial support was provided by Barb Wahl, the public health nurse, who advised her through pregnancy and the birth of her son. Five years later, the family was joined by a beautiful daughter. Both are EPHS graduates and successful in college. They also help in the family business – Mountain Home Café – which Olga and her husband, Enrique, have owned for 13 years.

Olga is always willing to make a difference for those in need. Mentors 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM made an impact on her family to pay it forward by staying strong. She says "We embrace our community with a commitment to service." She has sponsored an annual Cinco de Mayo feast which is free to all. During the recent pandemic, she partnered with Crossroads to

For a smiling face, excellent food, and interesting conversation, stop by and see Olga.

provide free meals and fabric masks to hundreds.

Our Duck Race Committee and our Software Sub Committee both

Update from President Bill Solms

met separately this week to organize an entertaining duck race for 2021 during COVID/Vaccination times. Look for interesting updates later this month. Great work for Christmas cheer by our Community Service

Committee headed by Beth Weisberg and Jim Whiteneck! With much appreciation for all of you and wishes for joy during this

holiday season, Bill Solms



Posted by Dana Fritz

December 10, 2020 Meeting Notes

President Bill rang the bell at noon to open the meeting. An

invocation was given by Milt Garrett, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were introduced: Carol, wife of Virgil; Marianne, wife of Bill; and James and Grant, grandsons of Dana. Scott presented his joke of the day. **Announcements**

announced the drop off food drive for Crossroads will end today, but donations can still be delivered to Crossroads.

• Our Bright Christmas donations were a huge success...the family will be so happy!

Beth, speaking for the Community Service Committee,

- Salvation Army still needs bell ringers...if you send a check be sure it's addressed to the Estes Park branch. • Bill Solms announced a duck race meeting tonight via Zoom at 5:00....the software committee met to discuss the future of
- Jim Whiteneck was grateful for the 20 members who filled out

using old versus new software for the race.

Happy Money

- Milt Garrett is returning to Russia in June as a Good Citizen
- the club survey. Karol was happy Michelle was on line from Albania. Program

Global Advance, speaking on igniting changemakers worldwide. Adjournment

Doug Mann introduced our speaker, Jonathan Shibley, President of

The meeting was adjourned with the 4-Way Test. Dana Fritz, scribe

The Scribe

Club's generosity will help a needy family It's been a tough year for so many in Estes Park, but there is one

family that will truly have a bright Christmas, thanks to the Rotary Club of Estes Park. Beth Weisberg spearheaded our club's holiday food drive and Bright Christmas gift collection with overwhelming support from Rotarians. On Dec. 8, with help from Jim and Carol Whiteneck, Beth delivered wrapped presents to Bright Christmas headquarters.



Here is a description of our club's collection from Beth: "With the help of Jim Whiteneck and wife Carol, I delivered all of the brightly

wrapped gifts for our adopted family to Bright Christmas today. Our Rotary Club members donated \$550 in checks (which I spent for gifts and gift cards for the family) plus about \$700 of gifts purchased by members themselves and delivered to my porch, for a total of about \$1,250 spent to make what we hope will be a happy holiday for our Family #50. In addition, we gave the family \$150 in Visa gift cards, to use as they wish. Plus one of our club members donated a \$500 check to Bright Christmas to use as they need to fill in for other families, which I handed in today as well, all courtesy of our Rotary club project." Please note that the Crossroads food drive project continues through December 17. Take your donations directly to

and Key Bank.

Member Spotlight: Pete Sumey

Crossroads as the drop boxes have been removed at Nicky's

Each week our Spoke is profiling a member of our Club in order to get to know them better and stay connected through these socially distant times.



