

BECON
3/19/21

The “regulars” were present this morning but we also had a bacon-loving senior present, which again could describe many of our regulars. However, this guy happened to be Ki, the face (dog) of Pooch’z B&B – A Home for Senior Dogs, who came with Marge Hall, our speaker.

Announcements

- You may still get this in time to get a March Madness NCAA Bball bracket into the Exchange Club pool (administrated by CBS Sports – see Dina’s email from a couple days ago). \$20 entry – let Dina know you want in and fill out a bracket.
- Remember the Bites of Billings coming up on 4/22.
- Remember the social to be held at Holligans tomorrow from 4-7 pm. If Irish car bombs are your thing, or green beers or Guinness, or designated driving (that would be really helpful), then come on down.
- Remember the Exchange Club District convention to be held in Butte on 5/21-5/23. Contact Dina if interested in attending.
- Remember that volunteers are still needed for our Speak Easy and Wine Festival fund raising events.
- Nominations started today for the various Club positions. Those nominated this morning included:
 - Foundation Brd – zilch
 - Newsletter Editor – Shannon Johnson, who enthusiastically accepted.
 - BEC Brd (3 members needed) – Lanny Lucara, Christine Strobel, Adam Decker.
 - Secretary – nada
 - President Elect – not Lisa Jensen (she denied a nomination from brother-in-law – sounds like there could be a future development here).

Speaker

Our speaker today was Marge Hall and Ki from Pooch’z B&B, which is a PERMANENT home for senior dogs. This is a facility to house older dogs that for some reason (ie owners died, went into assisted living, can’t care for their pets, abandoned, etc.) needed a new place to live versus going to the pound where BTW, about 60% are ultimately euthanized.

Moving from the people healthcare industry to the canine shelter/rescue non-profit (application in process), Marge and her husband and mom, and some volunteers, have taken in 19 senior dogs to date (15 currently) where they were given a permanent home to eat, sleep, play be cared for and loved by Pooch’z. This is the only facility like this in Billings and when you think about – or don’t think about it as the case may be - pets are often overlooked when their owners are no longer able to care for their dogs.

These dogs no doubt receive nothing but good care from Marge – her love for these animals was palpable as she described the stories and personalities of several in her care now including old Ki, who roamed our meeting room collecting love (and bacon) from members until it was time to lay down (in the middle of the room) for nap time. Nap time is a regular part of the dogs day at Pooch’z, in addition

to meals of course, more snacks and their field trips in the backyard of the spacious area where these dogs get to hang out.

This takes a lot of work so volunteers are always welcome, or in-kind donations of dog stuff or just some cold, hard \$\$\$. They even take-in Chihuahua dogs, which we learned today are one of the breeds least likely to be adopted and most likely to bite (does your dog bite . . . ouch . . . I thought you said your dog doesn't bite . . . that is not my dog – Peter Sellers in the movie Pink Panther – google the scene - hilarious).

Have a great weekend!