

Minutes

Club Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Chisago Lakes Township Hall



Call to Order

Vice President Scott called the meeting to order, and the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance and Introductions

Shelley Lindau	Jessica Buhler
Scott Ross	Lorraine Swenson
Bruce Meehan	Scott Walberg
Lori Meehan	Pat Ongstad
Rob Linderman	Lynn Bergersen
Rochelle Hernandez	Steve Aldolson
Marlys Dunne	Sandy Hulde
Freddie Fredricksen	Kevin Hulke
Jeri Watters	Natasha Zarich
Dana Helm	Stacy Johnstone (Guest)
Lori Bestler	Rachel Johnstone (Guest)
Beth Engstrom	

Guest Ryan Skog – County Veterans Service Officer

Ryan explained that every county is required to have a Veterans Service Officer, yet most veterans are unaware of their existence. The office receives grant funding as well as support from the State's Veterans Office. He discussed their goal of connecting veterans with available benefits and emphasized that outreach is critical. Ryan encouraged everyone to share his contact information, noting that his office is located at the Chisago County Government Center. There was discussion about how the Club could help spread awareness, and Ryan mentioned that he has a webpage on the County's website. He also offered to assist with the application and selection process for purchasing bricks for the Veterans memorial using funds received from the Yellow Ribbon Network.

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Marlys D. provided an update on recent transactions. A total of \$573 was deposited into the account, including an anonymous donation of \$450. Expenses included \$185 for holiday mugs and a lock for the donation box at Tony's. Turkeys were purchased for \$147 at a discounted price from Bruce's Foods for the Celebration of the Lakes Turkey Bowling event. Natasha will acknowledge their contribution on social media. Recipients of last year's scholarships have met all expectations, and checks will be sent to them. The current balance in the checkbook is just over \$15,000.

Adopt a Senior Update

Marlys D. reported that there are four volunteers currently seeking senior partners. There were no funds in or out of the checkbook, leaving the balance at \$4,125. The AaS group met recently and worked on a holiday craft organized by Lori M. Three extra hearts were made and given to Ryan. Craig mentioned helping a senior change a battery in a smoke detector and asked if the Fire Department offered similar assistance.

Membership Update

Rochelle H. and Dana H. announced there were two new members, Lisa Yackel and Jaime Dube, who were not in attendance at this meeting.

Communications/Activities Update

Natasha Z. said the club is still getting a lot of inquiries and requests. She helped provide updates on past and upcoming Club events.

Quick Recap of Past Events

- **Holiday Mug Making – Sunday, December 14, 2025**
A total of 135 mugs were made. Beth E.'s friend donated greens and offered to provide them again next year. Mugs for next year are already being collected. Items still needed include picks and small decorations for designing. There are plenty of pinecones, ribbons, and bows. Members are encouraged to look for craft items at garage sales, which can be stored for future use.
- **Zion Community Meal – Monday, December 22, 2025**
Attendees reported that the meal went well, with carolers and plenty of volunteers. Attendance was high, so extra desserts were appreciated. Volunteers stayed to help with cleanup, which was noted as an area where more help is always appreciated.
- **Mitten Tree**
Lori M. reported that the Mitten Tree did very well and thanked everyone who donated much-needed nylon gloves. Donations were distributed to Pathway to Home, Family Pathways Domestic Abuse, and elementary and pre-kindergarten students in Chisago Lakes schools. It was mentioned that Walmart is currently offering discounts on winter items for anyone wishing to purchase early for next year.
- **Holiday Caroling**
Due to cold weather, caroling took place indoors this year, which worked well for collecting donations. Approximately \$475 was raised for the Food Shelf. Residents at Parmly enjoyed the caroling, with some singing along.

Upcoming Club Events

- **Celebration of the Lakes – February 13-15, 2026**
Chisago City stepped up to organize and handle marketing this year. Friends of Allemansrätten Park in Lindström are coordinating the Candlelight Hike. Four GNC volunteers signed up for the first shift (4–7 p.m.) and three for the second shift. Organizers will also have additional volunteers, and more help is always welcome. Communication has been sent out with details. The GNC provided candles, and organizers purchased their own bags. Members are asked to bring sleds and small garden shovels, if available.

