



Kiwanis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

January 7, 2026

Happy New Year

It's back – Baba Laba Goomalah – but perhaps we can blame (credit?) Chuck Huffer rather than the Kween. Sherrill gave Chuck two concealed choices and he guessed wrong (right?) and there we were, welcoming the new year with the spirits.

Aaron Podell led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Don Christie gave the invocation. He asked for continued prayers for those who suffered losses in last year's devastating wildfires as they recover; he also looked forward to another year of our Club's beneficial service to youth.

Cristy Warner introduced her guest, Claire Lee. Claire is a local former Key Clubber now attending Rice University and studying chemical engineering. She told of how her Key Club experience helped prepare her for college and bigger things.

Lanny Arrowsmith was accompanied by guests Charlene Kafer and Dorothy Collins, both fellow residents at University Village, as well as our program speakers, Danny and Mary White.

Happy Birthday to Karen Jackson – today is the day, and the members sere-



During the holidays Kiwanians and K-Kids members visited senior centers to entertain the residents.

naded her with "Happy Birthday," as is our custom. Kim Carnazzola's birthday is Friday, and Bob Engler's is January 12th. Kathy Smiley interjected that her birthday (January 1st) should be recognized, and President Brian told her it was at our last meeting in December. Kathy countered that she couldn't attend that meeting due to illness, and wanted it now. So, Happy Birthday, Kathy!

Dave Biedebach was honored for 42 years of Club membership. Members



Sherrill Hyink led the club in singing "Baba Laba Goomalah. Aaron Podell led the pledge and Don Christie gave the invocation.

tried to guess how long he'd been a member and all came up a little short. Congratulations, Dr. Dave!

Joke of the week from Doug Ryan (AI Summary) – the mailman (RIP) did it.

President Brian called Steve T. Smith to the podium so he could thank those members who helped with our recent pet food and supplies drive. Gloria Dyok, Lynn Burdick, Patrick Connolly, and Teta Van Ommeren each received appropriate praise from Steve and a bouncable pet toy of their very own.

Presidential Announcements

Brian opened by noting the passing of Debbie Heaslip, a long-time member of the Simi Valley Club and a recent Lieutenant Governor of Division 42.

The January DCM is tomorrow night in Simi Valley. Our January Friday Night Evening Edition is this Friday, at the home of Kelly Cannan. The inaugural "Rising Stars" meeting will take place January 27th at the Pizza Cookery. Brian asked members to continue to identify and invite young potential members. In response to a question, Brian defined "young" as 50 or younger.

The Cal-Nev-Ha District Mid-Year South Conference is scheduled for January 31 in Burbank. Several members have already signed up to attend.

Upcoming Speakers

01-14 ?

Committee Reports and Announcements



It was Karen Jackson's birthday so we serenaded her with "Happy Birthday."

President Elect Jerry Westby fielded announcements from the floor.

Meals on Wheels – Sherrill Hyink reported that Steve Weiss will handle our Monday assignment next week. She and Paul Lopez also commented on Debbie Heaslip's contributions to Kiwanis and expressed sadness at her passing.

Community Service – Gloria Dyok let us know that our regular Safe Passage food distribution project is scheduled this Saturday. Patrick Connolly called our attention to flyers on the tables announcing Adelante Comunidad's Day of Service on January 19th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm with various service activities planned.

SLP – Cristy Warner announced that K-Kids will be visiting the residents of Hillcrest Royale at 3:30 today for bingo. On January 19th, K-Kids, Builders Club members, and Key Clubbers will participate in Adelante Comunidad's day of service by helping clean up Oakbrook Park.



Jerry Westby won the raffle and collected six dollars with his roll of the dice.

Bob Engler reported that the rescheduled Key Club Fall Rally is set for January 24th at Magic Mountain. Chaperones welcome.

Youth Services – Teta Van Ommeren announced that the Mentorship event is scheduled for March 5th at Thousand Oaks High School. Ten mentors are already lined up, and more are welcome. Contact her if you'd like to participate.

