WELCOME

118th Annual Meeting of The Prairie Club

June 13, 2026 at Hazelhurst

The Prairie Club's

118th Annual Meeting of Members

June 13, 2026

AGENDA

New Member Meet & Greet

Call to Order

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Recognitions ..... Mike Maloney, *President*

Financial Reporting..... Mark Sever, *Treasurer*

Memorial for Departed Members ..... Hope Little, *Annual Meeting Chair*

Door Prizes..... Hope Little, *Annual Meeting Chair*

Closing Remarks/ Adjournment ..... Mike Maloney, *President*

Lunch

THE PRAIRIE CLUB 117TH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 31, 2025

Call to Order. President Mike Maloney called to order a regularly scheduled Annual meeting of the Prairie Club at 11:41 am pm (EDT) on May 31, 2025.

Meeting materials. Attendees were provided a handout that included a meeting agenda, a list of the current Prairie Club officers, board of directors and committee chairs, an audit report, the Treasurer's report, membership counts, lists of departed and 2024 new members, and reports from the Hazelhurst and Spring Grove camp chairs, the respective rental chairs for the Buena Vista, Family Cottage, and Farmhouse rental facilities as well as reports of the Activities and the Conservation Committees. The Membership Committee report included information on rules related to Hazelhurst access. See the handout for details reported by Committee Chairs.

President's Comments. President Mike Maloney opened the meeting by noting the long history of volunteerism in in the Club and that the organization could not operate without substantial volunteer efforts. He also noted that the Club is doing exceptionally well, with strong membership and financial capacity. Activities are happening regularly. Facilities have been upgraded and are in excellent condition; Mike specifically noted the new roof on the Hazelhurst Farmhouse.

Mike thanked Barb Burton for two outstanding years as Hazelhurst Camp Chair and reported that Dan Gapen will be succeeding Barb in August. Finally, Mike thanked Hope Little for organizing the meeting and picnic.

Mike asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Meeting. Doug Elrick made the motion, it was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Report. Mark Sever, the Prairie Club Treasurer, presented a summary of the Prairie Club's financial status. A one-page summary of the 2024 operating results was included in the annual meeting packet.

Mark Sever noted the Prairie Club is in a solid financial position with strong operating earnings and a solid balance sheet. Mark Sever referred to the financial summary in the annual meeting materials if members wanted more details. He was also available for questions if members wanted more information.

The Prairie Club has filed its Form 990 tax return on a timely basis to maintain our tax-exempt status. Charles Manthey has completed his financial review of the 2024 books and records. His report is included in the meeting materials.

Given the Prairie Club's financial position and actual and budgeted operating results for 2025, Mark Sever indicated he had discussed with the Board at the May Board meeting if a dues increase was needed for 2026. The Board did not raise dues for 2024 or 2025. Given the Prairie Club's financial position and with the caveat that nothing significant occurs in the remainder of the year, the Board's view was that no increase in dues would be needed for 2026.

Departed Members. Hope Little read the list of members who passed away since the last Annual Meeting. The list is included in the meeting materials.

Raffle. The meeting closed with a raffle. Congratulations to four lucky members who won either a Prairie Club ball cap or mug.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Maloney at 11:58 am (EDT).

THE PRAIRIE CLUB
2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President – Mike Maloney
1st Vice President – Sarah "Sally" Craig Pratt
2nd Vice President – Hope Little
Hazelhurst Camp Vice President – Dan Gapen
Spring Grove Camp Vice President – Erin Kiehm
Treasurer – Mark Sever
Recording Secretary – Wendy Lyford

Board of Directors

Charles Calkins
Mildred "Mickey" Hanson
Val Cavin
Charles Manthey
Teri Clancy
Sharon Lemler
Willem Lutter
Terry Riban
Deb Holland
Rick Krumbacher
Philip Miller
Brian Reed

