

This morning's business meeting consisted of a rousing conversation about the signed contract with the METRA. Some of the highlights follow:

- First of all, Dina gave heartfelt and quite emotional THANK YOU to Rene', Bruce Jensen, Mikey, Dave Staton, and Gene Jarussi for ALL their hard work and time involved in getting this contract in our hands, such as it is. Dina stated that Dave Staton had been the "commissioner whisperer", in that he had a way to somehow express his opinions to the commissioners with no hard feelings whatsoever. Make sure you thank these five members profusely, or better yet, include them in your will. Because without all of their time, of which there were numerous hours, too many to count, this contract would not have come to fruition.
- Our first event of beer pouring will be Foreigner on June 30, then Jamey Johnson on July 1. Both are on the website now for your perusal and to mark if you are available, not available, or, if you prefer, you can request to work either or both of these events.
- Each member MUST have their R-Serving in place in order to serve at the METRA. Also, it would probably be a good idea to carry your R-Serving cards with you while pouring, just in case someone from the Liquor Board does a spot-check to determine if all pourers are certified.
- In our last contract with the county, we were giving them a cut of 37%, taking into account the \$.50/beer that was going into the co-promote fund. This co-promote fund is now non-existent and out of money since, not previously known to us, \$1 from each ticket sale was also going to this fund. And after the METRA received their refund of \$1/ticket, the fund had no money remaining.
- According to the new contract we have two booths from which to pour, the main booth (where we signed in for each event we work), and the NW booth, which is on the other side from the main booth closest to the front of the METRA. But, Gene says this can change anytime, according to the contract. We also may be working portables on the main floor, depending on how large the attendance is on the main floor at any given event, and, apparently how the "powers that be" feel before said event.
- The new contract now gives the county 38%. That's right, a whopping 1% more than the old contract. Gene was at a loss for words (which, by the way, is saying a lot) as to why it took so long to complete this contract "negotiation". Whoops, I used the wrong word there, as Gene used the word, "dictation" to describe the contract process.
- The new contract is for the METRA only, not the entire grounds as before. Apparently, the grounds is up for grabs for any entity having the proper license. Although, the person booking the event on the grounds can probably ask for us to do the pouring, as has happened with "Brews and BBQ's" that is coming up July 17.
- Our Board is thinking about having signage made saying that in the last 20 years, we, as the Breakfast Exchange Club of Billings, have given in excess of \$2.1 MILLION into the community towards the prevention of child abuse, elder abuse, etc. If you feel, as I do, that this would be a FANTASTIC idea, voice your opinions to either Dina or one of our board directors.
- After the contract signing was all done, the county sent two addendums to the contract both of which we were expected to agree. That's correct, these addendums were sent to us AFTER THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED. Gene had never seen this in all his years as an attorney. One would think this would make the signed contract null and void, wouldn't you think??
- This is a ONE YEAR contract, after which we have 2 three year extension options. This contract can be voided at ANY time by either parties. It is essential that nothing negative is said by ANY exchange member anytime either on social media or just casual conversation with anyone. Gene expressed vehemently that, there should be NO PERSONAL ATTACKS against ANY county commissioner, PERIOD, at ANY TIME!!

- Gene said that County Commissioner John Ostlund was instrumental in our obtaining this contract with the county, as the other two commissioners, Don Jones and Dennis Pitman were dead set against us, for reasons unknown to anyone. When seeing John Ostlund at ANY time, we, as members, should express our immense thanks to him. Because, without his help, we would surely have NO contract of any kind.
- We will apparently be given ID badges to be worn when working; these will be provided to us by the county.
- This new contract also expressly states that there will be NO DRINKING WHILE IN THE BEER BOOTHS AND NO BEERS ARE TO BE GIVEN OUT FOR FREE TO ANYONE, including members attending events.

If any questions arise that I have not answered, of which there are probably many, call Dina and if she's not able to answer your question, I'm sure she'll point you in the right direction to get your question answered.