Arnie Rudman advised us of the regular Westminster Free Clinic food distribution project today from 1:00 to 2:30 at United Methodist Church on Janss Road. Come help out!

Kathy Smiley announced that she has received RSVP's for more than 100 attendees at this Saturday's memorial for Alice Stephenson at Los Robles.

Loteria

Jerry Westby was first up and led off by rolling a promising 6. If he rolled another one, he'd earn \$55, but it was not to be. After bouncing around a bit, the die landed on 4, so he only won \$6



Dave Biedebach was honored for his 42 years of service to the club.

John Prescott, Tim Hengst, and Jeff Ellis earned a few bucks each on their consolation rolls.

Fine Period

Since this is the first meeting of the month, President Brian opened the bidding for the Fine Free Badge for January. The bidding was spirited ... until it wasn't. Bob Engler shut things down with a \$74 bid, saving a buck on a pro forma birthday fine.

Larry Levine had a field day fining people for missing and errant sign-ins. Tim Hengst, Steve Weiss, Jerry Westby and Bernadet Azizian neglected to sign in, and Robin Britt signed in for Dave Biedebach. Larry gave Bernadet a pass, since she's a new member. [Editor's note: information about the sign in requirement (and consequences for not signing in) may not have been appropriately emphasized during new member education, in which case it would be appropriate to fine the sponsor.]



These are the members who spearheaded the ped supplies collection for the club.

Mike Mathews ran into (figuratively) former member Louis Ashamallah, who bills himself as the only Egyptian standup comedian. He said he might be coming back to the Club.

Kathy Smiley was sick over the holidays and laid around on the couch a lot. She watched the Rose Parade three times. Brought back fond memories. Kathy was born on January 1st, and her father told her that the parade was in her honor.

Sean Leonard paid for missed meetings and for wrecking his car on a rainy Christmas Eve. No one was hurt, fortunately. Martha Coronado has a week-long trip planned to New York City with her three adult children. That is their focus of 2026. Arnie Rudman volunteered to serve as their interpreter.

Sherrill Hyink successfully replaced a bathtub faucet handle that had fallen off. You don't want to know the rest. Lanny Arrowsmith dropped in \$5 for his guests. Paul Lopez echoed that with another \$5. Jeff Ellis donated back his \$3 raffle winnings.

Dave Biedebach parted with \$42 to celebrate his tenure with the Club. His

sponsor was Dick Elliott. Dave praised the Club for its service and for the friendships he has made over the years. He closed with "God Bless and Happy New Year."

Doug Ryan paid some happy dollars for a trip to the wine country with Craig and Denise Burns. Bob Engler spent the holidays with family, including a trip to Paso Robles on a rainy Christmas Day – CHP escorts were encountered on the route.

Kathy Smiley has a Facebook Fundraiser going to benefit our Foundation. Her goal is \$690.

Bee Careful

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced our program speakers, Danny and Mary White, who educated us on the topic of beekeeping. It was a fascinating presentation. The Whites live in Conejo Okas on a large lot with numerous fruit trees in decline due to neglect by a previous owner. The Whites got the trees back to good health and noticed a plethora of bees pollinating the trees. The bees lived in a hive next door and when that was removed by their neighbor, the Whites noticed that the fruit harvest from their own trees declined substantially.

This got them interested in bees and the role they play in local ecology. They decided to start their own hive and joined the Los Angeles County Beekeep-



Danny White and his wife Mary (in the beekeepers protective suit) told us the interesting story of beekeeping.

ers Association to help learn how to do it. Danny showed pictures of the hives they built, the tools they use to maintain the hive, and how honey is extracted. Mary donned a beekeeper's outfit and showed us the tools up close as she walked around the room.

They also discussed "life in the hive" and the organization of the colony. It's top down from the queen, who can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day. She is attended by select worker bees. Other worker bees – all females – tend and guard the hive and the eggs before they hatch. Male bees are drones who are fat and lazy.

