



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

August , 2025

Welcome Back, Don and Aaron

Don Shewmon was in town today and joined us for breakfast. He's an LOA member living out of the area now. Always great to see Don, even though he left his "Billy Bob" alter ego up north. And Past President Aaron Kitzman was in the house as our Program speaker.

It was a bright sunshiny morning ahead of a projected heat wave, so the Kween chose "You Are My Sunshine" for the opening song. Rick Herrera led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob Engler recited the Peace Prayer of St. Francis for the invocation. He read it from a prayer card he received at the funeral service for Hugo Roche a couple of weeks ago. To Bob, and others in the room, it exemplified what we do as a Club.

The Goddess Robin introduced her guest, Mike Cox, who is the Treasurer on the Community Conscience Board of Directors and (we hope, we hope) a potential new member. He attended La Fiesta del Triunfo last Saturday and was enthralled with our barbecue operation.

Gloria Dyok will celebrate her birthday Saturday, and there were no Club anniversaries to announce.



Brian McMahon was the master griller for the La Fiesta Del Triunfo event. Everybody raved about the quality of the food. More pictures later in the bulletin.

Presidential Announcements

President Robin opened by informing us that the Club Installation Banquet charge to members would be \$30 and asked for a show of hands for agreement. Many hands went up and no disagreement was lodged, so that's that.

The next Kiwanis Friday Night Evening Edition meeting will be at Teta Van Ommeren's house on September 5th. It will have a Hawaiian theme and may include some exotic island libations.



Sherrill Hyink led us off with singing "You Are My Sunshine." Rick Herrera led the pledge and Bob Engler gave the inspiration.

Robin thanked members who attended the DCM – about 80 Kiwanians from throughout the Division attended at the beautiful new Art Trek building. She also thanked the cooking team (15-strong, according to Glo) that worked La Fiesta del Triunfo. There were many compliments about the tri-tip, which was provided by Wild Fork (a BrewFest and Corks and Kegs vendor, by the way) and grilled to perfection by our team.

The Cal-Nev-Ha Governor's visit is Sunday, September 7th at CLU, and our Immediate Past President Paul Lopez will be installed as the next Division 42 Lieutenant Governor.

Next, Robin called Katy Porter to the podium to present an award patch for our banner to the Club Bulletin Team – John Prescott, Mike Mathews, Katy Porter and Sherrill Hyink. The Club Bulletin was first in its class at the Cal-Nev-Ha Convention Newsletter competition.

Committee Reports and Announcements

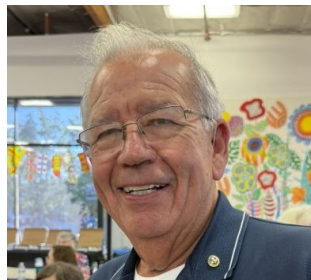
Meals on Wheels – Lan Tran will drive our regular Monday route.

Corks and Kegs – Sherrill Hyink led off with an update on the hunt for Corks and Kegs Auction items. She has divided us up into nine teams, but we don't know who's on which team. We do know that teams five, seven and nine are out of the gate fast. So, the other teams need to get on the stick.

Upcoming Speakers

08-27 Susy Lopez-Garcia, Community Action of Ventura County

By all the smiling faces, it looks like the DCM at Art Trek was a great success.





Don Shewmon come down to visit us from northern California.

John Prescott called for volunteers to distribute our event mini-flyers at the Simi Valley Beerfest this Saturday. Mark Frankcom, Teta Van Ommeren, and Sherrill Hyink volunteered, and John provided the flyers after the meeting. If anyone else can help, contact John. Also, let John know if you become aware of any local events that draw a large number of patrons that might be inclined to patronize Corks and Kegs.

Robin Britt heads the Vendor Committee and announced that four new vendors have been recruited in the past few days. Event Chair Brian McMahon announced that we are doing well in the vendor department and with ticket sales.

