



Friday, October 14, 2022

## Introduction

The meeting was called to order by President Carrie Dreifurst. The blessing was given by Rodger. Sunshine news was shared by Rex that we keep his wife Jean in our thoughts as she approaches her upcoming hip surgery, Doug shared that his wife has received a clean bill of health after slipping down the stairs, and Aaron shared that Ron is doing well after his cataract surgery. Jim King said thank you for the card that he received from the club. Paul is currently working on a date for the Feather Party. Rick is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Halloween Parade on October 30th. Terry announced the upcoming Hogtoberfest hosted by the Friendly House October 20th. Aaron is looking for volunteers for unloading Christmas trees and building pallets on November 17th.



## Presentation

Carrie introduced speaker Pam Lynch, Site Director of GiGi's Playhouse, a local nonprofit organization working to change the way the world views Down Syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all. GiGi's opened in 2011 and was the 8th of 56 playhouses in the U.S. and 1 in Mexico. GiGi's is 99% volunteer-run and is funded 100% by private fundraising without state or federal funding. GiGi's Playhouse supplements education at their Quad Cities location and offers virtual options. They offer over 30 therapeutic and educational programs. There is no referral system; anyone of any age with Down Syndrome along with their families may receive services at no cost. Since their post-quarantine expansion, GiGi's has increased participant numbers from 2500 in 2019 to 3500 this year. GiGi's hosts a gala every October and a 5k event in June for fundraising. The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

## upcoming events

Thursday, October 20th: Friendly House Hogtoberfest

October 21st: MAC Girls Luncheon @ 11:30  
(\$16 RSVP to Kate)

October 28th: CADS Robert Young Center

October 30, 2022 Halloween Parade 2:00