2025 Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Audit – Charles Manthey
Elections – Terry Riban
Finance – Charles Manthey
Historical – *OPEN*
Membership – Jo Burda Smith
Nominating – Dan Gapen

Activity Committees

Annual Meeting – Hope Little
Buena Vista – Linsey Crowninshield-Ryan
Conservation – Terri Hebert
Family Cottage – Terri Breach & Barb White
Farm House – Deb McGrath & Barb Wittersheim
Promotional – Barb Burton
Publication – Natalie Brennan
Spring Grove Lodge – Mickey Hanson
Website – Natalie Brennan
Walkers/Activities – Terry Riban

2025 Audit Report

I have completed the independent review of the financial books and records of The Prairie Club for fiscal year 2025. A review does not constitute an audit, thus, the assurance that the financial statements are free of misrepresentations is limited. The use of QuickBooks greatly aids the review and essentially 90% of the transactions were reviewed. The Month of May was chosen for an in-depth review. According to the Policies and Procedures Manual, a number of routine internal reports along with filing tax returns and reviewing the insurance policies were accomplished.

I have found no material misstatements and recommend no modifications to the financial statements. The review found the books to be clear and comprehensible, the supporting documentation to be well-organized and the administration of financial activities to be in adherence with The Prairie Club's Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual March 2026. This review was done remotely.

Sincerely,

Charles Manthey, *Finance Committee*

Treasurer's Report on 2025

The Prairie Club continues to be in a strong financial position. The Club ended the year 2025 with approximately $739,607 of cash and investments, of which $319,158 is unrestricted and $420,449 has been reserved for future long-term capital improvements and other uses. The Club does not have any debt except for routine expenses in the process of being paid.

The net profit for the year (after the depreciation charge) was net income of $80,283 compared to net income in 2024 of $73,047, an increase of $7,236.

The Club's tax return (Form 990) for 2025 was filed on a timely basis with the IRS.

Mark V. Sever, *Treasurer*

The Prairie Club
2025 Financial Summary

	End of Year 2025	Beginning of Year 2025	Increase (Decrease)
Unrestricted cash	$319,158	$264,106	$ 55,052
Restricted cash and investments	420,449	318,297	102,152
Total cash and investments	$739,607	$582,403	$157,204

Rental Fees	2025	Prior Year 2024	Increase (Decrease)
Buena Vista	$ 65,908	$ 59,299	$ 6,609
Family Cottage	48,377	43,255	5,122
Farmhouse	72,444	66,087	6,357
Spring Grove Lodge	6,468	7,210	(742)
	$191,197	$175,851	$ 17,346
Membership Dues	$ 98,606	$100,483	$ (1,877)
Net Profit (Loss)			
Buena Vista	$ 10,865	$ 25,947	$ (15,082)
Family Cottage	20,755	19,637	1,118
Farmhouse	29,476	21,257	8,219
Hazelhurst	3,681	2,419	1,262
Prairie Club Office	40,239	53,100	(12,861)
Improvement Funds	46,301	27,696	18,605
Spring Grove	0	0	0
Subtotal - before depreciation	151,317	150,056	1,261
Less Depreciation	(71,034)	(77,009)	(5,975)
Net Profit after Depreciation	$ 80,283	$ 73,047	$ 7,236

Activities Committee Report

Hello Prairie Club members!

The Prairie club hiking group of Chicagoland continues to offer monthly hiking opportunities along the trails of local Forest Preserves. We also lead a few annual kayak events, as well.

The Sunday after the annual meeting our group will be hosting a kayak event at 11:00 in downtown New Buffalo. The Gallien River is an easy paddle for beginners, so consider giving it a try!

Kayak rentals are available with the Third Coast Paddling company or bring your own, if you have one.

Contact Hope Little, our picnic organizer for more information.

In the past months, we have had large group turnouts at Waterfall Glen in Darien, McKee Marsh in Warrenville and the river trail along the Fox River in Batavia.

We also enjoyed an afternoon at the Spring Grove camp after hiking at Glacial Lake conservation area.

