

Country Squires- Minutes of Meeting on July 19, 2026

President Don Elliott began the meeting at 12 noon and offered as Words of Inspiration advice from an uncle to a nephew from the movie *Second-hand Lions*- “People are basically good, good triumphs over evil & true love never dies”.

After luncheon, the minutes of the June 11th meeting were approved unanimously. Craig Stockel introduced his guest- Harvey Rudnick, a resident of New London’s Herrick Cove.

Country Squire Dr. Elof Erickson was our luncheon speaker. His topic – *Why does Medical Care cost too much?* - provided the members with his observations and experiences from his 40-year medical practice as a plastic surgeon in the US and abroad.

His presentation included well-sourced data points on the key aspects of medical care costs as well as suggestions for their reduction. For starters, examples of untimely patient deaths from the impaired care or lack of access in single payer systems in use elsewhere were cited.

Key takeaways:

US health care costs at \$5T/yr, \$14.7k/capita & 18% of GDP:

- are twice those of other civilized countries
- were organized structurally in hospitals over 100 years ago
- have administrative costs 6 times those of comparable countries
- include prescription drug costs provided in Canada & Europe at 1/3 our prices

Dr. Erickson projected savings of 25% could be achieved with measurement of everything, cost reductions, establishment of best practices and avoidance of a single payer monopoly.

He concluded by stating “we are the best in the world, but too expensive by any comparison.”

In the Q & A, Dr. Erickson responded to members inquiries as to why Medicare is not a single payer system, drug company margin reduction is feasible, AI is not intelligent, drug advertising is unnecessary & a single payer will not reduce admin costs. Another medical profession suggested savings could be 50% by eliminating waste and abuse, suggesting that, for example, fear of malpractice lawsuits has led to extensive and unnecessary tests. Also, we learned that MD’s can “work the system” by inflating fees to fit the insurance companies’ pricing schemes.

Program Chair Dave Wood thanked Dr. Erickson and awarded him his second CS coffee mug!!

The meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

By Art Scutro, Acting Secretary
7/15/2026