Freddy requested more volunteers to help with Turkey Bowling. Steve, Bruce, and Lori volunteered. The event will take place on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. on South Lindstrom Lake. Freddy will arrive at 10 a.m. He will need petty cash, and Bruce will pick up the turkeys from the Dunnes. Pins are in storage.
- **Zion Community Meal – Monday, March 16 & Monday, June 15**
Natasha will send a reminder email asking volunteers to arrive by 3:30 p.m. and bring desserts. Patti and Craig previously organized the four annual meals but are no longer Club members. Jeri volunteered to take over coordination.

– **MN Foodshare-Lorraine**

Lorraine announced that the food drive will run from March 1 through April 1. The donation bin will again be located at the Uncommon Loon. She has a list of needed items, and Jeri offered to help design posters. It was noted that Kathy at Copy Pro will be on vacation for three weeks, so the printing order should be placed as soon as possible.

Request for Volunteer(s)

– **Senior needs help programing a Robo vacuum in Point Pleasant Heights**

No one in the Club reported having experience programming a robotic vacuum. The senior will need to be contacted for follow-up.

– **Request to put railing on front steps at residence near Zion Church**

There was discussion about whether this is something the Club should take on due to potential liability and whether a waiver should be signed. Members also discussed how to determine the individual's actual need and hardship. Previous meetings have addressed the idea of creating a referral list for such requests. Ryan offered to assist if the resident is a veteran and can provide proof of eligibility.

Miscellaneous discussion Items

– **Donation Box at Tony's**

The mailbox-style donation box remains in place, but Chris S. noted that it is not receiving many donations. Members discussed possibly redesigning or relocating the box.

Acts of Kindness

– **Holiday Lights Donation (Griffin's)**

Byron and Pam hosted a holiday light display that collected \$543 in donations. The funds were evenly split between the GNC and Harmony in the Park.

– **Shoveled Snow**

Scott W. responded to a request to shovel snow for a resident who had recently undergone surgery. A donation was received in appreciation.

– **All Saints Lock and Key helped woman who's key broke in door lock. (Lindsey B)**

Club member Lindsey B. assisted a neighbor whose key broke in her door lock during extremely cold weather. She sent a request for help via GroupMe, and All Saints Lock and Key responded. Members remarked on the effectiveness of GroupMe for quick communication.

– **Moved Senior from Stacy to Assisted Living in Hugo**

Several GNC members responded to a request to assist in moving a Senior. It was a very cold day, lots of large items so thankfully everyone had a truck. All went well, and they were able to do it in one trip.

– **Chair Lift for Senior (Freddy)**

Freddy responded to a request to help a senior install a chair lift purchased secondhand. After considerable effort, he determined the lift could not be repaired.

– **Others**

Freddy assisted one person stranded on the lake and helped another by changing a smoke detector battery. Scott repaired a soffit for a resident.

Upcoming Meetings

– **Board Meeting March 12**

– **Annual Club Membership Meeting April 9**

The group decided on Pizzas, same as last year. Natasha will send out an RSVP to plan accordingly.

Board vacancy will be voted on.

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Members at Large (4)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

Board Members - April 2025

Position	Member	Term Expires
President	Chris Schneider	May 31, 2027
Vice-President	Scott Ross	May 31, 2026
Secretary	Shelley Lindau	May 31, 2027
Treasurer	Marlys Dunne	May 31, 2026
Communication Director	Natasha Zarich	May 31, 2027
Member at Large	Craig Anderson	May 31, 2026
Member at Large	Chris Dubose	May 31, 2027
Member at Large	Tim Clark	May 31, 2026
Member at Large	Rochelle Hernandez	May 31, 2027
Member at Large	Dana Helm	May 31, 2026
Member at Large	Trena Morrison	May 31, 2026

All are two-year terms with a maximum of three years in one position.

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