



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

February 18, 2026

New member Nicole Dominguez



Helping with the induction of Nicole Dominguez are Past President Larry Levine, Past President Doug Ryan, Past President Arnie Rudman, Nicole, Immediate Past President Robin Britt and Past President Bob Engler.

It was a good BRISK morning, and Katy Porter started off our Kiwanis Breakfast meeting with us singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Not sure where THAT came from, being the Winter Olympics season, but we sang with gusto! [Editor's Note: Spring Training for baseball is upon us].

After the Flag Salute, led by Lori Olbrich, Don Christie gave the morning prayer. He gave thanks for the blessings of needed rain and beautiful snow -

capped mountains. Indeed, the hills are gorgeous.

President Brian invited Teta Van Omeren to come forth with a special presentation to two guests representing Westminster Free Clinic which serves our community at the United Methodist Church on Janss Road. Diane Rudman and Lisa Safaeinelli came forth to receive a Kiwanis check for \$2,000. The ladies shared their "backpack project" for countywide children in need. The funds will let them get an early start on back-



Katy Porter started us off singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Lori Olbrich led the flag salute and Don Christie gave the inspiration.

pack sales. These backpacks are then stuffed with school/personal needs and distributed to children at the beginning of the school year. Thank you, amazing ladies! We are delighted to support your project.

Next - A FIRST!! Indeed, this morning we inducted our first Rising Star member - Nicole Dominguez. Nicole attended the Rising Star introduction meeting last month and was eager to join Kiwanis to serve our community. Under the guidance of Immediate Past President Robin Britt, Past Presidents Bob Engler, Arnie Rudman, Larry Levine, and Doug Ryan did the honors of her

presentation - along with a "blank" membership certificate (which Robin quickly remedied).

Presidential Announcements

Brian shared about the great DCM last week, which our club sponsored. Our own Gloria Dyok was presented a special Lieutenant Governor's award for ALL her club involvement, which she handles with grace and a Canadian smile. We love you, Glo!!

The next DCM will be on March 12th at the ARC in Ventura, with the Cal-Nev-Ha Governor making his official visit to Division 42. And, on Friday, March 6th there will be the 2nd Rising Star gathering at the Pizza Cookery. Plan to come

Upcoming Speakers

02-25 Brittany Vizcarra, Paw Works Animal Rescue.

More pictures from the induction of Nicole Dominguez





Our guest Lisa Safaeinelli won the raffle and President Brian McMahon explained the rules to her. She won \$5.

and “influence” the younger generation...and eat great pizza.

Kiwanis Regional Training program happens this Saturday, which Katy Porter (our Regional Trustee) has designed. Several of our members will be presenting. It happens in Santa Barbara from 10 to 3. Contact Katy with questions.

Our next Friday Night meeting will be on March 6th at Paul Lopez’ home.

Birthdays: Celebration time for Norbie Gregory and Tim Hengst (today). Tim received the lovely (slow) serenade.

Club Anniversaries: None today.

Committee Reports and Announcements

Meals on Wheels - M.O.W. driver this coming Monday is Lan Tran. And, thanks to Haze Arnold who delivered last Monday in the pouring rain!

Social Committee - Kathy announced another FUN gathering to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. The date - Sunday, March



Diane Rudman and Lisa Safaeinelli from Westminster Free Clinic received a Kiwanis check for \$2,000 from Teta Van Omeren.

15th at Rick Herrera’s home, 3:00 - 6:00. So, grab your green and a dish to share... and BE THERE.

Sir Arnie Rudman plugged the weekly Wednesday afternoon activity packaging food at the United Methodist Church - 1:00.

Ticket Time

Any lucky rollers today? Nope, but a few bucks were shared - guest Lisa Safaeinelli (\$5), Mike Mathews (\$3), Chuck Huffer (\$4), and Diane Rudman (\$4).

Fine Period

Time for my Awesome Threesome. Let’s start with Jokester Doug Ryan. He had some missed meeting \$\$ due to sickness - terrible cold, from which his wife, Jackie, is STILL recovering. Doug can very well do WITHOUT another spoonful of chicken soup! Today’s joke deliv-

ered by Doug was funny ... little Johnny's punch line was "I don't either."

Bob Engler plopped in some greenies to welcome our new member, Nicole Dominguez. He also had some pointed questions for Gloria as to the scuttlebutt about the Canadian Olympic Curling team. Ah, those Canadians ... but Gloria is one of the GOOD ones.

Big spender Tim Hengst claimed a big \$20 for his birthday serenade today and \$20 for our new member ... then he waved his fine free badge - which he paid big bucks for thanks to Larry Levine.

Beds for Kids

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced our speakers today - Len and Linda Krukowski who were representing **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** beds for kids. They got interested in the "bed deal" after connecting with James Storehouse and realizing how many local children had no beds of their own and slept on the cold, hard floor.

Following their persistent interest and desire to help, they connected with the national non-profit called Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). This is a volunteer - driven organization, 100% of donations go toward building and distributing children's beds.

The nationwide SHP was founded in 2012 in Idaho and provides hand-made beds, including bunk beds, to children



Our guest speakers were Len and Linda Krukowski from Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). Below is a scale model of the beds they make.



who don't have beds of their own. Now, there are more than 400 chapters. These chapters partner with other organizations - churches, businesses, etc. to build these beds at events called "Build Days".

Len and Linda are the chairpersons for the Ventura County East chapter of SHP. According to their statistics, about 235 beds are delivered nationwide each day. They also reported that 103 kids in Thousand Oaks are waiting for a bed. How sad! But how thankful we are for

our County chapter of SHP, and the caring hearts of the Krukowskis. Donations are ALWAYS needed. YOU could become a “Bunkhead” SHP member by giving \$20 a month - the cost of one bed with all the necessities.

SHPBEDS.ORG (Go there and watch the video!!)

Popsicle Stick Draw

Wouldn't you know it ... our President Elect Jerry Westby was NOT in attendance today, so he gets ... NOTHING!

President's Message

“There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self!” - Ernest Hemingway.

Tootles and “Sweet Dream” to all the children receiving a bed of their own.

Kween Sherrill

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



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanks our speakers for their presentation.



Some of the crew members working the latest Safe Passage food distribution.



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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Let the good times roll!

SUNDAY

15

3:00 PM

MARCH

RICK & EVIE HERRARA'S HOUSE
1691 VALLEY HIGH, THOUSAND OAKS

WEAR GREEN, BRING A DISH &
YOUR LUCKY SPIRIT!



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.

March 4, Wednesday: Next Rising Stars meeting.

March 5, Thursday: Mentorship at TOHS.

March 6, Friday: Friday Night Meeting at the home of Paul Lopez, 6:00.

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, 3:00 pm.

March 22, Sunday: Crop Walk

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.

May 9, Saturday: Teen Club Dance. 4:30 to 6:30.

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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