



Kiwanis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

February 4, 2026

Aktion Club in the House



A reception was held by Community Conscience to honor the new King and Queen of the Mardi Gras Ball. Also honored were past Kings and Queens. This picture also shows spouses, Board Members and Community Conscience staff. Current Board Chair Aaron Kitzman is in the back right. Queen Maria Prescott was also there.

With the meeting duly called to order by President Brian McMahon, Sherrill Hyink led us in "God Bless America" for the opening song and Steve Weiss followed with the flag salute. Paul Lopez delivered the invocation, thanking God for our safety, our beautiful country, and our wonderful Club. He also paid tribute to grandparents and their relationships to their grandchildren, including

Teta Van Ommeren's new grandson, sweet baby James.

We had a special guest today, Reina Paredes' daughter, Natalie. She is a member of the Newbury Park High School Key Club and informed us of a fundraiser the Club has coming up next Wednesday at the Habit Restaurant on Wendy Drive.

Three birthdays this week – Dave



Sherrill Hyink led the club in singing "God Bless America." Steve Weiss led the pledge and Paul Lopez gave the inspiration.

Biedebach on the 3rd, Rick Herrera on the 8th, and Betty Stapleford today. Jane Lee celebrates her 12th Club anniversary this week.

Robin Britt subbed for Doug Ryan this morning to deliver the joke of the day. Nice job – "can't say I do" was the punch line.

Presidential Announcements

This Friday is our Friday Night Evening Edition meeting at Patrick Connolly's home. His wife Betsy will serve her famous balsamic chicken dish, and Patrick

Upcoming Speakers

02-11 Jim Fryhoff, VC Sheriff

02-18 Linda Krukowski, Beds for Kids

02-25 Brittany Vizcarra, Paw Works Animal Rescue.

will contribute his (perhaps) less well-known berry salad.

The Division Council Meeting (DCM) is Thursday February 12th, and a sign-up sheet made the rounds.

The Regional Training Conference is February 21 in Santa Barbara. Katy Porter is organizing, so give her a call to attend.

The Rising Stars meeting at Pizza Cookery last week was a big hit, and two attendees have already committed to join, with maybe some more coming.

President Brian then offered the Fine Free Badge for February up for auction. There was some lower-level bidding action, but that was cut off when Larry Levine rose and read a note from Tim Hengst authorizing him to bid on Tim's behalf up to \$76, which he did. That did the trick.



Reina Paredes' daughter, Natalie, a member of the Newbury Park High School Key Club informed us of a fundraiser the Club has coming up next Wednesday at the Habit Restaurant on Wendy Drive.



Robin Britt stepped up this week to deliver the joke of the day.

Committee Reports and Announcements

President-Elect Jerry Westby brought us Committee reports and announcements from the floor. He opened by reporting that the Cal-Nev-Ha Mid-Year South conference last Saturday was fun and very informative. Six of our members attended.

Meals on Wheels – The Kween had to cool her heels for a bit as others were called ahead of her, and she handled it well. Steve Weiss will drive our Monday route next week.

Scrip – What better Valentine's day gift for a loved one or friend than Scrip – see Lynn Burdick for that special gift.

Social Committee – Tonight is Super Bowl of Trivia Night at Pizza Cookery. You can still sign up. We'll "compete" in teams of up to five and if you are not al-

ready on a team, you will be paired up at the event. Our next social event will be St. Patty's Day on March 15 at Rick Herrera's home.

SLP - Bob Engler reported that two new Key Club Lieutenant Governors were elected at the Key Club Conclave last Saturday.

Community Service – Gloria Dyok announced that our next Safe Passage food distribution service project is February 14. She also gauged member interest in forming a group to volunteer helping My Stuff Bags Foundation assemble bags for children who have been victims of abuse, homelessness, and neglect. Plenty of interest, so she will schedule a shift.

Health and Caring – Roger Meyer reported that member Nick Cigan recently had heart surgery and is recovering. Doing pretty well it seems. Rick Herrera ran into Nick at Smart and Final and had a nice conversation with him. Nick said to say "hi" to the members. Roger also said that Tony Antonelli continues to improve after cancer treatment.



Aaron Podell won the raffle and rolled a six, which allowed him to roll again for the big prize. He came really close.

Aaron Podell announced that he had four seats available at his table at this Friday's Economic Forecast meeting at CLU. They were quickly snapped up by members.

Arnie Rudman reminded us that on Wednesdays members are invited to help Westminster Free Clinic distribute to food to folks in need. 1:00 at United Methodist Church on Janss Road.

Loteria

Aaron Podell's ticket number was drawn and for a while it looked like it would be a lucky one – he nailed a six on his first roll and on his second roll the die teetered briefly on six before flopping over onto a four. Just \$6 for our banker this time.

Mike Mathews (\$4), Arnie Rudman (\$5), and Patrick Connolly (\$1) further drained the admin treasury.



In a move no one saw coming, past King Bob Engler passed a crown he received from King Irish John Gore to current King Chuck Huffer.

Fine Period

Kathy Smiley carried the basket today.

Bob Engler led off with a \$2 contribution to the fine pot. He and many other Kiwanians attended a reception Sunday for the new King (Chuck Huffer) and Kween (Jill Haney) of the Mardi Gras Ball. When Bob was King, former King Irish John Gore bestowed upon him an elaborate crown, which Bob in turn passed on to Chuck.

