

Chicagoland Toys For Tots Board Meeting via Teams

July 15, 2025

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

Sam Johnson #870 – Parade Coordinator

Kim Allen #1827 – By-Laws/Historian

Visitors:

Heather Castillo

Tera Wagner – Our Accountant

Karen Artus

Thunder

Meeting was called to order 7:05 p.m.

Motion to approve the June 17, 2025 board minutes by Matt Ksycki and 2nd by Sharon.

President Dertz advised we will let the visitors speak first.

Visitor – Heather Castillo – She wanted to let us know that they are having a Flea Market out of Marlin's Bar in Lyons, on Pershing and Harlem on August 17, 2025 from 1-6 p.m. She would like to donate the money they collect from the table space and entry fee to Chicagoland TFT. Bruce Weaver has the flyer. Bruce will follow up with her after a meeting. President Dertz is for it.

Vice President: Sharon Choate

She is looking into new warehouse space for the organization. She had one space, but it was rented out already. They have a new one and it is better. Foster and Sons is leaving the space and it should be ready in September. Would like as many board members to meet after the court hearing on July 16 at the space to view and give their opinion on it. It is \$2400 per month which is more than we pay now but it is larger and she is trying to work with the property manager to bring it down some.

Queen of Hearts was won by someone on July 10, 2025. The winner received \$2,581.00. Do we want to do another board? If so we will need to make a schedule up to have everyone participate and not the same people. Kim Allen said she can be there when Sharon can't be. Wanda said she can attend. We will wait until next meeting and then decide. We did purchase a new board already when we purchased the last board.

She received a phone call from the Forest Preserve about the Permit for December. Wanda said she is working on it.

She received a request to work with Larry Stotts, Safety Lawyers, also one of our members to send toys to Texas victims of the flooding. His firm will pay for the shipping. He would like to do this next week. He has a contact down there.

Oak Lawn library is looking for Hot Wheels used and new. We do have the Hot Wheels in the warehouse. A lot of them. We all agreed to donate some of them to the library.

We did receive the attorney invoice. Going through it, she is charging us for phone calls to Gene Nevins, one of our members and her cousin. Total bill is \$20,775.00. She says she is giving us a 50% discount or \$10,387.50. We paid her \$7,000 and owe \$3,087.50. Motion made by Sharon to pay the full invoice by end of August 2025. Matt 2nd it. All were in favor.

The use of our logo by Hot Dog. They have an Amazon account where they do a toy drive and they are using our logo. They can't use our logo without our permission. Matt will ask them to remove it from their flyer.

Secretary: Wanda Perlinski

Member gifts still are not picked out. Sharon said that she received a 4 Imprint catalog and it has a 3 piece tote for \$9.00. She showed it on the video from the catalog and everyone agreed on it. Motion to approve the 3 piece tote made by Kim and 2nd by Sharon. All were in favor.

She asked President Dertz to keep an eye out for the check from the insurance company for the refund for the truck insurance. It

was sent to P.O. Box 388500 instead of 288500. I asked them to stop and reissue to the correct box. They said it will take 10-15 days. The amount is \$1,615.00.

She has all three of the insurance dec pages for the run on Saturday with Devinity Funeral Homes. If she can't make the run she will send the insurance copies to Sharon.

She is working on filling out the application for the Forest Preserve and City of Chicago.

Treasurer: Sandy Scheel

She wants to have Tara discuss with us and show us the new software that we will be using for our accounting.

Tara Wagner – She showed us the new system. It is \$14.25 a month. It will import bank statements every month. Every board member will have access to it. Should you get a new accountant in the future, it will be a seamless transition. The name of it is OLT PRO, Tax Software by Pistus. We will be able to do the taxes on time. A motion was made to approve to use the new system was made by Wanda and 2nd by Sharon. All were in favor. She will finish out the fiscal year, April 2025 in Quickbooks and then start using the new system for the May, 2025 information.

Sandy proceeded to go over the account balances.

Account balances as of 6-31-25

Queen of Hearts 5/3rd - \$4,612.75

Product – Wintrust - \$0 account down and transferred the balance into the Product 5/3rd account.

5/3rd product account - \$15,930.23

General Account 5/3rd - \$19,950.51

Went over all the statements. Everyone agreed to the accuracy of the statements she provided us by e-mail.

She asked what the charge of \$2,440.00 to Centurain Promotions was for. Bruce said it was for the Ride Pins.

We will owe \$2500 for the Kick Off Party that night.

There was a gift card purchased for gas for a member that went to pick up toys and Mickey Mouse stuff that was donated to us.

Looking into foundations for donations and grants.

Sargent at Arms: Matt Ksycki

He asked when that last time the Mascot costume was cleaned. It was just done after the St. Patty Day parade.

Has anybody talked to Bob Healy. No has.

At court tomorrow a decision should be made.

Northside Coordinator: Rick Link

He e-mailed Lane Tech about the date for the run and was told they can't pick the date until Fall.

He will get with Maynard to get the dates needed to prepare.

We can put toy boxes in his work locations and others.

He would like a copy of the beg/donation letter. Wanda said she will send it out to all board members again.

He asked who will be in on the team for boxes? Sam said he is warehouse only.

Parade Coordinator: Sam Johnson

Went up and down Western and just found small potholes. He said we need to get a letter together and send it to all the alderman in the area and the Street and Sanitation Dept of Chicago to put them on notice we will need potholes repaired. Wanda said she do a letter but sending them out this early won't do any good as potholes grow and new ones appear. Sam said that they only fix potholes in the warm weather. Wanda said she will need the list of Alderman. He will send out the list.

We need to be at Chapel Hill Cemetery at 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Saturday. 113th and Central. All volunteers to be at Blake and Lamb at 103rd and just east of Cicero. BB1 will be in the run from Chapel Hill.

Product Coordinator: Bruce Weaver

The bumper for BB1 will cost \$2400. That is really high. Tom said will probably have to have one built. Rick said he will check with some people he knows about it. Just send him the VIN #.

Will sell summer product at the run on Saturday.

Board shirts, can't get tall for Rick. He said he will take a large. They will be black with blue and white stripe. Our name and position will be put on them.

He will order decals for Wanda for the new member folders.

All pins are in and will be for sale in Sept.

Bylaw/Historian: Kim Allen

She said she e-mailed out the updated bylaw changes and ballots to all of the board.

We won't be able to go over them today as we need to have a separate meeting.

Motion made by Rick to put the bylaws on hold. Sharon said she didn't agree. We have members to answer to. Sharon will discuss with President Dertz. Table it for now.

She was asked if she is watching the e-mails. She said yes. Rick said he will watch them also. Kim was told she needs to check them daily.

President: Tom Dertz

The kickoff party is fast approaching. Sharon has 8 baskets coming in. Need more baskets. Rick will get some. Carrie Bergstrom has a few. Should we do a TV for the larger raffle or a 20 inch bike. What do we want to do for the big raffle, an electric bike? Tabled.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 19th in person at the VFW.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m made by Wanda and 2nd by Matt.
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda Perlinski, Secretary.