



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

The Official Newsletter and Minutes of the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks, California

8

June 18, 2025

Club Shines on Busy Weekend

We successfully executed three service projects Saturday – our regular second Saturday helping Safe Passage distribute groceries, cooking and serving at Ride-On's TrailFest fundraiser, and operating the kids' games at the Conejo Recreation and Park District's "Touch-A-Truck" event. Many thanks to the event chairs and members who volunteered.

Sherrill Hyink wanted to know if we remembered the "tootsie-wootsie" song from way back when. Several members did, and so we sang "In the Good Old Summertime" to open the meeting. Aaron Podell led the flag salute, and Don Christie delivered the invocation. He prayed for the welfare of children and our continued ability to serve them.

We had two guests this morning. Tim Hengst brought along Doug Tapking, a former Thousand Oaks resident now living in Utah. Paul Lopez brought Kelly Cannan, a potential new member.

President Robin just returned from a trip to Idaho to care for her parents and hadn't had time to check on the birthdays, so she called for volunteers. Sean Leonard volunteered that he will be 31 on Saturday. No problem with Club an-



Helping out with the Safew Passage program this week were Arnie, Patrick, Gloria, Jerry and Mike.

niversaries, though; she presented a certificate to Jeff Ellis for twenty years in the Club. Another 20-year member is Dave Klein. He's a Friday member, so was not with us this morning.

Presidential Announcements

Robin thanked all the members who participated in our weekend service projects, and asked members to consider helping the Simi Valley Club with their 4th of July event. They helped us with BrewFest last year. See her email on the



Aaron Podell led the Pledge of Allegiance this morning.

Sherrill Hyink heralded the advent of summer with “In the Good Old Summertime.” Aaron Podell led the Pledge of Allegiance this morning. Don Christie gave the invocation, thankful for our work serving children.

subject.

The Cal-Nev-Ha District Education Conference is set for August 7th to 9th in Las Vegas. Early registration ends Friday (\$280 fee). Regular registration (\$300) ends July 25th.

Robin asked Reina Paredes and Jerry Westby to join her at the podium. Together they comprise the Corks and Kegs Vendor Committee, responsible for recruiting the generous beer, wine, and food purveyors who provide drinks and eats. They asked our members to help

identify local businesses that might join Corks and Kegs as vendors – just give any leads you have to the Committee, and they will follow up.

The next Friday Night Evening Edition is slated for July 11th at Rick Herrera’s home. The next DCM is August 14th, and we are hosting along with the Moorpark Club. The trip to the Reagan Library to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit is set for this Friday. Pay now.

Committee Reports and Club Announcements

President-Elect Brian McMahon took the podium to field Committee reports and club announcements.

Meals on Wheels - Sherrill Hyink reported that Monday’s Meals on Wheels driver will be Lan Tran.

Community Service - Arnie Rudman

Upcoming Speakers

- 06-25 Jessica Page, Casa Pacifica
- 07-02 The Rudman’s trip to Auschwitz
- 07-09 Samantha Black, Friends of Library
- 07-16 Keith Gosselin, VC Ombudsman
- 07-23 Gary Davis, Ocean Researcher



Aaron Podell drew the Four of Swords this morning.

gave his weekly pitch for helping at Westminster Free Clinic - 1:00 on Wednesdays. Gloria Dyok said that sign-ups are going well for our service project cooking for the Cancer Support Community on June 22 from 10:00 to 1:00. She also thanked all who volunteered for our service projects last weekend.

Youth Services - Chuck Huffer thanked members who volunteered for Touch a Truck.

Social Committee - Mary Sepe gave a "last call" for the Club's excursion to see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Reagan Library on Friday. Sharon McMahan did the same for our Burgers and Bingo administrative fundraiser/social at Mikey's Restaurant on Sunday, and Kathy Smi-

ley said she will send an email link we can use to make the payment - \$40 for burger and sides, non-alcoholic drink, and a bingo card.

