

Here is the BECON for January 31st, 2025.

Today we had Blake Fuhriman from the Veterans Navigation Network (VNN) in to give us an update on VNN.

Announcements:

MetraPark has decided to have the upcoming Harlem Globetrotters game be a non-alcoholic event. So, we will not be scheduling anyone.

Shawnee thanked everyone who donated socks to be donated to local organizations.

Super Bowl board - \$20 per square. The Foundation is running this board once again. Please let Tony Parish know if you would like a square or more. There was a good sized line at this morning's meeting. So get them while the gittin' is good.

Blake Fuhriman gave us a short talk on the VNN. Here are some main points and information on 2 upcoming events.

VNN was born 6 years ago through his own experiences adjusting to life after the military and especially once coming home from a deployment.

VNN is an advocacy group for veterans when they are returning to civilian life. They work to connect them with their benefits and organize them

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Only 50% of veterans use the VA. They have heard horror stories, don't qualify or don't know they qualify. This is where VNN steps in to assist and fill the gaps.

Blake said it is best if they can be there to help just before the service member is discharged. It seems one of the biggest benefits is having someone to talk to. The biggest loss is the loss of camaraderie.

There are 2 events coming up in the middle of February that Blake wanted us to know about. I attached information on each to this email.

1. Protector's Summit, February 14th, 8am to 5pm at Billings Hotel and Convention Center
2. Veteran Resource Fair, February 15th, 10am to 2pm at Billings Hotel and Convention Center

Blake also wanted to tell us that they feel the BEC has been a large part of their group. In part of this announcement he gave a Challenge Coin to Rene' Critelli on behalf of the club.

Oh and Bob Dalrymple won the pot (again). At least it seems like he wins it a lot.

Thanks for your service everyone.

Dave