

# BECON

5/22/2020

Our guest for this morning was our speaker, Suzanne McKeirnan with Big Sky Senior Services.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

.....The scoop of the day!!!! The board has done a bunch of work and come up with a fundraising opportunity for the club. As previously talked about, the club will be raffling off four quarters of beef. The board is working on getting tickets printed right now. The ticket pricing will be \$10 ea or 3 for \$20. Each club member will be required to sell a minimum of ten tickets. Kudos to the board for continuing to brainstorm for fundraising ideas!!! More info to come soon!

Not to be outdone by the rest of the board, our very own treasurer, Ed applied for a non-profit grant and was awarded \$10,000 that will help cover operational expenses.

Congrats to all of our new officers and board members. Rene commented that it was a great turn out for the online voting and it was very close.

Mountain View Cemetery was seeking volunteers Friday night to help plant flags for Memorial Day. Thank goodness that Rene was far better prepared than the BECON editor and had it posted well before time. If you drive by the cemetery as I did this morning, it looks pretty cool!

Sadly, National Convention has been cancelled in Colorado. There will still be an opportunity to attend an online convention. They usually have some really good speakers, plus I am sure the YOY and ACE winners will have an opportunity to speak as well. District convention is Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>. If you plan on attending, please send an email to Tony at [Nonune@aol.com](mailto:Nonune@aol.com) so that he can get the information to you on the guest speakers etc.

Our guest this morning was Suzanne McKiernan with Big Sky Senior Services. She spoke about the impact of Covid on their fundraising, planned events and then just an overall about some of the programs that they promote to the public.

Big Sky Senior Services main mission is to support seniors in the community in living independently. They offer a sliding fee based scale for their support, but mainly help low to middle income seniors. They have two main programs, Seniors holding hands and Prevention of Elder Abuse.

During this time of hardship, they have been relegated to not being able to visit with the seniors they work with just as we have been forced to isolate. Their staff calls over 300 seniors a week to see what is needed and can be provided. In April alone, their staff booked over 82 hours of phone time speaking with seniors and trying to bridge the gap of isolation.

Another program that Suzanne spoke about was a Dementia Friendly America. There are over 21k seniors living in Montana with some form of dementia. There are over 4k living in Billings alone. Suzanne spoke about a lot of learning opportunities for the public on how to interact with seniors that have dementia so that neither side gets too frustrated.

Big Sky Senior Services two main fundraisers are Dancing with the Stars and the Rubber Duck Regatta. Unfortunately Dancing with the Stars was cancelled and they really don't

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

## Upcoming Club Events



**#ExchangeStrong**  
**#GrowExchange**



know what is going to happen with the Rubber Duck Regata.

If you would like to contact Suzanne and ask how to get involved more, her contact information is:  
[smckiernan@bigskyseniorservices.org](mailto:smckiernan@bigskyseniorservices.org)