Rick Herrera announced that he will be giving away free plants to members who attend the July 11th Friday meeting at his home. No one else will get a free plant, so be there or be plantless.

Loteria

Aaron Podell missed the "Star" card and wound up with the Four of Swords - worth \$4. Consolation winners were Paul Lopez, Steve Coyne, and Don Christie.

Fine Period

Bob Engler carried the basket today.

Dave Freeman led off by paying a dollar on behalf of the House Committee because all members signed in. Lynn Burdick followed by dropping in \$4 for attending a graduation ceremony at UC Irvine and being "beaten up" by a couple of toddlers.

Kathy Smiley missed our weekend service projects - she was supervising a neighborhood garage sale. Husband Chet may have actually helped - confirmation pending. Steve Coyne donated back his \$3 raffle winnings.

Jerry Westby parted with \$5 to welcome our speakers and to thank all the volunteers at our weekend service projects. Doug Ryan was enduring a 40-



Tim Hengst introduced his guest, Doug Tapking.

minute MRI and, while deep in the tunnel about to panic, a single word popped into his mind – “a-beesay,” as in “Oh no – no, no – no, a-beesay,” from Baba Laba Goomah La. Mentally chanting this word calmed him down and it’s still stuck in his brain.

Sharon McMahon enjoyed the fun, camaraderie, and work of a hiking trip in Maine within a group of 18 women. Paul Lopez thanked all who helped at the Ride-On event to the tune of \$22.

The Kween had fun running one of the kids’ games at Touch-A-Truck for about the first half hour. Then it got tedious, so she started handing out prizes to the kids just for helping her. Arnie Rudman enjoyed attending a fun rally on Saturday afternoon.

Sean Moradian dropped in some bucks for missed meetings and a belated



Paul Lopez introduced his guest, Kelly Cannan, while President Robin Britt looks on.

happy Father’s Day. Aaron Podell also paid missed meeting dollars – he just returned from a European trip and enjoyed a hot sauna followed by a dip in the icy Baltic Sea. He also had kudos for Touch-A-Truck. A big favorite of him and son Harrison, attending together ever since the now college-age Harrison was still in a baby carrier.

Patrick Connolly paid happy dollars for the Conejo Valley High School graduation ceremony and Touch-A-Truck. Sean Leonard contributed missed meeting bucks and “ouch” bucks for a trip with his young son to Build-A-Bear. “Ouch” because the Bears can be pricey, as Sean found out. Eventually nudged his son into the economy model, but he’ll have to come back for accessories.

Gary White of the Simi Valley Kiwa-

nis Club loves visiting our Club and thanked us for the invite. He also reported that Past Lieutenant Governor Debbie Heaslip is ill and please send prayers. Chuck Huffer thanked Touch-A-Truck volunteers and commended the pop-up concerts sponsored by the City and CRPD.

Roger Meyer thanked Bob Engler for pulling double duty at the Ride-On event. Bob welcomed our guests, as did Katy Porter. Katy's also happy Brian McMahan is going to the Kiwanis International Conference in Pittsburgh.

Aktion Club Update

Vice President Jerry Westby introduced today's speaker, Sigrid Bremer of the Simi Valley Aktion Club, which was chartered in 2007. Aktion Clubs are one component of the Kiwanis family's Service Leadership Programs, serving individuals with special needs. Sigrid is a long-time leader in that Club; she also has a role in an advisory group to State government regarding services for the disabled, sponsored by ARC. She was accompanied by Gary White, of the Simi Valley Kiwanis Club, who is the Aktion Club's advisor.

Sigrid first talked about her group's recent trip to Sacramento to gain information and share requests with legislators regarding the State budget deficit and its potential effect on services. She met with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and State Senator Henry Stern, both of



Program speaker Sigrid Bremer filled us in on the doings of the Simi Valley Aktion Club.

whom represent Thousand Oaks.

