

Chicagoland Toys For Tots Board Meeting

October 21, 2025

Attendance:

Tom Dertz #455 – President

Sharon Choate #1798 – Vice President on Zoom

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

Jim Fannello #435

Jeff Simmons #2029

Chuck S. #1099

Nicole Rehak #2028

Scott Rehak #1935

Diane Pencak #2075

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

Pledge of Allegiance

President – Tom Dertz

Sam Johnson the parade coordinator stepped down. First point of order is to appoint a replacement. Tom made a motion to appoint Kelly Doherty #1759. Kim Allen and Matt Ksycki 2nd. All were in favor.

The November 15th Military Party, who is in charge of raffle baskets? Sandy is in charge. Arthuro will do the ceremony.

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

Vice President: Sharon Choate & Scott Rehak 2nd

Sharon said we are accepting court findings and moving forward to the insurance company to see if we can get reimbursed for the attorney fees.

Scott - Advised that we have to put product donations and not sales on the bank statement otherwise we have to pay taxes.

He asked why we are hiding the amount of money we got from Kim Hansen? We need to tell the members the amount.

Sharon said it was \$1826.00 plus she paid \$951.00 prior to the court case was filed.

Sharon said that there will be a toy committee meeting on 11-2-25 at 11:00 a.m. at the warehouse to clean it up.

Ribbon committee meeting will be on 11-14-25 at Mr. Rehaks home at 5:30 p.m. 400 ribbons to be made.

Box committee will meet on Friday with Mantell and Frank. Need to pick up the boxes and do the labels and the posters with the QR code.

Mantell is going to McCook Fire dept and re-new our friendship with them.

She sent Wanda the info on the utilities for the new warehouse to get them set up.

1000 pins for the ribbons need to be ordered. Should they have volunteer on them or not. No, because we will be selling them and the people that buy them may not be volunteers.

Scott will be getting 40 sheets of plywood for the wall in the product room.

Food for the Military Appreciation party. Diane Pancek will get it. We will go with food for 200 people.

Secretary: Wanda Perlinski

Mailed out the form filled out for the City of Chicago permit. (DCASE)

Tom said he talked to Jose at the Forest Preserve and he said we will need 3 police officers and 1 sergeant.

She still needs the radio contract and the porta potty contract to send to the Forest Preserve.

The insurance estimate for the day of the run is \$1,216.00. Motion to pay \$1,216.00 before 10-28-25. 2nd by Tom and Sharon. All agreed.

She called Com Ed and Nicor Gas and got the new warehouse started up. Sent an e-mail to all board members with the new account numbers.

For Com Ed, there is a deposit required of \$535.00. It will be broken down over 3 bills of \$178.34. It will be refunded with interest after 12 months of on time payments.

Both bills will be e-mailed to the treasurer e-mail.

The address list is updated and will continue to be as the members give me their updated info.

Treasurer: Sandy Scheel

Tara is working on the fiscal year end. She has filed for an extension for our taxes.

She has everything. Sending her files every month.

She needs all the officers and positions.

She hasn't sent us an invoice recently. She will put the new software bill on her bill for annual payment.

General Account: \$26,383.84 as of the end of September.

Lot of deposits: \$21,297.75

Dispersments: \$10,596.09

Product Account: \$15,244.77 as of the end of September

Deposits: \$9,392.49

Dispersments: \$14,140.84

\$10,000 transferred from Product to General.

Queen of Hearts: Closed

Current amounts through October 20, 2025:

General Account: \$25,356.58

Product Account: \$11,505.86

Tom asked where we are with the raffle baskets? She said they have \$5 ones but no \$10 ones. Sharon said she has a ring for the \$10 raffle.

Scott sent an e-mail about the Gron Bike. It is \$4,000. It is too late now to start a raffle for it as we won't recoup the money. Scratched it.

Bruce has a Chicago Bears golf bag to donate for the raffle. It is worth \$300.

We have 15 baskets and Sharon has some at home from the Kickoff party. Carrie's sister will make some.

Sargent at Arms: Matt Ksycki

Tom said we need reliable people for security down Western. Need to work with Kelly for down Western, like by the condo as security and not blockers.

He said that we need to go and talk to the condo people.

He will work with Kelly about looking at the road on Western. Will take a ride on Saturday to look at the woods and go down Western.

There will be boxes at every meeting to be distribute.

He did an inventory of batteries, safety lights, traffic wands and cones. All is good. Doesn't need anything.

