



## **FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 ~ CLUB MEETING**

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

The Pledge was led by Jim Townsend.

The Four Way Pact was led by Rachel

The Invocation was given by Jeff Miller, filling in nicely for Jack.

## **GUESTS**

Our only guests today were our speaker, Susan Padilla of Rescue Our Children Organization / God's Kingdom Returning Home and her daughter, Desea.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ted announced that today is our last meeting at Bella Napoli. Back to Chandler's beginning next week, with the exception of March 20<sup>th</sup> – Bar Down for NCAA viewing!
- Jim Fabbrini gave a RYLA update. It has closed out with 16 students to attend (12 from Conant, 4 from Schaumburg HS). Our club is sponsoring 11 (vs. 10 in the budget) while the A.M. club will pick up the rest.
- Jim F. announced that there are still 13 openings for the NCAA Beat the Spread Pool. Contact him if you are interested. Those not paying cash for their team will receive a separate invoice from the club.
- Jim F. also passed around some of Karen's chocolate chip cookies as a teaser for the Classic Silent Auction.
- Gayle announced that 267 meals for The Classic have been sold. Another 20 will go to the various helpers and staff. Additionally, 540 tickets have been sold for the drawing. That's a lot of progress in the last week or two.
- Gene asked the Classic Committee to stand so they could be recognized and receive a gift. Among those standing were Mary, Rachel, George P., Allen, Pat, Glenn, Linda, Gayle and Tom.
- Allen mentioned that some extra hands are needed to assist with check-in tomorrow night. Contact Dianne or Gene if you can help out.
- Allen noted that any extra meals that the Club has paid for but go unclaimed will not go to waste. They will be donated to Journey's Road Home.
- Tom and Bill offered reminders for Rotarians and guests to link to the Silent Auction.

## **HAPPY DOLLARS**

\$ Jeff S. was \$50 happy that his son Nick had just returned after a harrowing 5-day journey back from Dubai, after getting trapped on the tarmac as the missiles started to fly last Saturday.

\$ Linda was \$20 happy that Nick had returned safely.

\$ Allen was \$5 happy in celebration of the efforts of the Classic Committee.

\$ Allen offered another \$15 in tribute to his family dog, which was put down after 15 loving years.

\$ Brian was \$20 happy that 1.) Chandler's has reopened, 2.) that his parents were in town, and 3.) that Dennis was in attendance at the meeting.

\$ Bill was \$5 happy that a new Harper trustee is soon to be announced, and \$5 happy about the Classic Committee's efforts.

\$ Jim T. was \$5 happy to be back in town and to have found some tickets for The Classic still available.

\$ Ted was \$5 happy that his daughter is in town for Spring Break, and that The Classic is finally at hand.

\$ Gene was \$2 happy / unhappy about 1.) Bailey is writing a screenplay and 2.) the quality of Karen's chocolate chip cookies, which he disparaged as he stuffed his face with one.

\$ Jim McCulla was \$5 happy that he intends to outbid Gene for Karen's cookies tomorrow night.

## **FUN & FROLIC**

Fine master Allen Gabe went to work. Fines were earned by:

- Anyone not wearing Rotary attire - \$5.
- Anyone wearing different Rotary attire than the Fine Master - \$5.
- Anyone who first showed up at Chandler's - \$5.
- Anyone not turning in an item for the Silent Auction, or being too shy and retiring to do so - \$5.
- Anyone wearing their company logo - \$5.
- Anyone taking more than their share of Karen's cookies - \$5.
- Jim T. for missing a month or so of meetings while in Florida - \$20.
- Terry Parke for many missed meetings while in Florida - \$5.
- Dennis for months of missed meetings while traveling the world with "Harvey" - \$25.
- Bob for being serenaded for his birthday - \$20.
- George for taking a nap and/or having heavy eyelids.
- Anyone not recognizing the Liquor Wagon item named in honor of Gene's daughter – Bailey's Irish Crème.

## **PROGRAM**

Susana Padilla was the guest speaker.

Susana first discussed the Rescue Our Children Organization (R.O.C.O.). Among its services is providing birthday parties for underprivileged children. They have an event scheduled on April 26<sup>th</sup> – “El Dia del Nino”. There are sponsorship opportunities – contact Susana if you are interested.

Susana then turned to the scheduled topic of “Pre-Planning Longevity and Prosperity” as advanced by the organization God’s Kingdom Returning Home. Why deliver a nasty financial surprise to your surviving family members after the presumably disappointing news of your personal demise?

The answer is the “Gift of Love”. This is advance funeral arrangement planning and payment, with the benefits of:

- Freezing cremation and funeral service pricing, protecting your family from the compounding effects of inflation (younger Rotarians take special notice here).
- Financial freedom for your family – no eating into those eventual life insurance and inheritance payouts.
- Recording your wishes, freeing your loved ones from family drama, hold-ups and surprises. Yes, you call the shots.
- Prepaid amounts are protected by trust policy and insurance, and for added comfort, the Illinois Comptroller’s Office is involved.
- Prepaid amounts are transferrable and refundable under certain conditions.

Susana is your contact.

Rachel led the 4 Way Test, and Ted adjourned the meeting.