

CHICAGOLAND TOYS FOR TOTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. MEETING DETAILS

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Rhine VFW

II. ATTENDEES

Attendees:

Scott Rehak #1935, Sharon Choate #1798, Richard Link #1853, Jeannette Roberts #2123, Bruce Weaver #843, Kelly Doherty #1759, Shelby Sullivan #1707, Thunder Rathbun-Cakos #2060, Sandy Scheel #491

Guests/General Members in Attendance:

Jeff Simmons #2029, Ashley Rosch (Blake Lamb), Jack Voss #415, Santiago Castillo #2112, Nicole Rehak #2028, Tom Mantel #549

III. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Thunder Rathbun-Cakos #2060. Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Scott Rehak #1935
 - Do not have to sign actual statements from January and February Statements.
 - Bring single sign off sheet to monthly meeting and each Board Member will sign at that time.
 - Approval of February minutes. All approve say I and raise hands. All agreed.
 - Emails: Jack Voss' email address is attached to the info email address. Need to have that changed/updated.
 - Scott is receiving emails for product still. Need to remove the forward to receive these emails.
 - Roy Miller is creating a Go Daddy Help Deks
 - When replying to any/all emails make sure to use your @TFT email address and not personal email addresses.
 - Log into Go Daddy or Outlook to access @TFT mailbox and pull up TFT Board email

- * V. MOTION TO CLOSE OLD BUSINESS. Made at 7:20pm by Scott Rehak #1935. 2nd by Kelly Doherty #1759

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- President: Scott Rehak #1935
 - Received \$1,000 check from Jolene #1851 from Northside from Dugout Bar. Donation was for no particular reason. Jeannette to send Thank You letter.
 - Picked up mail:
 - Flood Brothers still sending paper invoices. Sandy Scheel to request them to be received electronically.
 - Received a couple letters requesting toys from families. Looks like they got lost and redelivered.
 - Received \$20.00 check from Bright Funds.
 - Bruce received \$100 check from Bob Healy for money owed towards purchases of product.
 - Received marketing/sales catalog
 - Need to send thank you letters for all donations received \$100 or more.
 - Received \$25,000 check from Neal Tokowitz Trust. He passed and left it in their trust to TFT. Suggestions for handling:
 - Invest and be able to pull when needed. Not in a general bank account to easily pull and use.
 - Put in Short Term CD
 - Money market account with higher interest not the same interest as a general checking account and can be accessed sooner than a standard CD (Kelly Doherty)
 - Board agrees to invest, Sandy/Sharon to research best way.
 - Background checks completed? All done.
 - All email addresses and forwards working? All working.
 - Second for all Board Positions:
 - Thunder – Not yet. Currently working on it.
 - Kelly – Bill Naughton f#17 or Parade Coordinator. Ceclia Sayer #959 for Stationary Blocking.
 - Shelby – Asked Jack Voss #415, temporarily. He agreed.
 - Sharon & Scott – Tom Dertz will be second with Scott and Sharon backing each other up as needed.
 - Sandy – Did not have. Scott recommended Diane Pensack #2075 from Rhine VFW. Brought Diane in front of Board and presented with request, she agreed to be backup.
 - Jeannette – Nicole Rehak #2028
 - Bruce – Roy Miller #874
 - Alarm: Reached out to installation tech, has not received reply.
 - Cameras: Total \$900, all installed by Scott (10 total) inside and outside. Can be watched on phone app. All Board members need to have installed on phones.
 - Server: Create a server at the warehouse for all Board to access remotely. Be able to print all forms and download receipts, etc.

- Member gifts:
 - \$10 each last year
 - Suggested \$15 to \$20. All agreed don't need to spend that much on items.
 - Look into calendars with TFT pictures, listing all meeting dates, event dates, kickoff, etc. Jeannette to get pricing on small calendars with logos and pictures.
 - Jack Voss suggested tire pressure gauges. Bruce to get pricing on different options.
 - Include coupons with gift for flat dollar amount off merchandise on BB1.
- Warehouse Cleanup: Clean up and organize upstairs room in warehouse. All board to attend and help. Sunday, April 12th at 11:00am.
- Coloring Books: Scott checking on pricing to possibly get some printed
- Roberts Rule of Order Training: Sharon to look at pricing and dates for all Board members.
- Motoblot: 35th & Halsted. Rat Rod Motorcycle Street Rally. June 19th-20th. Possibly purchase Chamois to giveaway. Santiago Tattoo Shop.
 - Board members who are not working Freedom Run volunteer to pass these out on Saturday & Sunday.
- Whiskey Road: Battle of Bands event November 21st at Lyrick Theatre in Blue Island. Would like to present funds received as donation to TFT. Possibly make T-Shirts with bands & TFT for sale at event. Get \$ back on sales.
- Social Media: Get all dates out for meetings, Kick-off, Parade, etc out
 - Thunders Roads: Possible advertising several months prior to parade to get word out.
- Need Woods Coordinator: Sharon in charge of Front Gate. Cannot be responsible both.
 - How do we determine number of bikes in each tier?
 - How is it coordinated/communicated between Tiers?
 - Cook County needs a main contact for any/all questions and communications leading up to event and on day of event.
 - * ▪ Scott motioned to create a position that will inevitably be a Board position. Term will be 2 years. All Board raised hands and agreed upon creating position.
 - Position will be posted on website and Facebook asking for volunteer. Will be voted into position.
- Board Member Positions & Duties:
 - All Board members are to review their list of responsibilities. If do not understand the task or do not feel the task should be their responsibility it needs to be reviewed and next meeting and make a determination on the task.

