

BECON 4/7/2023

It's a beautiful day for a breakfast meeting! April is Prevention of Child Abuse month, so be sure to wear your BLUE every monday!!

Our invocation today was given by Dave Staton, as we prayed for our own Jerry Voto and his wife Joey, and for their late daughter Gerri's family. Please continue to hold them up in prayer during this difficult time.

Guests:

We had a lot of guests this morning, it was so great to see! (DISCLAIMER: It was so full this morning, the names were difficult to catch, so my apologies for any misspellings or mishearings) Here was this morning's 'guest' lineup:

Kelly Joki (Bryce Glenn)

Kevin Morrow (Jennifer Lackman)

Pete Fergusen (Steph Bond)

Connie Begger from Blue Sky Realty (Rob Lowe)

Nick Enslow - Boys & Girls Club (speaker)

Annie Hasiak - Boys & Girls Club (speaker)

Announcements:

-Secretary Shannon Johnson announced that we received our National Service Award patch along with our National Day of Service Award patch. Cavin and Shannon had a treasure hunt right within our own podium and found a lot of goodies, along with some other patches that we had. Now, our club is in great standing with a total of 13 programs thus far entered for the Breakfast Exchange Club!

-Bill Kennedy had multiple announcements: The Family Tree Center celebrates Prevention Month, and the annual Pinwheel event will be held next Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 11:30am on the Courthouse lawn. The Mayor and the Commission will be there as speakers, so please show your support in attendance.

-Also, on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 6-8pm, the Family Tree Nurturing Center is having an Open House. Come for a tour and listen to a guest speaker.

-On April 17th, the Exchange Clubs' Meadowlark Brewery Mash Up Community Night is being held from 5-8pm. Bring friends as this doubles as our social and a portion of the beer sales will go to the Family Tree. Be ready to bid on some silent auction items!

-Southside Task Force is hosting an Easter egg hunt at 12pm.

-Bill Schwarzkoph announced they have a need for poker dealers for Gratitude in Action. Contact Bill if you would like to participate.

-Craig Burke announced we have PBR on the 14, 15, 16 of April. The website closes today. The Outlaws is at the end of the month. MSUB Senior Day Softball event we are serving. Bruce Glennie brought up that we have Big Air Bash Saturday evening, but there was a scheduling

oversight, and the breakfast attendees were asked to volunteer. Special thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer. This is exactly what makes this club so special!! Here are your volunteer heroes for this weekend: Tim Crowley, Mike Songer, Rod and Cindy Hessler, Stephanie and Rob Romsa, Bryce and Leslie Glenn, Steph Bond, Brett (Pete) Foster, Sheila Wilson, John Bennett. You are all ROCKSTARS!!!

Membership:

Rob Lowe got his new member certificate and pin today.

Our illustrious guests led us to breakfast that I am happy to tell you included BACON!!! Thanks to the Veterans at the American Legion post for cooking for us this morning.

Speaker:

Our speakers were from the Boys & Girls Club. Nick Enslow and Annie Hasiak spoke about the club and its programs. They have not spoken to our group since before the sickness that shall no longer be named, so they came to give us an update. Annie is our past-president Cory Hasiak's older sister, and she told us about the infamous cupcake incident of '82, so if you are looking to get a great roast in on Cory, call her up to hear the story!



Nick kicked it off with a run down of what happened with the club in the last three years as they had to pivot (p.d.q.) and make alacritous changes in an even faster changing world. They had to change their club attendance to only the homeless population, and reduced the locations to their main clubhouse which consisted of Orchard and Riverside kids. Then they created micro-sites to open slowly and even those were limited to Newman, Orchard, Ponderosa middle schools. One of the things they experienced was that with a smaller number of children, they were able to make an even bigger impact on those kids.

They had about 350 kids every afternoon and were able to make strong connections and deepened relationships with the families. They worked with the high school liaisons to make sure they were reaching the kids they needed to reach. They discovered that since the 'illness that shall no longer be named' kids were having greater needs with social and emotional wellness. The needs of kids are different now, and they are focused on a more holistic approach to these needs and they work closely and specifically on social and emotional skills.

One idea that came out of this time as they were working with a Rocky Occupational Health student, was to create the Comfy (quiet) Corner where kids can go and get some peace, play with textures and tactile things to cope. They also have therapy dogs that come in and work with the kids too.

Their teen program has grown as well, and this is an impactful program that is now drawing in more than 20 students on a regular basis. Some of what this program does is to provide career readiness using Virtual Reality glasses so they can experience things like surgeries, and other hands-on experience (virtually) so they can get a sense for possible careers or fields they might want to enter as they progress in school.

This summer, they have 650 kids signed up and they will have their doors open a bit longer (7:30a-6pm) and they do field trips to keep the kids busy. They focus on building character and leadership in their activities.

The fees they collect from the families are less than 5% of their total budget, however. They have two locations that are 21st Century Learning Institutions which means they get federal funding to help. They also have private donations, and grants; nothing they collect to help with their budget becomes more than 15% of the total budget. They also have an endowment foundation that they collect a small portion of a 5-year average of interest each year that helps too. They are looking to add a volunteer coordinator in the future, but currently are using mainly internships from the colleges to fulfill that need.

Their two big events each year are their Dinner/Auction event that they just had, and a golf tournament. So if you are looking for a good cause or a way to give back, check those out and show some support.