

B.E.C.O.N  
May 20, 2022

**Those who didn't come to breakfast missed out on Chicken Fried Steak, Biscuits and Gravy,  
Hashbrowns, Eggs, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt and Muffins. Wow!! 😊**

There were no other guests other than our speaker Paul Gatzemeier, with Horses Spirits Healing, Inc.

**Announcements:**

The Professional Networking event was on 5/19 and Wade encouraged everyone to come out to the next Networking event on 5/31 at 5:30 at Bar MT (next to The Depot).

The Morgan Wallen concert grossed ~ \$56,000 total. It was a packed house with non-stop beer sells. Rumor has it that we sold more beer than the other group. So, remember to sign up for the Hank Williams Junior event on 5/27 and Football on 5/30. [Little trivia on the Hank Williams Jr. concert – the last time he was here BEC sold ~17,000 beers to ~3,000 people. Beer prices back then was \$1/beer].

**District Convention is 6/10 – 6/11. The club still has funds to reimburse the cost of this event (first come first serve). So, mark your calendar and get your application and check to Tony.**

Sponsorships are needed for the 2022 Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone. See the information attached with this BECON.

**Horses Spirits Healing, Inc**

Horses Spirits Healing is located at the Intermountain Equestrian Center Northwest of the Zimmerman roundabout. They have been accredited in equine therapy since 2016. They started working with Veterans in services, education and research. In 2020 they provided services to ~ 420 individuals and in 2022 they are forecasting 3,400 individuals. MSUB nursing program is now working with them in a psych training program.

Their research program is in conjunction with the Columbia University studying PTSD. Using the equine therapy 8-week program, it has reduced the PTSD markers in some participants. Although the VA does test and assessments of Veterans, there is no VA funding to support this program. The VA claims that it's not evidenced based. So, they are reliant upon help from the community. They are moving toward working with kids with autism.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that they have achieved the Best Equine Services in Billings. Amanda Ott leads the services of volunteer organization and said that volunteers are the heartbeat of the program. Speaking of heartbeats, she said that a horse can hear a person's heartbeat from 4 feet away. The horses have a way of reacting to a person's anxiety and temperament and amazingly enough it often works vice versa.

They have about a dozen therapy horses and there is no charge to Veterans and their families. They have applied for and received a grant through the VA Adaptive Sports Program, which only covers about 1/3 of their budget. These services are not covered by insurance yet, but they are working on trying to get that changed.

They have a multi-use facility, and some people pay to board their horses there and use the facility for training.

With the work they have done with our local Veterans, the Food Truck Battle Committee presented Paul with a check for \$5,100. For more information go to [www.horssspiritshealing.org](http://www.horssspiritshealing.org).