

MINUTES

Annual Club Meeting & Pizza Party

Thursday, April 9, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Chisago Lakes Town Hall



Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by President Chris S. at 6:00 p.m. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

There were 35 members in attendance

Scott Ross	Caryss Buhler
Chris Schneider	Jessica Buhler
Shelley Lindau	Trena Morrison
Bruce Meehan	Robert Morrison
Lori Meehan	Rob Lindeman
Kevin Hulke	Pat Ongstad
Sandy Hulke	Lori Bestler
Freddie Fredericksen	Paul Olson
Tim Clark	Miranda Olson
Jared Clark	Marlys Dunne
Tamora Klemmensen (visitor)	Natasha Zarich
Lorraine Swenson	Tamy Tonn
Jeri Waters	Randy Berg
Lynn Bergerson	Rusty Lammers
Dana Helm	Christa Lerfald
Beth Engstrom	Natalie Warner (guest)
Peyton Schneider	Chris Duboise
Christa Lerfald	

Mission Statement & Today's Goals

Chris S. reviewed the goals, talked about the Club's mission statement, and encouraged acts of kindness.

Club Merchandise

Tamora Klemmensen from Apparel Pros brought in some of her merchandise and explained how to order and pick up items at her shop in North Branch without having to pay for pickup. There is a QR code to order that will be on the Club's website. She needs a three-week lead time, and she prefers bulk orders. Her phone number is 507-402-6761.

Elect Board of Directors

Up for election on the board were vice-president, treasurer, and four members at large. Nominated were Scott Ross for reelection as vice-president, Marlys Dunne for reelection as treasurer, and Jeri Watters, Bruce Meehan, Lori Meehan, and Tim Clark as members at large. Natasha made a motion, Chris D. seconded, to approve the appointments to the board as nominated. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Financial Overview

Treasurer Marlys D. reported there were \$7,111 in receipts in the last year. The largest donations were \$2,963 from CenterPoint Energy (Natasha's employer) and \$3,389 from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon when the group disbanded. Fundraising events brought in \$6,287 and included the triathlon, coffee pot sales, and Celebration of the Lakes raffles. Expenses equaled \$7,411, with the largest expense being the

parades and the cost to repair a car that was damaged by the Club's parade float. The Club has no liability insurance yet. There is currently \$14,591 in the Club's account, and there was a brief discussion on how to spend the money and vet those in need.

2026 Budget

Marlys anticipated the Club would take in \$4,100 in donations next year and \$1,500 from the triathlon. Expenses were budgeted at \$4,875, with the largest expense being the parades, storage fees, and expenses related to technology. Miranda made a motion, Kevin seconded, to approve the budget as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Adopt a Senior Recap

Marlys D. provided a brief update on the Adopt a Senior program. Over the year, the AaS received \$500 in donations and had \$399 in expenses, the largest expense being printing. Money is spent on making quarterly gifts for seniors. There are currently six seniors matched with volunteers and seven other volunteers looking for matches. Events in the past year included a Root Beer Float Social, Christmas Caroling, a Witches' Tea Party, and the Age Well Expo. AaS would like to expand social events.

Pizza Break

The Club served pizza purchased from Domino's at a discounted price.

Membership

There are currently 99 Club members. It is hoped Natalie will sign up to make 100. Chris talked about the many different resources and new ideas members bring to the Club. It was noted there needs to be more help on the membership committee.

Communications Update

Natasha announced there are currently 1,264 followers on Facebook and over seven thousand views in the last 30 days. She stated that Facebook is a great way to stay connected to the Club, and she encouraged everyone to like, comment, and share posts, and to tag GNC in their own posts.

2025 Activities Recap

A recap of the past year was provided. There were spring and fall Adopt a Highway events followed by a cookout, two parade and food drives, and the beginning of the steam for the coffee pot project, where the Club received recognition for its fundraising to make it happen. The video was shown for the Shafer Robbery reenactment, along with photos of caroling, holiday mug assembly, community meals, mitten tree, turkey bowling, triathlon, and Trick-or-Treat on Main Street. The Club also participated in Harmony in the Park nonprofit night and National Night Out.

Acts of Kindness

A slide in the presentation showed many acts of kindness done by Club members, including installing a ramp for a vehicle accident victim who was in a wheelchair. Tim reported he is now out of the wheelchair, and the GNC can come get the ramp.

March Food Share

Lorraine and Jeri reported they distributed information to 91 contacts and put an ad in the local paper promoting the food drive at the Uncommon Loon. She recognized the Uncommon Loon and Pizza Man, who sent out flyers with their pizzas. Over 342 pounds of food were collected compared to 365 pounds last year.

Sweep Little Sweden with a Bucket and a Broom

Kevin presented a clip from a film showing residents getting together to sweep the streets in Lindstrom and proposed the Club meet on Earth Day, April 22, at 5 p.m. at the mural by the bakery to sweep all four sidewalks of downtown. He asked that participants bring their own brooms and buckets and wear their GNC apparel. Gus and Northern Lights will video the event. Mayor Judy is on board, and the City will provide garbage cans. This will happen rain or shine. Miranda said she may be able to publish it in the Lindstrom Ledger.

Tea Party

Christa Lurfald is organizing a Parnly Spring Tea Party similar to the Witches' Tea Party last fall. The event will be on April 28 from 2–5 p.m., including setup. There are approximately 50 residents expected to attend and approximately 14 volunteers needed.

Adopt a Highway

Cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, beginning at 10 a.m. There are 4 miles of Stacy Trail (CSAH 19) roadway to be cleaned. Bags, grabbers, vests, and water will be provided. A grill-out lunch will follow.

GNC Scholarship

Marlys announced there were 12 applicants for the \$500 scholarship the GNC is awarding. Marlys will set a date to review the applications. A decision needs to be made by April 17.

Community Meals

Jeri reported that the CLGNC is committed to volunteering once a quarter at Zion Church beginning at 3:30 p.m. Approximately 12–15 people are needed. Volunteers must wear a hat and bring a dessert. The last meal had 296 attendees.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

An email was received from a local Lions member about the Club partnering in a "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" program. The program involves assembling beds (approximately 30) to give to those in need. There may be a financial commitment. Between 40–50 people are needed. It was thought this would be a good way to interact with other clubs and possibly partner with high school students. It was generally agreed it was a good idea. More information to come.

Miscellaneous

There was discussion about having a Club mascot. More to come.

Adjourn

Natasha made motion, Lori seconded, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Shelley Lindau

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