Sharon McMahon thanked Pizza Cookery for their hosting the Rising Stars meeting and Trivia Night. Both Bernadet Azizian and Jeff Weitzmann were in the house to receive the accolades. Aaron Podell also thanked Pizza Cookery for a recent Manna event there.

Dave Biedebach dropped in an IOU for \$72 in honor of completing his 72nd



Our guest speakers were Gary White and Sigrid Bremer from the Simi Aktion Club.

trip around the sun. He family will enjoy a day in Santa Barbara and the wine country this weekend to celebrate. Lynn Burdick had a happy/sad dollar. She has filed her tax return already but owes the IRS some money.

Teta Van Ommeren parted with a fiver to share the news she is now a grandma. She is back from Minnesota where she helped welcome sweet baby James into the world on January 21.

Jim Stephenson told us the Foundation received a check for \$172.92 from the PayPal Giving Fund but didn't know who was behind it. That would be Kathy Smiley.

Chuck Huffer thanked Bob Engler for his crown and let us know about CRPD's free tax return preparation service available to seniors.

Mike Mathews donated his raffle winnings and recalled a Trivia Night years ago where cheating was rampant. People were looking up answers on their cell phones, of all things. Sharon McMahon was careful not to impugn the integrity of Kiwanians but observed that it may be

prudent to collect all cellphones at the door tonight, just as a precaution.

One of our guest speakers, Gary White of the Santa Susana Kiwanis Club, thanked Steve T. Smith and his committee for the donations they secured for the pet food drive. He also informed us that services for Debbie Heaslip will be held Saturday, February 14th at 11:00 am at the Reardan Mortuary in Simi Valley.

Larry Levine got bumped to the end of the line to fine those who neglected to sign in this morning. They knew who they were – Karen Jackson and Chuck Huffer fessed up and paid up.

Aktion Club Update

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced Gary White, of the Santa Susana Kiwanis Club. Gary is the advisor to the Simi Valley / Santa Susana Aktion Club. Aktion Clubs are one component of the Kiwanis family's Service Leadership Program, serving individuals with special needs. Gary in turn introduced



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanks Sigrid for her presentation.

Sigrid Bremer, a long-time leader in that Club; she also has a role in an advisory group to State government regarding services for the disabled.

Sigrid informed us of the new officers recently elected by the Aktion Club and their meeting schedule. The Aktion Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and she invited our members to attend their next meeting on February 17th. Brian McMahon, Lieutenant Governor Paul Lopez, and Teta Van Ommeren raised their hands. Later, Sigrid roped in Steve T. Smith to complete a foursome.

She reported that the Club made Valentine's cookies at their meeting last night. They are also working on "Project R" – to stamp out use of the "R" word. The correct term is "intellectual disability."

Sigrid also will be traveling to Sacramento soon to fulfill her role on an advisory committee to the California Department of Developmental Services, where she will have the opportunity to interact

with legislators and discuss issue of importance to her community.

Stick Draw

Roy Talley's popsicle stick was drawn, but he was not in the house this morning, so he gets ... NOTHING.

President's Message

Before delivering his message, President Brian thanked guest Natalie Paredes for joining us and helped Kathy Smiley auction eight Valentine-themed centerpieces at \$20 a pop for the admin fund.

"Don't wait for the perfect moment. Take the moment and make it perfect."

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

Join us for the

SUPERBOWL

of Trivia Nights

Another "FUNdraiser" for the Kiwanis

Admin Fund

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, FEB 4TH, 6:00PM

PIZZA COOKERY

75 W. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD

\$25 includes

Italian Buffet with Pizzas & Salads

Discount on Kiwanis Signature cocktail

Raffles & Prizes - Multi Genre Games

Wear your favorite team apparel! Join in the fun, even if you don't follow football!



Kiwanis

Region 10 Training Conference

Welcoming Members from Divisions 29 and 42

Saturday, February 21 2026
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Activities Include:
Training, Next Trustee Vote,
Games and Entertainment

MacKenzie Center
3111 State Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

\$20 at the door (includes lunch)

RSVP TO YOUR LT. GOVERNOR

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 31 Saturday, Educational Conference, Burbank

February 4, Wednesday: Superbowl of Trivia at Pizza Cookery, 6:00 pm. \$25.00.

February 6, Friday: Friday Night meeting at the home of Patrick Connolly, 6:00 pm.

February 12, Thursday: DCM Moorpark Presbyterian Church, 13950 Peach Hill Rd. 6:00 pm.

February 21, Saturday: Region 10 Training Conference in Santa Barbara, 10-3.

March 5, Thursday: Mentorship at TOHS.

March 12, Thursday: DCM at ARC Ventura. Governor's visit. 6:00 pm

March 15, Sunday: St. Patrick's potluck party at the Herrera's.

April 9, Thursday: DCM at ARC, Oxnard is the host. 6:00 pm.

April 26, Sunday: Aut2Run pancake event at CSUCI.

May 7, Thursday: DCM at Moorpark Presbyterian Church, 13950 Peach Hill Rd. 6:00 pm.

June 7, Sunday: The Love Run

June 11, Thursday: DCM at ARC in Ventura. 6:00 pm.

June 24-27, Int'l Convention, Manila

July 9, Thursday: DCM at ARC in Ventura. 6:00 pm.

August 13, Thursday: DCM at CLU Oxnard.

September 10, Thursday: DCM Moorpark Presbyterian Church, 13950 Peach Hill Rd. 6:00 pm.

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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