- Add blank sheet to duties list to be able to add and modify responsibilities
 - Summer Picnic: Argon offered site free of charge (Carrie Bergstrom #2303 is contact), if we decide to have a picnic.
 - Summer Car Shows: Rich spoke of getting TFT involved in various car shows. In return possibly have car cubs volunteer to work parade and get their members to sign up as TFT members.
- Vice President: Sharon Choate #1798
 - Printing costs are getting too high. Recommended purchasing new color printer for the office for printing letters, certificates, etc. Keep price of new printer under \$1,000.
 - * ▪ Motion to purchase made by Sharon #1798, 2nd by Jeannette Roberts #2123. All board agreed.
 - Was told by Gwen Fox & Tom Dertz that the toy area of the warehouse will be cleaned up and organized on the shelves in May. Will be able to park BB1 back in at that time.
 - Tornado victims: Questioned if we wanted to ship some old product and toys for those in Kankakee.
 - Kelly went and is going with more donations. Has contact with someone from the Lutheran Church a couple towns over. She will give Sharon's info to her contact.
 - * ▪ Motion to send items to flood victims – All board agreed
 - Bruce will be checking about donations for Indiana also.
- Secretary: Jeannette Roberts #2123
 - Need to schedule meeting dates with Rich for Northside. Need to provide Southside dates to him and then can work on.
 - Going to begin permit process now and not wait. Work with Sharon to go over process.
- Treasurer: Sandy Scheel #491
 - Purchases by board: needs copies or pictures of receipts emailed to her at treasurer email address within 5 days of purchase.
 - February Statement: Sent out. No missing receipts and nothing unusual for the month. General Account \$36,609.05, Product \$11,579.55 before 25k check being deposited. Approval for February statement, all board approved by raising hands. Will not be sending out sheet for signing. Will create separate sign off sheet not on actual statement.
 - January Statement: Was missing two invoices/receipts. Has received and is now included and updated.
 - Utility bills: Had issue getting them online. Has been corrected and now has all bills. Will be pulling from online or having emailed.
 - Rent: Will be setup as autopay, now has e-pay arranged.
 - Taxes: Has meeting with Tara, she has been sent all paperwork through December and coordinating on entering all on the system. Figuring out how

to organize & categorize within new system as of this fiscal year, May 2025.
We may not be able to see the receipts.

- Sargeant at Arms: Thunder Rathbun-Cakos #2060
 - Met with Matt Kyscki to discuss position and volunteers that worked with him. Did not have a list but gave suggestions to contact.
 - Have all cones and items in storage at Rhine VFW. He will go through and inventory
 - Need to purchase new lights
 - Prayer: Although not Christian, his culture has own religion and beliefs but would like to lead the prayer for the 1st general meeting. All board agreed/approved.
 - Sharon has 3 lists of security staff and will provide to him to contact.
 - Jeannette to compile list of contact names and numbers for security staff
 - Need to contact Matt and get front gate key for the woods.
 - Need someone from security to be with product and sales on day of parade.

- Northside Coordinator: Richard Link #1853
 - Has selected Maynard Marsh #994 as 2nd for position
 - Command center should not be on his list of responsibilities. Should be assigned to Kelly but all details communicated to him.
 - Still needs to go to the police stations.
 - Might have to reroute parade. We make the route depending on permit with the city.
 - New end lot: Needs to get sized and possibly redesign. Looks larger. Needs to confirm where entering.
 - He will provide list of contacts for day of event.
 - Professional Movers: Due to weather and size of parade was not able to get as much recognition to get new business.
 - Blocking: Had a lot more police blocking this past parade, asked if we need more stationary blockers. Kelly said yes, will provide locations where needed.
 - Sign In: Ned to have all volunteers/members sign in day of parade. Need sign in sheet. Do not need to be active members, anyone can volunteer. Do we need additional security or board members on Northside to help police/monitor functions and volunteers at end of parade? Had an issue previous year with volunteers/members disputing who was in charge/responsible for specific tasks and made decisions.
 - Jeep Car Clubs: Would like to be part of end of parade in lot. Cannot have cars in that lot. Possibly have 1 vehicle present with name of club or sign to promote/acknowledge their presence/assistance. Need to discuss if this can be done and have one from each group/club.
 - Insurance does not cover cars in the parade.
 - Staging vehicles (Jeeps): Where can they be staged. Need to make signs stating motorcycles only, no vehicles.

