



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

July 23, 2025

Underwater Wonders



Our guest speaker was Gary Davis, a retired marine biologist who had a very interesting research career.

President Robin Britt opened the meeting. Our regular songbird, Sherrill Hyink, led us in song. "This Land is your Land" had everyone warbling along, and even some dancing took place.

The salute to the flag was led by Steve Coyne.

Katy Porter led the prayer, asking God's hand in creating peace in the world.

Guests included a new acquaintance of Mary Sepe's, Susana Tello-Polanco. She is a marathon runner and has recently retired. She had a fun time, and is considering joining the club, which excit-

ed the group.

Birthdays for the week - Jim Ciandella and Sharon McMahon. The club sang to Sharon as her birthday is today.

This week's Club anniversaries belong to Rick Herrerra and Roger Nordby, who was present and happy to receive his certificate for two years of membership.

Presidential Announcements

Services for our recently departed Kiwanis sister Barbara Ashcraft will be held at the Pierce Brothers Memorial Park on Lindero Canyon Road. Mark August 19th on your calendar to join the club members in honoring her.

The Cal-Nev-Ha District's annual convention is coming up. When you hear DCON, this is it. We will meet this year in Vegas, from August 7 to 9. After July 25 on-site registration is required to the tune of \$340.

Club Officer Education (CLE) put together by our own Paul Lopez, incoming Lt. Gov of Division 42, is Saturday July 26. All officers and Directors, as well as FUTURE O&D are invited.



Sherrill Hyink, led us in singing "This Land is your Land" and accompanied herself on the guitar. Steve Coyne led the pledge and Katy Porter gave the invocation.

Also on July 26 is a Manna event – Robin asks that if you can go, you can talk up Corks and Kegs. Call Robin for details.

Our next Friday Night meeting, on August 1, is at Mike Mathews' home.

Our next Division Council Meeting (DCM) is August 14 at ART TREK at their new location. 1144 Tourmaline Dr. in Newbury Park. Thousand Oaks club and members (YES, US) are the host, with Moorpark as the co-host. Robin stated that we are NOT going to use the wagon for this one, but rather "order in" from Jersey Mike's. Come to help serve and enjoy the program. **If you only**

attend once a year, this is the time.

The District Governor, Doug Frost, will visit Division 42 on September 7. Paul will be installed as our next Lieutenant Governor. Details to come.

The Club's installation of new officers and directors is on September 28th at 4:00 at the Goebel Center.

Committee Reports and Announcements

President-Elect Brian McMahon brought us club announcements.

Meals on Wheels - Sherrill Hyink reported that Monday's Meals on Wheels driver is Friday Night member Lan Tran.

BBQ Wagon - Mike Mathews and Aaron Podell spent three hours converting the "new" grill from a griddle (pancakes) to a grill (meat). Thank you,

Upcoming Speakers

07-30 Lisa Buono, 50 & Better

08-06 Carole Shelton, Autism Society

08-20 Aaron Kitzman, VC Crisis Intervention Team



Roger Nordby received his certificate for two years of service to the club.

gentlemen, for your behind-the-scenes contributions! Get ready for something yummy at the Friday night meeting next week.

Brian reminded us that the Corks and Kegs early bird tickets are on sale now through August 9 at \$65 a pop.

Community Service - Arnie Rudman pitched helping with food distribution with Westminster Free Clinic at United Methodist Church on Wednesdays at 1:00 or so.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick reminded us that we can order scrip to help the club. Lists of what is in stock are on the tables. She also sends us emails from time to time. She ALSO takes orders. Thank you, Lynn!

Looking for ways to volunteer? Visit our website for more information, and to sign up.

Raffle

Today's first ticket winner with a



Don Christie won the raffle this week and won \$9 in the process.

chance for a "Star" card and a lucky reading, was... Don Christie. He won nine dollars and a fortune from the Goddess.

The next three, each getting a magic envelope containing \$1, \$2 or \$3, were Mary Sepe, Larry Lutz, and Lori Olbrich.

Thanks to all who contribute to the raffle fundraiser each week.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Sharon McMahon carried the basket today.

Bob Engler represented Thousand Oaks in Ohio. Taking a guess, it was a "cities" meeting. He said that Thousand Oaks compares well with other cities (we could have told him that!).

Patrick Connolly is going to miss a few meetings, as he is headed for an island off the Florida coast.

