

BECON

MARCH 1, 2019

Rene was at the helm today for a regular club meeting. I can't remember where Cory said he would be, but my guess is he got tired of the Snowpocalypse and we may not see him again until swim season. Luckily, Cory Moore wasn't needed as he was nowhere to be seen on this cold, snowy morning.

Guests included Karla Stricker, Development Director at Family Service, who has submitted her application for membership; Bill Dutcher and Ray Massie from MetraPark; and Rick Reid of the MetraPark Advisory Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer opportunities currently on website:

Larry the Cable Guy & Styx on Saturday, March 23

Mark your availability on website by March 16!

Breaking Benjamin on Monday, April 8

Mark your availability on website by March 30!

On a date in March yet to be announced, there will be another volunteer opportunity with the Daughters of the Nile to make pizzaritos. Shawnee and the outreach committee are working on the details.

Rene asked that everyone complete their profiles on the club website. Please upload a photo and complete the bio section with as little or as much information as you desire. That way, we can all see your pretty/handsome faces if we happen to forget what you look like. If you need help, Rene will be happy to assist you.

On March 7, the five area Exchange clubs are hosting an all-club open house at the Yellowstone Room from 5:30-7 pm for recruitment of new members. Food and drinks will be provided. This is not a social event, but an opportunity for those interested in Exchange to learn more about the organization and get a peek into what each club offers. If you know anyone interested in Exchange, please bring them to this event.

On March 27 at 5 pm, the membership committee is hosting a WAC (Wednesday Afternoon Club) at Yellowstone Valley Brewery. This is a social event and is not club-funded, but is a great chance to socialize with members and get to know each other outside of breakfast and volunteer events. Feel free to come buy me a beer and I'll regale you with some amazing stories (or maybe not-so-amazing).

A thank-you letter was passed around from Family Service. They think we are all great people - don't let it go to your head though.

Winter is nature's way of saying, 'Up yours.'

-Robert Byrne

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

- Charles Dickens

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- March 23 - Styx & Larry the Cable Guy
- Date TBA in March - Daughters of the Nile pizzarito-making
- April 6 - Big Air Bash
- April 8 - Breaking Benjamin
- April 12-14 - PBR
- April 22 - Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles

Upcoming Club Events

- March 7 - All Club open house
- March 27 - WAC at YVB



#ExchangeStrong
#GrowExchange



Presentation by Bill Dutcher and Ray Massie with special guest, Rick Reid of the MetraPark Advisory Board

Bill began his presentation today with discussion about basketball at the Metra. In his words, "BASKETBALL HAS BEEN FANTASTIC!"

In December, the Metra hosted the All-American Indian Shootout.

In January, it hosted the Hardin vs. Central double-header. For the 1st game, after payment to the Metra for the improvement fee and rent, the schools took home \$8,500 to split between them. For the 2nd game, after payment to the Metra, the schools took home \$10,000 to split between them!

This weekend, the Metra is hosting the Southern B Divisional tournament, and next weekend it will host the Boys Class C Basketball tournament.

Rick Reid then took the floor and added that the State Class A basketball tournament has become 1 of the top 10 MHSA tournaments. In fact, 10/10 of the top MHSA tournaments have been held at the Metra. Rick thanked the members of BEC on behalf of the MetraPark Advisory Board for being the "workers" and a key partner in the operations at Metra events. He stated that the real purpose of his presence at the meeting today was to extend a big Thank You to the club and its members.

Bill then took the floor again together with Ray to recognize the efforts of Dave Staton in serving 6 years on the MetraPark Advisory Board. Dave is chairman of the events and promotions committee and has done a great job. He was instrumental in getting a bigger American flag at the Metra, and was also instrumental in establishing better row markers at the seats in the Arena. Thank you for your service Dave!

Ray then took the floor to discuss past and upcoming events.

First, he reported that Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson ticket sales were at 4500 in the first week.

He then reported that the Metra is the top building in the United States in total sales for the PBR!

In the past year, Metra's 30% share of alcohol sales totaled \$169,000. In addition, \$165,000 has been deposited in the co-promote fund. That means more shows and more fun for Billings!

Ray reported that \$3.7 million goes to the Metra from tax payer support - the tax payers own the facility. In return, they are able to give back to the community by hosting events for charity organizations such as Toys for Tots.

The Metra currently has \$850,000 total in its operating fund and capital fund, and is half a million ahead from last year at this time. The profits are used for such things as re-paving the parking lot (which I believe I heard has not been done for 12 years).

Ray also discussed the Metra's ability to get bigger and better shows than in the past. The average cost paid for a show used to be \$125,000. Metra paid the most it ever paid to get Kelly Clarkson, at a cool \$400,000. Quite the increase!

Ray and Bill both emphasized the importance of the partnership between the Metra and BEC.

Bob Seger generated more ticket sales than any other concert, at \$1.7 million.

Coming up are: Styx and Larry the CableGuy on March 23; Breaking Benjamin on April 8 (which Ray colorfully described as a "grungy-a** rock band"); PBR on April 12-14; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles on April 22. Also, on May 8, for the first time ever, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone will play on a 40' screen at the Metra, at which the Billings Symphony will play the movie music live. Super cool! Ray also discussed the unannounced booking of a vocal group to play at the fair.

Next, Ray discussed the renaming of "Rimrock Auto Arena" to "First Interstate Arena" to take place on July 1, 2019. The Metra generated \$80,000 in sponsor sales for the 2019 fiscal year.

Lastly, Ray discussed beer and alcohol service at the MetraPark in 2020, and the RFP bidding process. He also advised that the POS system in the Arena is changing, and it will affect the cash registers. He also confirmed, upon questioning by Ed, that the new system will have chip readers for debit and credit cards.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK - STAY WARM!