Security is needed on the northside and in pavilion. Matt will bring the generator.

The security members need to wear their vests at the meetings.

Northside Coordinator: Rick Link

DePaul is finalized. Just waiting on the insurance.

ROTC, young kids that help on the northside. Can we give them some of the past year shirts.

Working on the volunteers for tagging.

Has 40-60 people for blocking.

Need to set up meeting with department heads for the City. Joe Fontana with Chicago is our contact. His number is in the warehouse.

He did not contact Professional Movers because he doesn't have the info for them. Tom will get it to him.

The bus has to go to Addison.

Safety Lawyers needs a spot in the parking lot for their tent.

Will Abate have a spot? Yes if they show up. Will ask Sam at the next northside meeting.

Parade Coordinator: Kelly Doherty

She is creating a layout of Western. She has a guy that did a layout. Need to get it bigger. In progress.

She will do the inventory of flags and vests.

She is checking with stationary blockers to see what they have.

Police presence at every intersection.

Radios and message boards, Sam has quotes. Will find out where they need to be put.

Radios, Matt needs at least 8, Board needs 9, Front Gate needs 10, Tiers need 15, 3 for Billy and 3 for Tier 1-4, 2 for the command center, Northside needs 5. She has a proposal for 60.

Meeting with the City, Kelly wants to be there and the Forest Preserve meeting.

Will work with Nicole Purchase and the condo people. Rich will also talk to them.

Jennie has 9 signed up for tagging for southside and 7 for northside.

Product Coordinator: Bruce Weaver

November 7 is the last day to order product for the parade.

The hoodies with $\frac{1}{4}$ zippers are really selling.

\$2800 at the warehouse sale.

\$1100 at the northside meeting.

Need a crew for the woods. Jim Greenway has people.

Debra from VFW Post 9773 in Hometown wrote a letter asking for product for the vets. Gave them 24 bags filled.

This weekend: Friday is the Witches crawl at Toms Tap. Will sell product there. On Saturday, we have the Halloween parade on Archer at 9:00 a.m. Saturday evening will be at Goat Village Inn in Norridge selling product.

The warehouse is all cleaned out of the product. It is all at the new warehouse.

Kelly said her work may have shelving.

Matt ordered 25 lbs of candy for the parade.

Old product shirts have been rolled up to throw out at the parade.

Rockers need to be ordered

Thursday is Frank Mayer visitation in Lemont from 4-8. We will meet at 5:00 p.m to give the family a blanket. A motion was made by Sharon to plant of tree in his honor instead of sending flowers. 2nd by Kelly and all agreed.

Rich wants to know if Wicked Magazine can come to the parade and take photos to do a write up in their magazine.

Bylaw/Historian: Kim Allen

She will be doing the 50/50 at the meetings.

Tom asked her what her job is the day of the parade. She said she works at the warehouse from the parade.

Need to make plans 9-1-26 to get the Christmas tree for next year at Brookfield Zoo. They have 2 boxes left from last year. Kim will call the lady tomorrow.

Sandy asked how much do we want to pay Star and Stripes for another invoice? \$5000? Sandy will get something together to figure it out.

President – Tom Derz

We have keys to the new warehouse and it is ready to use.

Everyone should be looking into grants.

Is the stage ready for the northside? Yes

Do we have a DJ for the woods? Yes

We have not received a date for the walk through.

We are waiting on the stickers for the boxes. When they are received, Tom and Frank will assign numbers to them. We anticipate getting boxes our right after Halloween.

Visitors:

Jack Voss: the split of the parade is 3 tiers, northside, woods and west.

Parade coordinator is in charge of porta potties.

He still hasn't heard from the alderman about the street being named after us.

Why can't members ask questions during the board meetings? Tom said because we follow Robert Rules of Order per our 5013C.

5 people died and they are not on the website. Need to update that.

Jim Fannello: How many bikes did the City say we had last year? We won't find out till we meet with the City. How can we say 2000? Tier 4 is very lonely.

Diane Pencak: Wanted to know if we are going to have the Pancake Breakfast? No we are not.

Is she ordering the food for the Military party? Yes order for 200 people. Wanda and Sharon will work with her. Will pay the day of the party. Jeff A's band will play at the party.

Motion to give Fearless Vipers a patch for each kid made by Wanda. 2nd by Bruce. All agreed.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom and 2nd by Matt at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Wanda Perlinski, Secretary