

# Minutes

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.



---

**Call to Order** - President Chris S. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

## Attendance

President Chris Schneider  
Secretary Shelley Lindau  
Treasurer Marlys Dunne  
Communication Director Natasha Zarich  
Member at Large Chris Dubose  
Member at Large Tim Clark  
Member at Large Trina Morrison  
Member at Large Rochelle Hernandez

## Vote in New Members

Natasha made motion, Chris D. seconded, to vote in Asia Swanson and Lynn Bergerson. All Ayes. Motion carried.

## Treasure Update

Marlys reported that the current checkbook balance is \$14,641. Recent expenses included business cards from Copy Pro, pizza from Domino's for Trick or Treat on Main Street, and Brinks for the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. There is a little over \$400 in cash from a previous fundraiser that will be combined with the next fundraiser and donated to the food shelf.

## Adopt a Senior Update

Marlys reported that the current checkbook balance was \$4,124. There were recent expenses for Holiday Mugs, fall crafts for seniors, and to Copy Pro.

## Membership Update

Rochelle reported that there are additional GNC buttons. She will talk to Jessica and her daughter, Carissa, about helping with membership. Shelley will send Rochelle the link to Google Drive. Rochelle is looking for people to brainstorm ideas for recruiting new members. There was discussion on retaining members and reaching out to individuals who have not participated recently. Shelley will bring the contact list to the next meeting.

## Communications/Activities Update

Natasha reported the recent fence act-of-kindness post received a lot of engagement and gained around 40 new followers and likes on Face Book. The family had a child involved in the recent traffic accident, and Marlys presented them with a donation from the Club, and they posted their thanks on Face Book. There was discussion on whether to take pictures of other families when the funds are distributed to them, and it was decided not to. Recipients could make their own posts if they choose to do so. Marlys will hand-deliver funds and include business cards.

## Upcoming Club Events

- **Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Party** – Friday, December 5, 2025, at Strom Hall at Camp Ojiketa from 5-9 p.m. Marlys will RSVP for the seven Board Members in attendance.
- **Holiday Mug Making** – Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Chisago Township Hall. Leftover candy from Trick or Treat on Main Street will be bagged and attached to mugs. Chris S. will make drainage trays for wet foam preparation. Natasha will confirm the hall reservation time. The Club will make 25 artificial mugs for Meals on Wheels and 113 live mugs for distribution to other locations.

- **Zion Community Meal** – Monday, December 22, 2025. Natasha reported a shortage of volunteers. Another Club meeting will be held before the meal to recruit additional help. Shelley will ask Rusty if he plans to organize caroling.
- **Mitten Tree** – The Mitten Tree will be displayed at the Uncommon Loon throughout December. Lori will set it up; Natasha will handle PR.
- **Holiday Caroling** - At Rusty's suggestion, the Board discussed caroling at local bars and possibly in nearby neighborhoods if weather allows. The group also plans to visit senior homes and the group home. Shelley will ask Rusty to prepare a schedule.
- **Celebration of the Lakes** – Weekend of February 14, 2026. Marlys reported that the Chamber Board will not host the event this year but showed interest in participating. Wild River will organize the Radar Run. Other planned events include a pickleball tournament and the "Taste of Chisago Lakes" at the Uncommon Loon. A Candlelight Hike was discussed, but the group decided not to proceed due to organizer availability.

### Recap of Past Events

- **Adopt a Highway Cleanup** – Sunday, October 12, 2025. The event went well. Marlys still needs to return vests to the County.
- **Age Well** – Friday, October 17, 2025. It was reported there was an excellent turnout, with many flyers distributed. Christa, Dana, and Beth volunteered at the GNC Adopt-a-Senior booth.
- **Witches Tea Party** – Monday, October 20, 2025. Christa organized a tea party at Parmly. It was reported there were over 40 lady residents that attended.
- **GNC Social** - November 4, 2025. The event was held at Scooters. There was a good turnout but no one knew if any potential members attended.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- **Act of Kindness** - Last Friday, members helped take down a fence from a property they were renting. It will be moved to their new home. One of the family members was involved in the accident a few weeks ago involving five local teenagers. The donation from the Club was given to them.
- **Food and Toy Drive** on December 6. - Chris shared information on the Rotary's food and toy drive and initiated discussion on the Club's participation. Food and toys will go to the Food Shelf and Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at the Fire Hall. It starts at 5 p.m., and organization begins behind the Uncommon Loon at 4 p.m. There was a suggestion to collaborate with them on the "Meal in a Bag" idea.
- **Raising Hope for Chisago Families** – The Board previously voted to distribute \$100 gift cards to each of the five families involved in the car accident where two were killed. An additional \$250 in cash was donated anonymously. Chris S. had purchased cards. Marlys will prepare and deliver the donations.

- **Wheel Chair Ramp Update** – A teenager from the accident will need a wheelchair, so the family requires an accessibility ramp. Tim talked about the possibility of purchasing one, but the price was \$4,200, and the seller would buy it back for half that amount. The cost of a ramp is between \$40 and \$60 per foot, and approximately 32 feet of ramp are needed to meet ADA standards. Chris S. said he had talked to Lamberts about donating some material, and he offered to build it, saying he could weld the railing posts and construct it so that it can be moved easily. He anticipated approximately \$1,000 in materials would be needed, and it could be loaned to the family and reused as needed by others. Chris D. made a motion, and Natasha seconded, to approve the expense of up to \$1,000 for the ramp. It will be loaned to the family, and Tim will be the liaison to find out when the family member will be released from the hospital.
- **Displaced residents due to kitchen fire** – Club member Kim experienced a kitchen fire caused by her puppy. The family is looking for a place to stay for a few months while the damaged kitchen is replaced. Members were asked if anyone knew of a possible location for them to rent.
- **Food Shelf Meal in a Bag** – Natasha discussed a potential project of creating “meals in a bag” for Family Pathways. She saw the idea there and researched what would constitute a meal using non-perishable items. The bags would include the Club’s card or flyer. Natasha will reach out to the Food Shelf. Information will need to be sent to Club members, asking them to bring their bagged meal to the next Club meeting or the Holiday Mug Making event.
- **Vet Brick Memorial** – The Club received funds from the Yellow Ribbon Network when they disbanded. Dana had suggested using those funds to purchase bricks honoring veterans for the Chisago County Veterans Memorial in Lindstrom. The cost is \$100 per engraved brick, and recipients could be chosen using the same process as the Scholarships. Marlys said she will be meeting with Veterans Officers on Monday, November 17, in North Branch from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will gather more information. Tim may attend the meeting as well.
- **Laminator Purchase** – Rochelle donated a laminator to the Club, so there is no longer a need to purchase one.
- **Club Logo on Mugs** – Only eleven members showed interest in purchasing mugs with the Club logo. It was decided not to pursue the project further.
- **Upcoming Meeting**  
Membership Meeting December 11, 2025  
Board Meeting January 8, 2026

### **Adjournment**

Natasha made motion, Marlys seconded, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

*“Chisago Lakes Good Neighbors club, through its resources and diverse membership, contributes to the needs and wellbeing of our communities through acts of kindness.”*