**Chicagoland Toys For Tots Board Meeting**

**February 18, 2025**

**Attendance:**

Tom Dertz #455 – President

Sharon Choate #1798 – Vice President

Wanda Perlinski #543 – Secretary

Sandy Scheel #491 -Treasurer via Teams

Thunder Rathbun #2060 – Assistant to Sargent at Arms

Richard Link #1853 – Northside Coordinator

Bruce Weaver #843 – Product Coordinator

Sam Johnson #870 – Parade Coordinator

Kim Allen #1827 – By-Laws/Historian

**Visitors:**

Jack Voss #415

Scott Rehak #1935

Larry Rincon #1770

Daniella Dertz #1234

Stacy Swaw #2164

Nicole Rehak #2028

Santiago Castillo #2112

Brian Kosinski #1557

Tom Mantel #549

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Assistant Sargent at Arms, Thunder Rathbun

Pledge of Allegiance

President Dertz advised that he will address each Board Member as they are giving their report.

He thanked Bruce Weaver, Sandy Schell and Rick Link for running for Board and congratulated them.

Bruce Weaver addressed the Board and visitors. He and stated he has been with Chicagoland TFT for 24 years and worked 83rd St corner. He has been working with Scott Rehak on Product for 3 years. He will do his best to keep up the good work Scott has done in the past.

Rick Link addressed the Board and visitors. He has been a member for 5-6 years. He has helped Maynard Marsh with the northside end of parade. Maynard then handed over his books to Rick.

A motion was made by Sharon to approve the minutes from January 18, 2025 Board Meeting. It was 2nd by Tom Dertz. All agreed.

**Vice President: Sharon Choate**

She would like to start using Roberts Rules of Order for all our meetings.

She made a motion for the Board to take the class on Roberts Rules of Order sooner than later. It is $400 for up to 10 people online. This will guide our meetings. It was 2nd by Maynard Marsh. All agreed.

Sharon made another motion that all Board members had a credit and background check done. This should be done yearly. 2nd by Maynard Marsh. All were in favor.

She has an appointment with a company next week about the background and credit checks. She believes it would cost about $10-$15 per person.

Sharon advised that she is working with the Attorney General about the embezzlement. They are trying to help us out.

**Secretary: Wanda Perlinski**

Wanda advised the board that Diane Penchak #2075, who is involved with the Rhine VFW Auxiliary, gave her 8 tickets to sell for the Italian Fest on March 9, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hometown VFW 9773. She asked the board if they wanted to purchase them. Tom Dertz made a motion to have Chicagoland TFT purchase the 8 tickets for the value of $80.00 for the VFW Auxiliary. 2nd by Sharon. All were in favor.

Scott Rehak advised that Wanda can cancel the insurance on the storage unit. All product is out of there and in the warehouse.

Wanda advised that we received a Thank You note from the Pillars Community Health for our donation of toys.

**Treasurer: Sandy Scheel/Sharon Choate**

Sandy was on Zoom because she was in Florida working. Sharon said she will work with her to make a smooth transition of the Treasurer duties.

Sharon went over the bank statements.

General bank account balance: $35,189.82 as of 1-31-25

There are still some receipts missing that Lester needs to turn in.

She asked Sam to let her know when she can put the trash account on hold.

Queen of Hearts balance: $4,258.00. There was a winner in December. A new board will be started in January.

Product bank account balance: $15,663.34 as of 1-31-25

She went over line by line of expenditures and deposits.

Invoice for Go Daddy account needs to be paid by 2-21-25. It is $1,200.00 for 3 years.

**Sargent at Arms: Matt Ksycki/Thunder Rathbun**

Matt was in the hospital and didn’t give Thunder anything to discuss.

**Northside Coordinator: Rick Link/Maynard Marsh**

Maynard turned everything over to Rick. He said he will continue to work with Rick to make sure everything is set up for the northside end of the parade. Rick had nothing to add.

**Parade Coordinator: Sam Johnson**

Sam advised the Board that the warehouse is cleaned up. Still has some boxes in the trailer. He said he will have to put them in Pastor Al’s warehouse.

**Product Coordinator: Bruce Weaver/Scott Rehak**

He has about 30 boxes to be moved into the warehouse. They will be put on the top shelf. We need to get a ladder 12-14 foot, for the warehouse. Bruce advised that Roy Miller is his second and Nicole Rehak will also assist. He will do an inventory.

Sharon asked if we can donate to a charity all the old merchandise. Scott advised that they did look into that in the past and the problem is the sizes that are left are either really big or real small. That is why they couldn’t sell them at the swap meets.

Scott turned in his credit card cut up, and two statements. He handed the computer over to Bruce. He will turn over BB1 to Bruce when he gets the keys.

Bruce said he will look into doing the St. Patty Day Parade on Western.

**Bylaw/Historian: Kim Allen**

She advised that they are almost done in the warehouse and getting it all cleaned up.

She said she will be working on amending the bylaws. She has 4-5 people to work on them with her. She needs to pick a date for next month to do a meeting for the bylaws. You need 10-12 people on the committee.

She did send to the attorney all the names and e-mails of the board to date.

**President: Tom Dertz**

Our attorney Kim advised that at the last hearing, an offer was made to Kim Hanson of 30-month probation and full restitution. The next court date is March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Tom thanked Kim and Sam for everything they did in the warehouse.

The 2023 rockers were done but they were wrong so we just kept them.

Tom asked if we were going to do a picnic this year. Wanda said no. It was dropped.

Bruce wanted to know about new board member shirts. Scott advised him that is his job now. He passed around a sheet asking for everyone’s sizes.

**Visitors:**

**Nicole Rehak:** She wanted to know if the bylaw meeting will be open to any members. Yes. A postcard will be sent out.

**Santiago Castillo:** He wanted to know why pictures of the warehouse are being put on Facebook. His opinion they shouldn’t be as it can cause issues with the people receiving or not receiving toys. Could cause people to break in. Sam gave his opinion on why they should be on there. There was some discussion and then it ended.

**Jack Voss:** He would like the board to talk louder so the visitors can hear.

He asked if Lester as thrown out of the membership. No he wasn’t he was just removed from the board.

He wanted to know what is the status of the Jim Markmann letter that was read out loud by Wanda because Jim left the meeting. Tom said he will discuss the situation with each individual, Jim Markmann and Bill Naughton.

He asked if the elections can be moved to April or May when it isn’t so cold.

There was a fire in Cicero, are we going to give toys to the people if they have children? Per Sam they were just married and didn’t have children.

**Tom Mantell:** We need to have several board members at the bylaw meetings and on the committee.

Need to look at Tier 1. The back up needs to be looked at. Lumpy and Markmann don’t show up all the time. Need Tier leaders that will show.

Bill Naughton is looking to retire and would like Kelly to take over his spot.

Sharon brought up that should would like each board member write up what their responsibilities are so we can put them in a folder and when nominations are held, the people understand what the job all entails. We all do a lot more than what our bylaws say.

Motion by Bruce to close the meeting and 2nd by Sam at 8:24 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Perlinski, Secretary