

BECON
1/19/24

Another frosty morning but another good crowd for our second Youth of the Year (YOY) presentations from the Central High students.

Guests

- The only guests we had this morning were the YOY students and parents including:
 - Jack Milroy and father, Dave
 - Emma Bohrer and parents Amy and Troy
 - Evie Reck and mom Kristell



Jack, Emma & Evie

- The United Way will be featured at Holligans Monday night charity event (this coming Monday – 1/22/24) from 4 to 8 pm. This will include silent auction items like the several nice gift baskets donated to this fundraising event.
- As mentioned in the previous BECONs, the BEC Foundation are selling \$20 squares on the Superbowl board and are doing the Super Big Match UP – Suds vs Supper at Meadowlark Brewing on February 8, 2024. Only 50 tickets are being sold at \$100/person.
- Another thank you card from a senior who attended our Senior Lights Tour was distributed to the group.
- Unfortunately, Tony announced that our friend and fellow BEC member, Leif Welhaven, has resigned his Presidency at National. Please send Lief all your best wishes as this is a trying time for him.
- Not announced but heard through the grape vine, it appears that former BEC presidency, Mr. Glen “Huffy” Hufnagel, has rescinded his resignation from the club. Hooray for Glenn and welcome back!
- And also not noted was a great article in the paper today featuring Dave Staton’s granddaughter, Rae Smart, and her athletic accomplishments as a Junior b-ball player at Skyview High. The “bulldog” is helping that team become a Class AA powerhouse this year.

Speakers

Craig took a few minutes to explain the YOY process and scholarships available at the District and then National level for students who advance with the papers they submit – please visit the NEC website for further details. The subject of papers are based on one of a list of topics developed at National Exchange. The talks that the students give to us are not part of the scoring process but rather a way for us to put faces to names with regard to their papers and meet them and their parents.

Stephanie Bond is heading the YOY Committee (and doing a fine job I might add) and is our MC for these YOY presentations.

Jack Milroy

Jack spoke on the topic of the Biggest Challenge Facing his Generation Today which, for him, is climate change. Jack spoke about the impacts of climate change including the potential reduction in precipitation that increases the chances of wild fires including one that occurred locally and threatened his own residence. Jack believes the solution to climate change impacts starts with the need to promote energy sustainability and renewable energy, climate specific environmental policy and carbon credits. Not surprisingly, Jack plans to pursue environmental studies in college and is currently involved in HOSA (a healthcare focused club), MOSES? (a music focused club that provides music for midweek Church services), soccer and plays the piano.

Emma Bohrer

Emma spoke to another challenge facing her generation, that being the lack of mental health resources at school. Emma cited that 4 in 10 students feel they have poor mental health, one in five have considered suicide and one in 10 have attempted suicide. Much of the anxiety, depression and eating disorders caused by mental health issues stem from bullying events at school. She stressed that schools need to provide more mental health funding, education, a more supportive environment and a generally safer school environment to help reduce these mental health issues. At Central, Emma plays volleyball, is in MOSES, Student Council, is a National Honor Society member and does choir.

Evie Reck

Just when I thought it might not happen, Evie came through with a talk on the classic topic of “In an Often Negative World, How Do You Maintain Your Moral Compass.” Her talk focused on how she was able to cope with a serious traumatic brain injury that severely injured her brother in a skiing accident. Luckily, her brother has since recovered to close to 100% and she credits prayer, reading the bible and meditating as the things she used to get through this event and to guide her moral compass. Evie focuses on trying to set good examples and encourage her peers and tries to focus on the positives. Evie is also in HOSA, the band at Central, and plays the piano. She intends to study accounting in college.

In an eerie prediction of the raffle winner, Craig correctly forecasted that whoever bought tickets right after him would win the prize. And sure enough, Shawnee did just that with her last-minute purchase. Luck be a lady. Have a great weekend!