

BECON  
1/12/24

A surprisingly nice crowd showed up this 15-below zero morning for a delicious breakfast of the normal fare plus crepes, which were a treat and very tasty.

The meeting opened, as usual, with a prayer – this time delivered by Dave Staton. Mentioned here because it was especially touching as he remembered Kevin Davis, our well-liked and respected fellow Club member who passed away over the holidays.

Kevin's funeral was held this morning and was a very nice service. I had to leave immediately after the church service and before the reception, but I can tell you that our Club was well represented. Occasions like this reaffirm my appreciation and gratitude for the members we are fortunate to have in our Club, like Kevin, and serve as a reminder to me of the things that are important in life including fellowship and friendship. Thank you BEC.

Today was a business meeting so please refer to the minutes of the Board meeting that Shannon sent out earlier – most of which won't be repeated here.

#### Announcements

- We had mentioned last week that the BEC Foundation has a Superbowl board running with \$20 squares for sale. Tony brought this in again and Trina updated us on the grand plan for the Foundation. This includes doing fundraisers like this and the upcoming February 8<sup>th</sup> beer pairing event, in an effort to double the \$500,000 in the Foundation's coffers. Successful fundraising efforts like this will hopefully allow the Foundation to grow to a self-sustaining level where granting can independently occur with little or no reliance on the money given to the Foundation from the Club's revenues. The beer pairing event will be held at Meadowlark Brewing and will be a \$100/person event.
- Tony reported that the Yellowstone District Convention will be held in Billings this year and they are hoping to bring in attorney and child sex abuse prevention advocate Erin Merrill as speaker. Ms. Merrill is a leader and sought after activist for this cause, which would dovetail perfectly with Exchange's national program of child abuse prevention. However, she doesn't come cheap, so fund raising efforts and partners are needed to sponsor her appearance. If you or someone or organization you know may be interested in this, please let Tony know.

Finally, Dave Weller was the lucky raffle winner this morning and he graciously donated his winnings back to the "hat" passed this morning to contribute the Magic City Fly Fisher's memorial scholarship being established in Kevin's name.

Have a great weekend!