



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 ~ CLUB MEETING

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

The Pledge was led by Mike E.

The Four-Way Pact was led by Chuck.

The Invocation was given by Jack.

GUESTS

Shea introduced two guests from the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC):

- Melanie Pignotti, CEO
- Taylor Edmunds, Forensic Investigator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shea reminded us that there is only one week left to turn in tickets for the Vacation Drawing. There is a gap to be closed vs. last year's sales. Online sales will be cut off as of Wednesday midnight.
- Wendy mentioned several hands-on volunteer opportunities. Contact her if interested:
 - The Barn, tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Linda volunteered, could use more.
 - LMJ Lost Souls, Wed. 10/14, 11:30 – 12:00. This is mainly a photo op. 675 S. Roselle Road.
 - Keller Jr. High monthly distribution, Thursday, 10/15 at 3:30 p.m.
 - Butterfly Garden, Saturday, 10/17 at 9:00 a.m. Last clean-up of the year!
 - Roadside Clean-up, Saturday, 10/24 at 9:00 a.m. Last clean-up of the year!
- Wendy requested a HEHS contact who could help determine who the new Interact sponsor might be.
- Ted noted that Eileen and Mike had received recognition at the recent District Conference. Congratulations!
- Ted announced a Past Presidents Meeting on December 4th, and that a December 11th meeting will address next year's slate of officers. The Holiday Party will be at Chandler's on December 18th – no lunch meeting that day.
- Ted mentioned that if you run a scholarship program, now is the time to get going. Tom advised that those responsible should check the application forms on the website to make sure they are accurate.
- Ted noted that while our club is not sponsoring a Polio Walk on October 24th, there are many opportunities to walk with other Rotary clubs in the area. See the District web site.

HAPPY DOLLARS

\$ Eileen was happy to have the guests from the CAC in attendance.

\$ Mike was \$5 happy to have received recognition from the District at the recent conference.

\$ Mary was \$5 happy that a loved one walked away from a motorcycle crash.

\$ Jeanne and Jeff were \$20 happy to be back from a nice vacation in Europe.

\$ Chuck was happy to be set to sail on a 2-week Mediterranean cruise for his 65th anniversary.

\$ Darrel was \$20 happy to have hit his goal of losing 100 pounds.

\$ Roger was \$20 happy that Renee returned home on Monday and is doing better cognitively, though physical challenges remain.

\$ Gene was \$2 happy to be getting ready for a Columbus Day parade associated with Avante, and that Bailey is in full swing rehearsing for The Nutcracker.

FUN & FROLIC

Jim F. was today's Fine Master, and he came out swinging. All fines were \$2 unless noted otherwise.

- ✓ Chris was fined \$5 for being late and apparently not understanding Jim's attempts to speak in Spanish.
- ✓ Jim and Bonnie were fined for no apparent reason
- ✓ Gene was fined \$4 for over-enthusiastic hand shaking, to the point of suspicion.
- ✓ Stephanie and Veronica were given "welcome" fines as newcomers who hadn't yet been fined by Jim. It's a rite of passage.
- ✓ Chuck was fined \$3 for saying "if I was feeling any better, I wouldn't be here."
- ✓ Loren and Gillet were fined for not having been around lately.
- ✓ Loren was fined for wearing light-colored pants after Labor Day.
- ✓ Tom was fined for being dressed as if he was heading out on vacation.
- ✓ Gary was fined for hiding his birthday (his 50th I am told!). He received the classic serenade.
- ✓ Wendy was fined for her lengthy solicitation of volunteers, plus an extra \$2 for complaining about it.
- ✓ Darrel was fined for "being half the man he used to be".
- ✓ Those not wearing their pins or their badges were fined.
- ✓ Those not volunteering at the Barn tomorrow were fined.
- ✓ Anyone who hasn't turned in their Vacation Drawing tickets were fined.
- ✓ Anyone not aware that Mike Ditka had just passed away were fined for cluelessness.

PROGRAM

Melanie Pignotti, CEO of the Children's Advocacy Center, discussed the organization (one of our Visioning Affiliates) and its services. Some of the highlights were:

- The CAC has three locations: Hoffman Estates (site of the Butterfly Garden), Arlington Heights and Skokie.
- These three locations serve 38 communities. They interact with police departments from each community as well as the Cook County Police.
- The CAC has 23 full-time staff members, and serves about 1,900 clients per year, both children who have been either a victim or a witness to violence, and their non-offending family members and caretakers.
- Taylor Edmunds, a Forensic Investigator, described a recent event that led to a forensic interview in conjunction with law enforcement. Free medical and mental health support were provided. The offender was placed in police custody, and the CAC is now providing advocacy services during the judicial process.
- Mental health services are trauma focused. The victim must be showing signs of PTSD to qualify.
- On a lighter note, Dora, a yellow labrador, is now certified as a therapy dog and is a big hit.
- All club members are invited to the CAC's Spooktacular event on October 24th, from 12:00 to 3:00 at the CAC. Head on over after cleaning up Golf Road and walking for Polio!
- The CAC is looking to hold a 4th year of their Trauma Symposium for therapists. The event will probably be held in February. This is one of the ways in which our club's funding supports the organization.
- Melanie has a goal to expand the CAC's Annual Fund to \$1 million, in order to maintain their essential services.

Eileen led us in the Four-Way Test.

Ted adjourned the meeting at 1:25.