She also briefed us on Aktion Club projects, such as working on the Rose Parade Floats, and supporting local projects and services such as the Paul Walker Camp for kids with special needs, the Simi Valley Kiwanis Club's 4th of July event, and the Simi Valley Samaritan Center.

The Aktion Club's next meeting is July 1 at the Moorpark College Zoo. On July 15th, the Aktion Club will host an Inter-Club from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the ARC building on Cochran Street in Simi Valley.

Gary White then informed us that the Camarillo Aktion Club has been re-established with seven members, and he hoped that the Thousand Oaks Aktion Club could also reappear.



Vice President Jerry Westby thanked Sigrid and Gary White after their presentation.



The Corks and Kegs Vendor Committee of (from left) Reina Paredes, Robin Britt, and Jerry Westby reported on their work.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Robin closed with the stick draw. The lucky winner was Aaron Kitzman (ironically, our advisor to the Thousand Oaks Aktion Club back in the day). He was not present, so he gets ... NOTHING!

President's Message

Final words from the President, "We rise by lifting others. Kiwanis is our superpower."

Written, edited and photos by John Prescott; production and distribution by Mike Mathews.



Jeff Ellis was honored for twenty years of service with our Club.

KIWANIS CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE KIWANIS CLUB OF THOUSAND OAKS

2nd Saturdays: 9:00 am to 11:00 am:
Safe Passage food distribution. 1707
Calle Diamonte, Conejo Creek Condos.
See Gloria Dyok.

June 25, Wednesday: Int'l Convention
begins in Pittsburg.

July 11, Friday: Friday Night Meeting,
6:00pm, home of Rick Herrera.

August 1, Friday: Friday Night Meeting,
6:00pm, home of Mike Mathews.

August 7, Thursday: District Convention
in Las Vegas.

August 14, Thursday: DCM, we are host-
ing at ArtTrek.

August 16, Saturday: Triunfo Ball

September 5, Friday: Friday Night Meet-
ing, 6:00pm, home of Teta Van Om-
meren.

September 7, Sunday: Division installa-
tion.

September 27, Saturday: Relay for Life
at CLU. We will be cooking pancakes.

September 28, Sunday: Club installation
dinner. 4:00 at the Goebel Center.

October 9, Thursday: Corks & Kegs

Club Officers

President

Robin Britt

President Elect

Brian McMahon - Committees

Vice President

Jerry Westby - Programs

Secretary

Lori Olbrich 9/2026

Treasurer

Jim Stephenson 9/2026

Director (Ass't Secretary)

Gloria Dyok 9/2026

Director (Ass't Treasurer)

Chuck Huffer 9/2026

Immediate Past President

Paul Lopez - Membership

Director

John Prescott 9/2025

Director

Steve T. Smith 9/2025

Director

Mike Mathews 9/2025

Director

Lynn Burdick 9/2026

Director

Sharon McMahon 9/2026

Director

Teta Van Ommeren 9/2025

Director

Cristy Warner 9/2026

Meeting Location

Our club meets Wednesdays at the Los Robles Greens Golf Course located at 299 S. Moorpark Rd. in Thousand Oaks. We meet at 7:30 a.m. in the banquet room just off the snack bar.

Committees

Chamber of Commerce

Sean Leonard

Social

Kathy Smiley

Interclub

Steve T. Smith

Bulletin

John Prescott

Web Site

Jennifer Chebi

House

Dave Freeman / Larry Levine

Health and Caring

Roger Meyer

Social Media

Norbie Gregory

Youth Services / YCP1

Teta Van Ommeren/Sean Leonard

Spiritual Aims

Dave Biedebach

Community Services

Gloria Dyok

Sponsored Youth

Bob Engler

Fundraising, Sharon McMahon

Meals On Wheels, Sherrill Hyink

BBQ Wagon, Mike Mathews

Strategic Planning, Tony Antonelli/ John Prescott

Contact Us

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