

There were 23 in attendance this morning with no guests.

Announcements:

Contact Lisa Jensen for additional raffle tickets if you need them. All money and ticket stubs/unsold tickets must be turned in to Lisa by the end of August, as the drawing will be on September 4.

Check the beer pouring schedule for the BINGO area during the fair; this event will be in the small side of the Montana Pavilion. Please bring your Metra Access Pass card with you as well as wear your BEC shirt to get through the gate.

Bruce sent out the schedule via email earlier this week. REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED AND CANNOT WORK YOUR SHIFT, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A SUBSTITUTE!! There is no word as of yet if we will be pouring August 12-15. As soon as Bruce knows, he will send out an additional email asking for workers.

BEC is partnering with Liberty & Vine for litter pickup this Sunday, August 9th, 8-10 a.m.; meet at Liberty & Vine's parking lot, 2019 Montana Ave by 8 a.m. Everyone will then spread out to cover from Montana Ave up Airport Rd to the rims. There will be treats and drinks afterwards. Masks will not be required, but if you feel so inclined, wear one.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - September 26 @ American Legion, 1540 Broadwater Ave, time TBA. Cornhole/horse racing social... FUN FOR ALL!!! Social distancing/mask usage will be observed.

Apparently METRA had a pipe break in their kitchen, so we had a continental breakfast this morning. Hopefully the pipe break will be fixed by next week's breakfast so we can again enjoy a hot breakfast. Hopefully the club is paying less for continental breakfasts than hot breakfasts???

FYI, there has been one club member who has tested positive for Covid-19 after the Bejot Open Golf Tournament. No word on who this individual is because of HIPAA laws... so just keep your masks on during breakfast meetings to keep yourself and others safe.

Speaker::

Greg Upham was our speaker this morning via ZOOM. He wasn't able to be at breakfast in person as he is enjoying his 15 month old granddaughter's company.

Greg spoke mainly about the re-opening of the school system on August 24th. Out of 17,600 K-12 students enrolled, it was estimated that approximately 30% or roughly 5000 students would be disengaged from school, so it is of utmost importance to again start live classroom learning, observing CDC guidelines.

As the COVID cases expanded in Yellowstone County in July, Greg received more and more emails concerning remote learning via computer.

One thing for sure about the virus Greg said, is "We know that no one REALLY knows". The Covid-19 virus changes the re-opening plan on a daily basis.

As of yesterday, 900 students out of the 17,600 enrolled are learning remotely... well below the 5000 originally estimated to be disengaged from the school system.

Everyone is very concerned about the uptick in child abuse cases. There has been a massive increase in backpack meals being prepared and distributed to students.

High school students were given the opportunity to attend a summer program from June 1 - July 31. 245 students took advantage of this program... they were required to be masked and temperatures were taken as they entered the building.

A reading program for 1st and 2nd graders was instituted to see if these students were able to be masked during live classes. Face shields were worn by the teachers to enable them to see the students' enunciation. After 2 weeks of live classroom learning, Greg, along with the principal at Newman Elementary, analyzed this classroom learning situation and determined that the 1st and 2nd grade students were much further behind in their learning than originally thought, making it mandatory to re-open the schools.

For questions, Greg's cell phone number is 406-451-4453. The re-opening plan is also on their website, www.billingsschools.org along with a FAQ page and other worthwhile information.

ROCKET