We will continue to offer outdoor activities throughout the year in effort to have fun and honor one of the core values of the Prairie Club.

Sincerely,

Terry Riban, *Activities Committee chair*

Conservation Committee Report

The Prairie Club continued its annual contribution in 2025 to two conservation organizations near our camps: Chikaming Open Lands (COL) in southwest Michigan and the Nippersink Watershed Association (NWA) in McHenry County, Illinois.

Chikaming Open Lands is dedicated to preserving open space and the diverse natural character of southwest Berrien County.

The Nippersink Watershed Association conserves, protects and renovates the Nippersink Creek watershed in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Membership Committee Report

In 2025, the membership committee approved 14 new members, with the total membership at 897 at year end.

In 2025 the Membership Committee began discussions in response to a significant and unprecedented increase in membership applications and the challenges that accompanied this growth—particularly regarding misunderstanding of membership privileges, misuse of sponsorship privileges, and limited access to Camp Hazelhurst due to capacity constraints. As a result, the committee recommended implementing a temporary pause on new membership applications, which the Board subsequently approved on October 2025.

During this pause, the membership-related sections of the website were carefully reviewed and updated. In addition, the application form, Sponsor Guide, and Sponsor Forms were revised. These changes were made with the goal of reinforcing the vital role that sponsors play in shaping the future of the Prairie Club.

The Prairie Club website has been redesigned to make it more user friendly when accessing information and forms regarding the membership process. Please be aware of all current sponsorship rules and guidelines, including recent policy revisions related to the sponsorship of new members. Providing false or misleading information, or misusing sponsorship rules, guidelines, or policies, will result in the revocation of sponsorship privileges and may be reported to the Prairie Club Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Burda-Smith, *2025 Membership Chair*

2025 Membership Committee Members:

Jo Burda-Smith – Chair
Barb Burton
Teri Clancy
Sharon Lemler
Marilynn Gorawara
Anne Burda-Walker
Phillip Miller
Paula Kiehm
Mary Padilla
Jean Hendren

Members & Friends Who Passed Away in 2025

Mozelle von Meding.....passed away on January 6, 2025

Jess Andrews.....passed away on January 7, 2025

Jeffrey Nettleton ..... passed away on January 29, 2025

Peter Oyama .....passed away on March 1, 2025

James “Mac” McCarthy.....passed away on March 9, 2025

Dale Martin..... passed away on March 15, 2025

Robert Manis .....passed away on June 12, 2025

Annette Robinson.....passed away on June 25, 2025

Leslie Howell.....passed away on July 20, 2025

Marsha Foote.....passed away on October 14, 2025

James Frank, Sr. ..... passed away on December 15, 2025

Members & Friends Who Passed Away in 2026

Bernie Dahl.....passed away on January 10, 2026

Carolyn Edison .....passed away on April 15, 2026

Membership Count for 2025

823	- Category 1 (Active)
2	- Category 2 (Honorary)
2	- Category 3 (Senior Active)
2	- Category 4 (Hiker/Walker)
10	- Category 5 (Student)
58	- Category 6 (Senior)
897	**- Total Prairie Club Members**

New Members 2025

Alvarez, Antonio
Alvarez, Ann
Bossenga, Melinda
Brotman, Barbara
Clancy, Matthew
Conner, Cristopher
Crawford, Mary
Erickson, Roberta
Giordano, Steven
Kenneally, Carol
Kirchoff, Gary
Lutter, Cherie
Roberts, Mary
Rufo, Gary
White, Alison

Hazelhurst Report

We welcomed two “new” siteholders in 2025, Anne Walker and Maria von Meding.

The camp and the club created and passed a new 10-year lease, with Nelson Pelletier, Mark Sever, and Sarah Craig Pratt contributing significant edits throughout the process. A tennis court crack fill/repair and resurfacing project proposed by Lisa Pratt and Charlie Johnson was approved and started. Invasive removal behind the beach bathroom was completed and an army of volunteers led by Sharon Lemler began planting desired vegetation.

