

Payette Lake Progressive Club Membership Meeting  
Spring Mountain Ranch Potluck  
February 11, 2020 @ Noon

The club enjoyed lunch and our guest speakers' presentations from 12:00 pm – 1:50 pm.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

##### DR. ROBERT POLK ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

Our first guest speaker, Dr. Robert Polk, holds degrees from Stanford University, Vanderbilt School of Medicine, and Idaho State University. He has been involved in notable programs for Cornell Medical College and has completed training with the American College of Physician Executives, Intermountain Health Care, and Harvard School of Public Health. In addition to spending over fifteen years in Boise as a rheumatologist in private practice, he held executive positions with the St. Alphonsus Health System as Chief Medical and Chief Quality Officers. Under his leadership, a state program for suicide prevention was approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2016. Dr. Polk is currently chair of the Idaho Suicide Prevention Action Collective.

Dr. Polk shared many alarming facts about suicide in Idaho and nationwide. Mental illness affects 25% of people on and off during their lifetime; Idaho's number one killer for the age group of ten to forty-four is trauma, and the number two killer is suicide; Idaho is fifth highest in the U.S. for suicide with the Intermountain West and Oklahoma in the top ten; the large number of cases of suicide in Idaho is thought to be from lack of education, remote living, and loneliness. Fifty-four per cent of suicide cases never had a mental diagnosis; most firearm deaths are suicide and 60% of suicides are by firearms; the leading age of suicides is between the ages of forty-four and fifty-four for both sexes and over age sixty-five for males; and twenty-five per cent of opioid deaths are by suicide. More funding is needed for suicide prevention in Idaho. Follow-up prevention after hospital suicide emergency visits is crucial as thirty per cent of those who seek help commit suicide within fifteen to thirty days. "Red Flag Orders" in states where the court takes away guns for protection in extreme cases, has shown a seven per cent reduction in suicides. Some high schools are now offering a peer taught "Social Norm Program", focusing on social and emotional learning and sources of strength. This program is active in Cascade, but not yet offered at McCall – Donnelly High School. There is a challenge to support youth with adverse childhood experiences which often lead to suicide in older adults. The Progressive Club members showed a real concern for these alarming facts with a productive question and answer session after the presentation.

### AMY RUSH AND MEG LOJEK ON MCCALL PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION

Amy Rush, Campaign Coordinator for the McCall Public Library, and Meg Lojek, Director of the McCall Public Library, gave brief updates on the campaign for expansion of the McCall Public Library. The library expansion plan was the result of a conceptual design study, consultant evaluation of the existing facility, and the expected community needs over the next twenty to fifty years. The study included input from library staff, civic leaders, local schools, related non-profits, and the public. The new library will include a large children's section featuring activity areas and a designated space for story time. It will include private meeting, study, and event spaces, and ample display space for books, technology, and exhibitions. There will also be a quiet and separate space for adolescents, an improved staff space, accommodations for technology needs and user comfort, improved parking, and access to pedestrian/bike trails. The library will be increased from 4,000 square feet to between 12,000 and 15,000 square feet. The private fundraising goal is \$3,000,000, of which over \$2,000,000 has been raised. There will be a \$6,000,000 library expansion bond on the May ballot. If the bond passes by a two thirds majority, it is hoped ground can be broken in April 2021.

**Following the conclusion of the presentations, the business portion meeting was called to order by Club President, Penny Williamson, at 1:50 pm. Guests and new members were introduced.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treone Cooley, Club Treasurer, reported on the financials as of January 31, 2020. Treone reported the checkbook balance as \$52,230, the Philanthropic balance as \$15,585, and the Scholarship balance as \$25,939. The club has received four generous scholarship fund donation: \$200 from John and Diane Fisher, \$300 from John and Christine Westwater, \$5000 from the Roy and Ida Eagle Foundation, and \$5000 from Bob Meinzer and Steve McIntee.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Camilla Switzer, Vice President, gave the Membership Report. Camilla reported that there are now 109 members.

MEETING MINUTES: The December 10, 2019, meeting minutes were e-mailed out prior to the meeting to all members. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Bev Hellman made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Joanne Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Gail DiBenedetto, Club Secretary, read a thank you letter from representatives of the Little Ski Hill for our grant donation which was used to sponsor the skier scholarship fund for their after school program.

## NEW BUSINESS

### FUNDRAISING REPORT:

Linda Hallock, Fundraising Chair, discussed the upcoming fundraisers.

Jennie Tunnell, Linda Hallock, and Bev Hellman will be chairing the annual fashion show and luncheon which is proposed for Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Shore Lodge. Back Country Boutique and Mountain Monkey Business will be participants in the fashion show. Jennie Tunnell passed around a committee sign-up sheet.

Nicole Musgrove has volunteered to be the Fundraising Chair for the 2020 Festival of Trees, and Helen Azevedo has agreed to chair the 2021 luncheon and fashion show.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Slate of Officers

Linda Hallock shared the names of candidates nominated for 2020-21 by the nominating committee as follows:

#### Board Members

President – Gail DiBenedetto

Vice President – Camilla Switzer

Secretary – Joyce Haley

Treasurer – Treone Cooley

Member at Large – Penny Williamson

#### Committee Chairpersons

Scholarship – Cathy Batchelor

Philanthropic – Rita Bolli

Fundraising – 2020 Winter Fundraiser – Festival of Trees – Nicole Musgrove  
2021 Luncheon & Fashion Show – Helen Azevedo

Gardening – Sandy Christensen

Hospitality – Karen Nelson

Program – Verla Brown

Historical – Linda Pool

Publicity – Linda Hallock

Linda Hallock asked for additional nominations from members if any. There being no further nominations from the floor, Linda Hallock moved to close the nominations and to accept the slate of officers as presented. Linda Pool seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Suzanne Paisley represented the Scholarship Committee which is recommending \$1,000 scholarships for two- year college programs and/or trade schools, and \$2,000 scholarships for

four- year programs. The committee would like to recommend they be granted discretion in establishing GPA requirements. She also requested that the Scholarship Committee be given discretion to create a special scholarship category for at risk students, if warranted. Rita Bolli made a motion to approve the Scholarship Committee's recommendations and to give the Scholarship Committee the discretion to determine categories and grade point averages based upon the applications and candidates. Kathy Dickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sandy Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail DiBenedetto, Secretary