

BECON
8/14/20

It was another small crowd for breakfast this morning. But we did have the smell of farm animals to accompany our meal given that some of the 4-H animal judging is also taking place inside Metra. So if manure in the morning is your thing, you came to the right place.

Announcements

- Please see Lisa Jensen for more ¼-beef raffle tickets to sell or to return the stubs and money. The stubs and money need to be to her by August 28th.
- Double-check the schedule for the last weekend of beer pouring for Bingo at the Fair to see if you are working or need to find a replacement. If you are working and need new membership cards that get you into Metra/Fairgrounds – they are available at breakfast or from Dina.
- Unfortunately, because we aren't raising much money with COVID limiting events at Metra, we will NOT be participating in Dress a Child this year, which for many of us, is really the highlight of what we do at BEC. However, you can still participate privately by sponsoring a child. Contact Darlene Johnson at the Salvation Army no later than September 30th. Darlene can be reached at 245-4659.
- With regard to the above, a question was asked as to whether Foundation monies or other reserves were available to cover fundraising lapses such as what we are experiencing now. Nobody present quite knew so that will be investigated.
- Dina has a tote present at the breakfasts for school supply donations and similar will also be at Stewart Title and B&B Tire. Cash/checks are also always welcome. Collections will take place until mid-September.
- Wiley announced that the next social event will take place at the end of September. Details to follow.
- Finally, Shawnee thanked all that participated in the recent roadside cleanup. A lot of garbage was apparently picked up including some very interesting items. Shawnee mentioned she found a bunny, or maybe it was a rabbit? Not the kind that hops, although with new batteries I bet it can really shimmy . . . oh boy.

Speakers

Sherry and Kathy from Vitalant (formerly United Blood Services) were on hand to talk about blood donations, which as you would expect, are down this year because of COVID. As always, however, blood donations are severely needed not only for trauma and emergencies, but also for other situations where red blood cells, platelets and plasma are needed like for mothers in premature births, cancer and burn patients, persons with blood disorders, and as you may have heard from news reports, to harvest COVID-19 antibodies from those who have already been infected. All donors are given anti-body tests before donating with the results available within a couple weeks.

Vitalant does NOT pay for blood donations – their collections come from all volunteer donors. That is why Sherry and Kathy's jobs focus on ways to keep the donations coming including doing mobile drives with the "blood bus", which is obviously also significantly impacted by COVID; doing challenges among like groups such as the different Exchange Clubs, etc.

Vitalant services southern MT and northern WY and in these places alone, over 200 units of blood are needed a day on average.

Some misconceptions exist about who can give blood so if you have a question, please call Vitalant (877-258-4825). Just because one is on medication, or have diabetes or other diseases, doesn't necessarily mean you are ineligible for donating blood. And if you just got a tatt in MT, don't worry, there is no waiting required to donate given that MT regulates this industry. And finally, if you have "O" blood type, get in there – the majority of people (37%) are O+ AND O- is the universal red blood cell donor type that can help everyone.

Donors must be at least 16 (16 and 17 year-olds need parents/guardian permission) and you need to weigh at least 110 pounds, which might be a problem for the ladies of BEC. It only takes about 10 minutes to donate, although with the initial screening done before actually giving the blood and relaxation and refreshment time afterwards, you should probably plan on being there an hour.

See you next week. Have a great weekend!