

## Happy Wanderers Christmas Party 2025

Ho! Ho! Ho! What a merry time we had celebrating the Christmas Season on Dec. 7, 2025.

Happy Wanderer elves arrived at 3:30 PM to deck the hall with holly and decorations.

At 4:00 PM, 66 Wanderers started arriving. At the door, Judy collected funds from those who hadn't paid yet and Marian handed out a raffle ticket to those people who brought exchange gifts. Vic Sua (our DJ/Master of Ceremony) played a mixture of Christmas carols and other types of wonderful music. Vic kept the evening going smoothly.

The bartender started serving various drinks and cocktails and continued to take good care of us throughout the evening.

At 4:55 PM we saluted our beautiful American Flag. Vanda said a Blessing and Ed Slattery read the names (Carl Bachman, Dave Francis and Ron Russell) of our campers that passed away in 2025 and asked for a moment of silence in solemn remembrance.

At 5:00 PM Red's BBQ restaurant caterers began serving a dinner of salad, hot baby back ribs, tri tip, chicken, baked beans, garlic mashed potatoes and their famous dinner rolls. Vic called out the table numbers so everyone could be served in an orderly manner. Many of the members volunteered and brought scrumptious desserts.

After dinner we had the 50/50 drawing. The 3 winners were Tammy Blake, Terri Mitchell and Dean and Michelle Oldenkamp.

There was a drawing for the center pieces at each table. The center pieces were nice looking red sleds. Each sled was filled with two small bottles of Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey, hard Christmas candy and two candy canes.

Sally and Debbie called out the first ticket number for the gift exchange. Sally explained that the second ticket holder she called could either pick a gift from the table or steal the gift from the previous ticket holder. Going forward each ticket holder had the option of stealing any prior opened gift or going to gift table. However, the gift can only be stolen once. It was sure fun watching people trying to decide if they wanted a new gift or steal someone else's gift. This went on until everyone who brought a gift got a gift. It was a time to have fun, lots of laughs and be silly if you wanted to.

Many were reluctant to leave because of the camaraderie between friends. Many stayed to listen to the music. Thanks to everyone for making it a memorable evening. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year everyone.

Submitted by Kari O. Sears