Rotary
Club of Schaumburg- Hoffman Estates, Illinois, U.S.A.



FRIDAY, November 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Ted at 12:15.

The Pledge was led by Holly. Rachel led us in the 4-Way Pact and the invocation was provided by Jack.

Our visitors

Brett Weiss, our speaker today
Allen introduced Lt. Elliott R, (Schaumburg Police)

Announcements

- Anita reminded us that the invitation for the Holiday Party on December 18 went out this week. She asked that we register on line.
- Don M. reported that Subaru of Schaumburg donated a used car to the HEHS automotive program. The students will do all the rehab work and Subaru will donate the parts needed. He thanked Holly for her initiative in reaching out and making the ask that resulted in employment for one of the students from the program and this car.
- Wendy was checking on volunteers for the food distribution at Keller Jr. High today and looking for much needed volunteers for the Barn tomorrow.
- Allen highlighted the Classic materials on the tables and announced that although there is no club meeting on December 18th, there will be a Classic committee meeting via Zoom. He encouraged us to begin collecting silent auction items. We do have one confirmed sponsor signed up already.
- Linda and Gene shared information on the December fellowship opportunities. There will be a "Treat Exchange" on December 9th at Dessert Café 365 – 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Also, on December 4th during the fellowship time prior to the meeting, there will be a turkey leftover contest.
- Ted announced that there will be a past presidents' meeting on December 4th when Gary will share his slate of officers for 2027-28.
- We will be meeting on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Also, when we come back after the holidays we will be meeting at Bella Napoli during January, February and at least part of March.

Marble Raffle

Because he had to leave early, John S. conducted the Marble Raffle drawing at the beginning of the meeting. The pot was up to $902. Linda was the lucky Rotarian whose ticket was drawn, but that is where the luck stopped. She pulled a blue marble and won $15 instead of half the pot.

Happy $$$s

$ Linda was very happy because she will be with her granddaughter in FL for her 10th birthday and to share in "Grandparents Day" at her school next Friday.

$ Amber because she will be volunteering in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago.

$ Allen because Elliott finally made it to a meeting and in appreciation for the great turnout for today's Classic committee meeting.

$ Mike E. thinks maybe he is happy because he was elected as treasurer for the 2030 (Chicago) Convention committee. (We'll see if he is still happy in three years.)

$ Jack happily reported that Harper's recent newsletter highlighted the Fishing Well program.

$ Mary will be acting in the Palatine Park District Adult Theatre's 50+ production of "Guys and Dolls."

$ Don celebrated that they have identified 15 new candidates for the Tool Kit/Scholarships and put in a plug for donations for 15 more tool kits.

$ Brian B. happy about the award he received from the American Institute of Architects, Illinois Chapter.

$ Pat for DA Bears.

$ Rachel is glad to be back. She expressed her appreciation for the support she received during her mother's illness and after her mom passed away. She is really excited that her son Cooper's team made the super bowl and that her husband, Ted, has secured 3 tickets for the Notre Dame game tomorrow.

$ I missed hearing the details of Gene's first happy (sorry Gene) but did catch that the second was for the many accomplishments of his daughter Bailey.

Fun and Frolic

Finemaster Allen levied the following fines today.

⌘ Anyone who did not reach out to a Veteran on Tuesday

⌘ Even though baseball season is over, there are some exciting things in baseball here in Chicago. Pete Crow-Armstrong (Cubs) won the 2026 MVP and Platinum Glove Award and Will Venable (White Sox) was named manager of the year. This formed the basis for our multiple-choice quiz.

How many people have won both MVP and Platinum Glove in the same year? (1, only Pete)

Jim Bunny (for whom we have a signed baseball for the silent auction) pitched no hitter games in both American League and National League. How many people have done that? (5)

⌘ Gillett for comment made during the quiz.

⌘ No guest, late, not wearing pin, not wearing badge

⌘ Everyone fined $2 because he had a fine all ready for someone, but can't use it because he doesn't fine the person doing the Buzz

⌘ Jacket or coat on the back of a chair

⌘ Linda's winnings – give $5

⌘ Don M. for the length of his announcement and happy dollars. -- nice program, Don

⌘ Anyone who went to that University in Ann Arbor whose team got beat last week

⌘ Because Brian got only 1 for award this year, everyone paid $2.

Our program

Brett Weise reported on the student we have sponsored for several years. BornClinton Odiwuor Otieno. Clinton graduated from high school last year and is now in his first year at university studying for a BA in education. That was made possible by our support.

They have changed their name to "Ascend Kenya" to better describe their mission. More than half the children don't get an education and it is about 80% in Kenya. Their holistic business model meets needs of the very poor kids served by this program. There are 8 staff people who provide mentorship and support for the students, most of whom are the first members of their family to attend high school or even finish primary school. They have a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator -- 93% the funding goes directly to the kids in the program.

The program splits funding 50/50 between girls and boys. Girls face monumental challenges in getting an education in Kenya. It is unusual for girls to be encouraged to go to school. The program makes a special effort to include girls by taking into account the fact that their grades and test scores do not reflect their academic ability, but rather are the result of the society's expectations. The girls miss a lot of school for reasons beyond their control, which results in lower "entrance exam" scores which has kept them from higher education. With the extra support the program provides the girls catch up once they have the chance. The gap between boys and girls has narrowed dramatically over the years of this program.

He shared some interesting and inspiring stories about individual students. The program currently has166 children in high school and 71 are in vocational programs. There are 351 high school graduates so far and 131 have gone on to university. The program began with 32 scholarships in 2017 and has grown each year since then. There are 127 high school graduates 36 vocational grads and 15 university grads.

Two students have studied in the US¸one at Elmhurst University (she has now graduated and is employed in the US). A second student is at Benedictine University currently. Brett also shared information about the partners with which Ascend Kenya works to make these scholarships possible, many of which are Rotary clubs here and in Kenya.

At the end of his presentation, Bett took questions from the audience

Loren led us in the 4-Way Test and the meeting closed in the usual way – "If it can be done it will be done by Rotarians.".