

Soar Meeting

January 12, 2016

1:30 p.m.

Treasurer Geri Hendren called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the roll call of officers was taken. Absent were Pres. Jerry Redington and V.P. Wayne Komprood. A motion was made to suspend the regular agenda because of our speakers.

Stephenson County Sheriff Dave Snyder and Chief Deputy Mark Marty spoke on "How to stay safe.". There has been a rash of burglaries in the rural areas. They reminded us to keep our garage doors closed at all times even if we are at home. Also to keep other doors locked. Take your garage door opener and other valuables into your home if parking outside. The important thing is to report to the police any suspicious behavior or unusual vehicles in the neighborhood. These tips will help them zero in on the thieves. Don't advertise expensive new items purchased by putting the whole package out for the trash. Break down the boxes and turn inside out so they can't see what you purchased. Money boxes and safes should be bolted to the floor or too heavy to remove. Whenever you are gone for a few or more days lock up your valuables. Don't advertise on social media that you are away or tell all your friends. A new scam is advertising rental property for property not owned. This is especially for vacation homes where you send a deposit to a distant place. Also the IRS and Com Ed will not call you and threaten you for money owed. To verify call the number in your phone book or your bill, not the phone number given to you by the scammers.

Neighborhood Watch programs deter crime. If you would like to set one up in your neighborhood the police are happy to help you.

The Secretary of State office no longer sends you a notice of your license tag expiration or your driver's license. Check the dates on your car license plate and your driver's license and put a reminder on your calendar. The following website will notify you by email, if you register. [HTTP://www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

Thanks to Sheriff Snyder and Deputy Marty for all this helpful information.

It was announced that Tony Balsamo has retired as of Jan. 1. Mary Meier will answer your questions or give you a contact number to call.

We collected \$1815 from retirees and at the plant for the Salvation Army's toys for Tots. We also donated about 25 toys. Thanks to all who donated money, toys and time at the gate collection.

The changes in Freedom Blue were discussed.

Patty Beam's name was drawn for the \$115 attendance prize but she was not here. Next month it will be \$120.

Twelve dollar dues for 2016 will be collected from all members. If you did not pay please bring your \$12 to the February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Walt, secretary