

Happy Monday! Following is the BECON from this past Friday's meeting. Have a great week!

Exchange Beacon for September 27th

The invocation was lead by President Rene' with Benette Darling agreeing to lead us in prayer for the month of October.

Prayers were requested for Sheri Nealy and Dick Dare's daughter undergoing surgery.

Guests in attendance were Erin Vennemen from Yellowstone Bank and David Riggs with K9 Care Montana, our presenter for the day.

Shiloh Cook was presented with his new membership plaque and welcomed to the club. Shiloh is currently with Century 21 real estate. He has been in Billings for approximately 5 years, previously with Cellular Plus.

It should be noted the Board meetings have been moved to Tuesday through the month of January vs. the previously scheduled Mondays.

Drawings for two up coming events were as follows. Both events are at the Northern Hotel.

Family Services - October 12

Dina Harmon

Dale Samsal

Randy Thomas

Trina White

Tumbleweed - October 19th

Rene Critelli

Shawnee Krauszer

Pam Doherty

Don Lorenz

Highway cleanup has been cancelled for October 26 since it is being covered October 19th by a local community project initiative. The committee is currently exploring other options for the National Day of Service on 10/26, more TBA in days to come, possibly something in conjunction with Boo at the Zoo at Zoo Montana that day.

County Commissioner Dennis Pitman and Mayor Bill Cole will be doing a presentation on the USS Billings next week and the club will be giving away 4 hats and 4 coins that we were given for being sponsors at that time.

Fox News 4 will be heading up a new program called "Path to Patriotism" for TV. They have requested to film the Exchange Club reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to be aired on their TV channel sometime in the future. The filming is planned for next week. (Per Rene', look sharp that day!)

Daughters of the Nile have requested help with their pizzas again in November. Based on a raise of hands there is not enough people interested in this Outreach program at this time. Therefore we declined the project.

Dina reminded the October scheduling will close this Monday. Please log in to the website and make your selections. Also Rene' has made an inquiry with the NILE about shirts for Friday's - Tough Enough to Wear Pink night, more info TBA.

David Riggs from K9 Care of Montana (based out of. Bozeman) was our presenter along with his dog "Grizzly ". This program trains service dogs for veterans and autistic children. David was personally

injured in 1984 from a gun shot and was paralyzed and knows the effects of a long time recovery. Grizzly is the 6th dog David has had. David's organization has trained and placed 66 dogs since 2009. He stated their fee is around \$7,000 compared to 40, 50, or \$60,000 per animal by other similar organizations. Grizzly is actually a mobility dog which means he helps David get around and accomplish day to day activities.

David stated there is no such thing as a registered service dog. The increase we see in the community is from Internet based companies that are not legitimate. The State of Montana is making it a misdemeanor to misrepresent a dog as a service dog if they aren't one. The only two questions you can ask to try to verify if they are legitimate is:

Do you have a dog because of a disability and what type of service does the dog provide? If a dog is distracted or acting up around other dogs it is a sure sign they are not legitimate and a store owner can still ask them to leave. A true service dog will not be interrupted while working.

Some dogs are also trained to help spot PTSD issues with Veterans vs mobility training.

David stated he feels he would not be alive today without the help of his service dogs. They helped him through drug, alcohol and emotional issues after his gun shot. K9 Care is his way of giving back to all the Veterans who need help at a reasonable cost. It takes approximately 2 years to train a service dog and he places between 6 and 8 dogs per year.