



# Kiwaniis®

## THOUSAND OAKS

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

December 10, 2025

### Crier, Crier, House on Fire!

Not it is not - if you follow the suggestions by our speaker today. Read on for information on fire prevention and county assistance.

"GOOD MORNING KIWANIANIS!" President Brian McMahon started us off right on time. Katy Porter and friend Maureen Estolas brought forth the Winter Spirit (80 degrees here today ...) leading the group in singing "Silver Bells." Steve Coyne led us in the flag salute.

Kathy Smiley shared a delightful poem for our inspiration this morning. She partnered with AI and created a Christmas poem about "Santa Over the Conejo." The writing ended with "Helping others starts with ME and YOU!"

Our guests today included Maureen, the K-Kids brought by Cristy Warner, and speaker Jim Roth with wife Staci. No celebrations for birthdays or club anniversaries today - the cupboard was bare!

First on our program today was a dutiful presentation from the Weathersfield K-Kids to collect quarters and greenies for Conejo Closet, which is one of the programs of Conejo Schools Foundation. This effort provides funds, clothing, and



Guest speakers Stacie and Jim Roth discuss fire safety and home protection.

health items for school families in need of support. Our quarter collection today will go for laundry machine money for clean clothes. Cristy reported our total today was \$248! Great cause, smiles all around.

Jokester, Doug Ryan had us laughing as he went - wee-wee, weeing, all the way home.

### Presidential Announcements

Either you went or you missed the December DCM, as it was hosted by Simi on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> at the ARC in Ventura. Also, preliminary results of our portion of income from the Turkey



Maureen Estolas and Katy Porter led the club in singing "Silver Bells." Steve Coyne led the pledge and Kathy Smiley gave the inspiration.

Day Dash is likely \$20,000 or more. YIP-PEE! Volunteer time well spent.

Next Friday Night meeting will be **NOT** on January 2nd, but on **Friday, January 9th**. Host will be Kelly Cannan, new member. Details forthcoming.

Our signature project Kiwanis Rising Star event will be held on January 27th, 5:30 at Pizza Cookery. You have seen the invitation online. Please share with any young community working folks you know. This is an exciting experiment to enlarge our community service projects with "young blood."

### Upcoming Speakers

12-17 Andrea Gallagher, Senior Concerns

12-24 DARK

12-31 DARK

The Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha District Mid-Year South Conference will be held in nearby Burbank on January 31st. Reduced price held until 12/19. Please contact Lori Olbrich for details. Four have signed already - carpooling available.

Two members will be leaving our club - Kim Baumann and Mark Frankcom. We wish them well.

Lastly, but great news – the Board approved new member applications, pending education and payment of fees, for induction next week – Bernadet Azizian from the Pizza Cookery and a former member, Annette Broersma, who would like to rejoin us.

### Committee Reports and Announcements

President elect Jerry Westby took over the podium.

Meals on Wheels – First up in Announcements and in your hearts was ... Moi ... saying that Haze Arnold will drive our route on Monday.

Community Service - Steve T. Smith shared that the annual Pet Food Supply Drive is on-going. Boxes have been placed in various pet stores in the community. We members are encouraged to bring in pet food/ supplies - dishes, old towels, etc. by NEXT Wednesday.

Gloria Dyok reminded us of the food distribution and the gift giveaway at Safe Passage this Saturday. Also, the \$20/ \$25 gift cards we are collecting for Many Mansions could use a little boost by next Wednesday. See Lynn Burdick for Scrip to donate.

Social - Kathy Smiley, Queen of our Holiday party and gift collection for big Brothers and Sisters, was blown away by the number of gifts we brought in. We done-did GOOD! Thanks, Kathy and friends who will be transporting the gifts soon.

SLP - Cristy Warner invited us ALL to the Silverado Memory Care activity on Thursday the 11th from 3:30 to 4:30 pm for a fun holiday program. K-Kids will be visiting the residents and singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas." If you miss it, a repeat will happen on Wednesday, December 17th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at the Reserve Senior Living. Do YOU want to be a part of the 12 Days of Christmas ... or NOT?



That's not a roll of paper towels that Patrick Connolly is holding. It's the ONE he rolled after winning the raffle. He gets \$1.

Scholarship Committee - Patrick Connolly opened the invitation to join the wonderful IMPORTANT Scholarship Committee. Information will be shared with the Board soon and details will be sent to the high schools. The FUN begins in April when the applications begin to arrive. Contact Patrick and get onboard.

Arnie Rudman gave us information about the Westminster Free Clinic food/ gift distribution. Food distribution happens every Wednesday at 1:00 at United Methodist Church on Janss Road. Come help out!

## **Rolling of the Dice**

First challenger was Patrick Connolly, who only managed a roll worth \$1.00. Don Christie and Doug Ryan bumped it up to earn \$4.00 each. I believe Paul Lopez rolled the big 6 for \$6.00.





Kiwanians danced the night away at the Holiday Party at the Westlake Hyatt. The organizers did an outstanding job.

## Fine Period

Before I begin with my Awesome Threesome, many kudos for a fabulous Holiday Party at the Hyatt. Wild applause to Kathy and crew for the fun, the festivities, gorgeous table decorations (which were auctioned off for mega bucks), and hip slappin' dance music. Who would have believed that Biedebach could bounce around in his boots like he had chiggers in his pants?

