



District 5470
Club 1161
Meet at Doubletree Hotel
Time: 12:00 Noon
Thursdays

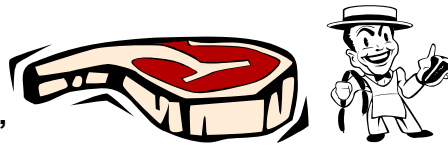


Newsletter: July 14th, 2011

President Moni Grushkin began the meeting by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance



and telling everyone to **“Grab their Meat”**



Guests:

- Moni introduced Tom and Joyce the owners of First National Bank and Gene Bradley who is on the 1st National Bank Board
- 5 members of the Evening Club including 3 red badges have joined us today
- Bud Poe introduced Senator Ellen Roberts and Mike Matheson and Joe Williams (from the am club)
- John Tarian a former Rotarian from Salt Lake City joined us for lunch as well as Eddie Chung (from the AM club)
- Tami introduced Benson Tazwa
- Julie Calbo a friend of David Down's also joined us
- Tim Walsworth brought Dae Hemphill who is doing an internship with United Way this summer
- Dani one of our outbound exchange students was introduced by Frank Valen

Announcements:



- Golf Tournament July 15th Tomorrow!! Thanks to all we are looking forward to a Great Tournament
- Mark Donahue Scholarship committee please come and see me after the meeting
- Niles mini grant meeting Today
- Mike Build Day great turn out lots of Fun
- July 30th Joe Williams promoted the Western Barn Dance ONLY \$10.00 per ticket and this is the am clubs biggest fundraiser Please support Rotary throughout La Plata County. We all do great things
- Cathy Crum promoted the 2011 climb a 14er event on July 30th. The goal is to raise \$14,048 the height of Handies Peak for the Volunteers of America

Sergeant of Arms – Bill Cartwright



- **Birthdays** - Ken Fusco \$ to the Wheel Chair Fund
- **Anniversaries Club**- Bill Luthie
- Evening Club President is happy for all the red badgers here today!!
- Dick happy about the LPGA tournament at the Broadmoor
- Tom Galbraith is really happy for Tom Danielson who is doing well in the Tour de France



- Cathy Crum is happy about her 40th High School reunion
- Jill Carithers is happy that she will be a part of the 2011 -12 Leadership La Plata Class
- Justin Osborn puts in \$100 the Wheeldon sale
- Tami wins and gives the winning to Benson's College Fund



Program – Senator Ellen Roberts



Ellen starts us all laughing after Moni's comment Ellen said "I thought that Andrew Weiner was visiting".

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Ellen is getting use to being in the minority, as she is still a minority in the senate and says "it is a humbling experience... but we had to balance the Budget it was not easy but it had to be done unfortunately cuts had to be made." One of the biggest challenges in representing Southwest Colorado is that 85% of the population lives between Fort Collins and Pueblo the Western slope voice has to be really loud as there are only 15 out of 100 senators representing rural Colorado.

Ellen did a great job on updating us on some of the positive and some of the not so positive happenings with in our Colorado Government during her update and ended with - "I don't want to leave you with the thought that we are dysfunctional group although you might want to believe this. Senators are only paid \$30,000, we do not have an office, we pay for our own cell phones etc... **We are doing this because we truly care and want to make a difference.** ...We need to

stop doing things the way we use to. We need to look and ask where government should be getting involved, set priorities and sometimes look to the private sector.”

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Scott Matheson? - Will there ever be a Constitutional Convention at the state level?



Ellen's Answer – Ellen felt that this really had “No legs” and the biggest problem with opening this up would be the Western Slope Water will be at a huge risk as decisions made would be made by an 85% majority of the Front Range.

Rick O'Block? - Health Care?

Ellen's Answer - Ellen believes that this should not be a federal thing.

Rick O'Block? - How would our state support health care?

Ellen's Answer- We have amazing resources in this community do not support mandating health care until we are clear on the national health bill however we are still unclear. We have the Colorado Health Exchange bill passed but we had this passed prior to the bill. Businesses are not adding new employees because of added health care costs.

Rick O'Block? - Higher Education we are 47th in the country for higher education funding and looking at yearly 9% increase in tuition

Ellen's Answer - We really need to support our community college and 4 years but we are Liberal Arts heavy we need to start looking to the career and tech fields these are the fields that there are jobs. I go to the mats to support higher education but I expect that back home FLC and PCC are working together. 40% budget goes to k-12 but there are still cuts.

Bud Deering? –Bud was sorry that J. Paul Brown “Bear Bill” did not pass-

Ellen's Answer – Ellen supported and signed the bill and it did not pass but only by a one seat margin at the house? Basically it was a good bill that let the DOW figure out how to manage the bear population in the state he meant to bill to help the issue. Unfortunately, in political world the public can really grab on to ideas and a good idea or bill can be made fun of. Although we do not agree on everything J Paul has an amazing view on agriculture.

Moni ended the meeting with the 4-Way Test. And challenged the La Plata County Rotary clubs to fundraise and purchase 99 more 4 way test paper weights to give to all our Colorado Senators.