

BECON
2/25/22

We were back in the Metra alternate location this morning for breakfast, which again, is a much larger and better space; and we had another group of Central High Youth of the Year (YOY) students there to speak to us.

Guests

- The following students were our speakers: Winter Johnson; Seth Babcock; Halsey Ryan with father Chris; and Mikala Schuster with mother Heidi.

Announcements

- Wiley reported that the bowling social was a success and fun was had by all (I can vouch for that) and that Ed - King Pin – Kaufman walked away with the high series award. This event had an 80s theme and Shawnee took home the best costume prize – sporting a dark afro, sunglasses and other 80s specific clothing although her husband, the blond bomber, and wearing like garb had to be a close second along with the Harmons, who also had some funny stuff going on.
- Speaking of Shawnee, rumor has it she turns 29 today. Happy B-day!
- Some green stuff was passed around today – a check for \$3,500 to the Foundation and a check for \$7,500 to the Family Tree Center.
- There are two pouring events at Metra that are on the website for sign-ups - Jeff Dunham on 3/23 and an Outlaw football game on 3/24.
- Finally, keep our buddy and member Dan Singer in your thoughts today as he undergoes open heart surgery.

Speakers

Our Central High YOY students spoke to us on the topic options that we give to them each year but this year with an underlying COVID theme. These talks are not graded or scored as a part of our and National's scholarship awards but are rather just a way for us to get to know them and visa versa. The scholarship scoring is based on essays they ultimately write and present if they move on to the District level and then National level competition.

Winter Johnson – spoke to us about how COVID has impacted her life primarily by reminding her of what is important in life. Although a little stifling, the stay-at-home mandates helped her get closer and appreciate her family more and ultimately helped her hone-in on her college choice – that being St Olaf's college where she'll continue to ski race in addition to complete undergraduate degrees in econ and Spanish with the hopes of going to law school.

Halsey Ryan – spoke to us about her community service and how this is important in her life. With over 80 hours of community service completed during her high school years at the Knights of Columbus and donating money and clothing elsewhere she indicated that volunteering has enriched her life ten-fold. She, like all these kids, are National Honor Society members and involved in lots of clubs and athletics – soccer and track for Halsey. She admits she needs to get going on selecting a college but hopes to end up in med school someday.

Mikala Schuster – spoke to us about her struggles with cancer (leukemia) at the age of one until remission three years later. Although she remembers very little of this trying time except for the Beads of Therapy the nurses gave her (with different beads that represent different stages of treatment), it has influenced her life profoundly as you could imagine. She is a loyal Relay for Life participant and loves film and competed for Central's state championship swim team. She will attend the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee next year and study film.

Seth Babcock – spoke to us about community and how he discovered how important this is when he moved away from friends in WA state to MT at the end of his 8th grade year. Although a little bit of struggle was involved with finding a new church he liked and new friends, these things along with his Scouting (he is on path to become an Eagle Scout) made him value community service and "community" in general. He is also a swimmer and will also study film but at MSU – Bozeman.

Just a note that Dina reminded me of about volunteering for committees, BEC Officers, Foundation and Board openings for next year. We need a lot of committee help so please sign-up and often for the club committees – this list will begin to circulate at breakfast meetings and I will email this out as well. We struggled a little bit last year with people volunteering for committees, Officer, Foundation and the Board so hopefully with life returning to normal, we won't have this problem again. Stepping up for these things is an excellent way to learn the ins and out of the club and to shape its future, so we are looking for both newcomers and existing members to volunteer please. The four-week nomination period will begin March 11th – so right around the corner.

Have a great weekend!