Paul Martin Sumey was born on February 7, 1938 in Topeka, Kansas. So, you may be asking, where did Pete come from. I will tell you the answer I received when I asked them the same question. "One week after you were born, we changed our minds". And from

that time forward, I was "Little" Pete, until I grew 7.5 inches during the summer between grades 7 and 8, at which time I became, wait for it, "Big" Pete. All of my formal schooling was in Topeka, culminating with a degree in mathematics with a minor in education at Washburn University. During my sophomore year, a friend in my church youth group told me about the good times she had working at the YMCA camp in a place called in Estes Park, that was next to Rocky

Mountain National Park. That sounded pretty interesting, so I filled out an application for 1959 summer employment and climbed on a train headed for Denver. The Kansas boy, who had never been west of Salina, Kansas, was headed for the mountains. One of the people I met that summer was the Chaplain at the Y camp, a fellow named Ned Linegar. More about him later. During my last two years at Washburn, I worked evenings and Saturday morning at the telephone company with three other students. We used IBM punch card equipment to finish the daily and weekly billing cycles. I found that I had an aptitude for the work, and after graduation, and a summer tour of the western United States

including a visit to the Y camp, I interviewed with IBM and was hired

for the Kansas City sales office in October, 1961. After two months of training in Chicago, I made my first visit to the Kansas City office

where I met my future bride, Lois Kuchenbecker. We were married in The Village Church (Presbyterian) on May 23, 1964, and will celebrate our 57th anniversary next May. We honeymooned in Colorado. On May 30, we found ourselves in the Bear Lake parking area, seated in our car in a snowstorm, with me telling her how we would bring our kids here to take family hikes. It took some convincing, but four years later we brought our one year old out for a week of beautiful weather, and came back to the Y camp for fifteen years of the next twenty for family vacation, adding a boy and a girl in the process. Ironically, two of the years we missed were the Big Thompson flood, and the Lawn Lake flood. I retired from IBM in December, 1991, and went to work in the

business office of The Village Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, a

suburb of Kansas City, where I managed the computer network and church information system until August, 2003. The time had finally arrived to achieve a goal that we had been dreaming about and planning for the previous 39 years; our move to Estes Park as full time residents. We had purchased a home on Longview in April, and our daughter (a seasonal park ranger) was living in the house to accept furniture deliveries while we were making monthly trips from Kansas City. We immersed ourselves in volunteer activities in RMNP and town Ambassadors, and moved our church membership to Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies where we found an The first person we saw upon entering the church our first Sunday was Ned Linegar. Our paths had crossed often during our vacation trips at the Y, and Ned lost no time in bringing me to my first Rotary

meeting and sponsoring my membership on January 14, 2004.

One of the first tasks I performed from the Good Beginnings for New Members was to attend a club board meeting. Steve Little was

the chair for the Scholarship Committee, and Steve got up and told

the board members that due to the loss of a major fundraising activity, there was only enough money available to provide one scholarship that year instead of the three that were normally given. Whoa, I thought to myself. I need to look into this. I joined the Scholarship Committee, and it did not take long for the trail to lead to Don Widrig, a member of the Rotary Golf Tournament committee, the one remaining fundraiser for Scholarships. Don and I had similar backgrounds, and we collaborated to allow him to be committee Treasurer while I performed golfer registration for the tournament in 2004, a function I still perform 16 years later. Later in the spring, Julie Phares organized a musical variety show called Estes Park Sings for Scholarships that had a seven year run, and when that ended, Jack Overly, Madison Casey, and I started a similar variety show called It's Showtime that ran an additional seven years. One of my real pleasures of involvement with scholarships is joining other committee members each year to review the student applications for our Rotary scholarships. I am continually amazed and impressed with some of our high school seniors who exceed academically and socially while dealing with serious financial and functional difficulties in their personal lives. They have high personal

goals, a plan for success, and the toughness to make it happen. I attended my first Duck Race in 2004, and knew that I had to be involved. I joined the Widrigs, Lassons, and Andersons in Duck Central in 2005, and missed participation for the first time this year. I believe in Service Above Self. Over the past 18 years, I have served the club as Secretary (twice), Director of Fund Development, President (2012/13), and club Foundation President (twice). My passion has been scholarships. We are currently experiencing another decline in funds raised for scholarships, and we need more committed members to be active in all aspects of the scholarship program. I believe in the 4 Way Test, and I use it every day as a guide for life's decisions. And I believe in an organization with a Foundation that is second only in strength of funding to the Gates Foundation. I am proud to be a Rotarian.

