

BECON
9/1/23

Happy September to everyone. Breakfast was a huge spread today with pancakes AND eggs AND sausage AND hashbrowns AND breakfast deserts AND yogurt AND fruit. That takes care of breakfast and lunch for me.

Guests

- Will Fruin – neighbor and guest of Tanya.
- Dallas Knight – guest of Shawn Perry
- Melissa Miller – guest of Stephanie Romsa and helper last week at the FTB.

Announcements

- Tanya Tweeten was very busy this morning with guests and announcements including announcing that the Social Committee is planning a cornhole tourney on September 23rd from 1-5 pm, to be held at Jerry Voto's house. Also, she announced that a few more beer servers are needed to volunteer for the Ales for Trails fundraiser next Friday (9/8) from 7-10 pm. Contact Tanya or Darryl Weber if interested.
- Dina announced that she needs two more people to work the Burn the Point beer pouring at the Metra (outside) tomorrow.
- Beverage Bingo discount cards for the United Way of Billings fundraiser are available for sale at half price – now \$25.
- The sign-up sheet for Dress A Child went around again today. This is being held on November 11 at 7 am at the west end Wal-Mart. Breakfast will follow.
- Rene thanked everyone for their hard work at the FTB. Early indications are that the take was at least, and probably more, than last year. It has also already been decided by the Committee that the event will be held at the same location next year. Next year's date is Aug 24th.
- A note from the Boys and Girls club was distributed thanking the club for our recent grant.

Speaker

Our own Dan Stetler was our speaker today and gave us the history of the American Legion, of which he is a member. Dan, donning his American Legion cap, which the members wear in their meeting, gave us a very detailed history of the Legion – highlights of which are listed below:

- The American Legion was founded in 1919 following WWI for the purpose of helping soldiers transition from military service to civilian life. Some of the founding members included Teddy Roosevelt Jr, Sgt. York (famous WWI sniper) and Crpl. Charles S. Pugh from MT. Subsequent famous members included numerous presidents, famous soldiers, and Hollywood types.

- The only criteria to become an American Legion member is being an honorably discharged member of the military.
- The four pillars on which American Legion operates is Americanism, Veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security and Children & Youth. Sounds kind of familiar . . .
- Each state and including DC, Puerto Rico, Mexico the Philippines and France, contain American Legion Districts, and within each district, Local Posts, with the Post numbers assigned chronologically according to their founding date. Billings, for instance, is Post 4. The Butte AL is the oldest in MT. MT has 11 districts with 118 Posts and 10,270 current members.
- Post 4's biggest fundraiser consists of the other half of our building – the American Legion Bar – and gun raffles.
- Many of us associate the AL with baseball, as youth baseball this was founded by the AL nearly 100 years ago. The American Legion also provides the AL Honor Guard for Veteran funerals and ceremonies.
- Highlights and milestones for the AL include:
 - Creation of the US Veterans Bureau, later to become the Veterans Administration
 - Creation of the GI Bill
 - Creation of a Flag Code
 - Boys State and later, Girls State
 - Creation of the American Heart Association & National Association for Mental Health
 - Creation of a National Emergency Fund that has, and is, being used to help fund emergency aid since the 1960s
 - A Halloween Safety Program
 - The Veterans Memorial Fund to help build the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC.
 - The Junior Shooting Sports National Training Center.

Dan highlighted numerous other items, all of which can be further investigated at their website: americanlegionbillings.com

Thanks and have a great weekend