

BECON April 17th 2026

Trina white offered the invocation this morning. Shannon Johnson has the BECON notes.

We had an absolutely full room for the first time in a long time! it was so wonderful to see. the morning was full of announcements, business, Awards, and a fantastic Community presentation. starting us off this morning were two students from West High who came to speak with us this morning. They were both very inspiring and shiny; it really instills a lot of faith in the future generation to see kids like these and they're involvement and to see how bright their future is. Craig Burke stood in for Shannon Christianson and awarded these two high school students with their check for coming to speak to our club.

We also had Ken Callahan here to present on the Vietnam War wall that is going to be on display this summer.

Our guests led us to breakfast and as everyone was eating because we had a full docket, we had the high school kids get up and give their talks first.

After they were done giving their speeches and while we were setting up the PowerPoint presentation for Ken, Tarra Grazley-Pfister stood up and offered to be the point person for the Memorial Day Parade. As a rotarian, Tarra knows how to access all the forms and to get us set up and would really love to organize this event for our club.

In addition, Shawnee had cards made from Jersey Mike's that are functioning as a fundraiser for our club. There are four boxes of cards that were brought to breakfast and the expectation is for everyone to grab a chunk of those and hand them out to everyone that they can. They will take the card into the Jersey Mike's location on Grand Avenue and they make a \$5 donation to our club and they get a sandwich. It is honestly a great deal and a really great opportunity for our club to make a few extra bucks. These cards will be going to PBR with us later as well for us to hand out to those who are getting their IDs checked. Misty Whitman and Tim Crowley were handing them out like hotcakes on Friday evening.

Anyone who still does not have a vendor card for working at the Metra needs to see either Shannon Johnson or Mike Fleming to secure your card for future volunteer events.

Shannon also asked if there were any more nominations to be given for president-elect or any other position for the next term. Wade Austin nominated Tanner Critelli as president-elect. Tanner Critelli accepted the nomination. Trina White nominated Jeff Roach for the breakfast Exchange Club Foundation board. Jeff Roach also accepted the nomination.

There were also two checks given out to two different causes. Tanner Critelli awarded Hunter Jones a check to continue supporting him with his Montana Soldier Support boxes that he sends every year to those soldiers who serve overseas. Wade Austin got up to make a comment about how he was a recipient of one of those boxes and how precious and important something like that from home is to those who are serving overseas from his personal

experience. He urged everyone to reach out and support Hunter Jones in his endeavor. You can contact Hunter Jones at JONESH10@gmail.com, or call 406-794-7615.

Shannon Johnson awarded the second check in the amount of \$300 to Tim Crowley to present to the Free Store. They had filled out a grant request and asked for a mere \$300 to support their efforts in providing the community with free supplies. The ladies at the free store came a few months back to present to our club and explain how they operate their store and it really is a wonderful community organization who didn't ask for much at all but will be so very grateful for this gift. Tim Crowley thanked the club on their behalf as he accepted the check for them.

Our guest Ken Callahan came to talk about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall. While not the original speaker or creator of the slideshow, Ken did a really nice job of sharing with everyone about the good work that is being done throughout our community. Ken shared some facts about Vietnam such as: a total of 8.7 million us combat troops fought in the Vietnam War. Today, there are 58,281 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. He discussed how the Vietnam War was a deeply unpopular time at home in America and many of the returning service members faced indifference, lack of recognition, and difficulty reintegrating into civilian life (taken directly from the slideshow presented). It is called The Wall That Heals and it is a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial replica and mobile Education Center.

The schedule of events begins on June 30th with a motorcycle escort to its location which will be at Will James Middle School. It will be open from July 1st through July 5th at 2:00 p.m. This exhibit will be open 24 hours a day and is free to the public. On July 2nd they will have an opening ceremony; there will be evening taps and even volunteer opportunities to assist with the exhibit if anyone feels so inclined. This wall is approximately 3/4 of the size of the permanent one and will have additional displays that include our Hometown Heroes, an In Memory Honor Roll, and a replica of the in-memory plaque and items left behind.

Anyone who would like further information please email Tim Bender at tim.mtlonegunman@gmail.com

We wrapped up breakfast with two drawings from the raffle. Tara Pfister won the bag of cash and Jeff Roach won the bottle of booze donated by Corey Hasiak (who consequently had no clue what was inside the bottle but knew it was from his private reserve and wanted to part with it).