Is Zoom a challenge? Anne Slack has the answers!

For anyone new to the workings of Zoom, it can be a confusing experience. Our Membership Chair Anne Slack took on the challenge of creating a step-by-step tutorial on navigating Zoom. The document is posted on our club website's home page, under Home Page Download Files (left hand side of the page) for your future reference. Click on this link to be taken to our club's home page to read all about the world of Zoom, and think about printing it

Thanks, Anne for your efforts to keep all of our members engaged

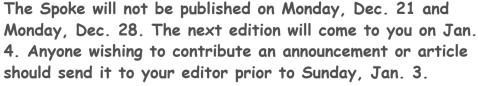
out for a friend. https://portal.clubrunner.ca/5241

until we can meet again!

Sorry, Tom!



Due to an editing error, the Dec. 3 Meeting Notes omitted a Happy Money contribution of \$20 from Tom Gardner in recognition of being the subject of the Trivia Question.



(raduchateau@gmail.com) Happy Holidays from The Spoke volunteers!

Foundation with every order. As a recipient of funds in the smile.amazon.com, our foundation will receive a portion of the sale. All you need to do its sign up to get the funds flowing. And

 Go to: <u>smile.amazon.com</u>. Choose the charitable organization by typing in Estes Park Rotary Foundation. Our club and the Longs Peak club will

come up in the search. Click on Estes Park Rotary Foundation. Create a bookmark so every time you shop Amazon, you will participating in the smile.amazon.com program.

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Dec. 17 Duty Roster

Invocation: Dale Bonza

Song & Pledge: Bill Solms **Guest Intro: Scott, Karol**

Scribe: Pete Sumey

Greeter: Scott, Karol

Program Intro: Bill Solms

Dec. 24 Duty Roster Invocation: No Meeting

Song & Pledge: Christmas Eve **Guest Intro: No Meeting**

Scribe: Christmas Eve Greeter: No Meeting

Program Intro: Christmas Eve

Upcoming Events

Dec 17, 2020 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM Community Service Meeting

Foundation Board Meeting

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM <u>Duck Race Meeting</u>

Dec 17, 2020

Club Board Meeting Jan 05, 2021

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM View entire list

Speakers

Dec 17, 2020

Dec 17, 2020 12:00 PM Olga Ortega

View entire list

Birthdays, Anniversaries Member Birthdays

Dale Bonza December 1

Gary Hazelton December 3

Chuck Bonza December 13 **Jennifer Comstock**

December 16

Dale

Harry Livingston December 18

Anniversaries Chuck Bonza

December 26 **Dale Bonza** Chuck

December 26 **Gary Hazelton** Kris December 31

Join Date **Doug Mann**

Kris Hazelton

December 31

Gary

December 1, 2016 4 years Jim Austin

December 11, 2008 12 years **Gary Hazelton**

December 12, 2002

18 years

Kris Hazelton December 12, 2002 18 years

Gordon Ulrickson

December 20, 2018 2 years **John Thomason**

2 years

December 20, 2018

President Bill Solms

Executives & Directors

Treasurer Longley Parker

President Elect Jim Whiteneck

Secretary Jennifer Comstock

Sergeant-at-Arms John Thomason Past President

Dave Evans

Karol Rinehart Community Service Director Beth Weisberg

Club Administration Director

Fund Development Director Karen Thompson

International Service Director Ron Gordon Youth/New Generation Services

Director Sue Fereday

<u>Anne Slack</u> **Foundation**

Membership Director

President **Madison Casey**

Officers/Directors

Vice President Carl Robicheaux Treasurer Barb Bibler

Secretary

Scholarships

Dave Evans Assistant Treasurer **Gregg Jurgens** Grants Jack Boatmen, Carl Robicheaux

Anne Slack Ernie Altick Program Kathy Groesbeck, Dave Evans

Investments Madison Casey

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(If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor)

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2020-21 Rotary International Theme



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4. Anyone wishing to contribute an announcement or article should send it to your editor prior to Sunday, Jan. 3.

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