- Memorial/Benefit Rides: Have been approached about TFT/BB1 being present and selling product. We cannot sell product at these events. Will be taking money away from their cause.
 - Possibly create raffle baskets to be donate for these using TFT products. Need to coordinate with Bruce.
- Getting information regarding a June event to possibly participate.
- Kelly Doherty: Parade Coordinator #1759
 - Main Roster: Requested we add positions, years, committees. In response, we have position column on sign in sheet and working on member year spreadsheet. Jeannette will provide to all board members as soon as able.
 - Flags: Have enough inventory.
 - Vests: Need more vests for non-member volunteers.
- Product: Bruce Weaver #843
 - Warehouse sale: April 11th, 12pm – 4pm
 - Posted on Facebook and Website with all sales items listed
 - Has full list of pins and dates available
 - Nicole created flyer with all items listed
 - BB1 Events:
 - Fat Daddy’z Seneca, April 25th
 - Mugshots, July 12th, Veterans event. Proceeds to Manteno Veterans home.
 - Fat Daddy’z Seneca, August 22nd, River Rat Run
 - Send list of all events to Shelby to post online and put on calendar
 - Does security need to be present at all events? Not necessarily, would be good if possible to coordinate.
 - Bob Healy #2120: Received \$100.00 check towards past product purchases. Still has balance due.
 - New Summer Product: Committee discussing on Thursday, 3/19 to make decisions.
 - Suggestions/Questions:
 - (Scott) Create a summer poster with all events listed?
 - (Thunder) BBQ restaurant in Downers grove would like to have BB1 there for an event. Unsure of name, Uncle Bucks? Will follow up and provide more information to determine if possible.
- By Laws: Shelby Sullivan #1707
 - Tri-fold marketing piece: Working on updating/revising.
 - Website: Compared other non-profit organizations sites. Would like to redo our website.
 - Floral arrangements: Listed on her responsibilities sheet. Unknown task. Need assistance on placing orders and determining when to send.
 - (Sandy) Questioned the ordering of flowers and how determined. Too much money is being spent. Needs to be immediate family/members only.

- Determined to table topic and discuss in more detail at later day. Should be detailed in bylaws or handbook.

VII. GUEST SPEAKERS

- Ashley Rosch from Woodlawn Memorial presented two events to support Chicagoland TFT.
 - Saturday, July 18, 2026 – Christmas in July benefitting Chicagoland TFT Motorcycle Parade. Line up at 10 am at Chapel Hill Gardens and head to Blake Lamb Funeral Home. Toys will be collected and provided to Chicagoland TFT. Ashley will collect raffle prizes from local businesses to create raffle baskets. She is looking for a Santa and Scott suggested Mark Grover’s brother.
 - Second event is “Cruising for a Cause” on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Car and Bike show will be held at Woodlawn Funeral Home and Cemetery. This event will also collect toys for Chicagoland TFT.
 - All Board members approved.
- Jeff Simmons #2029
 - Jeff mentioned suggestions for the Parade posters. He would like to see “Every Child deserves a toy” on the poster like it was years ago. Also, add the box “Kids and Adults....Come see Santa Claus riding in the Parade!”.
 - Jeff also suggested getting green knit hats which could be sold at Christmas and St. Patrick’s day.
- Jack Voss #415
 - Jack asked if we should thank the person on social media, who gave the \$25,000 donation and the Board said “no”. We don’t want anyone to know we received that much.
 - Jack Voss has been paying the membership fee for Frank Shodell for several years. He is very ill and Jack requested a rocker for him. Sharon Choate agreed.
 - Jack brought up the issue with the missing coloring books. He brought coloring books that were made for TFT, to the last Board meeting. Two books were missing, which Thunder Ruthven took by mistake. Thunder thought they were given away to Board members. Scott did get the books back and said it was a misunderstanding.
 - Jack created some pictures using AI as samples for future designs for Product. He handed copies to Bruce and Scott
 - Jack asked what the responsibilities of the person at the front gate are and why the need for a “Woods Coordinator”. Scott said that Cook County wants one point person on the day of the parade.
- Tom Mantell #549
 - Tom gave a list of people/organizations that donated and who needs a Plaque.

- Tom also suggested that Bruce contact Andrew's Realty because the owner wants to host their annual event after the parade, instead of before.
- Tom said the calendar idea for a member's gift is a great idea because it will help to keep track of dates.
- Tom asked what can be given to all the people who help with collecting Toy Boxes. Some people are helping collect a lot of toy boxes, such as Bill Casper. Can a rocker be given to those who collect boxes?

* VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Made at 9:59 pm. by Scott Rehak #1935, and 2nd by Kelly Doherty, #1759.