We had six new committee chairs make contributions to the camp in 2025. Doug Elrick took on the 4th of July picnic and got the youth of the camp involved reading the Declaration of Independence and the reading of Paul Revere’s ride, which had its 250th anniversary. Becky Johnson volunteered to be our community liaison and represented our camp in Chikaming Township master plan updates and Chikaming Township board meetings regarding short term rentals. Mark Maloney stepped up for the pond/dam and removed debris/leaves from around the drain. Sally Cook took over nomination committee activities and made new additions to our camp council. A new committee, formed by Chessa Lutter and Wendy Lyford, is planning activities for year 2030: 100 years at Hazelhurst. Finally, an ad-hoc beach access committee, led by Steve Lutter, was created to collect data and make recommendations.

Thank-you to Randy Lutter for being the beach chair, running the club-owned boat program, and hiring lifeguard Nick Nau. Coffees were well attended with lots of goodies from the hosts; thank you to Chessa Lutter and Libbie Buchele for leading Monday morning coffee. Thank you to Mike Clancy for leading the beach path efforts and coming up with a standard new chair stand design that refreshed and improved the look of the beach stand area. Thank you to Geri Gorski for the fire blanket prizes given away at the siteholder meeting, which were a hit. Rick Krumbacher once again delivered 52 weeks of Hazelhurst Highlights and scheduled the Red Barn activities. Saturday night entertainment was well-organized by Teri Hebert, and the presentation from Leo Krusack of his sailing trip around the world set a new attendance record for an

Hazelhurst Report *continued*

event in the Red Barn. Thank you to Nelson Pelletier for once again leading the Building & Sites Committee and Phyllis Pelletier for chairing the library. Layton Olson and the Historical Committee put out the historical site files for siteholders to look at after the August siteholder meeting. Thank you to Heidi Buchele-Harris for chairing the junior activities. The variety show was once again a highlight of the season. The Legacy Pavillion continues to add new bricks; thank you to the Legacy Pavillion Committee chaired by Charlie Johnson for keeping a schedule for the Pavilion. Thank you, Janice Johnson for holding the memorial service in August. Thank you, Larry Bergman for keeping the HH bike program rolling. Good job to Camp Treasurer Kevin Orevec for adding the 4th of July picnic to our camp accounts. Waste management, recycling, grounds, equipment and roads were all well-maintained by Property Manager Vern Kits, who hit 15 years of service in 2025.

Dan Gapen, *Hazelhurst Camp Chair 2025*

Farmhouse Report

We had another great year at the Farmhouse. Throughout the year the Farmhouse hosted an array of family reunions, Notre Dame football games, golf outings, writers retreats, bridal showers, Thanksgiving dinners, girlfriends' getaways, book clubs, biking and kayaking groups, summer beach family vacations …to name a few.

We didn't have many repairs this year. With Vern's help, the on demand hot water heater is working better after some adjustments were made and the walk-in shower next to room 3 was replaced.

After a busy peak season ended and fall brought cooler days, a few hearty renters / volunteers removed stubborn invasive weeds and groundcover along the sidewalk in front of the Farmhouse and planted colorful native plants and grasses. Removing the invasives will take a consistent and concerted effort over several years but It will be fun to

see new plants and flowers growing there. Hopefully the deer will leave them alone (wishful thinking).

Spring cleaning included power washing the gutters and outside porches, window washing inside and out, area rugs, carpeting and upholstery cleaning, deep cleaning of interior by DeeAnna and laundering of all linens (spreads, mattress covers, pillow covers and blankets) by Rebecca at the Laundry Drop.

Two twin mattresses were replaced in Room 2 and also two twins in Room 1.

We are definitely looking forward to the time when we can add a new screened porch to the Farmhouse. It seems like we've been talking about it for years (which we have)! Plans are drawn up and bids are coming in. If all goes well, we hope to start building in the Fall of 2026.

