

Activities



Unlimited

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday March 10, 2026

The General Meeting, held at the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church at Midland Park, New Jersey, started at 9:30 AM with social activities, and was called to order by President Gaspar Lesznik at 10:00 AM.

President Gaspar Lesznik asked Ray Steele to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by The Rev. Andy Kadzban who delivered the invocation.

President's Message

- a. Special thanks to Howard Vogel for procuring and preparing the coffee for the General Meeting.
- b. Special thanks to Adolph Galluccio for procuring the bagels, cream cheese, butter, and other snacks for the General meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- a. Doug Cooper reported that AU had made a deposit for the June Barbecue to be held on June 12 at the Red Barn at Crestwood Park in Allendale.
- b. Doug Cooper reminded members of the Golf Club luncheon at The Green Lounge at the Paramus Golf Course on Thursday, March 12. If a member has not sent in a check, he can pay at the door. The cost is \$36.
- c. Doug Cooper reminded members to donate to the Food Pantry as well as for the coffee served at the General Meetings.
- d. Another reminder to members who bank with TD bank to link their accounts with the AU Program as TD makes a payment to AU for every account linked. We receive around \$700 a year from TD Bank from this program.

Membership

- a. Jim Webb reported that the membership at AU is about 322, with 12 new members so far this year. He introduced 6 of the new members who were present: Robert Lehmann, Jerry Farley, David Lindenmann, Alfred Breen, Richard Scala, and Peter Alessi.

Cares and Concerns

- a. John Toth and Steve Horvitz were absent. There are 18 birthdays in March. Gaspar Lesznik led the singing of Happy Birthday. No birthday cakes were served.
- b. Gaspar Lesznik mentioned the passing of Joe Coyle with visitation on March 15 at the Vander Platt Funeral Home in Wyckoff from 1-4pm.

Club Activities

- a. Tom Butler announced the monthly meeting of the Public Discussion Club at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month at the Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corps Building.
 - b. Tom Butler also talked about the Book Club on behalf of Gregg Krieger. The books for the current month are King of Kings which is about the Iranian Revolution with the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran, and a book called The Nightingale by Christian Hannah, the story of two sisters in WW II struggling to survive and resist the German occupation. The Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Wyckoff Reformed Church.
 - c. Scott Japko talked about the Bowling Club. They meet every other Friday at the Montvale Lanes at Montvale. This coming Friday (March 13) is one of their bowling days. It is non-competitive and they welcome anyone who might be interested.
 - d. Ken Frisco talked about the Pickleball Club who meets next Thursday (March 19) at 2:30-4:30pm and every other Thursday thereafter at Passion Pickleball at Midland Park. The cost is \$14 per person, cash or credit card.
 - e. Marc Bernhardt announced the next Science Club meeting next Tuesday (March 17) at 1pm at the VFW in Midland Park. They have a speaker from the New Bridge Hospital, which used to be the Bergen Pines. The New Bridge Hospital redid their emergency room. They have a VA hospital attached to them. They do psychiatric care and substance abuse care. It should be a very interesting presentation. Marc also cautioned older people in exercising care against falling.
 - f. Ed O'Keefe announced that the Tennis Club has been playing indoor throughout the winter and will be playing outdoor at the Wyckoff public courts starting at 10am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The starting time will move up to 9am as the weather gets warmer. All are welcome.
 - g. Joe Pullaro announced that the History Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1pm at the VFW in Midland Park. They have a very interesting speaker this month. He is Ciarán Sheehan who is an Irish-born actor and singer on Broadway. Joe promised that this is going to be a very different and interesting presentation.
 - h. Dennis LaBarbera talked about the Investment Study Group which meets next on April 7 at 1pm at the VFW in Midland Park. His guests are a financial advisor from the Wyckoff office of Edward Jones, and a representative from MFS, the oldest mutual fund company in the US. Lunch will be provided by the speakers. They will send out a notice asking for RSVP so that they can have an accurate count of the attendance.
 - i. Fred Theile announced that there will be a Garden Club meeting in April. Details will be in the April newsletter.
 - j. Jack Warner announced the Spring Luncheon at the Indian Trail Club on May 13 from noon to 3pm with great food and music by Peter Lieberman. The cost is \$59 per person.
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TRIPS AND TOURS

- a. Tom Van Lenten talked about the upcoming luncheon at Fiona's in Midland Park on March 26 at noon.
- b. The trip to the Meadowlands appeared in the Newsletter for May 8. He has received feedback that this event is too close to the Spring Luncheon on May 13. He will attempt to reschedule the Meadowlands trip and will advise later.

Attendance

Sixty-six (66) members were in attendance.

Guest Speaker

Mac McParland gave a presentation of the history of beer making and breweries in New Jersey.

- a. New Jersey's first brewery was established in Hoboken in 1641 and was subsequently destroyed by the Lenape Indians.
- b. He discussed the growth of brewing in New Jersey during the Victorian era with over 50 breweries in Newark alone.
- c. He gave a detail history of four significant breweries in Newark: Ballantine, Krueger, Hensler, and Feigenspan.
- d. Breweries went through a period of consolidation in the 1950's. Many of them were acquired by large corporations such as Pabst and Anheuser Busch.
- e. Anheuser Busch closed its operation in Newark in 2022 and the site was repurposed for manufacturing.
- f. The easing of regulations in New Jersey in 2012 allowing microbreweries to have tap rooms and to sell limited amounts of beer to go has prompted a resurgence of craft brewing in New Jersey.
- g. Currently, New Jersey has 142 microbreweries and 21 brew pubs.

The General meeting concluded at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Winston Lau
Secretary