



FRIDAY, February 9, 2024

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

The Pledge was led by Wendy, the 4 Way Pact by Bill K. The Invocation was provided by Jack.

Our visitors

We welcomed some of our Fishing Well recipients: Mina, Brenda ,main speaker today, Charra, Sonja, Karisa and Angelica. Many were introduced by their mentors.

Announcements

- 🔊 Jack let us know of the need for volunteers for the Barn this coming Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm – several people responded.
- 🔊 Brian talked about Project Selection – looking for committee members and reminded liaisons to our partner agencies to remind them of the opportunity.
- 🔊 Melissa put Valentine/Galentine Day cards on tables to be signed and given to our seniors.
- 🔊 Invoicing, anticipating January invoices going out next week, still ironing out a problem. Goal is to have them out first or second week of each month.
- 🔊 Gayle updated us on the Classic. Looking to borrow musical instruments for decorations. There is a room block at Country Inn and Suites where the after party will be held. A friend of Nancy's has turned in \$3,500 worth of tickets, lots of silent auction stuff brought in today 247 tickets, 250 meals, sponsorships are at \$103,000.
- 🔊 Gene informed us that the Karaoke night has been canceled. February 18 is the date for the Chili Cook Off at Bar Down 11:30am-1:30pm. Looking ahead to a March event to watch some of the March Madness playoff games.
- 🔊 Preview of the Natalie Martinez Classic Promo video.

Rachel warned us that we would be seeing a pizza theme in the slides today, since it was National Pizza Day. That prompted some of us to go home and order pizza for dinner.

Happy \$\$\$s

- \$ Mike was happy to have been a speaker at a club yesterday
- \$ Brian was happy because he was featured in the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation Newsletter this month.
- \$ Eileen happy because of the Fishing Well participants who could join us today
- \$ Bruce happy to be here with mentee Sonja
- \$ Roger for a reason I couldn't hear
- \$ Bill happy about success of mentees

\$ Allen happy to be able to brag about his granddaughter's 11th birthday
\$ Nancy happy to be going to St. Martin's tomorrow
\$ Gene celebrated his daughter's success in Little Mermaid, the beautiful weather, wished all a Happy Valentine's/Galentine's Day and something about Allen.
\$ Karisa happy to be here with us and in appreciation of Brenda's support
\$ Rachel in appreciation of the leadership team for their support and for Gayle for her organization and commitment to the Classic and to all who are working so hard on the event
\$ Gayle because Honorary Chair Loren is here today

Queen of Hearts Raffle:

Ed Haag's name came up and he picked #24, which revealed the 6 of Hearts.

Fun and Frolic

Our fearless and fearsome Fine Master Allen levied the following fines:

- Loren because he was late along with anyone else who was also late
- John Selke was secret greeter, anyone who did not interact with him was fined
- Holly and Bruce for leaving their original table when they figured out Allen was sitting there
- If you did not have an appetizer before the meal started
- Marie, talking with Allen and Nancy, for saying something that embarrassed him
- Wendy delivered meals on wheels, anyone who has not done meal on wheels service was fined
- If you have not turned in any Classic tickets yet (Allen was disappointed in club because 20 members have not turned in even one ticket)
- Bill for use of "dis" words like distinct and distinguished
- No guest at your table
- Brian for not being sure of due date for Project Selection applications
- Gene for saying "bring soup" to the chili cookoff
- Anyone who has not read Brian's article
- Not wearing Rotary attire
- Did not fill out a valentine
- "If I haven't fined you ... you're lying."

Our program

Eileen welcomed Fishing Well scholars, introduced members of the Fishing Well commission, thanked the club for 7 years of support and provided highlights about the newer program at Elgin Community College, which began last year with a \$50,000 grant from our club. At the end of 2023, ECC had expended over \$33,000 of that initial grant. So far there have been 11 people who have completed the Commercial Driver's License program, all employed in well-paying jobs, and 9 automotive scholarships have been granted.

Brenda presented a report "Fishing Well by the Numbers" on the past year's experiences and accomplishments. Since 2016 when the program began, there have been 81 recipients at a total cost of \$327,808.17. For this past academic year (2022-23) 89% of the participants have been enrolled part-time and 11% full-time; 59% are first generation college students (first in their family to attend college). Their average age is 33 and 94% are female.

Fishing Well students had an average GPA of 3.41, while Harper's overall average is 2.89. During the fall semester 5 of our students attained a 5.0 GPA, including some of our guests with us today. Our students' persistence rate is 94% compared to the overall rate for Harper of 76%. So far, this academic year, the persistence rate is 100% for Fishing Well students.

This academic year (2023-24) there are 16 Fishing Well students, 7 of whom are new to the program. A total of \$52,000 has been awarded. Brenda is excited to be able to follow these new students from the beginning to their successful completion. Programs of study include a variety of medical specialties, as well as Early Childhood Education, HVAC, Information Technology, Paralegal Studies and Geographic Information Studies.

Roger and Bob F spoke about their experiences as mentors. The students at the meeting were invited to say a few words and Brenda shared an update about a few of the alums of the Fishing Well program.

Holly led us in the 4 Way Test and the meeting was adjourned.