

BECON  
1/5/24

Happy New Year!

There was good attendance at this morning's meeting. Maybe coming to breakfast is included in some member's New Year's resolutions?

### Guests

- Chris Azer (sp?) was the guest of Brian Hefner.
- Our Youth of the Year (YOY) were guests and our speakers this morning. They included Gillian Henning (Daleen & Pieter – parents); Sophie Hall (Amy & Richard); and Hank Jagodzinski (Tanya).

### Announcements

- First and foremost, as many of you saw via an email from Ed this week, we lost one our most respected and valued members between our last meeting of 2023 and now – Kevin Davis. Kevin had been a member since 1977 – wow. To put that in perspective, Craig mentioned this morning that this is the year he was born. Kevin was a long-time Chair of our Grants Committee, which is the delivery mechanism of our fund-raising efforts. He managed this task very diligently and thoughtfully, which we are all very grateful for and lucky to have. Kevin was a great guy – very well-liked by everyone and always a pleasure to be around. I think I echo everyone's feelings here in that he will be greatly missed. Craig asked that we keep his memory and his family in our prayers. Ed reported that plans for a service have not been set yet but will keep us all updated.
- The Club's belated Christmas party will take place on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Red Door Lounge – 6 pm – and will include appetizers, dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. There is a really good crowd already signed-up, so if you aren't on the list and want to join, please contact Tanya Doke Tweeten ASAP.
- Craig did a shout out for the Big Game – no, not the WA/Michigan game – the college game on Sunday - and allowed for some "Go Griz" calls to ring out. It's a bit of a tough pill to swallow for us Cat fans but we'll be rooting for Montana none the less. Good luck Griz!
- Trina White sent the Club a TY note for the Club's contribution to Tumbleweed in memory of Mary jane Osman, her mother, who passed away in November.
- Tony P announced an upcoming Super Big Match UP – Suds vs Supper – event, which is a food and beer pairing party to benefit the BEC Foundation endowment Fund. This will be held just ahead of the Superbowl on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Meadowlark Brewing. One of the fundraising items for this event, that was on hand this morning, is a game board with \$20 squares available for purchase. Several squares filled up this morning. There will be a 50% payout on this with the board available at breakfast between now and the event; and with more boards created if needed.

### Speakers

Again, our speakers were the YOY candidates from Billings Central High School. To get chosen for YOY scholarships, the candidates present papers on one of several topics created by National Exchange.

Winners and the local and District level winners move to the National competition with the ultimate winner presenting at the National Convention.

Here is a quick highlight from today's talks:

Sophie – chose the topic of the challenges she had to overcome to be successful. She outlined her difficulties making and maintaining friends, which was made even more difficult by several family moves to new towns and schools. Ultimately, she had to overcome her initial shyness by participating in extra-curricular activities and clubs and generally becoming more outgoing to link up with newfound friends, including her BFF – Gillian (see below). Sophie participates in soccer, speech and debate, Student Council, HOSA and volunteers at her church and the Billings Clinic. She would like to study nursing at one of numerous potential colleges she mentioned including MSU.

Gillian – who spoke on the same topic as Sophie, and who had a similar moving experience – all of which was taking place during COVID. Gillian's family actually moved to Billings from a foreign country (South Africa) and had to endure not only COVID but also having to live in a Billings hotel and Air BNB for several months before moving into their permanent house – which BTW, they didn't receive their furniture for another 9 months (COVID again). Through this experience, she learned to be resilient and adapt to new challenges and find her new BFF, Sophie. Gillian participates in swimming, HOSA, the Environmental Club and HACK Club. She wants to study pre-med and become a physical therapist.

Hank – spoke on the topic of what are key traits of leaders and how he uses that. He outlined his early foray into editing the school newspaper in Jr. High but was surprised to learn that Billings Central did not have a school newspaper. As such, it became his mission to start and maintain the BC Chronical both remotely (COVID) and again, live, and learned the leaderships traits of admitting self-fault and surrounding yourself with others with the same mission. He developed and practiced the leadership traits of listening and inspiring others to unlock their full potential. Hank is involved in Student Council, HOSA, the Environmental Club, speech and debate and plans to study pre-med at either Notre Dame or Georgetown Universities.

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The big raffle winner this morning was Sophie's dad Richard, who generously donated his winnings back to the club.

Have a great weekend!