

BECON 4/24/2026

Trina White had the invocation this morning and Shannon Johnson has the BECON notes.

Today was the business meeting as it had to be moved from last Friday to this Friday due to our high school students and regular speaker presentation. So there were no guests this morning at breakfast.

Shawnee kicked off the meeting with the announcement that Bill Kennedy was nominated for a Lifetime Achievement Award for Family Tree Nurturing Center. She asked Bill to come up and say a few words. Bill came up and discussed the Diamond X pint night on Monday where 20% of the proceeds from that evening will go directly to the Family Tree Nurturing Center. There will also be a silent auction. On the 30th and the 1st of May they will match funds for Yellowstone Valley Gives. This will go towards their child care and after school program.

Next, Shawnee opened the discussion for elections which started with Jim Critelli standing up and playing a voice memo from Tanner Critelli discussing why he believes he would make a great president-elect. And while he is the only candidate for president-elect it was really nice to hear Tanner's goals over the next year or two as he steps into this new role.

Shawnee spoke with Tanya and relayed the information that she is willing to be secretary again for next fiscal year. Shawnee then she asked Ed why he would make a good treasurer. (Insert gut laugh here). Ed replied, " I still like it. " This obviously is a very important element to holding an executive position within the board.

Then Shawnee had any of the board members that were nominated and present at breakfast to stand and give a few statements as to why they feel they should serve on the board. Greg McManus stood up and said that he was running on the premise of getting rid of daylight savings time. (I think he might have won just by making this statement alone.) Mike Songer Stood up and stated that he had now been a member for 3 years and that he was encouraged in the beginning to get involved in the Committees which he has; he has participated in the food truck battle committee and many others in that time. He would like to continue serving so he believes that this would be a good next-step for him. Misty Whitman asked Shannon Johnson to stand and give her statement to the membership. Misty was serving the community at the Special Olympics today which she does every year. She was a founding member of the Laurel Exchange Club and served on the board most of the time she was a member of that club. She was treasurer for 2 years and also has served on the board for West End Rotary Club for 2 years. She is very passionate about our club and would like to continue to be an asset and help lead and guide decisions. Jim Forsyth was also asked to stand and speak and he echoed what Greg McManus stated about daylight savings time. Jim has been in the club for a little over a year.

Shawnee asked Trina white to speak on behalf of Melissa Kibler for her nomination for the foundation board. Trina gave a few comments about how Melissa volunteers quite a bit but just

has not been able to make morning breakfasts due to work. Melissa currently works for Opportunity Bank and would be an asset to the foundation board. Jim Roach stood up to give his comments about being nominated for the foundation board and he is just finishing up as Optimist Club president and feels that he now has time to serve on this board and certainly has both professional and volunteer experience to do so. Nate Allie also stood to give his comments about being nominated to serve on the foundation board. He is willing to serve if voted in and shows up when he is needed and volunteers often.

Ballots were being handed out as Mike Songer stood up to announce that the annual Bejot Memorial Golf tournament would be held on July 17th, 2026. Mike passed around the sign-up sheet for golfing in that tournament. As a reminder there will not be breakfast that Friday morning.

Shawnee passed around paper applications from Renee for the local convention that will be held for exchange here in Billings on June 5th and 6th. Everyone needs to try and sign up and attend this convention to really have a good turnout from our local clubs. There is a QR code on the application page; online registration is preferred so please scan that QR code to register and it is quick and easy to do that way. otherwise fill out the paper application because the cost increases after April 30th.

Shawnee got into the board meeting minute notes after breakfast. She read the secretary's update included in the board meeting minutes that were sent out by Shannon Johnson. Ed stood up to give his report and asked every member who might have dues that they owe currently to please get them paid as quickly as possible to keep the members account whole and complete. Letters will be going out for those who are two quarters or more in arrears.

President-elect Shannon Johnson stood to give an update about the in-person Responsible Alcohol Serving class that was held on April 7th, the Beer Captain meeting that was held on the 16th of April, and to announce that the only event that we have left for this fiscal year is Matt Rife the comedian, which will be on June 14th. If anyone still needs vendor cards before they serve at the Metra please see Shannon or Mike Fleming to get your vendor card so that you have identification when you come to volunteer. Also if you are a current beer captain, Shannon purchased lanyards with plastic card holders on them so you can put your beer Captain badge in them.

A comment was made from the group this morning about how anyone that has a disability and cannot walk long distances may not be able to serve at the Metra very easily anymore with all of the security changes going on. Since we are supposed to enter through the lower doors, anywhere there is to park in that area makes it a really long distance for someone who cannot walk that far. This is a concern that has been brought up considering the strict nature of parking at the PBR event.

Mike Fleming stood up to give an update on our fundraising for our year to date. He stated that we currently are sitting at \$271,563 which puts us down compared to last year at this time. PBR

brought in over \$54k so that was an encouraging result to our most recent event. Mike went on to say that beginning in July we have two back-to-back concerts, then we jump into August where we will have Montana Fair, the Air Show, and Food Truck Battle in three consecutive weekends, so we should be able to kick off our new fiscal year strong. In October we will have the Nile and the Chicago concert which hopefully will be good turnouts for both of those events. When a member of the club asked about why we don't seem to be making very much money as compared to prior years, Mike's response was, "We got screwed by Don Jones, who is an asshole."

And on that very poignant note, it was announced that Mike Fleming has announced Carol's (and Mike's) retirement by the end of this year. It has been discussed to have Bruce Jensen and Maria Rivera split the role of business manager, however due to the fact that it is a paid position, the club has to open it up for anyone in the club to throw their proverbial hat in the ring. If that is you please send your current curriculum vitae (resume) to Shawnee and the board.

Shawnee also covered Leif's visit to the board. Please see the notes from the minutes that were sent out by Shannon Johnson as well as Leif's letter to the membership to see what was shared.

Committee Reports

Shannon Johnson had the website committee update. The board has officially voted to use Wild Apricot as our hosting site upon which the website committee will build the new website. It has greater functionality including text message notification, email communication templates, invoicing and financial capabilities to integrate directly to QuickBooks. All of these things serve our club with ease and with less application plugins. The website will conservatively take about a month or just over that to complete the initial phase. The goal is to have the website functioning enough so that we can practice with the Matt Rife event. There will be training sessions held so that everyone knows how to operate the new website. Shannon will work on recording a video for training and the committee will do their best to have training documents available as well. If anyone would like to serve on the website committee there is plenty of room for more brains as we navigate the design process of the website portion. This will allow more room for creativity and control so that we can offer a more interactive website for both our membership and the public.

Tarra Pfister was called up to comment about the Memorial Day Parade that she will be spearheading for our club. Tarra will register our club for the parade and we are going to need every person to come and carry a flag to represent our club that possibly can. John Broughton will be pulling our trailer and Lanny will be recruiting the Special and Capable Club to walk and hand out flags in the parade as well. Let's make sure that a large group of us join them and really show up in full force for this patriotic event. This is the second year of the Memorial Day Parade put on by the Rotary Club. This parade will be held on Saturday May 23rd - more information to follow as far as show up time and participation.