

B.E.C.O.N
March 22, 2024

Thanks Dina for leading the meeting this morning in Craig's absence.

Breakfast was eggs, hashbrowns, bacon & sausage, with yummy pastries, yogurt and fruit. THANKS SO MUCH TO THE LEGION CREW.

Thanks to Dave Statton for the prayer, since Bill Kennedy was not there.

Guests & Announcements:

Lynn Mullowney Cabrera from Eagle Mount.

Mark with the Salvation Army. There was confusion about the dates, which is why he wasn't here last week. It was his error on the date and he sincerely apologized. He's going to have some of the local officers come to speak with us more, at a later date. He thanked Exchange for all the support that we give. The money that is raised stays here in the local community.

The vote to increase the dues passed. The increase will be on the next dues statement.

Dina reminded everyone about the district convention May 3rd and 4th. Please search for the email that Dina has sent out with the application attached. Dina also said that the club has budgeted for a few people to go, so if you need assistance with the cost please reach out to Ed. There was a question about sponsorships for the convention. Dina said the lunch and Social Night are sponsored. Some for speakers are sponsored. Overall, we're about ½ way there.

Board nominations: Silent – previously nominated: Jeff Roach - accepted, Jesse McKee - accepted, Mike Songer nominated, but not accepted yet.

President elect – Tony nominated Tanya and she accepted. Kim nominated Trina White and she accepted. Previously Shawnee and she has accepted.

Previously nominated:

Secretary – Bruce nominated Shannon and she accepted.

Foundation Board – 2 positions open – Dave Statton nominated Bill Kennedy and he accepted.

April 4th at Meadowlark is the District all club social.

Speaker:

Lynn thanked the Club for the impact that we've made on the entire community. Eagle Mount started in Billings 36 years ago. It started out helping people with disabilities ski and it's expanded into multiple sporting opportunities. There are students all the way from WY that come up to participate. Over 300 participants from 3 – 93 yrs. Lonnie who is 93 years old had a reaction to Covid, which left her body unable to function like it used to. They helped her ski this winter on a sit-down piece of equipment.

Individuals on hospice have gotten one more chance on the mountain. In addition to the adaptive ski program, they have a summer day camp for children with disabilities, some of which are complex. The camp serves 100 individuals from 3 on up. There is no age limit, because even a 60-year-old with disabilities needs someplace to spend their day. These camps run 11 weeks throughout the summer.

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These camps range from art/crafts along with the outdoor activities. The help from Eagle Mount can be life changing for some individuals. In addition to camps, they have field trips – bowling, cooking (the whole process – cooking, cleaning, setting the table, etc.) These opportunities also allow for social interaction, adventure and a sense of belonging. They went on a field trip recently to the Exotic Pet Store, Batting cages in the Mall then on to dodge ball.

They know that any time their participants are with them at Eagle Mount, the caregiver is getting respite. This is another way to help prevent child & Veteran abuse.

Healthy Connections is another program they have in conjunction with the VA. An amputee was able to ski with the Eagle Mount and she took that back to the VA. Operation 2nd chance is another org. that allows for opportunities for Veterans.

What makes Eagle Mount possible are the volunteers. They have volunteers from 12 years and up. These volunteer opportunities have impacted people's career paths. There was one young lady, that volunteered with Eagle Mount, who became a Pediatric Physical Therapist. For some of the volunteers, it helps them to overcome social anxiety.

Eagle Mount - For a Season, for a Region, for a lifetime.

Q: Their annual budget of \$750,000 is raised via ¼ program fees (for those who can afford it) , ¼ from grants, ¼ events and ¼ from individuals and businesses

Thank- you notes were passed around from the following:

Thanks from Levi Love for our support for the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Thanks from Sarah Spinr (?) again for the support for the Freedoms Foundation at Valey Forge.

The Family Support Network Invite – Open House April 25th 4pm – 6pm.