

Chicagoland Toys For Tots Board Meeting

January 20, 2026

Attendance:

Tom Dertz #455 – President

Sharon Choate #1798 – Vice President

Wanda Perlinski #543 – Secretary

Sandy Scheel #491 -Treasurer

Matt Ksycki #1747 - Sargent at Arms

Richard Link #1853 – Northside Coordinator

Bruce Weaver #843 – Product Coordinator

Kelly Doherty #1759 – Parade Coordinator

Kim Allen #1827 – By-Laws/Historian

Visitors:

Jack Voss #415

Tom Mantel #549

Jeff Simmons #2029

Chuck S. #1099

Nicole Rehak #2028

Scott Rehak #1935

Roy Miller #2075

Santiago Castillo #2112

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Sargent at Arms,
Matt Ksycki

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve the minutes from December 16th, 2025
board meeting was made by Sharon and 2nd by Kim. All were in
favor.

Vice President: Sharon Choate

Kick off party is going to be on September 19, 2026 at Via Bella.
The cost is \$17 per person. She called Crystal Banquets and
they were high with their prices. \$45 per person with open bar.

Someone suggested Chucks on 79th St. Jeff Simmons said it was
too small for a kick off party. Someone suggested the VFW at
107th and Ridgeland. Roy Miller said he will give his contact for
the location the Freedom Run has their kick off. It is the Local
150. Kim Bromerck 708-482-8800. It is on Joliet Road.

Tabled until the February meeting.

Insurance – She is working with our agent Nicole about the
business liability about the changes due to the new warehouse.

She still needs the job duties from the Northside Coordinator.
She was handed a copy from Richard. She advised that they will
need to be reviewed and updated as things have changed since
we did them initially.

Wanted to know about Crystals for the big donators. EPI, Andrews Reality, Fossett Foundation. She will look on line for the crystals.

Secretary: Wanda Perlinski

She has the dates for the Board meetings for 2026 and will give them to Diane at the VFW. Still need the date for the general meetings. Table it to February meeting as we need to get the kickoff party date and location confirmed.

She was going to talk about the insurance that is due 1-24-26 for the business liability but Sharon already addressed it.

She will do the ballots for the election. President Tom asked if they can be sent to the board for approval. Agreed. I will make 200 copies as that is how many I made last year. Jack said we had 160 ballots casted last year.

Bylaw/Historian: Kim Allen

She said that the Member Handbook needs to be updated and made. Only has a few copies.

She thanked everyone for their help over her period of time on board.

Northside Coordinator: Rick Link

Getting everything in order for the permits. We are going to be ending at a new parking lot. Will need to work on getting it reviewed and ideas on how to set up.

He advised Wanda to check with Shelby about the list of boxes for thank you letters and certificates. Wanda advised him the members that want the certificates need to request them via e-mail with the list. She is not going to do every box that is out there and the member in charge of them don't take the certificates. That is a waste of money.

Sargent at Arms: Matt Ksycki

There will be no electioneering in the hall. They can put their stuff outside of the hall.

The election box can not be touched until after the election hour of 6:00 p.m.

He feels a northside meeting is needed before the run.

Product Coordinator: Bruce Weaver/Roy Miller

BB1 will be at Chicago Harley Davidson in Villa Park on Sunday 1-25-26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

They went through the pins from the past years and they have a lot of them from 2001 to 2025. They are going to bag them up and sell them \$40 a bag.

The product room is all set up in the new warehouse.

St. Patty's day Parade on Archer Ave will be on March 14, 2026. 10 a.m. arrival.

Motion was made by Bruce to buy t-shirts for the parade for the members that attend. It will be first come first serve as he is not going to order a lot of them. 2nd by Tom. All approved.

Roy went over the finances of the Product from 2025.

Gross product sales - \$100,903.70

Net product sales - \$97,158.71

Inventory Cost - \$88,380.00

Profit - \$8,778.71

Parade Day Sales - \$19,192.73

May need to increase some of the prices for this year. More than likely will be in the t-shirts.

Someone brought up that maybe the supplier is the problem with the prices. May need to look at other suppliers for product.

Parade Coordinator: Kelly Doherty

She is still collecting flags and vests.

She needs to do inventory on non-member and member vests. On the member vests weed the bigger sizes.

She bought new totes for the storage of the vests and flags.

Wants a certificate and thank you letter for the Jeep Club, Windy City, Kindness List and Mustang Club. Wanda said to send her the information.

She asked Bruce if he was thinking about going to Conrads Harley Davidson to sell product?

A member wants thank you letters to their family members that volunteered. We don't want to start that as that can get out of hand. You volunteer, you should expect anything in return.

Kelly said she gives out a thank you bag to the non-member volunteers. It contains a button, business card and save the date notice.

Kelly made a motion to continue to do the non-member thank you bags. Sharon 2nd it. All agreed.

Treasurer: Sandy Scheel

A big thank you for all the people that moved the stuff from the old warehouse to the new one.

She has 3 months of bank statements to go over. However, they are very thick and a lot to go thru. All agreed for her to e-mail them to the Board and let them go thru it before the next meeting and then they can ask questions on any of the transactions or approve.

As of last Friday, 1-13-26 here are the totals for the accounts:

General Account: \$37,146.09.

Product Account: \$10,184.10

We already received our deposit refund from the Cook County Forest Preserve in the amount of \$2,000.

The next board meeting she will be on Zoom. She will be out of town for the month. Sharon will have the checkbook. Please e-mail her the receipts or send a photo of the receipt.

Tom asked when the board will have access to the bank information that was discussed. She is still working with Tera our accountant on setting it up.

She is looking for the Article of Incorporation for the State Attorney's office. She will need to look in the warehouse or go on the website to find it.

President – Tom Derz

Alderman Emmett Mitts is running for State Representative.

World of Wheels is coming up. Are we going to get a booth there? It is a Rosemont. Bruce said he didn't know anything about it.

Joanne Toys, we need to buy toys from her? Only \$800 was rec'd so we don' have to. She also didn't ask.

Visitors:

Tom Mantel:

Insurance on the warehouse is replacement value. It is overpriced on value.

Elections nominees need background check done before they are on board. There is a person running for board position and he doesn't have any committee attendance. The person just comes to the kick off and the run and debriefing.

Will need to update the bylaws about running for Board. It needs to be reviewed.

Jeff Simmons:

Is there a picnic this year. The board doesn't know yet.

Chuck:

He said rolling blocking and stationary blockers are committees.

Jack Voss:

Will there be food at the election? There was food at the last election. No, we will not be having food.

Can it be considered, to put a blank certificate on the website?

No.

He asked Kelly if she is still needing vests/flags returned, can you follow up with them? She said she is but some are not returning calls.

Motion to adjourn made by Matt and 2nd by Tom at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Perlinski, Secretary

