

# MINUTES

Club Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Chisago Town Hall



## **Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome new Club Members**

The meeting was called to order by Chris, and Rusty led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Attendance**

There were 21 members that attended the meeting. Introductions were done.

Chris Schnieder	Marlys Dunn
Scott Ross	Shelley Lindau
Trena Morrison	Rusty Lamers
Natasha Zarich	Rochelle Hernandez
Burce Meehan	Beth Engstrom
Lori Meehan	Pat Ongstad
Lorraine Swenson	Joel Helm
Christa Lerfald	Dana Helm
Jessie Buhler	Kevin Hulke
Jerri Watters	Sandy Hulke
Freddie Fredericksen	

## **Approve Club Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2024**

Natasha made motion, Dana seconded, to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2024, Club meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer Updates**

Treasurer Marlys reported that the club had a little over \$6,000 in the checkbook. Recent expenses included approximately \$172 for the candlelit hike and a \$50 donation to the Wild River Snowmobile Club to help pay for the porta-potties during the Celebration of the Lakes. Edward Jones, a local business, will be issuing a check to the GNC.

## **Adopt a Senior Program**

Marlys has been involved with a senior family during the past year, and they have made a \$500 donation to the senior program. She thanked Lori M. for leading the group in making hearts from painted puzzle pieces that will be given to seniors. The committee would like to have an event for seniors each quarter and is looking for ideas, likely something with a spring or Easter theme. She also thanked Beth for volunteering for a new senior match. Marlys and Chris had a good meeting with the county's senior agent and explained how the GNC program operates. There is hope they will send along some senior referrals. The Central Minnesota Council on Aging will be opening a grant program next month, and the committee/club needs to brainstorm ideas. There is approximately \$4,000 in the checkbook.

## **Donation to Shafer Fire Victims – Scott**

Scott was contacted by Mike K. from the Forest Lake Good Samaritan Club regarding the fire in Shafer that impacted seven families, mostly adults. There was one child, and one woman died. Mike asked if the GNC wanted to be a part of helping them out. The board made the decision to donate \$50 to each family in partnership. Scott will get the receipt to Marlys. There was discussion on how to best help during these types of tragedies. Mike had indicated that, through experience, he found that gift cards are most appreciated, and it was important to provide them to victims immediately to help with their most basic needs. There was discussion on how to best donate to them now. Shafer Saloon was taking donations, and they can be brought directly there instead of going through the club. Lori talked about

being at the FL Good Samaritan Gala, where three different families that had received good deeds after a tragedy spoke and told their stories. She said Mike keeps a spreadsheet on what club members donate, and she wondered if the GNC should do the same. Members generally agreed they would like to see the GNC do more of that and be able to react immediately. It was noted that there needed to be money set aside for that.

#### **Recap of Board Budget Workshop**

The board met in January and twice after that to talk about the budget. The board analyzed all expenses that Marlys had categorized. Based on must-haves according to past expenses, the club needed to have a minimum budget of \$4,800–\$5,500. The money coming in is pretty limited, and the club needs to focus more on sponsorship and fundraising. There was a question on whether the GNC should be part of the Rotary at \$250 this year. The board realized there are a few members that contribute a lot through their employers, and this could easily change, and the funding lost. Since there was more data and history of the GNC, Chris and Scott seemed confident about going out for sponsorships. Marlys said the GNC should be getting approximately \$2,000–\$2,500 in payout for the raffle. She also informed the club that a new organization will be doing the Chisago Lakes Triathlon in July and wants the GNC back to help. This could earn the club \$1,500. There was a question on Coffee Pot sales. There were approximately 89 left to be sold. Marlys will try to get a recap on sales for the next meeting to see how much the club made.

#### **Family Pathways**

There was still approximately \$600 that needed to go to Family Pathways in cash or food donations. Chris still had products that were previously purchased and was looking for volunteers to go shopping. Trena said that she and Chris had gone to Costco, but some products were in bulk and there was no way to divide them, so they may need to go to somewhere like Walmart for smaller sizes. Lorraine said that cash may be doubled at the March Food Drive, and she will check on that. There was discussion on where to go that would provide non-profit discounts. Jessie said she had a Target Red Card that will help save 5%. Scott will find out if there is a Target discount to non-profits. Someone suggested Cub since they are a Minnesota company. Christa suggested members take coupons and hit sales. There was a question on whether Brinks would be willing to do a match. Jerri will reach out to her contact there to see what they can do, and she will connect with Chris. Freddie wondered if the Forest Lake Good Samaritans Club would have any ideas. A goal was set to get everything purchased and delivered to Family Pathways by Friday, February 24.

#### **Membership Committee**

Jerri and Rochelle have been in contact with Lori B., who has given them some good information. Rochelle is still sorting through it all. Lori's father was not doing well, and there was a reminder for everyone to keep the family in their thoughts.

