

The Buzz



February 20, 2026

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

Pledge was led by Bill Kelly. Four-way pact was led by Diane, and Jack Lucas did the invocation.

New Member Induction

- ❖ Ted introduced induction of Ken Bush.
- ❖ Mike Ericson did the induction.
- ❖ Ken's comments: Thanks for having me. I am not sure that I want to be in any club that would have me. You guys are all great people. I am originally from Wisconsin, Go Badgers. I have attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I am a wealth advisor and worked with Rodger for a short time. I have been married 25 years, have 2 adult children, who still live at home but are gainfully employed. Any tips on getting rid of 20 something year old kids. Thanks again for having me be part of your organization. I know Allen, Linda, Roger, Gene, and Mary, I am happy to be part of a fine group of people.

Our Program: Scouting America, Troop 297, Church of the Cross

Debbie S introduced Matilda Vazquez and Steve Shwer of Scout America, Troop 297.

Debie is the liaison to this charter organization. Matilda and Steve were both elected to the Order of the Arrow, an honor society of scouting. They also served at the Counsel.

Matilda Vazquesz, Committee Chair, has been a part of scouting over 20 years. Matilda is the liaison between the Troop, the church and the Rotary. Troop 297 is 58 years old and still strong, thanks to organizations like the Rotary who partner with us. The values of scouting mirror those of Rotary values.

Steve Schwer, the Scout Master. The Scout Master helps make sure the scout progresses from scout to eagle. There are 141 merit badges, which opens multiple experiences to the scouts. Troop 297 is a Family Troop, which means that girls and boys participate. The scouting program teaches leadership.

Pat G thanked Troop 297, on behalf of the Church of the Cross, for their generous time and service. The Church has been a recipient of so many scout projects. Steve thanked the Church for the use of the space for their meetings.

Be sure to watch the recording for detailed information on the scouting program.

Announcements

- ❖ Allen, Uncle Joe Lesniak wife, Jimmy, would have been 99 next month has passed away. Service Wednesday at noon. The services for Jimmy Lesniak are going to be at Mount Emblem Cemetery,

520 East Grand Avenue, Elmhurst. It's the cemetery with the windmill for some of those who know, on Wednesday, February 25th at noon. There will be a small service in the chapel. And then for those that want to, they will go to the grave site and then go "grab something to eat" after that. Their son Jay Lesniak address is 5155 Landers Dr., Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 if anyone wants to send a condolence card.

- ❖ Joe Sabintion, from Schaumburg AM Club, introduced and invited us to come to Super Bowl of Soups Cookoff. See attached Flyer
- ❖ Roger Smith needs signups for project selections on April 17th. Awards are given about a month later.
- ❖ Glen, passing seating chart for the Classic. Please sign up if there is someone you want to sit with. To date, 329 raffle tickets and 202 dinner tickets have been sold. There are 98 left to sell. Please support me on this.
- ❖ Tom, social media please "like" and "share" and "comment".
- ❖ Shae, there is an impromptu fellowship and recruit event, tomorrow, at Village Tavern on Wise Road at 12:00 – 2:00. Please come and bring friends that might be interested in joining Rotary.
- ❖ Diane spoke of the 300 commitment for dinner tickets. 98 more need to be sold. Please keep selling.
- ❖ Diane had a call with Rick Riener. Our district is hosting a walk to end polio on October 24th, at 10 am. Mike added, this is part of the worldwide walk for polio. 30 or 40 states and 20 countries are participating. There is more information in the 411.
- ❖ Nancy Redmond, as a member of the club, is disappointed. This is our major fundraiser, and we are not doing enough to sell the dinner tickets. She does not want to see the money she raised selling raffle tickets go to pay for unsold dinner tickets.
- ❖ Brian Berg, walked thru of Chandlers. They are on schedule to open March 4th; however, they were very overwhelmed.
- ❖ Ted, we will be here next week and March 6th. The March 20th meeting, at 12:00, will be at Bar Down. There will be televisions and bar food to compliment the NCAA tournament. You may arrive as early as 11:00 to watch the games. And you may stay after the meeting to continue to watch.
 - Jim F, on Ryla, the kids made a good presentation. Ted's daughter went and found it to be very beneficial. Jim is asking for support from other clubs, there are 6 students cleared from Schaumburg HS. May have another 20 applications from Conant. March madness, Jim is running two pools. One is sold out and the other needs 47 more participants. He needs support in filling the second pool. There is an opportunity to win \$1,000. Classic, Jim's wife is donating a Dessert of the Month. He is looking for bids on this item. 30 to 40 deserts to choose from. Samples of Dove chocolate butter cookies were given.

Happy Dollars

- ❖ Roger S has \$6. \$1 for friend Ken Bush who was inducted today and the other \$5 for his 25th anniversary in Rotary.
- ❖ Don \$5, Dave Ligman said he has the best group of applicants for scholarship and toolbox program in years. Also, Dave won Teacher of the year for Cook County. Also AM club is highlighting the toolkit at the super bowl of Soups so please sign up.

- ❖ Allen G \$5 for his friend Ken coming into the group and then commented on Ken being good friends with Linda and Gene, and all he had to do was say “hey Ken, you want to join Rotary.” Just Ask! Also, for all that bought Girl Scout cookies from his granddaughter.
- ❖ Ken \$10 Thanks again for having me in the club. Have a great weekend!
- ❖ Bill Kelley \$5 Debbie for being the charter rep from our club and troop 297 for so many years.
- ❖ Gillett, as of today it’s our true Independence Day. Tariffs are off so prices on wine will be coming down. Giving \$100 for this minus whatever he gets fined for.
- ❖ Tom feels something is missing today so he has a dollar for Gene’s daughter Bailey because he is sure she is doing something.

Fun and Frolic

- ❖ Gillett, no givebacks. Allen was not going to fine you today because he was happy to see you back, but that comment will cost you \$2.
- ❖ Gayle gets a pass for tickets, and the Buzzer (Mary) gets a pass.
- ❖ Late \$2
- ❖ No badge \$2
- ❖ No Pin \$2
- ❖ Ken, you’re not officially a member until you get fined by Allen so that will be \$5.
- ❖ Allen agrees with Nancy so if you are a member of the club and you are bringing your spouse or significant other and you only bought 1 raffle ticket, We are going to tell your spouse that you are too cheap. That will be \$5.
- ❖ If you did not contribute something to the silent auction that will be \$2. Go to a restaurant, ask. Allen is getting a card later today. Mary went to her personal trainer and asked. Got 3 free training sessions.
- ❖ Rotary meeting, if you’re not wearing Rotary attire \$2. If you’re not wearing what your president or Fine Master is wearing \$2.
- ❖ No woman at your table, \$2.
- ❖ Allen wanted to congratulate Jeff Miller. We wanted to get the best and we did. Best Person ever. Lastly, Allen was never in the boy scouts, but he did have an eagle. It was while he was in a foursome with Jim F.

Closing Announcements

March 6 meeting will be at Bella Napoli.

Sell Classic Tickets.

Bring a non-Rotarian guest to Village Tavern tomorrow.

Closing

The four-way test was led by Linda