Steve Allen has brought Mom for a visit.

Paul Lopez told us how he and his wife Chris had a great time in Maui. He



Mary Sepe introduced her guest, Susana Tello-Polanco.

visited a Kiwanis Club while there. Fifteen hard working members, he reports.

Mary paid to welcome her guest Susana, who indicated she'd like to join. Terrific!

Tim Hengst paid an advertising dollar to remind us that this is the final weekend for the Shakespear festival. The show, CYMBELINE, is getting excellent reviews.

Arnie Rudman had thumbs up for last week's heartfelt prayer from Lanny, and for Sherrill's rousing song this morning. It makes us think, feel and care. It turns out that Arnie is also vacationing in Florida, heading for the Keys.

Sherrill shared that her pilot son just had a birthday, and that her lovely horse, I mean dog, Junior" is slowing down. He has cancer, but still able to walk like a champ.

Dave Freeman noted that Sharon McMahon and Bob Engler did not sign in. Sharon has the fine free badge; however, I believe she still paid her dollar, over some protestation. Dave showed

her the sheet. Grumble, grumble. [Editor's note: the Fine Free Badge should protect from any and all fines, foreign and domestic.]

Jim Stephenson paid a generous \$50 to the basket, in honor of Barbara Ashcraft. He told about meeting her at the Plug Nickel (the restaurant where we used to meet) and hitting it off right away.

Steve Coyne announced that today's speakers are his neighbors, and he's delighted that they will be featured this morning.

Thanks to members who generously share their wallet and their lives every week.

A Life Well Lived – In the Forests, Deserts, and Seas

Vice President Jerry Westby introduced Steve's neighbors, Dorothy and Gary Davis.

Steve has retired from a lifetime of service, which he shared as his inspirational story. He was trained as a marine biologist and spent 50 years with the park service. I loved hearing how he was a forest ranger (yes, handsome in his uniform), starting in the San Diego area. Even as a boy he loved playing in the tide pools down there, which set the stage for an amazing career.

He and his wife came to Westlake Village in 1992 and have enjoyed this area ever since.

He told us about Marine Reserves, of which we have 80, which are areas of protection for sea flora and fauna. In his lifetime, he has seen how overfishing has decimated fish populations, and how the reserves are helping to bring back some species. We saw lobsters as big as scuba tanks, which are a rarity now. They were 50-75 years old, and we were harvesting as if they could grow that big in a year.

We saw charts of Abalone populations, with the white abalone almost wiped out. It is a success story in the making, with the abalone coming back.

He spent two years in the service, but most of his working career was as a civilian.

Mr. Davis told about becoming an aquanaut, substituting in for an astronaut who was called away (Scott Carpenter). He and three others lived underwater for an extended period, in a metal house, not far below the surface. Instead of regular air, they used a nitrogen mix to breathe. He said that they could leave the house to explore and do experiments, provided they did not surface.

He shared how his career developed, traveling far and wide. Always looking for ways to monitor and help the health of the parks. He sold the idea of some of this conservatory plans as "ways to get more fish". Sometimes you need to dumb it down!

The last thing he shared was "the SeaDoc Society". It sounds amazing.



VP Jerry Westby thanked guest speaker Gary Davis for his presentation.

Taking care of the seas.

Jerry thanked the couple and awarded them a special Kiwanis mug, with our appreciation.

Stick Draw

Robin closed with a chip draw. The lucky person was Chet Smiley (again?). Unfortunately, he was not with us today, so he gets ... NOTHING!

President's Message

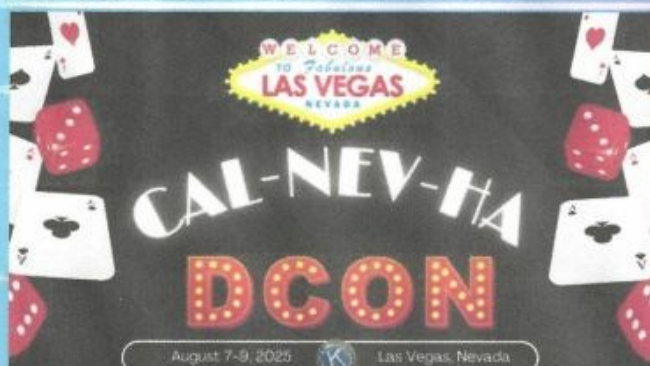
Final words, with food for thought, from the President, "Believe that you can and you are halfway there!" Author: Theodore Roosevelt

Have a great week!

