

There's BACON in the **BECON!!!** 4/28/2023

Dave Staton had the invocation this morning and prayed for the Arnie Bejot family as they celebrate Arnie's life. RIP Arnie.

**If you wish to attend Arnie's funeral services, they will be held at Harvest Church at 2pm today.**

**Guests:**

Stephanie Brazil is back again with Rob Romsa  
Dewey is Desiree Bond's boyfriend, and he works at St. Johns

**Speaker:**

Tony Sandoval with Tumbleweed

**Announcements:**

Secretary Shannon Johnson announced that we received our 17th program patch for Americanism this morning at breakfast. And we're not done for this year! We have a new member - Kellie Joki was voted in by the board via email to become a member, and she is already working on her R-serve. She is sponsored by Bryce Glen and works at the Mental Health Center. Welcome Kellie!

President Elect Craig Burke announced that tomorrow night is the Outlaws football game, and Sunday is the Softball event at MSUB. Next weekend there will be Ian Munisck at the Metra on the 4th, and baseball at Dehler park for MSUB on the 5th. NOTE: If you are a new member and you need a shirt, they will now be located in the main booth at the Metra, so you will need to volunteer for an event and pick your shirt up there.

District Convention is NEXT WEEKEND (May 4-6) in Anaconda. It is not too late to go. The club can pay for a member's room and convention cost. If you are interested, please connect with Tony Parish or Dina Harmon.

The membership took the 3rd vote this morning on the Veterans Matter grant for \$25k. These funds are from the Food Truck Battle from last year, and the FTB committee and Grants Committee both voted to give the funds over the usual \$7,500 to this veteran group. The board approved this and voted to take it to membership for 3 votes. The vote this morning was IN FAVOR of granting Veterans Matter the \$25k.

Our guests led us to breakfast where the BACON flowed like wine...

**Our speaker today was Tony Sandoval who works with Tumbleweed** - a runaway teen/youth center. Tumbleweed helps at-risk homeless and runaway youth that are in crisis or are runaways. They have a drop-in center for ages 14-25 where they can come in and get

resources such as food boxes from the pantry, utilize the computers to find a job or rent an apartment, or to even do laundry.

Tumbleweed helps youth to get their identification documentation such as Driver's Licenses. They will walk alongside one of their members as long as they are needed to help them get things in place for them to go out on their own and become self-sufficient.

Tumbleweed uses Access Diversion funds to help the youth to get housing. There is a Housing Coordinator that helps get them connected to the resources that are out there. They have a program called MIRA (sp?) and if they qualify for it, Tumbleweed can put them in a hotel for a period of up to 3 months and if they are working with Tumbleweed, they will help them get what they need to establish in their own place. There is something called an FYI voucher, or Foster Youth Independence where they are able to have a voucher to rent a place in the \$600-800 range.

Tony's program is the John H. Chavey Program, and he works specifically with Foster youth. They provide things such as cell phones and computers to help normalize the foster youth's experience going through school where they may not otherwise have the things that kids with parental involvement have. This helps them have a more positive experience. Some of the other things they do is teach budgeting to the teens, they work on emotional triggers and how to identify them, and they put together activities to enrich their foster care experience.

Tumbleweed currently serves approximately 50 people every day which is increased from last year's number of 30 per day. They have Trauma Informed Care and are trained in that to help them meet the youth where they are at. If a teen is suicidal, they get them a PAC eval at Billings Clinic. Tumbleweed is also considered a 'low barrier shelter' which means that a youth can come in drunk, high, hung over, etc. and they will help give them a safe place to recover, sleep or eat. Whatever they can do in that moment, is how Tumbleweed serves this demographic.

They have seen mostly young women as the victims of trafficking and this year so far have helped 2-3 that have escaped their traffickers and come to Tumbleweed for help. Tumbleweed is funded by donations and grants but Tony's program is funded through a nationwide grant.

Thank you Tony for speaking with us about Tumbleweed and all the great resources you provide to the youth in our community!!

Lucky winner of the raffle this morning was Pete...er...uh....Brett Foster!!! He is a few dollars richer this morning.

Have a brilliant and safe weekend!