

Here is the BECON for 12/5/2025

We had a nice breakfast with breakfast burritos and biscuits and gravy. Tasted great.

Guest: The only guest was our speaker, Melanie Schwarz.

Announcements:

The Festival of Trees Gala was on Thursday 12/4. We had several members in attendance and by all reports had a nice time. We were the only area Exchange club to not have a tree in this year's festival. Shawnee vowed to not let that happen again. (Or something like that). We did raise \$1400 at the recent Cat-Griz pancake breakfast for the Family Tree Nurturing Center. That is more than our trees have raised in recent years so it looks like a wash to me.

Senior Lights Tour: Brynn Schwarz gave us a follow up report on the tour. It was Beautiful. There were around 100 seniors and we used 2 buses. There were no issues. Jeff Roach and Lynn Harper helped out on the tour this year. Thank you to all involved.

Wreaths across America. This is scheduled for 12/13 at 10am. It will be held at the National Cemetery in Laurel. If you want to come out to help lay wreaths please do so.

Hoodie for Heroes. There is a celebration of hitting their fund raising goal on 12/11 @ Camelot Ranch. We did have a couple of spots available please let Shawnee know if you would like to go. It may already be full by this writing though.

Chase Hawks Rodeo. This event is on the website. Please go into the website and mark your availability.

Tony Parish told us that he requested more than \$20,000 from Montana 250. These funds will be used to purchase flags for our (2) fields of Flags next year to mark the 250th anniversary of the USA.

The CAT-Griz board for the Foundation went great. There were 4 winners and we made some money for the Foundation. Trina said that this spring we should be able to grant \$18k to \$30k. The board will keep us informed as they go forward.

SOCIAL - mark your calendars for January 24th for our after Christmas, Christmas Party. It will be at the Petroleum Club, and it looks like it will be a white theme (like a Snowball). I am sure we will get more information.

SPEAKER

Our speaker today was Melanie Schwarz. You guessed it, she is Brynn's wife (and my neighbor).

Melanie was here today to tell about a Coalition that her firm, Upstream Strategy Partners and other businesses or entities started called HOPE (Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Education. Attached is the flyer describing this coalition that Melanie handed out. I will let you review it. There is some great information on this flyer. You can even see some of my notes that I wrote on it.

Melanie told us that a group of businesses got together to fight for Prevention on several issues. This includes drug use, suicide, mental health, and domestic violence to name only a few. They want to educate people to work on prevention instead of just reacting. Melanie told us about a new synthetic drug named Kratom. This can be as addictive as an opioid and is in many Energy drinks.

If you want to get more involved you scan the Q code or visit <https://wkf.ms/4oiNniV>.

Until Friday, which is a business meeting. See you there.