Yee-Ha!! [Editor's note: I believe ... I've seen it before!]

Now, here come the Awesomes ...

"Tiny" Tim Hengst parted with \$56 bucks for his and Jeanne's 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and a bag full of mandarin oranges to give away. Congratulations for 56 years, Tim!

Chuck "Hernia Huffer" gave away money to cover all the things he missed while being laid low. He missed a meeting, the Turkey Day Dash (on Thanksgiving, he dined on hospital chicken broth and Jello), and he had to cancel the Friday night meeting at his house. He bemoaned the fact that he had everything highly decorated for viewing from members. But take heart Chuck, at least you had no clean-up! Glad you are back and healthy with us.

Kathy Smiley gave more cheers for the holiday party and announced that next Wednesday will be a contest for the...UGLIEST HOLIDAY SWEATER! So, dig in your closet or raid the thrift stores if you want to be a CONTENDER!

## Fire Safety Now

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced Jim and Stacie Roth from the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council.

Their Mission Statement: "It is a grassroots community- led organization that mobilizes residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire, through col-

laborative planning, programs, mitigation and education.”

Jim shared with us that structural and vegetation modifications can reduce wildfire risks up to 75%. This organization will provide an official to come to your home free of charge and analyze possible hazards. Any change would be up to you. However, home insurance/fire insurance is tightening restrictions quickly. The more you can get done, a little at a time, could save you headaches (and homelessness) in the future.

Keeping vegetation (plants, bushes) at least five feet away from your house and other structures is important. Wood fences and patio covers close to the house can ignite quickly. Overhanging tree branches or growth too close to the house poses a threat.

House structural weaknesses could be found in faulty roofing, leaf filled gutters, big vent screen openings. To deter embers that can travel over a mile from wildfires, vent screen openings should be no larger than 1/8th of an inch. Anyone want to climb on my roof and investigate? No, I should request a free Home Wildfire Assessment.

Go to **VENTURAFIRESAFE.ORG.** for info and to arrange an assessment of your home.

Thank you, Jim, for the wise steps to Home Hardening.



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanks guest speaker Jim Roth for his informative presentation.

## **Popsicle Stick Draw**

Roy Talley was not amongst us this morning, so, as you all know, he gets ... NOTHING!

## **President's Message**

Small hands making small acts of kindness can brighten an entire community!

Over and Out, Sherrill

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



**Kiwanis®**  
THOUSAND OAKS

## **KIWANIS RISING STAR CLUB**

**Inaugural Social Gathering  
The Pizza Cookery – Thousand Oaks  
Monday, January 27, 2026 • 5:30 PM**

**Calling all driven, rising, and community-minded  
professionals of the Conejo Valley!**

**If you're building your career in real estate, finance,  
insurance, medicine, banking—or any field where  
hustle meets heart—this gathering is built for you.  
Join us for an evening of connection, purpose, and  
good cheer as we launch the Kiwanis Rising Star Club.**

- **Network with fellow up-and-coming professionals**
  - **Connect with seasoned Kiwanis leaders**
- **Explore impactful community service opportunities**
- **Enjoy drinks and appetizers in a relaxed, welcoming setting**

**RSVP by January 19, 2026**

**Email: [ngregory@tokiwanis.org](mailto:ngregory@tokiwanis.org)**

**Start 2026 by stepping into something meaningful —  
we can't wait to see you there!**



# 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. 12-13, Toy distribution at 12:45.

**Every Wednesday.** Food distribution at Westminster Clinic at 1:00.

**December 11, Thursday:** DCM at ARC Ventura, hosted by Simi Valley. 6:15pm.

**December 17, Wednesday:** The Reserve, 4-5. Holiday sing-a-long.

**December 24, Wednesday:** WE WILL BE DARK.

**December 31, Wednesday:** WE WILL BE DARK..

**January 8, Thursday:** DCM at CLU.

**January 9, Friday:** Friday Night Meeting at the home of Kelly Canaan, 6:00pm.

**January 27, Tuesday:** Kiwanis Rising Star event will be held at 5:30 at Pizza Cookery.

**January 31 Saturday,** Educational Conference, Burbank

**February 12, Thursday:** DCM at ArtTrek

**March 5, Thursday:** Mentorship at TOHS.

**March 12, Thursday:** DCM at CLU Oxnard

**April 9, Thursday:** DCM at CLU Oxnard.

**April 26, Sunday:** Aut2Run pancake

event at CSUCI.

**May 7, Thursday:** DCM at CLU Thousand Oaks

June 1,

**June 11, Thursday:** DCM at ArtTrek in Newbury Park.

**June 24-27,** Int'l Convention, Manila

**August 13, Thursday:** DCM at CLU Oxnard.

## Club Officers

### President

Brian McMahon

### President Elect

Jerry Westby - Committees

### Vice President

Kathy Smiley - 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

Robin Britt - Membership

### Director

John Prescott 9/2027

### Director

Tony Antonelli 9/2027

### Director

Mike Mathews 9/2027

### Director

Lynn Burdick 9/2026

### Director

Sharon McMahon 9/2026

### Director

Patrick Connolly 9/2027

### 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

Paul Lopez

### 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](http://www.tokiwanis.org)