Respectfully submitted, Katy Porter

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

N E W S
YOU CAN USE



- ★ Discounted Housing Rate Deadline Extended to Friday 7/18
- ★ Convention Registration Deadline Friday 7/25

[DCON REGISTRATION](#)

[BOOK A ROOM](#)




Whats Your Legacy?

August is National Make-A-Will Month. When you create or update your will, consider including the Cal-Nev-Ha Children's Fund in your estate planning. From creating a legacy of kindness to making a lasting impact, your generosity can inspire others to think about their charitable goals as well. How do you want to leave your mark? Learn more and consider joining our [Legacy Fellowship](#).

LAST CHANCE Dinner Anywhere **LAST CHANCE**
for two in the Cal-Nev-Ha District

Draw Date:
August 10, 2025

\$75 per ticket
Prize value
up to \$4,500!
Only 250 tickets
will be sold!



WHERE GO?

Our Dinner Anywhere Raffle is quickly approaching on 8/10!!

Don't miss your opportunity to be entered in our Dinner Anywhere drawing for a chance to have dinner anywhere in the Cal-Nev-Ha District. This prize package is worth up to \$4,500! Contact any CNH Children's Fund Director or send an email to foundation@cnhkiwanis.org to secure your ticket. And please encourage your club members to purchase a raffle ticket too! All proceeds benefit our mission of building a better future for our children and will support a select group of California-based children's hospitals.

TABLET OF HONOR

Do you know a someone that truly cares and always puts forth extra time and effort into everything they do? The Tablet of Honor provides a great opportunity to recognize a club member or officer who performed exceptionally well this year!

[Order a
Tablet of Honor](#)

First Lady's Focus Update

First Lady June set a goal of raising \$20,000 to support childhood cancer research and treatment options and she's so close to meeting her goal. **We're excited to announce a generous donor has stepped up with a \$2,500 matching gift**

challenge. If you give today, your gift can be doubled! This amazing matching opportunity is only available until September 30, 2025, or until the \$2,500 match is met. Please consider [making a donation to the First Lady's Focus](#) today!



**40 Years
of Impact**

American
Cancer
Society

RELAY
FOR
LIFE



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

RELAY FOR

LIFE

OF CONEJO VALLEY



American
Cancer
Society

RELAY
FOR
LIFE

Join Us in Fundraising & Celebrating that Relay is

**FORTY, FABULOUS, &
FIGHTING CANCER**

**SATURDAY
SEPT 27**

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
MEMORIAL FIELD

141 Memorial Parkway, Thousand Oaks, CA

SIGN UP & SAVE LIVES

www.RelayForLife.org/ConejoValleyCA

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30 AM FunRun Begins

9:30 AM Opening Ceremony &
Survivor Lap

7:00 PM Luminaria Ceremony

8:00 PM Closing Ceremony

Rally your team and join us for a **full day** of family fun as we **celebrate** survivors, **remember** loved ones lost, and **fight back** to end cancer as we know it— **For everyone!**

PRESENTED BY  PENNYMAC™



SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE, SUPPORT THE CAUSE.

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 9, 2025
5:30PM - 8:30PM
THE GARDENS AT LOS ROBLES GREENS**

**SCAN
FOR TICKETS**



Join us for the inaugural Kiwanis Corks and Kegs! This premier event is the exciting evolution of The Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks' annual charity fundraiser, merging two of our most successful events—Conejo Uncorked and BrewFest—into one unforgettable celebration.

WINE - BEER - SPIRITS - FOOD - MUSIC AND MORE

CORKS-AND-KEGS.COM

Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks California Charitable Foundation

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.

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

August 7, Thursday: District Convention
in Las Vegas.

August 9, Saturday: Deadline to pur-
chase Corks and Kegs tickets at a dis-
count, \$65.

August 9, Saturday: Cooking for Mando.

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

August 16, Saturday: Triunfo Ball, 5:30
to 9:30.

August 19, Tuesday: Barbara Ashcraft
memorial, Pierce Brothers Westlake

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

September 7, Sunday: Division installa-
tion and Governor's visit.

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

Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks

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www.tokiwanis.org