

BECON 4/5/24 -

“The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children.”

-Nelson Mandela

The meeting started out strong today with an invocation by Teal Kaufman. I'm Shannon J your current secretary, and I'll be your host through this BECON for the whole month of April! (Lucky dogs) This episode is coming to you with BACON in the BECON!

Guests:

Our guest and speaker today was Shawn Byrne from the Family Support Network introduced by our own Stacy Dreessen.

Announcements:

April is Child Abuse Prevention month which means that you can show your support every Monday in April by wearing BLUE. See attached pics of the flyers that have all the details about what the Family Tree Nurturing Center is up to this month.

-The pinwheel ceremony on the courthouse lawn is Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 6pm-8pm.

-Parenting Classes are being offered as well, so check out the flier for details on that.

****Stacy asked for EVERYONE COMING TO THE LAST FRIDAY BREAKFAST IN APRIL to WEAR BLUE so she can get a picture of how great we are at supporting our CAP and the cause as a whole.**

There will be a memorial service for Lanny Lucara's granddaughter today at 4pm at the DoubleTree hotel. ****Lanny and Lisa, our hearts and prayers continue to stay with you and your entire family through this time.**

Before releasing the hounds to breakfast, Craig asked those who are up for election to give a short speech about why the membership should vote for them. Those are as follows:

Pres Elect

1. Shawnee Krauszer (unopposed)

Secretary

1. Shannon Johnson (Your ONLY choice for Secretary) *wink

Board of Directors (3 spots)

1. Jesse McKee
2. Jeff Roach
3. Mike Songer
4. Bruce Jensen
5. Whitney Griffin

Foundation Board (2 spots)

1. Bill Kennedy
2. Trina White
3. Tanya Tweeten

*Stephanie Romsa asked if Craig could give a run down of who the current board members are, and how long they've been in the club, so the membership knows the range of tenure and newer members we have representing the board. I have put those below for your information prior to voting.

Current Board Members	Date Joined Club	Term (2-yr. terms)
Maria Rivera	2021	Coming off
Bruce Jensen	1796 (1995)	Coming off +up for re-election
Rob Romsa	2017	Coming off
Chuck Rutherford	2013	1 yr. Remaining
Stacy Dreessen	2011	1 yr. Remaining
Teal Kaufman	2017	1 yr. Remaining

****Craig will be sending out ELECTRONIC BALLOTS so be watching your emails!!!**

As those speeches wrapped, Craig asked our guest to lead us to breakfast, and yes, you guessed it.....there was BACON!!!

While the breakfast club was eating their victuals, our guest speaker, Shawn Byrne was introduced by Stacy.

Shawn Byrne with the Family Support Network (FSN) (<https://www.mtfamilysupport.org/>)

Shawn discussed how he was going to speak to us today about Transformation vs. Transactions, and then about the FSN. Shawn is the Past Executive Director and has spent his career (41 years) in the field managing FSN that includes Mental health services, Therapy, Telehealth, parenting classes, as well as sitting on various boards to provide expertise from his years of service of serving children and families.

The Vision of FSN is: In partnership with others, for every Montana child, a family home free of abuse and neglect. Shawn discussed being in collaboration with the community and with groups like the Breakfast Exchange Club to support this great work. In his current position, Shawn has worked through a transition out of leadership into support for the next generation to come through with fresh eyes and fresh ideas, and for him to mentor while allowing those beginning their careers to innovate.

Shawn is a current board member for the National Standards Task Force which he was nominated to chair by Harvard University. This group is responsible for coming up with new ways to create standards that are effective in the realm of child welfare. And change is needed. In a world full of transactions, his goal is to have those children and families experience transformation WITH someone for lasting change.

As Shawn shared in vulnerability, his struggles with loss of empathy over such a long career in this particular field, as well as health issues caused by anxiety (on top of anxiety), he knew he needed to step out of the way to allow the youth to come in and lead.

Our club granted the FSN \$3k, and these dollars have allowed them to offer training opportunities for those youth. He thanked the club for giving hope to children and their families.

Brett Foster was the winner of the cash raffle this morning!