Community Service - Arnie Rudman reminded us of the food giveaway each Wednesday at 1:00 at the Methodist Church on Janss. Last week the group also distributed multiple backpacks to kids from struggling families.



Kathy Smiley won the raffle and collected one of the biggest recent pots, \$10.

Gloria Dyok announced that our next cooking project will be at the Relay for Life on September 27th.

SLP - Bob Engler informed us that there will be a Key Club Regional Training Conference in September, and they are looking for a facility that can accommodate a meeting of about 100 people.

Spiritual Aims - Dave Biedebach asked members who volunteer for the morning invocation to keep their remarks under a minute or a minute in a half in length and avoid political content.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick reminded us that Scrip gift cards are a great option for the Corks and Kegs silent auction. She also mentioned that the deadline for ordering Kiwanis aprons is September 24. One size fits ALL!

Raffle

Kathy Smiley did pretty well for not drawing the Star card – she earned \$10

Fifteen Kiwanians helped with the cooking event





Mike Cox, who is the Treasurer on the Community Conscience Board of Directors was the guest of Robin Britt.

today. Mike Mathews, Katy Porter, and Chuck Huffer won consolation prizes.

Fine Period

Showing that he's really a nice guy, Larry Levine paid a late dollar on behalf of Daniel Adams, who made a rare appearance today, but apparently didn't make the opening bell.

Mike Mathews contributed \$5 – La Fiesta Del Triunfo had an amazing turnout and there were many raves about our trip. Kathy Smiley attended the DCM at Art Trek last week and paid \$10 (her raffle winnings) in happy bucks for a great event in an awesome facility.

Chuck Huffer missed a few meetings – spent a lot of time on airplanes, but the visits with the kids and grandkids were worth it. Paul Lopez paid tribute to Daniel Adams, Jerry Westby, and Roger Meyer – nice to see them with us today.

Sherrill Hyink is again defending her home from the rats. Killed two (one in a particularly gruesome way that cannot be described in print) and one is still out there and hiding.

Bob and Sue Engler recently enjoyed a trip to Canada – skipped Moose Jaw but visited Montreal and Quebec as a consolation. Still had a good time. Arnie Rudman paid two sad dollars – Diane has left him for two days to visit her daughter in San Diego.

Gloria Dyok accused the Bulletin of printing the truth, God forbid. Apparently, this rag reported that she had overpaid for the Fine Free Badge this month at the \$40 level. And that is absolutely true. Won't happen again.

Patrick Connolly is on island time after returning from three weeks in the Caribbean. Roger Meyer enjoyed two weeks in Alaska and welcomed Don Shewmon and our speaker (and former President of the Club) Aaron Kitzman.

Don Shewmon lightened his wallet by \$20. He's here visiting family, and his son-in-law is laid up after a cycling accident. And he's happy to announce that he's been a Kiwanian for 25 years. Steve T. Smith said he's been trying to get a break in Hollywood for 66 years (or maybe he's trying to get a break at the age of 66, whatever). His script made the finals in a very large Film Festival competition but just missed capturing top spot.

Dave Biedebach also welcomed Don and Aaron. He now shops for clothes in his own closet. He has a nice collection of clothes that he fit into many years ago and then put to the side as his girth expanded. Now that he's lost some weight, the old clothes fit, and the retro style is back. Lucky Dave.

Jerry Westby closed the Fine Period with a \$20 contribution for missed meetings and thanks to Kathy Smiley for graciously and expertly handling program speaker introductions in his absence.

Crisis Intervention

Aaron Kitzman, a Past President of this fine club was our program speaker today. He is head of the Ventura County Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Training team. This group provides training for the County Sheriff's Department and local police departments as well, accounting for more than 3,000 officers and other personnel.

Aaron began by asking members to guess what percentage of police calls for service involve contact with a person that may be having a mental health crisis. Estimates varied all the way up to 90%. The answer – we don't know but based on conversations about the subject with many police officers, Aaron put the figure at 30% to 45%.

