



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 ~ CLUB MEETING

GUESTS



Many Fishing Well Scholarship recipients, Brenda Escutia – Fishing Well Coordinator with Harper College, Terri McHugh – District 54 Community Relations Executive Director, and Andy Murray – Chair and Mike Capesius – Vice Chair of District 54 Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- 1) Holly Fath needs help assembling Thanksgiving sides for WINGS on either Sunday 11/10 or Monday 11/11 at 1PM at her house, 1430 Seward St, Schaumburg. Let her know which day you prefer if you can help.
- 2) George Panopoulos presented a Paul Harris +8 pin (representing \$9,000 in Foundation giving) to Rosemary Justen.
- 3) Gene Walters circulated signup sheets for the Holiday Party at Chicago Prime Italian on Friday, December 6 - \$66 each. See attached.
- 4) Linda Dressler announced the next fellowship event on November 15 at Color Me Mine in Schaumburg; arrive 5:30 or later.
- 5) Tom Gosche invited members to the first Classic 2025 meeting immediately following the club meeting.
- 6) Ted Gross announced October bills have gone out. FOF stands for Friends of the Foundation; all members contribute \$30 per quarter which goes towards your Paul Harris points.
- 7) Ted Gross will be presenting his slate of officers for the 2025-26 Rotary Year in December. If you are interested in serving on the club board, please contact Ted.

CHECK PRESENTATION



Wendy Paszkiewicz presented a \$10,000 check to School District 54 Foundation. We have been funding their *Food for Thought* breakfast program for many years. Gratefully accepting our check was Andy Murray, Chair and Mike Capesius, Vice Chair of the Foundation, and Terri McHugh, Community Relations Director with School District 54.

Andy Murray explained that the Foundation's focus has shifted from the *Food for Thought* program (now being funded entirely by School District 54), to their *Families in Crisis* program and the district's *Food Pantries* (which we were instrumental in starting). Our \$10K will be split evenly with \$5,000 going to each program.

Fundraising efforts include an annual golf outing, Septemberfest, and a Craft & Vendor Fair coming up quickly on November 9 from 9AM to 3PM at the District 54 School Administration building on Schaumburg Road. Please consider supporting this fundraiser.

QUEEN OF HEARTS



The spinning wheel landed on the name of Darrell Moon. Since Darrell was not present, the lowest remaining card (#5) was turned over. It did not reveal that elusive Queen. Better luck next time, Darrell.



HAPPY DOLLARS



- 1) Jim Fabbrini greeted about 80 costumed kids on Halloween; however, the ones he enjoyed most were the Crockets all dressed as sea urchins (all costumes made by Wes' talented wife Caitlin).
- 2) Debbie Schmidt felt blessed to witness the *full circle moment* of our check presentation to District 54.
- 3) Sonny Bono (aka Mike Ericksen) was proud of the second-place prize he and wife Cher (aka Cheryl) received at a Halloween party.
- 4) Jim McCulla celebrated 30 years as a club member and was VERY pleased with Linda Dressler's efforts to sell their son Jim's property – 25 showings in one week!
- 5) Wes Crocket was relieved and grateful for receiving the Chicago permit to begin work on a \$1M project.
- 6) Mary Myzia recently closed the largest transaction of her career...congrats, Mary!
- 7) Nancy Redmon thoroughly enjoyed the delicious dinner at Ditka's that was offered on the Classic 2024 silent auction. If it is offered again, bid on it!
- 8) Holly Fath for Fridays being the best day of her week.
- 9) Allen Gabe ran out of candy after distributing 800 pieces to children in Chicago.
- 10) Brenda Escutia was happy for the positive impact the Fishing Well scholarships are having on students' lives.
- 11) Eileen Higginbothan is grateful for all the Fishing Well mentors who dedicate their time supporting our Fishing Well scholarship recipients.
- 12) Pat Groenewold had a most amazing time during a recent Civil Rights tour. She has also enjoyed being a Fishing Well mentor.
- 13) Ted Gross is happy the QuickBooks transition is over.
- 14) Gene Walters' daughter appeared on WGN in excerpts of Prairie Center for the Arts' Nutcracker performance.

FUN & FROLIC FINE MASTER ~ Allen Gabe



Late...like Loren Trimble.

Gene Walters called Jim Fabbrini 'Jack' (his son's name) while serving as Fine Master.

Gary Anderson and Wendy Paszkiewicz changed tables when Allen sat at their original table.

Holly for being on TV.

Wes Crocket for advertising.

Brian Berg, Jr. for not being the mentor to the HVAC Harper student.

Those with their jacket/coat on the back of their chair were not fined; but those without paid.

George Panopoulos for not paying Happy Dollars for his wedding anniversary.

The members of District 54 were invited to make a donation to our club.

Anyone who before the meeting ate candy that Barry Christian placed on tables.



PROGRAM – FISHING WELL UPDATE



Presented by **Brenda Escutia**. Eileen Higginbotham is very proud of the many, many success stories and commended both Fishing Well recipients and their mentors for their dedication to the program that began eight years ago.

Brenda Escutia gave an update of the numbers:

20% of program funding came from our club
80% came from donors

Most students are age 40+
70% of them work while attending classes
75% earned less than \$25K/year when they began the program
75% are women

School Year 2023-2024: 16 recipients with a 94% persistence rate
School Year 2024-2025: 6 additional recipients
Total Returning Students: 14

Funds disbursed – 2023-2024: \$53,542
Funds disbursed – Fall 2024: 26,000

We then heard how the scholarship funds and our ongoing support have impacted the lives of the nine students in attendance. I encourage you to listen to their journeys by going to You Tube and searching Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman meeting of November 1, 2024.