#### **Activities Committee**

Natasha noted that the past weekend was very busy with Celebration of the Lakes, and an update would be provided later in the meeting. She said there was a need for a few more volunteers for the Community Meal at Zion on March 24. A sign-up sheet was sent around. There were comments on it being a fun community event. The club has committed to doing it each quarter. Hats were required, and Scott said there were plenty in inventory for volunteers to wear. The March Food Shelf drive was coming up, and Lorraine will be providing an update on that.

#### **GNC Storage Unit – Chris S.**

Chris reported the rent for the entire year had been paid upfront for the rental unit. He said Dennis was going to help him put up shelving, which Chris anticipated would cost approximately \$150. Freddy said he had a bunch of "L" brackets he could donate, and he volunteered to help.

### **Booze Raffle Fundraiser**

Trena reported there was at least \$6,000 raised at the fundraiser held at Tony's Grill to assist the Clark family, and approximately \$9,000 if you included the Fire Department's donations. She thanked everyone who contributed. Natasha reported that the Clarks had put the Meal Train on pause, and she will be reaching out to them to see if they still need help. Cash can be donated; however, Meal Train takes a portion of that. There was already \$300 donated.

### **Mitten Tree Recap**

The Mitten Tree was at the Uncommon Loon for the month of December. Lori reported there was not as much volume as there was last year, but the quality was better, with most of the mittens being nylon. She delivered them to the elementary schools, women's shelter, and Family Pathways. She had received a "Thank you" from Family Pathways. There were comments on the generosity of the Loon for partnering with the club.

### **Holiday Mug Making Recap**

Shelley reported that over 100 mugs were made and distributed to Parmly, Health and Human Services, and seniors in the Adopt-a-Senior Program. It was noted that the club needs to improve its cleanup efforts. The date of Sunday, December 12, 2025, was chosen for the next event, and Natasha will schedule the hall. Members discussed the need to collect items now; berries and similar materials are needed for decorating, as well as more mugs.

### **Holiday Caroling**

Rusty reported that caroling was not as successful as in past years due to scheduling issues and weather. He had an injured arm as well. Approximately \$400 was raised. Caroling was done at Parmly, a group home, and during one of the Zion dinners. He suggested starting earlier next year and was open to last-minute events if the weather is good.

### **Celebration of the Lakes**

The Celebration of the Lakes was largely canceled the past two years due to lack of ice. The candlelit hike, approximately 1.75 miles of lit trail, had more volunteers than in past years, but there needs to be more organization for cleanup. For the Turkey Bowling, Rusty donned the turkey costume again this year, and Freddy was thanked for handling all the pin setup. There was a \$15 profit after Shelley was reimbursed for the seven turkeys and one chicken she bought. Marlys said that although Dodgeball was not a GNC-sponsored event, members volunteered to set up and had fun. Marlys will update the group at the next meeting on how much money was made for the GNC through the sale of ATV raffle tickets; the GNC sold at least 24 books of tickets.

### **Upcoming Club Events**

- Zion Community Meal March 24, 2025
- Adopt a Highway Cleanup. It was announced that the GNC has adopted a new section from Sunrise River to Ivywood, adjacent to the east of the current one. It was suggested to use the cleanup events as summer/winter member kickoffs with grilling or another activity afterward.

### **Sponsorships**

Scott and Chris will work together in early spring to meet with potential sponsors. It is felt the GNC has enough history and data to share. They are looking for contacts and ask members for businesses they can approach. Marlys said that when communicating with the fire department, she was told the best time to solicit donations is in June.

### **Club Engagement**

There is a need for more membership-type events. Ideas were requested, and there was discussion about holding events after membership meetings in the spring and summer. There needs to be a better way to show past events to members who couldn't attend, possibly through visuals. Natasha puts a lot of the pictures on Facebook, and members are encouraged to share pictures on GroupMe for posting on Facebook. Feedback from the club is welcome, and more engagement and opinions are sought.

### **MN Food Share Drive March 1-April 6**

Lorraine and Jerri are working on the MN Food Share Drive. Jerri has talked to the Uncommon Loon, and they are excited to have the club back. A bin will be located inside the door, as in previous years, for collecting food. Jerri has the PDFs from last year and will update the dates. She will also check with the Food Shelf for a list of needed items. Members are asked to spread the word.

### **Acts of Kindness / Drawing**

Members shared acts of kindness. Chris talked about his son coming home unexpectedly from Florida without winter clothes; Christa gathered a bunch and set them out for him. Kevin talked about a person he helps out who needed him to put out his garbage at a very inconvenient time. He was upset about it and then felt bad about being upset and quoted the Bible verse, "Don't ever grow weary of doing good." Christa recently held a party for an 80-year-old, and Lorraine pitched in to help. Christa passed out hearts with numbers. Three members had the highest card, a king, so they rolled dice for the highest number. The winner was Lorraine. Someone asked Chris how many sleds he fixed last weekend, but he declined to acknowledge credit.

### **Next Meetings**

- Board Meeting March 13, 2025
- Club Meeting April 10, 2025 - This will be the annual event.
- Future Agenda Items

### **Adjournment**

Natasha made motion, Lori seconded to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

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."*