

CHICAGOLAND TOYS FOR TOTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. MEETING DETAILS

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Rhine VFW

II. ATTENDEES

Attendees:

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

Guests/General Members in Attendance:

Roy Miller #874 (Product 2nd), Jack Voss #415, Jeff Simmons #2029, 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:
 - Bank Statement – All reviewed and approved? All Board approved
 - Meeting Minutes – All reviewed and approved? All Board approved.
 - Trailer repairs are being done next week.
 - Office Furniture being donated – Need to get people together to pick up
 - Roberts Rule – Set for Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30pm at Scott house, 4516 Home Ave. Will be Zoom training.
 - Wood Coordinator Changes/Responsibilities
 - Tiers will be handling movement still.
 - He communicates all movement through woods and at the beginning of parade.
 - 3 channels for radios
 - Ask paid security to drive through woods periodically.
 - Sam needs vests and flags for additional last-minute volunteers in the woods
 - Kelly will add notes discussed about position and present to board for updating responsibilities.
 - Pull some people from other tiers if needed for beginning tiers. Train additional/new people to be assistants for each Tier leader.
 - Plaques – Had a list of plaques that were to be made for last year's top donors. Where do we stand with these? Not made yet. Was given to Tom Mantel & Tom Dertz to handle. Tom Dertz said he would work with his contact

to order since she was cheaper. Tom Mantel to follow up with Tom Dertz and provide updates to us. Need to get these made ASAP.

- Plastic bags for Toys – Thunder sent donation letters and have not received responses or have been denied. Most companies need notification 1 year out. Rich to request from Sams Club and Cosco. Jeannette to provide a donation letter for him to use.

* V. MOTION TO CLOSE OLD BUSINESS. Made at 7:36pm by Scott Rehak #1935, 2nd by Shelby Sullivan #1707.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Vice President: Sharon Choate #1798
 - Warehouse Cleaning – Need to clean out bikes from upstairs for offices, Downstairs-asked local organizations what they can use, Llamas are supposed to take several bikes. Need to clean out so we have room for this season's donations.
 - Summer Run -
 - Tickets-All board members attending need to buy a ticket, Dog House is pushing sales, Scott is checking with the other bars to check sales,
 - Baskets-Have 4 good baskets, need 1 more. Need bottles, gift cards, etc.
 - Route-Thunder to ride it and make sure all roads are good during the week of the event.
 - BB1-To lead from 1st to 2nd stop and will stop at each location.
 - Stop Workers-Sharon, Brenda & Jeannette to start at 1st stop, Jeannette to meet Carrie (already will be at stop), Sharon & Brenda to go to 3rd stop, all to meet at the last stop.
 - Kick-off Party- Contract set, band set. The band will be holding an event on November 21st at the Lyric Theatre in Blue Island. All proceeds will be donated to TFT.
- Secretary: Jeannette Roberts #2123
 - Discussed budget. Total at \$4,000, as per discussion with Sharon. Postcards, Alderman letters, Business letters, postage, paper, ink, member gifts.
 - Member gifts-working with Steve on calendar. Need something other than just calendars, discussed with Scott & Nicole, possibly reusable bag-board agreed to purchase, also look at pens. Dark gray this year.
 - Roster-Questioned if have one with all/deceased members. Yes, have in separate file, only sent current roster to board due to Thunder needing security and needing to contact.
- Treasurer: Sandy Scheel #491
 - Brenda has check she has not cashed. Needs to cash.
 - CDOT check not cashed yet.

- She needs to call Jose with the Forest Preserve still to pay deposit as asked by Jeannette.
 - Stars & Stripes invoice due in amount of \$3,200. Can she pay it? We have approx. \$16,400 in account. Approved to pay.
 - Comed bill went from \$70 to \$250 in one month. Why? Air was left on and high. Need to ensure this is turned off or adjusted prior to leaving each time.
 - Flood Bros. Service has been cancelled for summer until we tell them to start again. October or November.
 - July got 2 grants from Fidelity.
 - Raffle baskets-Put something on Facebooks asking for donations or contacts? She can write up what to post. We can use some bikes or bigger toys from warehouse (Hot Wheels tracks pulled to maybe put together package raffle items.
 - Sandy will not be at the Summer Run. Working Cubs game.
 - Will check with one of her contacts to see if anything Cubs related can be donated for a basket.
- Sargeant at Arms: Thunder Rathbun-Cakos #2060
 - How many volunteers needed to work Kick-Off? Have 3 to work the Summer Run, maybe need 5 total. Can use same for party?
 - Supplies needed-will check stores and ask if check or card is accepted. Needs tax exempt certificate. Sandy to send to all board.
 - Scott acquired cross walk signs from City of Chicago. Maybe make one a rolling one to use for meetings and store at the Rhine?.
- Parade Coordinator: Kelly Doherty #1759
 - Tom Mantel # 549 accepted position as 2nd to Parade Coordinator
 - No other business
- Northside Coordinator: Richard Link #1853
 - No business.
- Product: Bruce Weaver #843
 - Events:
 - Christmas in July @ Lakeshore Campground in Portage
 - Toys from warehouse do not go to kids at the campground
 - Carshow August 1st
 - Lincoln land Card Show
 - River Rat Run August 22nd @ Fat Daddyz
 - ShipGo - not working with Go Daddy for online orders. Going back to USPS.
- By Laws: Shelby Sullivan #1707
 - Webpage & Facebook
 - Delete blog on website.
 - Add tab for events or just put on front page and delete after over.
 - Add slide shows of events

- Tax Exempt not on drive, everyone needs to add it to their drive or desktop individually.
- President: Scott Rehak #1935
 - Committees – Need to talk about them at each/every meeting and get more people involved.
 - Volunteer meetings – Board to mix in with regular members to connect better. No head table.
 - Board member Shirts – If do not have one from last year see Bruce with size.

* VII. GUEST SPEAKERS

- Jeff Simmons #2029
 - Can we get a radio station to a broadcast live during parade?
 - We have our own radio station on our own channel to plan during parade.
 - Do we have a poster yet for this year?
- Jack Voss #415
 - Summer Run – how are we doing it, full cards, wristbands. Have full cards- each stop has decks with different backs. Have wristbands.
 - How many views on Teams during meeting – 3 people. We do them to get more points on the charity ranking site for our organization to look better and get higher score.
- Nicole Rehak #2028
 - Who oversees Ribbon Committee. Want to start early. Need to call volunteers who signed up for it. Jeannette responsible. To provide names for ribbons to Nicole. Nicole to contact and work with committee to start assembling. Jeannette to order buttons.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Made at 8:35pm by Scott Rehak #1935, 2nd by Richard Link #1853.