

Minutes

Club Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Chisago Lakes Town Hall



Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Chris S. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance and Introductions

Marlys Dunne	Shelley Lindau
Bruce Meehan	Trena Morrison
Lori Meehan	Rochelle Hernandez
Craig Anderson	Beth Engstrom
Patti Anderson	Caryss Buhler
Christa Lorfald	Jessie Buhler
Dana Helm	Rusty
Freddie	Lorraine Swenson
Sandy Hulke	Tim Clark
Kevin Hulke	Jerri Watters
Chris Schnieder	Scott Walberg
Lynn Bergerson	Louise Davidson (Guest)
Rob Lindeman	Pat Ongstad

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Marlys reported that there was \$14,445 in the checking account. The money the Club received from the disbanded Yellow Ribbon Network was earmarked for bricks for veterans. The Club had donated \$500 to the families of the five car accident victims. She anticipated that some reimbursements for mug-making supplies would be paid out. Last weekend, volunteers from the ramp project were treated to lunch costing approximately \$106. There was another anonymous donation of \$450.

Adopt a Senior Update

Treasurer Marlys reported that there was \$4,124 in the Adopt a Senior checking account. Supplies were purchased for crafts designed by Lori and completed quarterly to give to seniors. Marlys talked about the first-ever Witches Tea Party organized by Christa for the Parmly seniors. She reported that there were six active volunteer-senior matches and additional volunteers seeking seniors to assist. The Adopt a Senior program may receive referrals through a veterans program. The next Adopt a Senior meeting will be held on January 13, 2026.

Membership Update

Dana led an icebreaker focusing on a volunteer activity and chose to talk about caroling. Rusty has organized the group to meet on Sunday to sing at the group home and nursing home, and again on Monday at Zion before the community meal. There was concern that there would not be enough carolers, and it was hoped volunteers would sing while working. Rochelle, Jessie, and Caryss handed out gift bags to volunteers in attendance in appreciation of their work.

Communications and Activities Update

Natasha announced a new member, Aisa, who was not in attendance but will be volunteering on Sunday for mug making. Natasha also noted a Facebook shout-out the GNC received.

Upcoming Events

- **Holiday Mug Making**
Mug making will take place Sunday, December 14, at Chisago Lakes Town Hall. Set-up will begin at 9 a.m., mug making at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch.
- **Holiday Caroling**
Carolers will meet on Sunday, December 21, at noon at Scooters. Stops will include the group home, senior center, and several local bars in Chisago City. On Monday, December 22, carolers will meet at Parmly at 2:30 p.m. and then sing at Zion Church during the community meal.
- **Zion Church Community Meal**
Volunteers are still needed for Monday, December 22. Volunteers must wear a hat and bring a dessert.
- **Mitten Tree**
Lori has the Mitten Tree up at the Uncommon Loon and monitors it regularly to ensure it does not become too full.
- **Meal in a Bag / Holiday Food Drive**
Items are being collected for Family Pathways. It was mentioned in the paper that another group donated 300 pounds, and GNC members were challenged to exceed that amount.
- **Celebration of the Lakes**
This event has typically taken place on the second weekend in February, but the Chamber decided not to host it this year. The Club discussed holding the candlelight walk at another time since the event leaders will not be in town. Wild River will host the radar run, Kid's Pro may organize ice racing, and local businesses may coordinate additional activities and form a marketing committee. Plans remain tentative.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Santa Anonymous of Chisago County**
Toys are being collected at Chisago City Hall and on December 21 at the park. Pattie will obtain additional details to share with the Club.
- **All-Ways Automotive Winter Gear Drive**
Winter gear is being collected for a family in need. Club members may contact All-Ways Automotive for more information.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

- **Donation Box at Tony's**
Tony from Tony's Bar and Grill donated the old box that was used to collect money for the pool table. The Meehans cleaned and decorated it, and Rusty built the pedestal. It will be used during the Santa and Grinch photo ops this season. The idea is to keep it at Tony's and decorate it for different seasons and holidays.
- **Bricks for Veterans**
The Club received funds from the Yellow Ribbon Network when it disbanded. Dana suggested using those funds to purchase engraved bricks honoring veterans for the Chisago County Veterans Memorial in Lindström, at a cost of \$100 per brick. Marlys spoke with the service officer at the Veterans Office, who expressed interest in partnering with the GNC. She will try to have him attend the January meeting.

– Car Maintenance and Ride Requests

The Club has been receiving requests for rides and car maintenance. Members discussed whether the Club should take on these requests or handle them on a case-by-case basis. Some indicated they would provide rides in emergencies but not on a regular basis. There was a suggestion to approach TGK or All-Ways Automotive about a possible partnership, offering discounts in exchange for sponsorship recognition. Bruce will speak with Mike to see how the Forest Lake Club handles similar situations. There was a question about liability and whether a waiver should be signed. Chris will look into the insurance coverage.

Acts of Kindness

- A hotline call came in requesting a ride; Pat O. provided assistance.
- Another call requested help cleaning gutters and fixing a soffit board; Kevin and Scott W. assisted. It was noted that the homeowner will need to paint her cedar siding, which volunteers were unable to take on.
- A call came in requesting help covering an air conditioner; Byron assisted.
- A family whose son was involved in the recent car accident moved to a new home and wanted to take their fence. Tim and Craig removed, transported, and reinstalled the fence.
- A request came from a woman seeking help hauling tires. Tim offered to assist, but before he could, she received a cancer diagnosis and deferred the request. Shelley will follow up to see if she needs other support.
- Lorraine wrote and delivered approximately 150 holiday cards to Parmly residents.
- The Griffin family has a holiday light display. Scott W. helped gather plywood for the GNC sign. Donations are being collected for Family Pathways and Harmony in the Park.
- Marlys shared a thank-you note from a volunteer in the senior program whose match had been in the ICU and later at Parmly.
- Chris shared that he met with Jax's mother; Jax was killed in the recent accident involving five local youths. He described her as very spiritual and was moved by her strength.

Next Meetings

- Board Meeting: January 8, 2026
- Club Meeting: February 12, 2026

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

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