Wear white if you approach a hive. If you wear dark clothing, the bees will interpret you as a bear and launch an all-out assault.

At the end of the presentation the Whites donated two bottles of their hon-

ey for auction. Jeff Ellis and Lori Olbrich each paid \$25 for a bottle.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Lieutenant Governor Paul Lopez' stick was drawn and he earned a \$20 dues credit just for being there.

President's Message

"Kiwanis is where personal growth comes with a name badge and a volunteer sign-up sheet."

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



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanked Danny and Mary for their presentation.



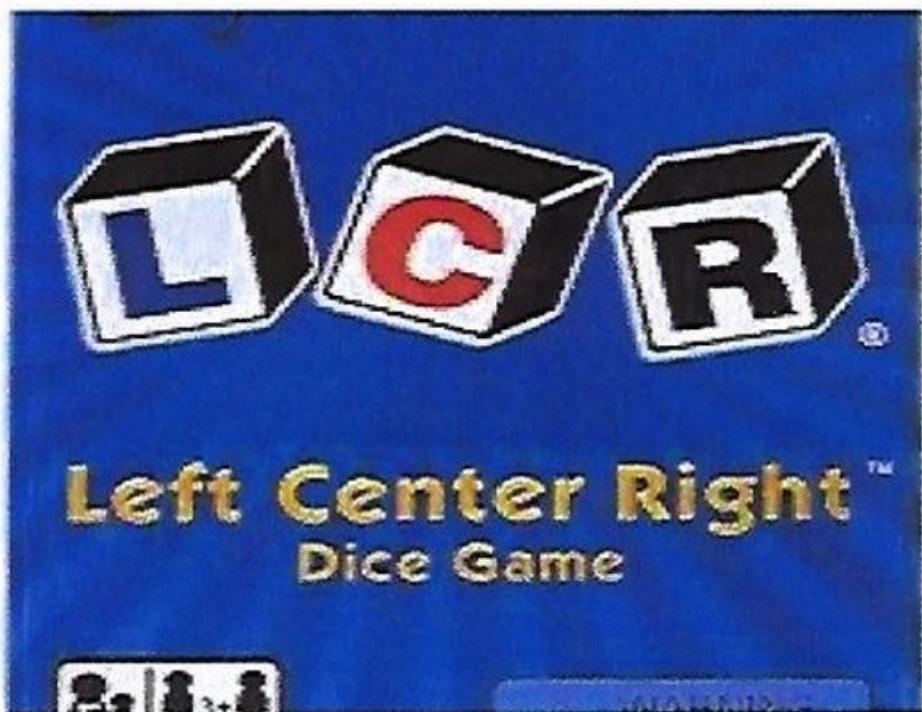
42 \$25 Vons cards were delivered to Many Mansions thanks to the generosity of our Kiwanis members. Rick Schroeder, President and CEO was happy to receive the holiday gift from Kiwanis reps Gloria and Jim.



Gloria Dyok helped hand out gifts to the kids at the Safe Passage event over the holidays.



To the right are pictures of the very successful food collection efforts over the holidays.



YOU ARE INVITED!!

Please join Simi Valley Kiwanis for a FUN get together, playing a game that requires absolutely NO SKILL 😊

When: Sunday, January 25th from 2 pm - 4 pm

Where: 99.1 The Ranch Radio Station

1555 Simi Town Center Way #730
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Cost: \$15 per person Kiwanis Family & Friends;
\$ 25 per Couple; \$10 for our Moorpark CKI

Light snacks, finger foods, and beverages will be provided.

Mimosas, Prizes and lots of FUN!!!

(Please RSVP to Donna Smith (818) 281-4372 by January 18)

Proceeds will be used for our Annual First Responder Gifts



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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

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

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 Con-
ference, 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 Thou-
sand Oaks

June 7, Sunday: The Love Run

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

June 24-27, Int'l Convention, Manila

August 13, Thursday: DCM at CLU
Oxnard.

October 8, Thursday: Corks and Kegs

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

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