In the past, officers received only one hour of training in ways to handle this



Aaron Kitzman gave a powerful presentation about crisis intervention.

type of interaction is a way to minimize the possibility of escalation and provide an appropriate resolution. As society became more aware of and concerned about confrontations that lead to officer involved shootings, more attention was given to ways to reduce the intensity of the crisis.

The program in Ventura County is modeled after a successful program in San Jose and a pioneer effort in Memphis, Tennessee. Communication is a key element. Communication has three aspects – verbal, body language, and para-verbal (how you say it). Part of the technique involves realizing that body language and how you say it far outweigh what you say in influencing the perception of the person one is talking to.

Crisis intervention involves three rules – (1) personal safety first; (2) proper positioning and check for weapons; and (3) slow things down. Create an



Vice President Jerry Westby thanked Aaron for his presentation.

environment where the other person can make better (non-violent) choices.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Kim Carnazzola, a Friday member was not in the house today, so she gets TBA. If she was at the last Friday Night Evening Edition, she gets a \$20 dues credit. If not, she gets ... NOTHING.

President's Message

"We rise by lifting others. Service is our superpower."

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



The bulletin committee won first place in our category for the best bulletin in the District. From left are Mike Mathews, Katy Porter, John Prescott and Sherrill Hyink.



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YOU CAN USE

September 2025



"This scholarship helped support my educational goals by alleviating the financial burden of college . . . My experience in the Kiwanis family has been life-changing . . ."

- Ryan Lenart



2025 DCON RECAP . . .

Missed us in Las Vegas for District Convention? Catch up on the latest updates and news from the past weekend by checking out the official Facebook pages of the [CNH Children's Fund](#) and the [Cal-Nev-Ha Kiwanis District](#).

We're still floating on air after listening to Jade Wong share with us how your gifts to the CNH Children's Fund allowed her to say YES! to new opportunities. Watch her motivational keynote address from our Honors Breakfast to learn how your gifts provide leadership training opportunities and support students like Jade in pursuing a higher education. This video is available on YouTube and would make a great program at your next club or division meeting!



SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

Did you know the contributions you make to our [YES! Initiative](#) help our scholarship recipients attend University? [Ryan Lenart](#) shares how your donations helped support his educational goals and how his time in the Kiwanis family was a life-changing experience. Support our youth, their education, and our Kiwanis family with your [YES! Initiative](#) gift.

SIGN UP TO STAY IN TOUCH

As the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year draws to a close, it doesn't have to mean farewell! If you're stepping down from your role as division editor, let us know by email if you'd like to keep receiving this newsletter. You can also stay updated with all CNH Children's Fund news by subscribing to our [weekly emails here](#).

DUNLAP ROSEFLOAT PACKAGE

Have you been considering joining the W. Reid Allen, Jr., Memorial Rose Float Fellowship? Are you interested in recognizing someone with the William A. Dunlap Fellowship? Do you want to build a better future for children? The [Rose Float Fellowship & Dunlap Fellowship Award Package](#) will accomplish all three objectives! For a limited time, you can order both awards for just \$1,250; that's a \$750 savings! Act fast as this opportunity won't last forever.

DINNER ANYWHERE WINNER!

Have you heard the news? Our Dinner Anywhere drawing took place on August 10th and this year's lucky winner is Richard Andrews! Thank you to everyone who participated in our raffle and congratulations to Richard. We can't wait to hear about your Dinner Anywhere adventure!



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Join Us in Fundraising & Celebrating that Relay is

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**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.

September 5, Friday: Friday Night Meeting, 6:00pm, at the home of Teta Van Ommeren.

September 7, Sunday: Division installation and Governor's visit. Paul Lopez will be installed as the new Lt. Gov. It's at CLU.

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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www.tokiwanis.org