A special thank you to DeeAnna, Vern, and Natalie. The Farmhouse is a team effort. DeeAnna does the hard work in keeping the Farmhouse clean. Some renters are better than others in the condition that they leave the Farmhouse at checkout. DeeAnna has to work quickly and efficiently to get the house ready in a few short hours for the next renters. We appreciate her! Without Natalie, we wouldn't be able to keep up with everything. She keeps us on track, pays the bills and somehow manages to find solutions to some very sticky situations. Much appreciation for Vern for all the time and energy he spends to help the Farmhouse run smoothly. Vern's expertise in fixing things that go wrong in the Farmhouse is invaluable. Teamwork is what it's all about when it comes to taking care of this Prairie Club facility which we all love.

As always, the Farmhouse is a very special gathering place for families and friends and it brings us great satisfaction to make improvements and manage the Farmhouse as co-chairs. We are looking forward to a great summer with lots of Prairie Clubbers enjoying their vacations at the Farmhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah McGrath and Barbara Wittersheim, *Farmhouse co-chairs*

Family Cottage Report

We did our usual cleaning of all bedding and replaced mattress pads for all the beds. We purchased new door mats and porch rugs. We replaced the porch chair cushions and pillows.

We also made sure there were enough utensils and dishes for each side.

We also purchased a few beach chairs.

The Family Cottage is in pretty good shape and going forward we are looking at replacing mattresses and toilets.

Terri Breach and Barb White, *Family Cottage co-chairs*

Buena Vista Report

Recent efforts to prepare for the 2026 season include power washing of the screened porch, replacement of the full-size bed in room six with a queen bed plus zippered waterproof protectors have been added to all mattresses and pillows.

Linsey Crowninshield-Ryan stepped down as Buena Vista chair in 2025. Many thanks for her support during the transition.

Judy Wagner, *Buena Vista chair*

Spring Grove Lodge Report

Our outlook on the lodge is fantastic as far as rentals. We've updated chairs in the dining area and are ready for all the rentals coming up. Paddle boats are ready. Jackets are out. All signs are posted and updated.

Mickey Hanson, *Spring Grove Lodge chair*

Spring Grove Report

As I try to summarize the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 at Spring Grove camp, I cannot believe the year is almost half over already. As the nation continues to go through trying times with record fuel prices and conflicts with seemingly everybody, I have never been more grateful to have a special place to go and get away from it all.

Spring Grove campground had a great fiscal year in 2025 and continues to maintain full occupancy in 2026. This has allowed us to contribute to our Improvement fund, which is at an all-time high since it's inception.

Our main project for 2026 is going to be upgrading the aging Spring Grove Lodge climate control system. The new high-efficiency components will allow us to heat and cool the lodge much more cost-effectively.

To continue the theme of grateful, I am very proud of the team work at Spring Grove. We recently purchased 13 older restaurant quality chairs, at a nominal cost, to replace the aging broken down chairs in the kitchen of the lodge. Between several of our site holders and the caretakers, the cushions were reupholstered, the wood backs had "The Prairie Club" logo etched into them and they were restained and reassembled with new nylon slides. They are a perfect example of conserving something old and making it look like new again.

And my last example of grateful unfortunately concerns the loss of a 15-year site holder, selfless hard worker, life of the party and one of my best friends, Jim Frank. Jim was the long time partner to our Spring Grove Lodge chair Mickey Hansen and father to site holder Jimmy Frank. Jim understood the value of Spring Grove camp and worked diligently to make sure it looked its best. He will be greatly missed by me personally and the Spring Grove Community. Rest in peace my friend.

Thank you to all you make Spring Grove Camp what it is. Please come see all we have to offer.

Erin Kiehm, *Spring Grove Camp chairman*

The hard work and dedication of our volunteers is vital to the Prairie Club's existence. The gift of their time and energy is what keeps the Club moving.