

B.E.C.O.N
November 4, 2022

*Come to breakfast and take a chance at winning the
raffle!! Only \$1 to play.*

Guests: The only guest was our presenter, Tom Smith.

Announcements:

1. Dina mentioned that volunteers are needed for the Festival of Trees along with items for the tree.
 - a. Bring your items to donate to the BEC Tree by next Friday or make arrangements with Dina to get those items. This year's theme is "Under the Billings City Lights." So please bring Billings related items or give Dina cash and she will do the shopping.
 - b. There are many volunteer opportunities for the actual event. To sign up go to Sign Up Genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49ADAE2EA7FCC52-festival>
 - c. Bill Kennedy said there are still some sponsorship opportunities, so let him know if you're interested in being a sponsor.
2. Up coming events are on the website. The comedy event is closed, but Dream Chasers – Supercross is 11/12 and Chase Hawks is 12/17. That will close out the year.
3. Bill mentioned the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Lockwood Auditorium on November 11 at 10am. The actual ceremony will start at 11.
4. *On November 12, 2022, from 9-1pm all ACE Hardware stores will have kids selling wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program. They need to sell 1150 wreaths, so get out and get yours! They are \$15/wreath and the money will go to the National Cemetery where wreaths will adorn the graves of the fallen...*
5. Don't forget to go to any Ace Hardware store on 11/12 to purchase a wreath for Wreaths Across America. These wreaths will go on the graves at the National Cemetery.
6. MARK YOUR EVENT CALENDAR FOR 11/11 FROM 5PM – 8PM. BEC is hosting an open house for Leif & Tony. Please come and visit with them about their wonderful opportunity to serve Exchange in their new District and National positions.
7. Shirts are available by contacting Craig, if you haven't gotten yours already.

Speaker:

Tom Smith is a Marine Veteran and Certified Strategic Life Coach working with Veterans who have PTSD and other issues. Tom has been in Montana for 26 years. He's been a counselor and/or coach since 1998. He said that many of the 17 – 18 years who are going into the military are from unstable families. When these young people go into boot camp, the military works to re-wire their brains to prepare them for service, or for combat. They become property of the U.S. Government and become used to being told what to do.

Many of these young Veterans get out of service and are unsure of how to function in civilian life. Since they may have had a dysfunctional family life prior to military service that may make things even harder. Tom spoke very passionately about his ability to relate to these Veterans and get them to open up for assistance that they really need. Veterans who are discharged for anything other than honorable, are

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not eligible for benefits from the VA and don't realize there are other organizations who will help. That is where Tom works with Veterans Inc. and other organization to help. He advertised his YouTube video multiple times, which he said explains his counseling process with Veterans.